The Obsidian Files

ARCHIVE

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ABOUT THIS ARCHIVE

An archive of the blog **The Obsidian Files**, as held by TheRedArchive: 188 posts published between October 2009 and October 2010.

About The Obsidian Files. The Obsidian Files was a blog run by "Obsidian," a Black American writer active in the manosphere. It offered commentary on dating, relationships, game, and race, frequently engaging with and critiquing other Red Pill and manosphere writers from an African-American perspective.

About TheRedArchive. TheRedArchive is a free, public archive of the Red Pill community, built so that none of this writing can quietly disappear. It holds **1,686,402 posts** and **38,839,914 comments** from 45 subreddits and 56 blogs. Much of it survives nowhere else — the accounts deleted, the subreddits banned, the websites long offline. All of it is free to read, search and download, and always will be, at www.TheRedArchive.com.

Support the mission. This Red Pill archive is free — no paywall, no account — but keeping it online isn't. I pay for the servers, the storage and the bandwidth myself, so that this valuable knowledge stays online. If you want to support the mission and archive, become one of the people who help keep it online at www.TheRedArchive.com/#help.

Share this file freely, and keep a copy of your own. What sits on one server can be taken down; what sits on a thousand hard drives cannot.

Best regards,

/u/dream-hunter

Founder of TheRedArchive
July 29, 2026

Obsidian Archive Project: In Need Of YOUR Help

Obsidian · 24 October 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Over the past year, I've been lauded by quite a few for my posts at Roissy's, In Mala Fide and The Spearhead just to name a few. None of these sites have any "indexing" functions that I am aware of, so combing back through the many posts to find some of my better ones is likely to entail a good bit of work. So, I was wondering if anyone out there would mind doing a bit of data mining to find what you think are some of my better posts to repost here. I can then expand a bit on the points made, or clarify points that might not have been made as clear the first time around. I plan to start combing through Roissy's site for my comments over the past year but as you might guess, I tend to be a bit prolific, LOL. So, I could use the help – what past posts of mine would you like to see reposted here? Post em up in the comments!

Thanks.

The Obsidian

Origins

Obsidian · 24 October 2009 · Archived copy · Original

By the time you see this, the blog will have been “completed”, that is to say, up-and-running enough for me to take to the soapbox and for you to holla back. In the weeks and months ahead, my hope is that the blog will evolve and grow in many ways, and I look forward to any suggestions you, the readers, may have! So please, feel free to soundoff early and often.

Alright, so a little bit about myself. I consider myself something of a 21st Century, Urban Dandy – self made, self educated, on the path to full self-actualization. I have a lot to say, and many of you have heard some of it elsewhere; in the days ahead, you’ll soon see that’s just the tip of the iceberg, lol. I’m Black & Proud, but not an automaton; I’m Conservative, but not a blind Ideologue; I’m Compassionate, but believe in Personal Responsibility; I’m Blue Collar, but have an Ivory Tower mind; I believe in a Woman’s Right to Choose, but I also believe that Men have Rights, too; and perhaps most importantly, while I definitely have my own points of view, everyone has a right to be heard.

This blog will serve as a kind of sounding board for the many things that I have say about everything and everyone. Strap yourself in – it’s gonna be one helluva ride.

The Obsidian

FeminstX Was Right

Obsidian · 30 October 2009 · Archived copy · Original

For those who don't know, FeministX is a blogger (or is that "bloggette"?) who is somewhat known in Game and HBD circles. Though she claims allegiance to Feminism she doesn't write a heck of a lot about it. Like most HAPs (Hindu American Princesses), she obsesses over finding the right guy for marriage and so on, in that kind of indolent, vapid way that those cut from the uppercrust cloth tends to do.

Although I find most of what she says at turns repugnant and revolting, I must say that one thing she's mentioned several times in as many months is 100% true, and much to my fellow Brothers In Game's chagrin-it is incredibly easy for a Woman to get laid. Not just the "HB10s" of the world-

-just about ANY Woman.

It's true, and only the naive or the ideological could see it otherwise.

Last week's big story out of New York City is a case in point. Former New York Mets General Manager and (now former, because he was fired) ESPN Baseball analyst Steve Phillips was caught red-handed w/a mistress known as the Tubby Tempstress-and as if her size weren't enough to add insult to injury for those of you who find such a thing a turnoff, she's NOT attractive in the face either. Keep in mind, Phillips' wife is not a bad looking Woman of 40 or so, and as a very successful guy could pretty much write his own ticket to Women who were at least consistent 7s on the Beauty Scale.

Yet, there he was, arm wrapped around the Tubby Tempstress.

Wow.

While Roissy and others have attempted to explain what could only be in their minds a bizarre turn of events, it's pretty simple to me-for guys, getting laid takes LOTS of work-unless you find yourself in that very small group of guys who have something extra, an edge-be it Leading Man looks, Richard Branson-style wealth or Mystery & Style level GAME. Otherwise, you pretty much have to take what you can get out there on the sexual market-and the dirty little secret is, that guys settle a whole heck of a lot more than Women do. The proof is in the pudding-pardon the pun.

FemX claims to have "field tested" her theory out, by crafting online personas of Women of differing ages, sizes, colors and the like-including senior-citizen aged, and weighing well over 300lbs-and she claims to have gotten responses from many guys, guys who are, so she claims, quite attractive, etc.

Obviously, neither I, nor anyone else reading this can verify her "findings", but we really don't need to-a quick look around tells the story. All of us have seen at least one instance, per day, of a good looking guy w/a chick who is "OK" to really subpar, however you may define that. And, a quick look at the pornworld should be enough to convince anyone that old ladies, fat ladies, and yup, even ugly ladies, can and do get wood-often, lots of it. There are entire niche markets for this sort of stuff, and look, the numbers don't lie-if there wasn't market for it, no one would buy it.

So, what's my point? Simple-I think we need to stop Hatin' on the Fugly Chicks of the World. Why?

Because, and again I'm just being real here, unless you, as a guy, are getting laid more than a dozen times a year, with the Woman or Women of YOUR CHOICE, you really don't have any room to talk. The vast majority of Women out there can easily outpace you in terms of purely getting laid. Yea, yea, I know what you're going to say-its about quality, not quantity. Nice try, Keyboard Warrior-but it doesn't take a STEM guy to know that when you have NOTHING, ANYTHING IS BETTER. The Perfect is always, always, always, the enemy of the Good. Or in this case, the Not So Hot.

One of the great things about Game is that it focuses on actual results, not theories. Bottomline: unless you're

macking like Roissy or some of the other PUA types you read about, you really don't have a heck of a lot of room to talk, and a smart Man would be a bit more circumspect about the Not So Hot Ladies. They're doing the world a tremendous service, because without them, most of you guys would almost assuredly be at home this weekend, doing the David Alexander with Skeletor's left hand.

I'm just sayin'.
The Obsidian

Open Season On OneSTDV

Obsidian · 31 October 2009 · Archived copy · Original

I was gonna save this till Monday, but what heck, OneSTDV's sheer assholish ways have prompted me to act, so here we go…

You all know him: the socalled arbiter of all that's right, good and correct for America, an America that is beset, no wait, besieged, by "NAMs" (a cowardly way of saying Black and Brown folks) and their White Liberal enablers. Like the bulk and mass of "HBDers", he is of the view that not only do the various races of the world differ along genetic lines, but that these differences extend to the cognitive realm as well-and that basically, those of Black and Brown descent have come up losers in the IQ lottery. Of course, Whites and East Asians are the big winners, and, in OneSTDV's world (btw, the term, "OneSTDV", refers the supposed one standard deviation difference between Blacks and Whites on standardized IQ tests), the Cognitive Elite should not only rule, but they should be given pretty much due deference when it comes to making public policy, among a great many other things. Of course, things like Affirmative Action and the like should come to a swift end, and high-IQ guys (supposedly; OneSTDV has never released HIS IQ or SAT scores) like him should be given first digs on pretty much everything worth having in America, if not the world.

Personally, I find his blog an interesting exercise in Sour Grapin' in basically Hatin' on all things in this world. I like messing with him though, because one, I can, and two, becaue I like the idea that my very existence flies in the face of everything he says on his blog about Black folks.

So, from time to time, I'm gonna pick a post of his to skewer, like I'm about to do right now. The following was a recent post OneSTDV put up over at his blog; my personal comments will be interspersed throughout the post:

"Woman Demands All-White Nursing Staff: Hospital Quarantined due to bad case of Racism

It's commonly known that white Christians are forbidden to freely associate with each other; yet, the same luxury is actually encouraged amongst minorities. For example, Walter Williams describes some absurdities occurring at elite universities:

OBS: Hold up-aren't you an avowed ATHEIST, OneSTDV? If that's true, how do you now advocate for Christians? Do you do so purely because they're WHITE? Also, nice move of getting a Black Conservative in Walter Williams to do your dirty work for ya. Let's address his comments:

(Quoting Williams): What about segregated graduation ceremonies? Vanderbilt, Stanford University, the University of California, the University of Michigan and the University of Pennsylvania are among those that offer separate graduation ceremonies and separate "celebratory events" for black, Hispanic and Asian-American students. University administrators not only condone segregated ceremonies but racially segregated student housing, as well. This "enlightened" policy not only occurs at backwater colleges but at our most elite universities, such as Stanford, Cornell, MIT, Pennsylvania and California-Berkeley. And here's a site for a counseling service specifically designed for blacks.

OBS: Personally, my view is that so long as the institution is receiving public taxpayer monies, things of the sort above cannot be allowed, UNLESS said groups are willing to fund it themselves. I personally have no problem with private schools like, for example, Bob Jones University, which fostered a rule about interracial dating and the like being prohibited; if people are cool with that, they should be able to send their kids there. It's a private school, have at it.

(Back to OneSTDV): At Afro-American Counseling & Psychotherapy Institute, Inc., the Counselor/ Psychotherapist is a product of and continues to be a part of the African-American cultures and communities. The Afro-centric, Afro-Cognitive approach used at AACPI empowers the client by providing a unique corrective experience that is liberating, relevant, and solution-oriented. Well at least they're HBDers ("Afro-cognitive" must

refer to innate cognitive traits unique to blacks, right?). There are innumerable outlets for the “unique needs” of minorities.

OBS: Yup, and do you know why, OneSTDV? BECAUSE BLACK COULDN’T GET HELP MEDICALLY IN THIS COUNTRY FOR DECADES, THAT’S WHY. And, if you and other concerned maligned White Guy Americans wanna put something together to help maligned White Guys, there’s nothing stopping you-I just told you about Bob Jones University-and he’s not alone, there’s Oral Roberts’ U, Brigham Young U, you name it, it can be done. Since you have all this brainpower, endowed by God, Mother Nature, Raw Evolution, whatever you wanna call it, why ain’t you actually DOING something all the inequities you see wrt maligned White Guys, instead of basically doing the very thing you despise in “NAMs”-which is bitching and moaning? If you wanna really impress me, One, you’d put al that vaunted brainpower to use, get off your ass and actually build something befitting your high IQ stature. Chop chop!

(Back to One): In any context, they have access to care provided by individuals of their ethnic background and suited to their particular needs (what those are I’m not sure). But in addition to the gross immorality of white flight, how dare white people ask for the same thing? Someone did and it didn’t turn out well . In fact, they launched an investigation into her blatant thoughtcrime!

OBS: Wait, there are Black folk actually bemoaning the loss of Whites in their hoods? That’s news to me, since I actually live among Black folks ALL THE FREAKIN’ TIME…

(Back to One): Hospital staff have complained to the Equality and Human Rights Commission after a woman in labour demanded an all-white team to deliver her baby.
The hospital began its own internal investigation and it has now been reported to Equality and Human Rights Commission, which received complaints from hospital staff about the incident and how it was dealt with. In this age of affirmative action, such a choice might be the most prudent one. But don’t worry, the thoughtpolice are on it.

A spokeswoman for the hospital said: “There is an ongoing investigation, which commenced after the incident occurred, relating to medical complications and because some staff expressed concern about the potential for racial discrimination, should such demands be raised by patients in the future. In my opinion, this women is free to choose her caregivers and if she does so on a racial basis, then so be it. Such a choice doesn’t necessarily imply animus, rather it implies a freedom of association. People tend to feel most comfortable with individuals like themselves and the first indicator of such similarity is generally physical. Perhaps this woman is a racist, but if we’re willing to afford such concessions to minorities, then why aren’t white people given the same outlets? Why is whiteness considered an absence of culture and thus not privy to the same ethnic concerns or issues?”

OBS: OK, correct me if I’m wrong, but if this incident took place in the UK, then said White lady is really screwed, because not only is the entire healthcare system there entirely taxpayer funded, but most of the medical specialists aren’t White either…sounds like she needs to take that up with the House of Commons or 10 Downing Street, or something like that.

Personally, again, I think that so long as you’re willing to foot the whole bill on your dime, you have the right to request any staff you want. So my question is-did this lady do that, or is she on the public’s dime here? If the former, good on her, if the latter, too bad.

As for why White folks “can’t” do what Black folk do, that’s easy-BECAUSE WHITE FOLK HAVE AND CONTINUE TO RUN VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING OF ANY CONSEQUENCE. Your problem ain’t with “NAMs”, OneSTDV, its with White folks who basically disagree with you, AND are in a position to make you life a living Hell if you even fix your mouth to act like you have a problem with that. If you had any balls (higher IQ and lower testosterone have indeed been linked, please don’t try to argue me down about this, go see your boy Rushton, etc.), you’d actually (1), go confront those who can make changes in public policy and (2), actually get together of like mind and build the institutions you claim America needs in order to be set right again. But of course, when’s the last time an egghead actually led movement, built a building or changed public policy? To ask the question is to

answer it.

But, fear not, OneSTDV, because, I actually like ya. And it's because I like ya so much, that I'm gonna be around to offer that much needed corrective to the many wrongheaded ideas that come spewing forth from that thing you call a brain. Yea, its a dirty, thankless job. But somebody's gotta do it.

Now adjourn your ass.
The Obsidian

“Beta Revolution”, Dr. James Watson & GAME

Obsidian · 1 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Let’s face it-the Blogosphere, be it on the HBD, Game, “Manosphere”, heck, even Feminist sides, is basically White dominated. For whatever reason, it just is, and the numbers of Bloggers of Color are relatively few and far between.

Yet, as the author of the post I’m about to examine here, Prime of the blogsite “Beta Revolution” notes rightly, Race is an obsession for us all, at least here in the USA. It is fraught with many questions, implications and strong emotions, that go right to the heart of who, and what we are, and can be.

I keep those thoughts in mind as I, as a kind of “alien observer” kind of stand back and watch the blogosphere, and just take note of the sheer number of words devoted to Race, and let’s be frank here-devoted to African Americans, in the main-a most curious development, given the oft-stated declarations of less than flowery things said about my fellow Black Americans. In fact, if one didn’t know better, one just might think that there might be a bit of Fruedian psychology at work with all the handwringing and whatnot.

Anyway, Prime gives his thoughts on 2007’s James Watson controversy; here’s what he says:

“I hope I do not come off as being bitter and disconnected based on what I write about here. I’m really not, and I don’t write about particular things just to burn or offend people . I’m naturally of the congenial, laid-back sort, but I also have this tick inside my head that requires me to tell the unflattering truth, as I’ve acquired it, at least somewhere to whomever will read or hear it. That somewhere just happens to be here. A couple years ago, Dr. James D. Watson, co-discoverer of DNA’s structure and wily raconteur, being the greybeard that he is, left behind a book of principles to live by if you’re planning on giving a science career a go. While my career aspirations don’t totally center on the hard sciences, I walked away from the book refreshed and re-centered. It was an intellectual cherry-topped, fudge-covered sundae.

And much as Watson’s unflattering comments about Africa and its prospects were merely incidental to the accumulation of knowledge across his life’s work, I’m going to try to give conceptualizations of ‘race’ a rest for a while, probably. (Though you can’t blame anyone for getting caught up in such an engrossing field of discourse. Race. It has something to do with who or what we are, and what our ancestors were. It is dynamite in the minds of the strictly logical and the fanciful alike.)”

Oh, come now Prime-don’t even front like you’re not fascinated with our national obsession with Race. Besides, you’ve been known to have an opinion or two yourself, which I fully intend to more thoroughly examine in due course. But for now, let’s address Watson’s fatal faux pas, in the light of the times in which we live…

As Maria Shriver’s latest report “A Woman’s Nation” clearly points out, the New Grrl Order has not only arrived, but by all accounts, it is here to stay-at least for the foreseeable future-and ANY guy that doesn’t get with the program can and will find themself unceremoniously talking to the hand, out of a job, and feverishly working it out with the Five Fingers Of Death. Now, what does this have to do with Dr. Watson, you might ask?

Well, as it turns out, everything-Watson, you see, is an anachronism, a kind of relic of the way things were, where crotchety, prickly, irreverent and argumentative types like Watson could be such, and part of the reason was, one, there were a lot less Women in the workplace, and two, because guys like Watson had the skills to backup their otherwise antisocial ways.

That was then. This is now.

With Women now dominant in the workplace, for a Man to succeed, he has to be more than merely competent-he also has to have GAME. Which, in this instance, means, being smooth. Not being a politically incorrect prick. Like Watson was. He was selling a book, not giving a lecture before academic peers on the why’s and wherefores of HBD. The book had nothing to do w/his completely off the cuff remarks about Africa, he was the one to take it

there. And he's not socially saavy enough to understand that what you say around your eggheaded homeboys you cannot say around others who either are Women themselves, or, are deeply influenced by what Women find appealing. In case you're wondering what point I'm driving at, let me be blunt-yes, I mean, you have to be good with Bullshitting people, if you want to succeed socially. Men with super tight Game tend to be the best Bullshitters, hence why they tend to come from fields like Law, Sales and the like, fields that almost by necessity, put them into close proximity with Women. Watson may know a lot, but he damned sure don't know one lick-pardon the pun-about Women, nor how A Woman's Nation now works (and this is true for the UK too, where this all occurred, in fact, in some ways it may be said to be even more acute there-they still have a Queen, don't you know). He made an un-necessary mistake that a first year Public Relations student would have warned him about, and he paid dearly for it. And no amount of attempting to make him into some kind of martyr's gonna change things either. Bottomline: in the New Grrl Order, if you as a guy either can't be bothered to learn how to appeal to Women's sensibilities, you can and will be socially, legally, politically and sexually weeded out of the gene pool, post haste.

The proof? Dr. James Watson. Nope, its not about the "truth", "facts", "logic" or "reason", and only Aspbergy-types with narrow obsessions on inanimate things tries to argue otherwise. Watson is/was a Great Man of Science, but he proved, yet again, why really smart White Guys SUCK when it comes to actually dealing with people, and especially Women.

I'm just sayin'. Let's see how many of those who talk a mean uh, game, about being politically incorrect and "keeping it real" will actually admit that what I'm saying here is 100% TRUE…

Holla back
The Obsidian

Are You A Slob?

Obsidian · 2 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday I was reading RooshV's recent post "18 Reasons Guys Don't Get Laid" and one of those reason has been something on my mind lately, what I consider to be a fundament of what some call Inner Game-not looking like a slob.

In Manosphere circles, of which I consider the Game/PUA portion to be a part of, there's a great deal made of how Women in our time have let themselves go-you don't need me to recount the ways. Virtually every week, if not more frequently, somebody out in the Manosphere will bemoan the Dowdying of Feminine America in one way or another, usually in the most unflattering of terms. While there is certainly something to be said here, I've always found the exercise itself to be the very kinds of feminine behavior (bitching, whining and moaning) that so many Men one, claim to despise, and two, are supposed to be above; afterall, to be a Man is to take the bull by the horns and make things happen, NOT sit on the sidelines and bleat on and on about shit nobody, least of all YOU, can do a darned thing about.

Right?

So, in light of the aforementioned, and in solidarity with Roosh (somebody I'll definitely be reading more of in the coming weeks), I thought to dedicate the first of what I hope will be many posts focused on helping guys up their Game for real.

So let's begin. Like Roosh said, are you a fright to see naked? Don't get me wrong here-no one's saying you gots to have six pack abs and 0% body fat-but looking like the Michelin Man, like you're about to ape Octomom any minute, hell to the naw, that does NOT make a Woman moist. The Obsidian Axiom #10 is very clear on this point: when you're fully clothed, take a look down-if you cannot see your belt buckle, you could stand to lose a couple.

And you don't need to join a gym to do it-Russell Crowe got in shape for his role in The Gladiator by doing farm work. In fact, and I say this as a lifelong Blue Collar Guy, it was rare to see many Men having pot bellies, double chins and the like. Simply put, the more active you are, the more likely you'll be in shape. Make it a point to move your ass early and often. Walk-alot.

Next, let's consider your grooming. While they're some posers and haters out there, I proudly proclaim the Axe line of Men's grooming products to be a Godsend to Humanity, because as a Man I know for a fact that A LOT OF GUYS STINK. To me, Axe is akin to the Garanimal clothing line they had for kids way back in the day, where you matched things up according to the animal you saw on the clothing. Axe makes it really simple for a guy to wash his ass, AND the best part? It didn't cost an arm and a leg to d it either. Hey, if you can afford to go all out on toiletries and cologne, do your thing bro, but most guys, especially the slobs, either can't or don't yet see the value in such an exercise. Axe is a great starting point, and believe me when I tell you, the Ladies WILL thank you for it.

Next-the haircut. Now admittedly, we Brothas are a bit tighter in this regard, so I'm afraid this has to be aimed abit more at our Brothers from Another Mother, so to speak-unless you're a certain type of personality, loose the Steven Seagal ponytail, that's so 90s. Same deal for the combover-if you're losing your hair, SHAVE IT ALL OFF. Women like neatness in a Man, and having a nicely clan shaven head can and will turn many a Woman on, even, especially, those who don't normally go in for that sort of thing. Same deal w/the grungey stubble thing happening that I see a lot of Hipster White Guys do-it's not appealing and makes you look dirty. Get a good shaver and shave.

Staying in shape will reflect well on your face because it will emphasize your jawline; this will work very well if you aim to rock a beard or goatee, which has always been seen as an "Alpha Male" look. The trick is to keep it groomed nicely, but if done well, Women will most definitely like it.

Next, clothes, and this goes for both White and Black guys, who tend to be on the extremes of the spectrum here. White guys tend to wear their clothes too tight; lots of Brothas, too darned loose/big. There needs to be a kind of

meeting of the minds here. White guys-WEAR A BELT WITH YOUR PANTS. That's what the belt loops are for, and Women LOVE a Man who accessorizes well. That means, hats, gloves, scarves, belts, etc. You don't have to go into hock for this sort of thing, just take a Sunday afternoon at Target or H&M and look around and try out stuff. You'll be surprised what you find.

Brothas-PULL YOUR PANTS UP. No one is interested in looking at your boxer-encased butt or worse, your impersonation of Joe The Plumber Asscrack. And those long as White Tees? Oh my. Yo, Dickies are a line of clothing FOR WORK, so if you're gonna wear em, actually have ajob to go with it, OK? And I don't know where the idea of aping Charlie Brown's baseball cap thing came from, but it looks absolutely ridiculous, and it needs to stop, pronto.

Many Brothas like to wear their hair long, like in braids or locs-that's cool, but KEEP IT UP. Nothing looks worse that a Thug Nigga who really does look like a Thug. One of the great things about having styles like that is that you can always get a Sista who'll only be too happy to do your hair for you. So hop to.

In a nutshell fellas, instead of complaining about how Women today look, how about taking a good looking in the mirror and objectively assessing how YOU look? Take some care about your appearance. You don't have to be the next Brad Pitt or Denzel Washington, but you can look a lot better than you currently do-and while its true that Men are more visually driven than Women, keep in mind they ain't Helen Keller, either. Women have always liked a well dressed, fit Man, and always will. Follow these simple rules and watch your Game takeoff.

Now adjourn your grimey asses.
The Obsidian

An Open Letter To Susan Walsh, FeministX, & The Ladies Of “Girl Game

Obsidian · 3 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Although Cosmo, Dear Abby and He’s Just Not That Into You have been around in one form or another for decades, the PUA movement has spurred a “corresponding” response on the Female side of the aisle; relationship bloggers like Ms. Walsh, more “freelance” bloggers like FeministX, and collectives like the recently launched “Girl Game” now enter the fray to give what they say is the Female equivalent of Original Game, and, in the case of ladies like Ms. Walsh, to give us Playas an earfull about ourselves as well.

Of course, once one gets past the niceties and polite society, much of what these ladies have to say is, at best, ancillary and tolerable; and at worst, a bad joke and downright delusional. For one, to even think that there can be, a “girl version” of Game, or, for another example, an “Alpha Female”, is to remove all doubt as to just how ignorant said ladies are, not just about the truths of Evolutionary Psychology, but of the Wisdom of the Ages as well.

This comes as no surprise, as so many of these Women-and Ms. Walsh would be the oldest of the bunch, being, I’d guess, in her early 40s at least-have all grown up under the notion that History and the truths it teaches us is inherently corrupted by the big bad Patriarchy, and therefore cannot be trusted. That Truth is subjective and often socially constructed. And, in that way that only Women do, fiercely cowtow to the conceit, that Men have the same impulses that they do.

Of course, all of this is patently false, but as any Man who’s lived any length of time on this planet knows, the vast majority of Women who is still capable of pushing out a baby simply has, at the very least, a very difficult time understanding, much less accepting, said truths. For very good reason.

Because, they don’t have to.

Last week I cosigned FeministX’s oft-repeated phrase, that Women can get laid much more quickly than Men. She’s 100% right, its true, and it’s pure folly for any Man to attempt to argue with this basic truth.

The trick though, and FemX’s own travails in finding Mr. Right clearly reflects this, is that while it ain’t nothing for a Woman to find a guy to spend the night, finding the Guy with the Right Stuff is HARD-in fact, harder than it is for the Average Guy, which means of course, like 90% of all Men in the world, to get laid. A rational response to this simple fact of existence would be to settle, but for Women, being the result of tens of thousands of extensive evolutionary hardwiring, they’d rather see Hell freeze over and do the Oprah thing before they even contemplate such a move.

Which is why, despite literally decades of Cosmo, Dear Abby and now “The Rules”, “He’s Just Not That Into You” and more recently, egalitarian notions of Game, more Women than ever are deeply and profoundly UNHAPPY.

Why? Because unlike Men, who MUST figure out ways of overcoming obstacles or they will literally disappear from the scene, Women have never had to understand WHY Men think and behave in the way they do. Think about it, there is no female equivalent of the Kama Sutra. Quick, name me the female equivalent of Mystery, Ross Jeffries, Style, or David D’Angelo, or Juggler, or Paul Janka. Show me the field-tested methods whereby average-looking Women can consistently get MARRIAGE PROPOSALS from the Tom Bradys of the world. To ask these questions are to answer them, because as we all know, no such things exist. They don’t for a very good reason-Women, as a group, don’t need them. All they need to do is lay back and spread their legs, and the line of very eager guys will some form around the block. When it coms to snagging the Top Gun, it really comes down to things that are largely out of a Woman’s control-Beauty, and Youth.

Moreover, what adds insult to injury with this merry band of ladies, is the very simple fact that Original Game was an adaptation to the changed social landscape of the late 90s and early 2000s-love or hate Mystery and others, the

truth is that these guys came up with differing strategies to meet the demands of a vastly changed sexual marketplace; they didn't make the rules, they only changed as the game, so to speak, did. Of course, those leading the charge in said "game changes" were Women themselves, but self-proclaimed trained economists like Ms. Walsh seems to have trouble seeing what should be bleedingly obvious to anyone who got at least one good eye and about half a brain-and she's not alone. Vast numbers of purportedly highly educated Women also seemingly have trouble, or more likely are simply unable to connect the dots in this regard. Remember, Women have never HAD to figure the really tough aspects of life out, evolutionarily speaking-and so it's a lot easier to entertain all kinds of whacked notions that one will find at FemX, or, for a more recent example, "new takes" on what the Bitch Shield "really means" over at Girl Game, and of course, what "advice" would be complete without a lowhanging fruit-style whacking ala Ms. Walsh's recent broadsiding of my ace, Ferdinand Bardamu? It's so much easier to engage in these rhetorical and cognitive sideshows, than it is to grapple with raw in your face realities.

Take for example, Maria Shriver's recent "A Woman's Nation" report. It's already been the stuff of much grist for the mill in the Manosphere, and like it or hate it, at least they're talking about and the implications it portends. You think Ms. Walsh, trained economist she is, or FemX, product of tony society and Harvard grad, or the collective "wisdom" over at Girl Game, will even hazard a guess as to what Shriver's report will mean for Today's Gal out on the dating scene? To ask the question is to answer it. And, as if that weren't enough, simply read what Oprah herself has to say about Shriver's report-talk about icing on the Delusional Cake.

Please pass the Kool-Aid?

How is that highly educated, and in the case of Women like Oprah, seriously rich, ladies can't figure out how to land Mr. Right, when, meanwhile, a no name magician with no formal education to speak of and still living at home with Mom at the time, figured out how to crack the code that was Woman to such an extent and degree, that now his very name is associated with success with Women?

Go to the very top of this site's page; there you will see the following quote:

Once you have eliminated the probable, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

Mystery, like all Men before him, HAD to figure things out, and couldn't afford to entertain intellectual flights of fancy. Simply put, if he couldn't figure out a way to get in a Woman's pants, his mama wouldn't be a Nana. The. End.

Women on the other hand simply aren't faced with that. All they really need is to be at least nominally goodlooking, and they were assured of passing on a genetic legacy. Of course, to bag the really Big Kahunas of the world, they themselves need to be smoking' hot, and no, there's really no way around this point, ladies, so don't waste your time trying. We guys have studied the matter; by your own thoughts, written/typed by your own hands, you all, have NOT.

I'm just sayin'.

Holla back
The Obsidian

OneSTDV, “Twilight” & (No Understanding Of) GAME

Obsidian · 3 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

You know, people stop me on the street and ask me, “Obsidian, why do you go so hard on that guy OneSTDV”? Why, I say? Because its so easy to do, that’s why. I mean, he’s the gift that just keeps on giving, and it’s a lot of fun, too.

Take yesterday’s post from his site, where he laments the existence of the smash hit blockbuster movie, Twilight; as per usual, my comments will be interspersed throughout his missive:

“Science

Monday, November 2, 2009

Vampires: Master PUAs

So I decided to rent Twilight and see what the big deal is. For anyone not familiar with the current vampire trend, Twilight is about a high school girl in upstate Washington who falls in love with a vampire. Imagine The Notebook mixed with Dracula or just Buffy . The movie mainly revolves around the relationship between Bella and Edward, the vampire. Apparently, the author of the Twilight book series is a Mormon housewife. Yet rarely does such an accurate portrayal of the efficacy of Game arise in popular culture.

OBS: Right off the bat, OneSTDV gives clear, first person and damning testimony that he doesn’t understand the creature that is Woman AT ALL. Twilight may be the latest wrinkle in the Vampire genre of books and movies, but by no means is it a new one. More to the point, yup, the author of the series of books is indeed a Mormon, and she, like every other Woman on the planet, has an intense sexual natue that guys like OneSTDV simply cannot or refuses to grasp. This is a universal thing, from Amish Love, to Thug Lit, to the Barbara Cartland novels a century ago, to The Story of O, you name it. YES, OneSTDV, books lik Twilight are to Women what Belladonna and Jenna Jameson are to us, OK? Its Porn, and it makes BIG money, as the box office numbers from Twilight clearly shows us.

Now, I’ve never seen Twilight myself, and probably won’t because I really don’t have any reason to-but because I know and possess Game, and have studied and observed the creature known as Woman for a very long time, I can tell One that just about everything he saw in the flick is highly relevant in the seduction of a Woman, be it a highschool teeny bopper, or a dowdy Mormon mama in one of those throwback prairie dresses. The wiring’s all the same.

(Back to One): I first noticed the hilariously multicultural cast. Bella’s best friends include two nondescript whites, a black guy, an Asian guy, and an ambiguously biracial girl. Again, the movie takes places in upstate Washington.

OBS: Ahh, One, never one to miss an opportunity to satiate your racial animus, hmm? LOL. Of course, it simply cannot be possibility of Blacks living in upstate Washington, right? You do know that Asians have lived there for quite some time, right? And in any event, the very fact that you would bemoan something as unimportant as this, once again goes to show, that you fixate on things that completely takes you away from RELATING to someone else. As one who is so steeped in the intricacies of HBD, surely you’re aware of the tendency of such high IQ guys like yourself having trouble relating to others…especially females? Hmm?

(OneSTDV): Edward, the main vampire, uses essentially every Game trick available.

OBS: Ahh, the venom drips from One’s lips. Clearly, from what we can see here, OneSTDV dos have some base familiarity with Game, perhaps by way of the Mystery Method, but he fails to grasp its essence, hence he wouldn’t use words like “trick” and wouldn’t speak in such patronizing tones about the desires of Women and what TURNS THEM ON. Which isn’t nitpicky “critiques” of flicks like Twilight, for example. Hateration much?

(One): He’s introduced as a mysterious individual with little known about him. In his first meeting with Bella, he

can't temper his physical revulsion towards her, an act that, of course, prompts Bella's interest. After that initial meeting, Edward engages in the classic push-pull strategy of Game, where he shows genuine interest in her, even showcasing higher value and sarcastic negging during a class assignment. In the climactic moment of the first act, Edward saves Bella's life by stopping a runaway car, then plays it off as if nothing happened.

OBS: Let's stop right there, because One's said a mouthfull, surprise, surprise. First, yes, Women don't like directness, unless in very rare situations. A good seduction is about the tease. It's about the uncertainty, will it happen, can it happen, its not supposed to happen…which makes her want to happen even more. The Push-Pull strategy is all about one, NOT coming off as needy, which the vast majority of Men do, and two, creating more sexual tension, because unlike you or even me, One, Women NEED the rollercoaster high of their emotions going through extremes. The more you take a Woman through this, the more she will be attracted to you-SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO YOU, which is hugely important.

As for DHV, and I'm pretty sure you know what that means, show me a Woman who's turned on by an underling, and I'll show you the Tooth Fairy. No Woman wants a Man beneath her, not even professional Dommes. It is important for the Man to show in some way, shape or form, that he has MORE value than she has. Edward, being "more" than Bella in every way, has done this…and she cannot help herself.

His ability to stop a speeding car that's about to make Bella roadkill is yet another demonstration of Ed's showing DHV-then notice how he shrugs it off. It ain't no thang.

At that point, you could ring out Bella's panties, she's so sopping wet.

(Back to One): He continues the push-pull method, rejecting her curiosity, then quickly displaying interest in what she thinks. He again saves her, but furnishes the mysterious image by skirting her questioning.

OBS: YES. Never, ever, give straight answers to a Woman's questions, is buzkill to her clitoris when you do. Turn every question into a question. I've said before that Game has wide uses, not just in terms of getting laid. Robert Greene talks extensively about this. When Ahmedinejad came to Columbia U to speak, notice how he handled every question tossed his way. And note the overall reception he received from the American public. Bollinger, the president of Columbia, was painted like the bad guy, and Ahmadinejad came off smooth as silk. My point, One? Don't be Bollinger. Women don't get hot for Bollinger.

(Back to One): Of course, Bella becomes increasingly intrigued by this bipolar, standoffish, yet charming individual. She obsesses over her new friend and finally discovers the truth about him. Bella confronts him in a shadowy forest where the following scene plays out (paraphrasing):

Edward: I want to taste your blood. I want to kill you. You're like a drug to me. I've killed people.
Bella: I don't care. I'm not afraid. Then they laid down together in the grass looking up at the sky. I won't continue as to avoid spoilers. The movie on the whole is quite boring. I don't understand the hype."

OBS: No, OneSTDV, with your Aspbergy ways and need to "change" stuff, you wouldn't. But the deal is, that Women are drawn to interesting guys, and one major way to maintain a Woman's interest is to NOT TELL EVERYTHING ABOUT YOURSELF. Let her mind fill in the blanks.

Second-Women LOVE danger, the sense of taboo. Remember, Women have to risk a great deal more to have sex than you or I or any other guy reading this does. Make the risk worthwhile, by presenting a compelling reason for her to drop her drawers for YOU. The sense on her part that you could, if necessary, rip another Man's head off…even backhand her if she gets too outta pocket…is a HUGE, PRIMAL TURNON for Women. Don't take my word for it, One-conduct one of your world famous studies on the matter. Read up on the Romance novels, which makes Billions of dollars a year, worldwide. Attend some of the conferences for Romance novel writers. Email, call and ask them questions, and report back all the results, complete with flowcharts, grids, graphs, coefficients and the like.

One final point. You don't need me to tell you that Women are far and away more drawn to the paranormal and

supernatural than are Men, for the most part. The reasons for this are quite simple, and since you're such a dashingly smart guy, OneSTDV, I'll let you hazard a guess as to what that is.

But I will say this: so long as you show open disdain for that aspect of what makes a Woman a Woman, not only will you never understand them, they will prove to be the bane of your existence all the days of your life, not just personally, but professionally and socially, too. Please see my post on Watson for more on this point.

Now adjourn your Beaker ass.
The Obsidian

Paying For Dates

Obsidian · 3 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Our Resident HAP FeministX muses on the question of paying for dates:

“Dutch on Dates

Apparently the decision to split the bill on a date is the cause of some controversy, at least on the internet. I find this discussion odd because the issue does not seem to apply to my life. I’ve been on many first dates with men of all kinds of income levels, ethnicities and ideological leanings, and with only one exception, the guy was fairly insistent about paying for the first date. In all of my long term relationships, the guy payed at least 75% of the time. I generally offer to pay my share unless I have no interest in seeing the guy again, in which case I don’t offer to pay because I want to fine the guy for annoying me with his company. What I find interesting is that sometimes (rarely) I can’t get a second date out of a guy, but that never stops them for paying for the first date.

A couple of my friends tell me that they keep going on dates with guys that want to split the bill. They don’t disqualify a guy because he wants to go dutch, but they prefer men that pay. One of my friends thinks it’s a sign of a good upbringing. I’ve been curious about why I never encounter the paying for dates issue while others apparently do. I wonder if it’s because I purposely seek out dominant men who are perhaps more in tune with their traditional gender role. I also wonder if its because I’m above average looking.”

OK, this post is just loaded with all kinds of stuff that scream to be addressed. First off, yup, FemX’s liking for more traditional guys, coupled with her attractiveness, can account for her personal experiences. However, we have to keep in mind that lots of guys are still woefully in the dark about these sort of matters, AND WOMEN KNOW THIS. Trust me, they ain’t stupid. They know that they benefit in a big way if they can get you to kickout considerable hard currency upfront while they enjoy the fruits of your labor…all the while not putting out in the least.

Simply put, and especially in these days and times where guys are losing their gigs left and right and more Women are making more money that Men, a guy is an A1 Fool if he goes all out on a First Date. Not only is he signalling DLV, but he also screams out “I’m So Needy/Horny!” and trust me, that does NOT turn a Woman on, in the least.

Personally speaking, my standard operating procedure is to arrange for a light, quick and *cheap*, First Date-always at a cafe’. Always in the daytime. And always no more than $20 spent. This way, if things go south-and they often do-I can take a $20 hit and a loss of roughly an hour of my time. Of course, if things go well, all the better, and the pressure is off both sides for a “performance” of some kind. The Cafe’ Date also acts as a kind of interview-your chance to see what she’s all about mentally, emotionally, etc. Of course, she gets to check you out in that way, too.

Now for me, I only pay for dates etc, when we have fully established an *ongoing sexual relationship*, which means for me, that I have to basically tap dat azz three times on separate occasions, plus what I call a “Security Shot”. This ensures that she has sufficiently bonded to me, Body & Soul, she has offered her womb up to me way more than once, she is mine exclusively and that I now have a rightful claim to and on her, and then-and only then-do I now begin to invest my resources on her. She’s earned that right. In no way am I a stingy guy or anything like that, but it is very important to keep in mind that there are Women out there who get off bigtime on getting guys to spend their loot w/absolutely no intention whatsoever of reciprocating. Personally, I enjoy dealing with such Women, because I make it so they have a very difficult time disengaging with me, even all the while knowing that I wouldn’t give them the sweat off my balls, they’re so ungrateful. Thankfully, in my life experience at least, these Women are few and far between, usually at the bars and clubs, where they routinely go for ego validation from the AFCs of the world.

Poor bastards.

Anyway, handling the FemX's of the world is very, very easy to do. They come a lot cheaper than they let on.

Trust me.

Holla back

The Obsidian

The Obsidian-Todd White Debates

Obsidian · 3 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

For those who may not be aware, the past few months have seen something of a “blogwar” occurring between those in the Game community on one side, and assorted others on the other side. Some of them hail from the Social Conservative movements/school of thought, while others seem to be more in line with Men’s Righters, and so on. Then there’s a few guys like Todd White, who seems to get a good bit of his understanding of the world via Theology, in this case and more specifically, Christianity.

White has made his disdain for Game quite well known in blogging circles; back in the Summer months, he challenged Roissy to a debate. I’m not sure, but it seems like Roissy has declined, but I’ll be your Huckleberry, Mr. White-thats just my game, pardon the pun.

You seem to have several key issues or shall I say, bones to pick with Game and related topics, one of them being with Roissy’s seeming “deification” himself by a goodly number of guys in the blogosphere. In fact, you take umbrage to the very notion that there should be a socalled “Roissysphere” and see it as a sign of bad things to come.

So, I open my humble abode to you, Mr. White, because like all Real Americans, I LOVE to fight. If you have a mind, bring it on. You get first serve.

See ya in the comments.
The Obsidian

Nidal Malik Hasan & Jason Rodrigeuz: Two More Examples Of How Game Can Save Lives

Obsidian · 6 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

By now, you've heard the news. No need to recount the incidents here. And besides, since this is a venue where the deeper depths of Game are plumbed, that is what I hope to do against the backdrop of the empty lives of these two Men.

Back in the Summer, Roissy came under tremendous fire for suggesting that George Sodini probably would not have killed so many innocent Women had he had Game. Of course, I agreed with his analysis, because the pattern of Men Behaving Badly-& Deadly-is by now, just too big to ignore.

Both Hasan and Rodriguez, Sodini and Cho, and many others, were, in a word, Losers-guys with no connections to the larger world. No girlfriends, or homies, or social life to speak of. Nearly all fanatical Muslim terrorists share this profile: see Muhammad Atta.

Game by definition, forces Men to become social animals, because that's the world in which Women inhabit. And Men those do well in that world, tend not to wind up doing what Hasan and others do.

But, before one can enjoy the company of Women on a whole host of levels, Men like Hasan etc, have to take a good long look inside themselves, and make some deepseated changes. As we can see, it's very difficult, for many many Men, to do this.

Perhaps the biggest irony, wrt Hasan, is that he carried out his final act in a setting that was supposed to represent all that is Manly and Good. And in watching the coverage of Ft. Hood, with all due respect to the Army, my how far have we fallen.

SMH. Game just may be the Last Best Hope for the World.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Seeing Things From A Woman's Point Of View: An Essential Element Of Game

Obsidian · 7 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

There's simply no getting around the fact that, once one has hung out in the Gamesphere, or indeed some of the liars out in the realworld, you can't help but get the sense of disillusionment, disappointment, even anger or hatred on the part of lots of guys therein. Although ultimately counterproductive if left to its own devices, a bit of "culture shock" is to be expected for the AFC who experiences Game for the first time. We in the know liken the experience to the smash-hit movie The Matrix, where everything you thought you knew about life and the world was turned on its head. Its a powerful, and for many, harrowing experience that some do not recover from.

What I find a lot of Game-related venues fail to point out and/or emphasize anywhere near enough, is that it would be immensely helpful to Men when, upon learning the more uncomfortable aspects of Game and what truly turns Women on, that it all isn't a one-way street-that Women have their own sets of challenges, both wrt us guys, and things that they have to deal with on and among their own, that never become a problem for us. And if we could see things from their point of view, it would not only take the sting out of a lot of our feelings of disillusionment and pain, it would also gives a degree of empathy for the ladies, because on so many levels, and in so many ways, they are as much slaves to their impulses as we are.

So, just off the top of my head, here's a few things we guys should think about when:

1. We get shotdown and/or rejected by a Woman, commonly known in Game circles as the Bitch Shield. Because Males display and Females choose, a big part of a Man's life will entail Rejection, and there's no pretty or easy way to deal with it. Simply put, you gots to Man Up. No Man likes being rejected, but if you think the Masters of the Game don't get rejected, you have got to be out of your ever-loving mind. These get more action because, simply put, they talk to more people than you. Its a simple numbers game, and sooner or later, the law of averages kicks in.

But what we don't consider is, while we're getting shotdown, Women aren't in such an enviable position either when you think about it-a
good looking Woman can expect to get approached easily, what, 5, 6 times a week? And that's not including ogling, stares and the like-in other words, she's constantly being assessed as if she was a piece of meat. And because Women are, as a rule, more inclined to seek relationships than merely sex, do you realize how disheartening this can be and often is, to Women? This is why your approach, when you make one, has to be so very different from all the other jokers out there, because if you don't you'll just be seen as another mope who wants to get in her pants and then be out the door. Which brings me to the next point:

2. Women risk a helluva lot more than we do to have sex. For us guys, its wham, bam, thank you Ma'am, and we're done. For Women, its a lot more involved than that. For us guys, bagging chicks left and right makes us a hero; for her, having a revolving door of lovers lowers her chances of landing a really good guy for the longhaul-we don't have that sort of problem.

Then there's the STDs. Women are much more susceptible to them than we are, and more likely to have life altering consequences as a result, too.

Then, of course there's pregnancy, and if you're just hooking up, the chances of a planned one aren't high. So she's faced with several choices, none of them great-either abort outright, have the child and raise it most likely alone, or put the child up for adoption. I know there's a lot made about the Child Support Industry and so on, and for what its worth I am deepl sympathetic to those issues many guys raise, but the fact remains that for Women, this is something they have to constantly think about when they agree to lie down with a Man. It's not something we ever have to give much thought to at all. And let's not even get started on Rape. Yea, yea, I know all about false rape charges, believe you me, I'm totally with you on that. But the fact remains that Women still have to be on guard for such things a heck of a lot more than we do.

3. Recently, I wrote a post called Are You A Slob? It was aimed at getting guys to start taking stock of their own appearance, instead of constantly ragging on the ladies. Yea, a lot of them let themselves go, but a whole heck of a lot of guys do, too, and since we're dealing with guys instead of Women here, the only people you can change is YOU.

Anyway, here's something else to consider: taking the time to care about your own appearance will give you a newfound respect for what Women go through, I know for a fact it did for me. Case in point-last night I got a much-needed haircut. Took me about 2 hours of waiting before I got in the chair (we Black folks take our doos very seriously, LOL). Now, consider if I were a Woman and particularly a Black Woman-it would have easily taken me 4, 6 or 8 HOURS, IN THE CHAIR, before I would have gotten done. And unlike me, who at most might get his hair washed before being cut, Women have to deal with perms, relaxers, extensions, dying, twists, locs, braids, this, that, etc. For a Man, getting a cut is a chore; for a Woman, getting her hair done is an Odysessy.

Here's something else to consider: a little while back I bought about 5 pair of jeans from the store. Took me all of about 20 minutes to get it done, because I know what I like, all I had to do was try em on for fit. Now, consider what a Woman has to deal with-first of all, their sizing scale is ridiculously complex because, unlike us guys, who have a much more uniform sizing scale thanks to the Civil War, this never happened for Women. Put that together with the ultra sensitivity of Women's body images and so on, and a simple matter of a Woman buying one pair of jeans, let alone four or five, can be a day long thing. It's not unusual for a Woman to end up exchanging a pair of jeans she thought would fit only to find out they're too long, too high in the waist, not enough room in the thighs, big enough for her butt not the waist is also huge, etc, et al. We guys rarely encounter problems like this. And I'm talking about jeans here-don't even get me started on dresses and other outfits.
4. While most guys go through a very painful and lonely time from their 20s up through their 30s in terms of sex and romance because unless they have wealth, status or Game, being younger often means having less sex, for Women its the reverse. They get mad attention in their latter teens all the way up to about mid 30s or so, early 40s at the most if they were blessed with great genes and they've taken care of themselves. After that though, its downhill for them, and the dropoff is sharp indeed. Think about it-how many Men are viewed as sexy well into their 40s? Denzel Washington, Brad Pitt, Harrison Ford, George Clooney, Brett Farve, Daniel Craig, R. Kelly, Jay-Z, Barack Obama? ALL of these Men, and many others, are at least 40 years old, and guess what?-the vast majority of them didn't really hit their stride until AFTER they turned 30 at least.

Now, let's consider similarly-aged Women: Janet Jackson, Helen Miren, Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey, Jennifer Lopez. Most of the Women on this shortlist were consider certified hotties, yes? But NONE of them now are. They're respected for their past works, yes. But how many guys can be heard pining away for any of them NOW? How many of them got more success after 30 than before? And how many of them are still widely desired after 40? See my point?

What lots of guys don't get is that being shotdown is akin to being shot-its acute and "death" comes quickly. But for Women, being "shotdown" is like terminal cancer-its an inexorable slide that can be managed, but never overcome. She can delay it at best, and she should. But once the youth goes, so too does the beauty, and even in our age of amazing science, it can only go so far. Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, George Clooney, Denzel Washington, Wesley Snipes and many others have proven, that if a Man takes care of himself, he can and will enjoy quite a few ladies well into his 40s and beyond, because an older Man is quite sexy to most Women. But for Women, being over 40, even while she may still have a strong sexual drive, is a very difficult time of life to handle, as she's not as desired as much as she once was, if at all. Hence the "strongarm tactics" many such Women employ out there today, aka the Cougars. In fact, I happen to know quite a few such Women, who are into porn and the like more than a lot of Men I know, they're that hard up for Wood. I'll speak on this more in due course.

5. Lots of guys are truly bitter at how so very often, Women will fall for the Lotharios of the world. Tru dat-but let's be frank. How many of us guys are really caring about that Hottie's inner beauty, let alone intelligence, moral fiber and familial upbringing we saw at the club or the mall? Hell to the naw, we concentratin' on them thighs, that big ole booty, them banging' boobies and that luscious face-we tryin' to get to know her better because we want to

HIT IT. The end-and don't think other Women don't know this, they most certainly do. Yea, go ahead, call em haters because they mad they ain't as hot-the very same thing could be said of YOU by the gals you despise for hooking up with the modern day Lord Byrons. The bottomline here is that we can't help being drawn to what we like, and there's nothing good to come of complaining about it like a loser. The strong thing to do is recognize that no Man can or will appeal to everyone, and to simply move on to those Women who are attracted to us. Believe me, nothing's worse than being a Woman who few guys want, because it is part of a Woman's makeup to be desired.

Keeping this shortlist in mind when you go out there will go a long way to give you a sense of perspective wrt Women, to see them as flawed human beings just like the rest of us, respect for their humanity, empathy for the daily grind they have to put up with that in so many ways, we simply don't. Remember: those who tend to do best with Women, do so because they take the time to truly understand them.

I'm just sayin'.

Now adjourn your horny asses.
The Obsidian

Why Game & "Choice For Men" Elicits So Much Hate

Obsidian · 10 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

With a major snag being hit with the House passage of the Healthcare Bill that involves public monies being used to pay for abortions, and in the light of my recent "debate" on Game with the lovely Susan Walsh of HookingUpSmart.com, I thought now would be the perfect time to address exactly why these two powerful "correctors" of the sexual marketplace-Game and Choice For Men-has drawn the ire of both, Women AND Men.

Let's put our Occam's Razor-assisted thinking caps on, shall we, gentlemen?

OK…

The reason why Game is reviled, and why "Roe For Men" elicits the ire of Women and Men alike, is very simple:

Because it gives maximum options to a maximum number of Men.

That's why.

Keen students of Game understand well that its underpinnings come from the insights gleaned from Evolutionary Psychology & Biology, the study of human behavior and the adaptations that had to take place many tens of thousands of years ago on the African Sahara to meet the demands of the environment. Human beings evolved and moved away from said environment, but by then the "programming" had taken hold; it takes many thousands of years to "reboot" the system.

So, what we have today in our time, is essentially this-we have all these toys and gadgets and big ideas, but we aren't that far removed from our Saharan past.

Game is the proof.

Now…

As we all know, the key mating strategy of the Female is to get the attention of the Alpha Male-the leader of the pack. He is the one best equipped to provide resources to her children; he is the one best able to defend her and her kids from any threats.

For thousands of years, this was a fairly easy thing to do for the Female; the Menfolk were quickly sorted out, either by rivalry within the tribe, or warfare with other tribes, or by being killed off during hunting trips, etc. All the Females had to do was pick the "winners" of these and other situations.

Now, barring Rape-which was quite a legitimate mating strategy for Males for thousands of years in its own right-the deal was, the Alphas got the best Females. If you weren't an Alpha, your chances of passing on your genes into the future were dim-you either had to hope you could sneak one in while the Alpha was away, or, get the leftover Females nobody really wanted, or, bust a Female upside the head and take her by force. Failing that, you were facing an Epic Evolutionary Fail.

Women are wired to "screen out" all but the Best Men for the purposes of mating and *longterm commitment*. Remember this one, folks, its very, very important. All lesser guys need not apply. Down through the Ages, Women have evolved to come up with ways and means to separate one group of Men, from the other.

This highly attuned "radar" if you will, on the part of Women, is in large part "fooled" by Game, because it gives the average guy the tools needed to ape the behavior of Alpha Males. This in turn gives him more chances to mate-in other words in our time, get laid-and this in turn causes mucho stress for the Ladies, because Game makes it so they cannot as easily determine who's who. For a Woman, this is hugely important-as I've pointed out before and it bears repeating, a Woman risks a heck of a lot to have sex. Much, much more than Men do. Aside from things like Rape and STDs, one of the biggest risks is in her giving it up to the wrong guy, and having to deal with the fallout from that. And, as I've also noted before, and it also bears repeating, Good Guys-essentially Alpha Males-are hard

to find. This means that, by necessity, all the guys cannot get laid:

FROM A FEMALE'S POINT OF VIEW, IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE NUMBER OF GUYS GETTING LUCKY IS RESTRICTED.

If every Tom, Dick and Harry could get laid at will, with the more topshelf honies, it would wreak havoc on tens of thousands of years of delicate programming for the Female-important programming that helps her "sort out" the Males into two distinct groups: Alphas, and errbody else. Game in essence, seriously messes with that programming.

Which is why Women have so many problems with it.

So, that explains the Female side of the equation-but what about the Male side? That too, is also simple.

When one has a fundamental grasp of Human Nature and of Game, which is really Social Sexual Dynamics, then one understands why one can see much Hateration from certain quarters of the Menfolk on this issue. For Men, competition to mate, and with the choicest Females, is FIERCE. In Nature, Males display, and Females choose-this means that not only does a Male have to have the best "display" but that it's in his interest to restrict the number of competitors he has to contend with-the more guys in the round, the lesser his chances of "winning". Again, Game gives more guys more chances to "win"-and quite a few guys, operating from the Reptillian Id, DON'T LIKE THAT.

This is why you'll hear these guys dress up their evolutionary hateration in flowery terms like "trickery", "deception" and the like, not to mention a goodly bit of White Knightery-when you really break it down, the issue is, that more guys will have options if they have Game. Simple as that.

Before I move on to Roe For Men, let me say this…

Remember my recent debate with Susan Walsh? She made quite a big deal about the "neg", a powerful method that one soon learns when first receiving Game training. And she's not alone-just about every single, female critic of Game will crow loud and long about this one teeny wittle aspect of the science. And do you want to know WHY so many Women complain so loudly and long about the Neg?

BECAUSE IT WORKS, THAT'S WHY.

And worse, there is NO DEFENCE AGAINST IT. Why? Because it is deeply embedded in a Woman's psyche to submit to a Dominant Male, and negging is what Dominant Males do. In fact, the astute among my readers might have picked up on something in the aforementioned exchange. Hmm…

So-teaching average guys about the why's and wherefores of Negging again, essentially screws up the inherent Alpha Radar Women have-can you see why they're so upset now?

Another example, and then we'll examine "Choice For Men"…

Recently, I wrote about the issue of paying for dates. Although I didn't get a heck of a lot of responses enlist, I did get a goodly number from WOMEN offlist, complaining about what I said. Now, keep in mind-I didn't say I wasn't gonna pay for ANY dates; I simply said that it wasn't a good idea for a guy to go all in on a first date with a Women he really doesn't know and hasn't had sex with in any event. Even given the comments in response to what I wrote, by other guys, The Fifth Horsemen amon them, what I wrote was quite fair, balanced and reasonable.

Still, the Ladies were feeling some kind of way.

Do you know why? Go back and review what I said: it's because, the mere mention of saying what I said means that I'm not needy for sex, and the vast majority of Men are-which means, in effect, they're signalling that they're NOT ALPHA. So when a guy blows a C-Note on a gal he hasn't been in bed with yet, he's saying "I'm so horny!"-and that tells the gal that he ain't The One. Epic. Evolutionary. Fail.

She WILL however, take his money, in the form of lunches, dinners, nights out on the town, flowers, baubles, you

name it-and hey, why not? As the Wise Man once said, a Fool and his Money are soon departed. I betcha all those Women who wrote to me offlist, had NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER either doing what I just wrote above, and/or know, and fully endorse, other Women doing it. Yet, they have a problem with little ole me. Why?

Because hipping guys to the realities of paying for dates too soon basically screws with the “radar” again, AND WOMEN DON’T LIKE THAT. Only Alphas are supposed to have sexual options. See what I’m saying here?

OK, so let’s now move on to the Roe For Men issue…

People, its real simple: in America, we have this thing called Equal Protection Clause-which means, that you can’t make laws that benefit only one group, and not everyone else, or worse, target one group with a set of laws. It’s either all or nothing, and it works very well across the board, no matter what the issue is.

When it comes to Reproductive Rights, as it currently stands, we have an inherently un-Constitutional situation happening, because only Women can have the right to choose whether they want to be a parent or not. Men, don’t have that right.

Again, once one understands Game, which is deeply rooted in Evolutionary Science, it is easy to see why Roe For Men is so vehemently fought against, by Women and Men both.

For Women, the issue is very easy-despite all the many advances Women have made, they still desire and demand that they get maximum resources from a Male-ideally the actual dad, but in a pinch any guy with good prospects will do (watch the Maury Show)-and failing that, the State. For Men, again, basically freeing up Men to fully explore their sexual options without any encumbrance of being a parent involuntarily, would mean more “competitors” in the marketplace; as it currently stands, forcing guys to pay child support acts as a check on their sexual activity. It removes potential players from the field.

Going back to Women, remember what I said earlier: their “mission” isn’t only to mate with the Alpha, but to get his *longterm commitment* in the form of resources. If Roe For Men would be allowed to pass, that latter part of the deal collapses. But it would uphold the basic premise of the Equal Protection Clause, yes? If Women can decide, w/o regard to her sex life, when and if she becomes a parent, why can’t Men? Its really simple. And just note all the rhetorical Jiu Jitsu the “pro choice” crowd engages in when confronted with these facts. I mean, come on.

So, to recap:

Game & Roe For Men greatly threaten the sexual marketplace, by giving the average guy much more options than he would have had previously. This is a great concern to Women and Men alike, albeit for differing reasons. For the former, it messes with their finely attuned radar that’s set for weeding out Alpha Males from everyone else; in the latter case, it promises more direct competition for the better females.

OK, my job is done here.

Now adjourn your confused and befuddled asses…

The Obsidian

The Realworld Value Of GAME

Obsidian · 11 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

With the Mancession in fullswing – and we're only seeing the beginning – and with the Haters of the Sweet Science occasionally coming forth to pour water on our hit parade, it's good to ponder just how much mileage a Man can expect to get out of Game. Luckily, several very astute and clearly experienced practitioners of the Crimson Arts – Roissy, Ferdinand Bardamu and The Fifth Horseman – have chimed in on this burning question. This post will serve to bring all their insights together into one tight coherent beam of laserlike focus, garnished with my own unique take on the State of our Times, and Art, while at the same time utterly refuting and debunking the Haters, who pray for our downfall. Of course, that ain't never, ever, gonna happen.

First, let's get the BS outta the way – the NUMBER ONE reason why Men endure years of boredom at school and work, getting into crushing debt, brownosing until he's well-fed on a diet of the Boss Man/Lady's fecal matter, wastes BIG money on flashy cars, and does all the other ridiculous things that polite society tells him to do, is so he can have a shot at getting a pretty gal. The. End. And ANY Man who tells you otherwise, IS LYING TO YOU. The truth is, that the vast majority of guys couldn't care less about the stuff they do, for real – all most Men need to live is a dorm room. Recently I watched an in-depth interview with Gen. Stanley McChrystal in Afghanistan. The Man's living quarters?-a simple dorm room, simple twin-sized bunk with the GI-issue drab green blankie draped over it, a simple closet, trunk, you get the drill. I could easily live in such quarters, and so can most of the guys reading this – EASILY. The only reason why they go in for expensive cribs is because it will impress the Hotties. Or so they hope.

All that wouldn't be so bad if it actually WORKED, but more often than not, IT DOESN'T – and the proof? How many of us know broke dudes who get more ass than the proverbial toilet seat? Now, how many of us "have it all" and either are being taken for all they got by some Chickenhead, or worse if you can imagine it, is at home working it out with Skeletor's Left Hand? Tell the Truth, and shame the Devil, now. To ask the question, is to answer it. Remember this, all of you:

Happiness for a Man, is being between a Woman's thighs.

Does anyone honestly disagree with that?

With the massive edifice that is The Matrix crumbling down around us at an increasingly rapid rate, it is time for Men to get a grip on reality and consider their options with cleareyed vision and acuity. The once-proud Working Class Man is extinct; I fully expect to see an exhibit devoted to him at the Smithsonian before long. And the same cancer that eradicated him is now gunning for his White Collar brethren, at an ever-increasing clip. Many of you who work in that world know exactly what I'm talking about. The bitter truth is that you are hanging on by a thread, not knowing if this coming Friday on the job is your last. You're being asked to work harder and longer, with less and for less, and if you even fix your mouth to act like you got a problem with that, your ass is grass. Contrary to all the flowery talk they filled your head up with in college, in truth you ain't nothing more than a high falutin' cog in the wheel, and as soon as it gets too expensive to keep you on, you'll be out the door, with no towel, and no kiss. Take a look at the Dow lately? It's well over 10K points – while unemployment has exceeded 10% – for the first time in a quarter century.

Yea. It's like that.

So, with so much out of our direct control to a darned thing about, the one thing we CAN do something about is improve ourselves, with one clear goal in sight – to get the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of the WOMAN (or Women if you prefer), OF YOUR CHOICE. F*ck what you heard, there are fewer pleasures greater in this world for a Man, than to have the love, respect and honey-dripping lust of a Woman we really want.

It is for this reason that Game is worth MORE than college degrees, job promotions, flashy cars or cribs and all the other silly, ineffectual stuff you see most guys running around like chickens with their heads lopped off trying to do. With the right information, dedication and just a fraction of the time – what, a year, two at most, to say nothing of

the cost? – a Man can and will gain in a big way in terms of his social life, which for Men, almost always means, dealing with Women.

Which brings us back to our Three Wise Men. Let's leadoff with Roissy's thoughts on the matter:

"The great majority of men are not genetically capable of getting grad school degrees, but they are capable of learning some rudimentary game. Concepts like negs, social proof, qualification, compliance, and body language. And in the winner-take-all seduction sweepstakes, all else being equal, an uneducated man wielding tight game will beat a game-eschewing educated man waving a diploma 99 times out of 100. Bet on it.

As game, or in weightier parlance, psychosocial dominance, sits at the pinnacle of male character traits that women find attractive, a man will get more bang for his social investment buck by learning game than he would by working hard at improving himself on more conventional metrics such as career advancement, wealth generation, educational attainment, or material acquisition. He should do all those things to the best of his ability, of course, but if he could only choose one path to pussy, I would counsel him to learn the science of seduction. A grad school degree requires an additional 6-7 years of commitment after high school plus crushing debt; career advancement requires years of kissing ass and working late; wealth generation requires a lifetime of prudent financial management; material acquisitions require hard-earned money and their effectiveness at attracting and keeping pussy is questionable.

But game, the beautiful drama, needs only six months to one year of study and practical application before a man will reap the rewards of tingly ginas. When you are running game, you are saying powerful things, you are behaving powerfully. And when you behave powerfully, you really are powerful. Game is power. And it all rests on one very simple, very true, premise:

Women are mostly the same in what they find attractive in men.

And the male trait they love the most? Dominance."

- How Much Can Game Do? Sep 18 2009 roissy.wordpress.com

Can I get an Amen?

Next up, Ferdi's views on the matter, after he gives a masterful prognostication on the future of the sexual marketplace:

"So knowing all of this, how can you, the humble reader, put yourself in a position of power? I have but one tip: LEARN GAME. If you are interested in having a sex life at all, you MUST have game. If you want to get married and possibly make babies, you MUST have game. If you want to do anything aside from have a five-fingered pants party, you MUST have game. Game is more important than getting a promotion at your job, your college education, or ANYTHING else in this regard."

- The Future Of The Sexual Marketplace Sep 21 2009 fbardamu.wordpress.com

Finally, we get the words of The Fifth Horseman, who keenly analyzes exactly what Game is worth in real dollars and cents to a Man; I quote:

"Moderate competence in Game is easily worth about the same SMV as having a net worth of $2 million. This is a rough estimate. Furthermore, no one can tax your Game, swindle you out of Game, or steal your Game in divorce court (as long as you don't let this sap your confidence as a human being).

I define moderate competence in Game as the following 5 steps :

***1) Regular, consistent, and somewhat effortless ability to do approaches to women who are 8s or higher. This is the most important point of all, as without approaches, you will not create the opportunities to practice ANY other part of Game. This is also the filter that blocks most novices from ever progressing.

2) Ability to qualify the woman, as well as identify and pass her own tests easily. Be the first to end the phonecall,

always be leaving, other time constraints, etc. The ability to use the occasional well-placed neg is valuable too.

3) Ability to run comfort and rapport for the requisite 6-8 hours. Have a lot of interesting stories, games, and other things to run on her.

***4) Ability to bridge from Day 1 to Day 2, and minimize flakes. This is important as flakes are frustrating, demoralizing, and discouraging. A lot of guys are very close to the brass ring, but this derails them in their quest for Game.

5) Ability to run competent seduction Game, after you get her alone. This is where Ross Jeffries NLP can be extremely useful (but not mandatory by any means).

1) and 4) cause the biggest frustration, paralysis, and 'giving up', hence the asterisks. But a man who becomes pretty good at these 5 points is ahead of 98% of all men, and is on par with a Beta who has $2 million in net worth (and is ahead of such a Beta if that Beta has no game and is suckered easily by feminine manipulation)."

Preach on, Brother! Preach on.

If a Man really wants to gain a true life skill that will actually serve him all the days of his Life, Game is it – not only will it help him in the realm of getting the Woman or Women he wants, for however long he wants, but it will also assist him in other areas of his life as well. As Welmer of The Spearhead recently showed, Founding Father Benjamin Franklin's masterful use of GAME made the difference between the USA being what it is today, and remaining subjects of the British Crown. As I said before elsewhere in the forum, a Man with Game will move ahead in his career faster than not having it, and Franklin is prima facie proof – compare him to John Adams, who succeeded him as diplomat to France. In fact, think about this – why is Ben Franklin mentioned a heck of a lot MORE than John Adams? Hmm? And Franklin wasn't even President! Compare Obama to Bush 43. Compare Bill Clinton to damn near errbody else.

Recently I made the bold assertion, and I stand by it, that had Dr. James Watson, great Man of Science that he was and is, understood and employed just a bit of Game, in this case knowing how to size up social situations and respond accordingly, he's still be head of the Cold Spring Harbor Labs he created. Same deal with former Harvard U president Larry Summers. Yet Steven Pinker, who's field of study is at least as controversial, being Evolutionary Psychology, continues to teach at the best schools IN THE WORLD. Perhaps it's BECAUSE of his chosen field of study, not in spite of it, that allows him to keep working in a field that he actually likes and wants, unlike both Watson and Summers, both of whom found themselves out of a job.

And don't even get me started on the hit HBO drama series Mad Men. Does anyone here honestly think Don Draper doesn't use Game on the job? Come on.

As the Mancession marches on, Today's Man finds himself at a most curious and unique crossroads, indeed. As the old saying goes, if you keep doing what you've always been doing, you'll keep getting what you've always got – is it enough?

Well – is it?

Now adjourn your Gameless asses…

The Obsidian

Clearing The Air: A Response To Susan Walsh

Obsidian · 12 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

I awoke this morning to find a virtual explosion of responses to my recent post, Why Game & "Choice For Men" Elicits So Much Hate. The interesting thing to observe though, was that there was little comment on the actual subject matter, but rather other things, most notably, my saying that, over the course of a recent exchange with Ms. Walsh, I had employed a Neg (for example, Ms. Walsh has yet to actually respond to the part in my post where I take up the matter of paying for dates; or the whole "Choice For Men" issue, and so on). Understandably, Ms. Walsh was perturbed by my saying this, although, by her own admission, she does not fully know what a Neg is. And of course, there was the usual Hateration that comes with Game forums and the like from assorted others.

In this post I wish to clear the air on a number of points raised by Ms. Walsh and others. The best way to do that I think, is by point for point response to her most recent post from the aforementioned thread:

SUSAN WALSH: Keith, you are an enlightened man. We have a lot of guys like you hanging out at HookingUpSmart.com. You're certainly not going to make anyone understand here, so come on by.

OBSIDIAN: I beg your pardon, Ms. Walsh. But when I asked Keith as to what he would advise Today's Young Man to do to meet ladies, his advice isn't all that different in the least from fundamental Game. As we've all agreed, his problem isn't so much w/Game but rather with some of the louder/more popular/whatever voices within the community. It's important then that he, and anyone else who thinks as he does, to separate the two. >
> OBS: The discussion was between Ms. Walsh and TFH, and he made a > powerful point-a younger Women gets more attention than an older one. >
> SW: Wait, who the hell is TFH? Oh wait, here we go:
>
> TFH: Why is Susan Walsh debating the neg? She is a 50 year old woman, > who has definitely not been negged as part of a seduction since Game > came into being a decade ago. >
> She should be behaving in a matronly manner, at this point. >
> So again, why the claim that she gets negged while at work? >
> SW: My objection was to being negged by OBS. Blogging is my work.

OBS: Question-if blogging is your work, and part of that work is writing on the current day hookup culture, how could you not study something that is such a big part of said culture? Please explain?

SW: I am 53. I have been married
for25yearstoafellowWhartonMBAwhoisgoodlooking,highearning,
and extremely intelligent. He was, and is, a total catch.
And 100% beta male. Not going to lead a posse of men to
slay the woolly mammoth during this lifetime. He would
NEVER have dated, much less married, a 23 year-old
waitress (unless she was working her way through
graduate school).

OBS: With all due respect Ms. Walsh, do you think things might have changed dramatically from 25 years ago? For example, according to Maria Shriver's report "A Woman's Nation", Women now are employed MORE than Men. Since you bring up your daughter, this means, that for Women like her, her chances of landing a guy like your hubbie is significantly reduced, and Game has absolutely nothing to do with that. So, what will she do? What are her options? That wasn't an issue for you a quarter of a century ago. It is for her. And, to be honest, I've yet to see ANY Woman blogger take that issue on squarely. Please see The Social Pathologist's recent post, which was based on my recent post, Signs Of A Good Man, which is called Few Good Men…and holla back.

Oh, and you still skirted around TFH's point, that a younger Woman can and will garner more attention than an oler

one, even when the latter has more status and money. If this weren't so, there would be so many high earning older Women alone. I actually know quite a few, and trust me, it's not a pretty sight to see. You've seen it, too. Her name is Oprah.

SW: Do I meet your requirement of behaving in a matronly manner, whatever that is?

OBS: For me, yes, but I wasn't the one asking the question, LOL.

SW: I have a blog that I started a year ago in response to the concerns of college women who struggle with the dearth of relationships in the hookup culture. My motivation was my own daughter, a young woman who has caused traffic accidents at stop lights twice while walking. She is a 10+, completely overwhelmed with the attention she gets from men. She does not do PUAs. She does not do negs. She has high mating value, and she will mate with someone of similar status. She will NEVER mate with a PUA.

OBS: I prefer to leave your daughter out of the discussion please. Much too much personal feelings involved. What I will say is this: that Roissy, Ferdinand, RooshV and Tucker Max gets so much attention, tells me that quite a few "high mating value Women" wind up in the arms of these guys, much to a parent's chagrin. Remember, Men are results oriented. If Game was a bunch of hookum, we wouldn't be discussing it right now. These guys are hugely popular, because what they say, works. And it works because Women by and large-not out on the margins, but in the main-respond to it. That a fact, Ms. Walsh, and no amount of holding your own daughter out as some paragon of virtue is gonna change that, by your own admission your own site is a testament to that. So, the issue isn't whether your own daughter will or won't hookup with a Roissy or a Tucker, the issue is WHY so many Women respond to the Roissys and Tuckers of the world. When you understand Game, you know why. I certainly do.

OBS: Sounds like you and me, and indeed most of what the literature of Game out there, aren't that far apart at all. Seems to me you, like Ms. Walsh, has more problems with *certain voices within the Game community* than with Game itself, because, again, neither you nor Ms. Walsh actually disagrees with the basic fundamentals of Game.

SW: Indeed, it is not the theory that offends, but the application of that theory. When OBS first wrote his Open Letter to me and others, I hoped that I could find a way to converse objectively and impassively. That has proved difficult.

OBS: Really? I thought it was quite easy and relaxed, no hollering and shouting and denigrating each other, in the least. I was and am truly interested in hearing what you and anyone else has to say about the issue, because aside from the simple fact that it's such a fascinating subject, it's also something with huge implications for us all. I have no personal axe to grind against you or anyone else, and I think even you admitted that, of all the Gamers you've been in contact with, I'm the "best mannered". So, what's the problem? Please explain?

As for Game itself, please go back to my Star Wars analogy. As you said, it isn't the Force that's the problem, but how it's used. On this, we agree. But let's be clear, because I'm a big advocate that clarity is better than agreement-when you make those comments above, are you making them with reference to ME, and if so how? In what way? Please explain?

SW: Always the goal is the relentless promotion of Game,

even at the discovery of truth.

OBS: Whoa, hold on-what “truth”, Ms. Walsh? Please explain? I need clarity on this point. And, what do you mean by “relentless promotion of Game”? Again, please explain?

SW: Followed by the pithy put
down. There is not room for any other formula in your
world. After engaging in what I believed was a straight up
conversation about Game, I was informed by OBS that I
had been negged, wink, wink. What a claustrophobic
environment! But, hey, you don’t really want input from
women, so it’s all good.

OBS: Ms. Walsh, with all due respect, I will say, w/o any hint of fear or reprisal, that a Player has more intimate knowledge of, and real respect for Women, than do “Rules Girls”, “relationship advice experts” or damn near anyone else on the Female side of the aisle, because the former group actually has to take the time to understand Women; few if any Women out there truly understands Men. They THINK they do, but their actions belie their words.

That you couldn’t take the time to read ONE book on a topic you’ve written about, at least twice I believe, on your own site, is proof of what I just said above. Oh, and about the Neg business-this is from Style’s book The Game:

“Neg-*noun*: An ambigious statement or seemingly accidental insult delivered to a beautiful woman a pickup artist has just met, with the intent of actively demonstrating to her (or her friends) a lack of interest in her. For example: “Those are nice nails; are they real?”. *verb*: to actively demonstrate a lack of interest in a beautiful woman by making an ambiguous statement, insulting her in a way that appears accidental, or by offering constructive criticism. Also: Neg Hit. Origin: Mystery”. -pages 443-444

Now:

As Hugh Ristik has pointed out, alongside my own recent comments on the matter, and to which you’ve agreed, there are many ways to employ the Neg. In our case, it was in the form of offering constructive criticism, more specifically, informing you about what you don’t know. About Game. And to which you admitted was true.

Which leads to the next point-name me a Woman who on ANY level, is attracted to (a Woman’s regard or respect plays a very important role here) a Man whom she clearly outclassed in terms of knowledge, experience or intelligence? To ask the question is to answer it, if one is brutally honest with themselves.

Moreover, had you actually read The Game, you would not have bristled by my mentioning that Game is *everywhere* and ever constant, that it can be used in situations beyond the purely sexual or romantic. How so? Again, read your son’s copy of The Game. There you will find two instances where Style runs tight Game on two “Women with high mating value”-Courtney Love and Britney Spears. Women respond to Dominant Males. Just. A. Simple. Fact. Of. Life.

So, to recap: over the course of our discussion it was revealed by you that you were ignorant of Game to the extent that you hadn’t actually studied one of the most important books of the endeavor; on the other hand, I’ve read that and a plethora of other materials widely regarded by the community to be essential. For example, when I asked you what you’ve read insofar as EP was concerned, your shortlist didn’t include The Red Queen. That’s standard required reading for anyone wanting to understand Game, as is The Naked Ape, etc. And so on.

At that point it became clear who had the upperhand in the discussion, and as I recall you didn’t have too much of a problem with that. Yes, I value your input, but that’s not the same as having an informed discussion among two people equally familiar with the subject matter. As one trained in economics, could you honestly say that having an extensive discussion with someone who doesn’t even know who Milton Friedman was legit? Sure, they have their right to an opinion, and may be very good people. But let’s not kid ourselves here.

The simple point is Ms. Walsh, that you, like all Women, respect a guy who's up on their stuff. Especially when you don't know as much as they do about it. For Women, when it comes to attraction, that matters. A lot. *shrugs*

That I do it in a way that's not abrasive counts for a lot, and you said so yourself: you consider me a gentleman, and that my momma raised me right, which she and my dad, most certainly did.

SW: I've read enough to know that Roissy, Roosh and
Ferdinand are losers, as someone stated above.

OBS: Well Ms. Walsh, that's a value judgemental, purely subjective comment on your part, and you're welcome to it. However, you have not offered any legitimate counter argument to any of these Men's claims, other than simply saying that they don't appeal TO YOU. Which again, is perfectly fine. But it doesn't do anything to advance the conversation.

I've had the chance to interact w/two of these Men closely over the past year at least, and only know the other from a distance. Nevertheless, I can vouch for most of what they say insofar as Game is concerned. In fact, I've told you that I have on numerous occasions, openly and vociferously disagreed with Roissy, and those disagreements weren't based on Game, but rather ancillary issues, such as Race, and differing standards of beauty, etc. In other words, when it comes to Game, the Man knows his stuff. That I take issue with him on other points and on other fronts, is completely beside the point.

Have you read RooshV's book Bang? It's his take on Game. Of course, he has many postings on his website that speaks to Game as well. In fact, one of my recent posts, Are You A Slob?, was based on RooshV's post Eighteen Reasons Why Men Don't Get Laid. Would you believe that I actually took heat from a number of Men for writing that? LOL! Go and see for yourself, my post and then Roosh's, and then comeback and please share with us exactly what in either of what we said demarcates him, or me, as "losers"?

Furthermore, please take the last week or so's worth of postings of Roissy's and Ferdinand's sites, and point out specifically what makes them "losers"? I would argue that many of their critics are such, not necessarily they-and again, I've openly disagreed with Roissy. Your response?

SW: OBS takes a more balanced approach, and some of his responses led me to believe he might be rational, but it's clear he can't risk alienating the elder statesmen of the Game cult. OBS, you give a little, but then you backtrack hard.

OBS: "Game Cult"? Quite strong words, don't you think, Ms. Walsh? It infers that I, nor any other Man, can disagree with the party line, when I've already debunked that myth insofar as I'm concerned. Nice try, though. And thank you for the compliment! I do try very hard to be fair and balanced, to borrow a popular phrase. And I think it fair to say, that I'm among the relative few in the Gamesphere who DOES go out of his way to be such.

SW: Hey, whatever gets you through the night. If it's workin' for ya, that's great. I do know that you won't be getting anywhere near women the quality of my own daughter.

OBS: OK, your own daughter aside, please define exactly what YOU mean when you say "Woman with high mating value"? What does that objectively mean? Please explain? No disrespect Ms. Walsh, but what parent DOESN'T think their daughter ISN'T a "quality Woman"? Hmm? So, let's leave yor girl out of this, and focus more on objective measures, and we can go from there. Fair enough?

Hope I've cleared up some things here.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Mad Men, The Wire, The Mancession & The Male Surplus (What It All REALLY Means)

Obsidian · 13 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Since I've been asked to discuss life as a Blue Collar Brotha, and because the economy is something that is very much at the forefront of all our minds, I thought I'd kickoff today's round of posts (I'll probably put up two or three today as the spirit moves me; poop on the idea that a blogger may only blog once a day. Heh!) on the state of our fiscal situation, how we got here, and what the future will look like. If you haven't already figured out by now, here at The Obsidian Files I am very keen to surround myself w/truly Extraordinary Gentlemen-Outside the Box Thinkers, or "OTBs" as The Fifth Horseman, owner of the blog The Futurist, would call such Men-and I've always been one to look at life through a door instead of the proverbial keyhole, Occam's Razor at the ready. Of course, like the mythical Odin, who gave up one of his own eyes so he could have the gift of foresight, knowing and more importantly, speaking the Truth does cost. But you'll never hear me complain.

So here we go:

Those who followed me over at Roissy's and In Mala Fide will know well my love and admiration for the crime drama, HBO's The Wire. Critically acclaimed as one of, if not the best show ever done on television, The Wire tells the story of the American City at the dawn of the 21st Century. And that story is not a pretty one-the brainchild of Baltimore Sun reporter David Simon, The Wire is Simon's "Angry Letter" to the powers that be, a searing, gritty, in your face tale of greed, incompetence, cover your assism, and how no matter what the organization or institution-be it the school system, the political system, the police department, the labor unions, the news media or the even the drugs trade underworld-how it can and will BETRAY YOU when you need it most. Each season focused an aspect of the city, in this Baltimore, and in each season it showed how some key member who truly believed in the ideals of the institution to which he belonged, gets thrown under the bus in the end.

That The Wire also focused on a primarily Black city, also wasn't pretty or endearing to a mostly White viewing public, and hence the rather low ratings it got throughout its first run on HBO. Simon himself has said on more than one occasion, that he believes the reason why The Wire never became a broad popular hit was directly due to the fact that it mostly depicted Black folks-and let's be clear here-NOT of "The Cosby Show" variety-but of the "Left Behind" type of Blacks, the kinds of people we try to cordon off from the rest of polite White Society-and it is not a pretty sight. With the notable exception of Season Two, something I'm gonna focus more on in a moment, nearly every week The Wire showed the senseless, brutal deaths of Blacks at the hands of other Blacks. Talk about keeping it real? The Wire was about as real as it gets for ANY crime drama-NONE of the Law & Orders, CSIs, or NCIS', comes anywhere close. They do, however, show Beautiful White(r) People acting like hardened, grizzled cops goin' after the bad guys, all of whom also happen to be Beautiful White(r) People.

As mentioned above, The Wire plays out more like one long movie than a one-off episode format, where at the end of the show, everything is tied off neatly into a nice bow and then everything is "rebooted"; rather, The Wire unfolds carefully over the course of its run, and from season to season, focuses on a different aspect of Baltimore. Of all the five seasons The Wire ran, my hands down favorite season was Season Two, which focused on the Death of the American Working Class-and which featured more White folks than any other season of The Wire in the whole of its run.

Season Two of The Wire, like all of The Wire's season's talked at length about the excesses of Capitalism, but Season Two really brought it all home for me, being a Blue Collar Guy and Union cardholder myself, and I suspect it really hit close to home for many other viewers as well. More than any other season, Season Two showed just how the Working Class was decimated by people who didn't know, understand or care about them, who all too willing to shuffle them off to the side in the name of more profits-for themselves. The very last scene of Nick Sobotka, looking at his old job through a chain link fence, and crying, was a powerful image indeed.

In an extensive interview with Bill Moyers, Simon says that The Wire shows everyone what happens when Capitalism is allowed to run rampant with no controls on it whatsoever; moreover, he says that in the “new” configuration of things-the manufacturing sector all but dead, etc, and with the focus on everyone going to college and focusing on “services”-the system is inherently rigged. By design, only a select few can ever “win”, and just because you got the brass ring today, doesn’t mean you’ll wake up with it tomorrow.

But Simon goes a step further-he says that not only is the new “game” (a word that plays prominently in The Wire, especially among its Black actors on the street; the word actually has several meanings) inherently rigged, but that there are too many “players” on the field-in other words, as D’Angelo Barksdale so aptly shows his underlings by teaching them about the game of chess, that the Pawn always stays the Pawn. Simon says that we have a human surplus of about 15-20 million people in the United States, much of them locked in urban ghettos like Baltimore’s Westside. And, since White folks of a certain class tends to act more along implied rather than implicit lines, the wink and nod way of dealing with this is by basically doing an Escape From New York move, leaving the wasteland to the Left Behind, and hopefully they’ll off themselves and save us the dirty work.

Let me say right here, right now, that EVERYTHING Simon has said in these regards is 100% TRUE. I say it’s true because I’ve seen, witnessed it, lived it, firsthand. And when he says that lots of Black kids “get it”, again, he’s spot on. Wanna know why so many young Brothas scoff at college? Do you really, really wanna know?

If you wanna know why Brothas are so seemingly uninterested in “higher learning” as a group, so cynical, so deeply antithetical to polite American society, you need go no further than HBO’s other hit drama, Mad Men. Set in early 1960s America, Mad Men takes a look at life in the advertising world’s heyday, through the eyes of its central character, Don Draper. In so many ways, he is the perfect metaphor of the American Middle and let’s be honest, White, Class-it can be encapsulated in one simple phrase:

Fake it till you make it.

Draper is a kind of media creation-it’s not his real name, nor is the past he’s either carefully constructed or carefully avoided, depending on the situation. He’s a pathological liar he’s so smooth his bullshitting ability makes him among the best Ad Men on the scene. He’s a serious womanizer, has a killer fashion sense, and drinks like a fish and smokes like a chimney-and, as one episode so clearly showed, he doesn’t actually produce anything.

Mad Men is in my view, the flipside of The Wire-whereas The Wire shows American life and how its changed and mutated “on the ground” if you will, Mad Men shows the same thing from the view of the much vaunted Middle Classes. Draper is in every way a self-made Man, especially in comparison to the other guys in the office, but he too, perhaps more than anyone else, knows that he gives nothing of import to society, and has to keep a lie going just to maintain the illusion of living the high life.

Which, going back to the realworld, is but one of the many lessons our society has been taught in as many years. How many of us are truly living beyond our means? How many of us sling out our job titles as if that means something at the end of the day? How many of us actually produce a good or a service that people actually need? With our bare hands? That they cannot do without? How many of us well, bullshit for a living? Hmm?

I’ve done a lot of jobs in my life. Had a lot of ups and downs. But in em all, I can honestly say, without fear of rebuke or reprisal, that I can see a clear line between what I did and its results, that what I made with my hands, or sold with my skills of persuasion, was to a person who actually wanted what I had to offer. Real goods and services. Real results on the bottomline. I’ve seen literally millions of dollars pass through my hands over the past few years alone. People ate everyday because of me, which included having the wherewithall and giving a damn enough to be sure that no one died of E-Coli or other bacterial infections like the one gripping most of the Eastern seaboard right now. Five will get you ten that the majority of the hands on workers in that upstate New York food processing plant will have Hispanic sounding names. Wanna burger?

Which brings us to the big point-WHY did the Working Class in America die such a slow, inglorious and undignified death? How did it happen? Who brought it about?

The answer to that question, dear reader, is closer than you think. You only need to take a look in the mirror.

We, collectively, killed the Working Class. Because it's considered "low" work, to be relegated to the Niggers and Spics. Poor White Trash, too, although they're in an odd place, bein White but not being accepted because they have all the other markers of being "less than". The reason why the trades and other hands-on work is so derided, neglected and ignored in America, is because no one wants to do that work if they can help it. To do so marks you as less than, a loser. So this is why we were only too happy to shuffle off our manufacturing and import Hispanic folks. They work for cheap and keep to themselves-away from us. It's a win-win for errbody.

That is, until the bottom finally dropped outta the system, which we all saw earlier this year, with the literal death of General Motors-and with it, the final nail in the coffin was driven into the American Working Class, the Blue Collar salt of the earth. Toyota is now the Number One carmaker in the States, possibly the world. Chrysler again is on lifesupport, and Ford is hanging on by a thread. The Big Three are all but extinct. In just about a century.

And don't even get me started on the Unions. They're all but dead too, today's unions are made up largely of pencil pushers and the heads of the Blue Collar ones, what's left of em, are Ivy League college grads, who studied the Labor Movement. What a joke!

The idea that errbody could get a collee degree and work while sitting at a desk was even more ridiculous than other ideas to come down the pike for reasons that should by now be painfully obvious to everyone. And of course, it's woefully unsustainable, too. The bottomline is no society can exist without people, almost always Men for the most part, willing to do the dirty work. Take a look around-our country is literally crumbling apart-the next time you cross that bridge may be your last. Well, that's because taking care of bridges and the like ain't…sexy. So, we get what we pay for. Maybe Don Draper can fix it.

If it sounds like I'm a Sour Grapes Hater, let me disabuse you of any such notions, not just for me, but for most Blue Collar types-we are often too preoccupied with things like, keeping the lights on, to be spending too much time hatin' on our ostensible betters. The real deal is, that it has always been said "betters" who've always hated on US. They have the time, motive and means, to do so. Don't believe me?-then I invite you to take a whirlwind tour of the HBDsphere. There, you will find countless discussion of how "NAMs" are ruining our country in countless ways. Of course, NONE of these jokers ever, talks about those who really were responsible for the fucked up situation we're in right now. No, that would be too much like right.

Earlier, I mentioned a scene out of The Wire where D'Angelo Barksdale explains to his crew the rules of Chess. For the most part, Pawns are fucked, but, every once in awhile, one can make it down to the other side of the board and become a King. It's an interesting metaphor about the story that is America, where anyone can come here and become a Horatio Alger. Of course, for anyone of African ancestry, a big huge asterisk had to be tacked on to said story, but who's counting?

Anyway, the point he was making, and which I wholeheartedly agree, is that today, there are increasingly fewer avenues through which an Horatio Alger can even happen. In fact, we consider such a person today a Don Trump or a Dubya-people who were already born on third base but thinks they hit a triple. Name me a true rags to riches story in 2009 and I'll instantly respond with names like 50 Cent or Jay-Z, because that's perhaps the only few remaining avenues left for most such people to truly "make it". Anything else and the people involved had a huge leg up.

Final point. We've heard a lot about the Mancession-but that's only one part of the story. Like Simon said, we do have a surplus of people-but he only told a part of he story, too. The real deal is, that we have a surplus of MALE PEOPLE. And not just "NAMs" either, not even just of Poor White Trash Males-if you're reading this and you're a White Male and PWT, it means it's very likely, that your number could be called, too. Men are living longer, in a time of fewer wars, occupational deaths and the like. And with the Death of the Working Class, it also means more Men having fewer things to do, mainly uh, work. Simply put, we don't need as many Males as we have presently. And how to deal with this remains to be seen-although if the Mancession is any indication, there won't be any

attention paid to this, much less any meaningful solutions.

So, here's how The O sees it all goin' down:

The economy is in free fall, and will not be coming back. Entire sectors of the economy are dead. The economy, such as it is, will continue to shrink, with a kind of cannibalism among the White Collar Class continuing apace. "Careers" won't even be 5 years long anymore-try more for 2, maybe 3, before people see the handwriting on the wall and jump ship, hoping that the next gig will give a sense of "security". For a select few, and I mean a few, they'll be right. For errbody else in that cohort, they'll be nothing more than a cog in the wheel, and as soon as its time to cut expenses, they'll be out the door post haste.

It is difficult to see any "green shoots" here. For the few who are truly creative, innovative and daring risk takers, they'll be able to survive the bloodletting. For everyone else, God bless their souls.

For me, I'm no stranger to hard work or hard times; I WILL survive. And in a sordid, sadistic way, am enjoying the show. I can think of no better comeuppance to the powers that be.

Please pass the popcorn?

The Obsidian

What Is Up With HBD?

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If you've been part of the blogosphere for any length of time, it won't be long before you stumble across the "HBDsphere", a corner of the Internet that comprises of a bunch of mainly anonymous voices who consider themselves self-styled "scientists" and who cotton to the idea that human beings evolved differently over long stretches of time in accordance to their environment; these adaptations will be different depending on the locale said groups of people-ie, different races-find themselves.

So, the theory goes, that Africa, with its ever present food and hot climate, doesn't require as much "smarts" to survive as say, the farther reaches of China, or northern reaches of Europe. It takes more smarts to figure out how to survive the harsh winters there, and over time people evolved to deal with said environment.

What this basically means, is that both White and Asian folk are smarter than Black and Brown folk, so say the HBD crowd. Actually, if one wants to get technical about it, is that Asians are smarter than errbody else, per standardized IQ tests, which, to the HBD guys, is the end all be all of life.

Of course, somebody forgot to tell the HBD folk that if IQ was all it took to be all that, then why is it that China is the social, political and economic basketcase it is today? Why is corruption seemingly associated with being Asian? Why is that the last two remaining self-identified Communist countries today, Asian? Moreover, why hasn't any advanced Asian country-China, Japan, South Korea-made any important discoveries or made groundbreaking inventions? The HBD guys will occasionally take a half-hearted swing at these questions, in an effort to look "fair & balanced", but they save all their gunpowder for what they like to call "NAMs"-which means Non Asian Minority-in another word, Blacks and Hispanics.

They take their grids and graphs, flowcharts and sliderules, to "prove" that it is because of "NAMs" that our society is crumbling apart. From the economy to the War On Terror, to Sports and Entertainment, you name the societal ill, and you can betcha bottom dollah that some "NAM" is right at the heart of it. Even when few if any "NAMs" are directly involved, like, say, the utter meltdown on Wall Street last year-still, because they received loans and mortages, it's still ALL THEIR FAULT (of course, the HBD types, being the Cognitive Masters Of The Universe, have very rational and salient reasons as to why NONE OF THEM have actually examined those who were actually able to make it possible for said "NAMs" to get those loans in the first place…yea, that's the ticket).

A favorite topic of the HBD types is Eugenics, and especially discussing how to get "NAMs" to basically screw less. Their argument is, that not only are they outbreeding the "right people", which basically means, people like the HBD types (of course!), but the products of their loins are almost certainly destined to live their lives on the dole and repeat the cycle over again, or, spend large swaths of their lives in prison. They talk a great deal about varying schemes that would convince "NAMs" not to have so many babies, like, for example, getting the powers that be to institute specifically targeted contraceptive programs and the like.

For such an ostensibly smart group of guys-and in the main, they ARE guys-they don't seem to get that historically speaking, Eugenics programs don't tend to workout very well, at least not in free democracies like the USA. And even if they did hold out some promise, Hitler killed all that noise for at least another century.

So, why all the focus on trying to prevent "NAMs" to breed?

The argument goes, that they're both a fiscal and cultural drain on our society, which HBD types see as the pinnacle of Western Civilization; in fact, it can often be heard by one or more of the more vocal HBD bloggers, that these and other measures-like ending Affirmative Action and the "blackout" as to who really commits violent street crime-are needed regardless as to their political incorrectness, in order to "Save Western Civ!". Of course, it doesn't occur to any of these nerds, that their ideas, beyond sounding downright weird, are also highly untenable.

Which brings us to the question-exactly WHO are the HBDers? It won't take long in such blogosphere environs to

catch on to the fact that the HBDsphere is made up largely of highly educated White Males, from their 20s to early 50s; usually single, almost always atheist. And by any account, they sound very angry. In fact, if a character could be associated with the HBD bloggers, it would “D-Fens”-the character portrayed by Michael Douglas in the early 90s hit Falling Down. These guys are in many ways, like him: smart, but to a fault; in many ways, anti-social; not smart in the ways that would move him up the social ladder, and as such is a kind of highly sophisticated cog in the wheel, and when he’s cast aside as the Cold War ends (“D-Fens” works as a weapons engineer for one of California’s big defense manufacturers), and his wife leaves him for good, “D-Fens” cracks. He lacks the “soft” skills to navigate these life pressures, and he reacts…violently…when his pocket protector and sliderule are rendered useless to help him deal with life’s problems.

That, I think, is an important point about the HBDsphere; unlike “D-Fens”, these guys have a place to blow off some steam in a safe way, and to that extent that’s good. But the problem with these guys is, that for all their brainpower, individually, collectively, even comparatively speaking when one considers those dreaded “NAMs”, they never stop to consider *is there anything wrong with ME* that may have something to do with why they feel as they do.

If the HBD types were truly as interested in the subject (oh, and by the way, “HBD” means Human BioDiversity), they would take their dispassionate stellar intellects and examine the excesses and pitfalls of the right side of the Bell Curve, as well as the left-like, for example, what if any “downsides” there can be to being, well, too smart? Studies into the matter would seem to be so. In fact, even some of the heroes of the HBD Guys, like JP Rushton, has said as much, in interviews and in print-he once crudely said, you either get too much IQ, or too much penis, but not both.

It may be crude-and Rushton has gotten himself into trouble for making quite a few off-color, pardon the pun, remarks over the course of his career-but he makes a point his own, most devout acolytes seem to either shy away from, or never get around to mentioning, that Nature is full of tradeoffs. For every “advantage” there is a potential “disadvantage”, and the narrow, obsessive focus by the HBD types on IQ, doesn’t take into account that one, there are many other factors that can make or break a person or indeed a society, than merely how high or low one’s IQ score is; and two, that if there are inherent problems associated with low IQ-couldn’t the same be said of the reverse?

For example, let’s take a look at the HBDers themselves. As mentioned before, virtually all of them are atheists. Could that impact in some way on their lives? Hell yea, it could and, according to one of the HBDers’ own, a blogger known as Half Sigma, it does: not only is atheism more likely to be found among high IQ folks, *more* MEN are likely to be atheists than Women-which means, in simple math that even a lowly “NAM” could understand, that there aren’t enough atheist Women to go around for all the high IQ White guys. That means that said guys either have to figure out how to deal with the hordes of believing Women, or, look toward a life being lived…alone.

Which leads to another insight by the same HBD blogger, Half Sigma-that high IQ White Men are the biggest purchasers of prostitution and escort services in the country. To be sure, whores and escorts get clients from all walks of life, but when one stops to think about it, what HS says here would make a lot of sense. Afterall, one doesn’t need to be an egghead to know that nerds aren’t exactly the most socially well-adjusted guys around, that there tends to be, in raw numbers, more nerdy guys than gals, and that nerds don’t usually seek to be flexible in the ways in which they see the world and interact with it-all of whom have to be clear and obvious “tradeoffs” for such high IQs. Yet, no one on the HBD side never, ever, talks about this.

Half Sigma hits a trifecta when he notes that high IQ White guys tend to remain single longer, and have fewer kids when they finally do marry-and its been noted that there is indeed a correlation between high IQ and lowered testosterone levels. Looks like Rushton was right.

Perhaps the last nail in the coffin here, is in the online persona of FeministX, a Hindu American Princess blogger who fell in love with the HBD community and they most certainly love her back-they slobber over her like a hungry

pack of Saint Benards over a turkey leg. She's one of the few young Women in the community, who's halfway decent looking and can hold a conversation of the type HBD geeks like to have, like about being put on ice after you die so you can be thawed out a century or two from now, or in getting a few digs on them nasty "proles" and so on. That FemX has basically made her bones by showing her body and appearing in a virtually all Male venue such as the HBD & Gamespheres, pretty much backs up Half Sigma's previously mentioned posts. In a word, the smarter you are, the less likely you're gonna be spending much time around or among lovely looking Women.

Since I done went there, let me end on that note-if there's one thing that gets the HBDsphere's attention more than "NAMs", its the Wonderful World Of Game-what some call the "Pickup scene". Here its not as uniform as the United Hatred of NAMs-Game seems to be held in high esteem by some HBDers, grudging respect by others, and reviled by still others. Still, because both schools of thought seem to agree on the power of Evolutionary Theory, Psychology and the like, and keeping in mind what Half Sigma has said and the presence of FeministX, it would make sense that there would be some convergence at some point-and, as those in the Game community know well, it attracts geeky, nerdy guys in search of getting laid.

I know there are those out there who rail against the notion that we Game types think that its a hammer and every problem is a nail-for my part, far from it-but I do think that a little Game would go a long way toward helping these guys blow off some steam in ways that really count, and would actually serve as a solution to many of the problems they claim to persist. Look, as they often say themselves, Demography is Destiny, and the Future belongs to those who show up for it-and the truth is, that these guys, as a group, are on a one way trip to Evolutionary Oblivion, if they don't do something to see to it that their genes are still around three decades from now. That means, making babies, and to do that, one has to be able to appeal to Women who are willing not only to have sex with you, but also to carry your child to term and raise it, along with you, of course. But that requires a different kind of skillet these guys are used to dealing with-even gals like FemX need a different kind of skillet normally associated with geeks, and she's said as much. Many times. TMI, lol.

So, since these guys aren't interested in going the Mormon route-which HAS proven quite successful, because they can't do the religion thing, then the next best thing, and perhaps, last best hope, for these guys is GAME. Learning just a little bit, could help these guys in the worthy-and much more doable-goal of making the world a better place, by helping them attract gals with which to start families. Of course, this presumes that Nature's Revenge, if you will, won't come roaring back and affirm what so many HBDers themselves say about the left enders-that they are genetically incapable of being smarter. If the right enders are genetically incapable of gaining the tools needed to woo and keep a Woman, then maybe being put on ice ain't a half bad idea…

I'm just sayin'.
The Obsidian

A Quick Primer On The Sexual Marketplace, & Why The Femosphere CANNOT Address It Meaningfully

Obsidian · 16 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Over the weekend I happened across Girl Game team member Aoefe's post "The Stock Market & Mate Selection". It was a most timely subject, given the current state of affairs on the economic front not just for Americans, but throughout the world.

Her piece, while well written, was just basically a kind of "checklist" that a Woman would use in trying to land a real catch of a Man-no argument there, since this has always been the primary mating strategy of the Female. But, because of the deep and far reaching implications of our economically stressed times, I for one was hoping that someone out on the Femosphere-be it Girl Game, Susan Walsh of Hooking Up Smart, the crews of Feministing, Feminste or Jezebel, of *somebody* on that side of the aisle, would offer a comparatively cleareyed analysis of our times and how that directly relates to the dating and mating market. Needless to say, that to date, since the "Mancession" began, and Maria Shriver's much heralded "A Woman's Nation" report came down the pike, there has been, at best a kind of oblique nibbling around the edges by the likes of Ms. Aoefe, Ms. Bhetti (the latter of whom gives her take on the current economic situation in a new piece over at Girl Game) and Ms. Walsh (the latter having a Wharton MBA!), and at worst, the usual mocking of the "Menz" by the latter most feminist-identified sites (for example, a recent piece at Feministing openly mocks the idea of a Mancession, then turns the focus back on how bad Women have it, which is in direct contradiction of the Shriver Report-but then again, would we really expect anything less of Feministing?).

While I'm fairly sure the ladies of the previous cohort may raise their hackles at the notion that I lump them in with the latter cohort of fem-bloggers, the bottomline is, that they all comprise what I call the Femosphere, and serves as a kind of counterpoint to what some has coined the Manosphere, which is made up of Male blogging voices spanning the MGTOW and MRA corners of the Internet, to the Game and PUA oriented bloggers. They different in many ways, both camps do have quite a bit in common, and which serves to be the backbone of this essay.

For example, as noted above, there has been no "meta-analysis" of the current radically altered economic landscape and how this WILL effect the dating and mating one by ANYONE in the Femosphere; while, in the Manosphere, from Marc Rudov to Roissy in DC, there have been any number of "takes" on the situation that are easily found at the click of the mouse. Curious guys like me sit back and take notice of such a glaring difference and has to ask, "what's up with that?".

So, this article is gonna layout, in real basic terms, how the sexual marketplace works, the changes that have happened in recent years, and the changes that we see before our eyes right now, and why the Femosphere, with all due respect, is basically incapable of giving the kind of "meta-analysis" that one can't help but trip over walking ten paces in any direction in the Manosphere. Ready? OK, here we go:

Astute readers of my post Why Game & Choice For Men Elicits So Much Hate will recall how I laidout the basic mating strategies of the Human Male and Female, which was deeply informed by our evolutionary past. Simply put, both sexes were exposed to environmental pressures against which they had to form adaptations to overcome; for the Male, he has to figure out a way to be noticed by the Female; for the Female, she has to figure out a way to "screen out" all but the best Male with which to mate. While both skill sets do take time and trial and error to perfect, it doesn't take a rocket scientist-or a Wharton trained economist-to figure out which job is inherently harder-the Males have it infinitely tougher. Not only do they need to make the best showing to the Female, but they must also beat out all the other competition-which could prove deadly, and very often did.

This occurs among sperm even; millions of them fight to the death to unite with the one egg, and thus forms the basis of the sexual marketplace-eggs expensive, because of their scarcity, and sperm is cheap, because of its vast surplus. In said marketplace, Women are the "sellers"; Men, the "buyers". And for much of Human history, and

until relatively recently, it's been a Seller's Market. Contrary to all the boilerplate many feminists and the like try to foist on an otherwise ignorant and unsuspecting public, in truth Women have always gotten a kind of artificial market "bump", much like the "bumps" Wall Street has received from the gov't in the form of taxpayer funded bailouts and the like. For example-we've all heard of the Shotgun Wedding, right? Guy meets Girl, Guy hookup with Girl, Guy gets Girl preggers, Girl's fam finds out, Guy is pressured to marry Girl. Now-who wins in that scenario? The Girl, of course. She gets support in the form of Guy's resources, and is insured in this by the threat of her peeps doing something very bad to Guy if he welches out on the deal.

There are many other instances of artificial bumps in the market aimed at assisting Women historically as well, marriage in the more broader sense being yet another example. It helps Women, not necessarily Men. At least it does first and foremost-the benefits Men get got from marriage historically, were a secondary thing. From a purely Evo-Psych standpoint.

Polygamy is yet another example where the clear beneficiaries are the Women, because she's almost assured of getting a "share" of a wealthy Man's resources, rather than having a full "claim" on a poor Man to herself. Aside from a very small pool of Men who can put themselves in a position to gain from such an arrangement, the vast majority of Men do NOT benefit from Polygamy.

So, we see how, contrary to the arguments of the feminists, how the Female side of the SMV equation has always gotten a leg up as it were.

So, what does this have to do with the current Mancession, the Shriver Report, and the dearth of meaningful, straightahead discussion about it in Femosphere?

Very simple.

As my previous article clearly pointed out, Women are genetically wired to seek out the best Men with which to mate, and then do all they can to make him stick around after the party's over. Doing this by necessity, means that *a lot of guys have to be eliminated from the search*. The current Mancession-where some 70-80% of ALL layoffs and firings have been Male, and the Shriver Report, which clearly says that for the first time in American history, there are more Women than Men gainfully employed, simply means that Women's "field of erotic view", as F. Roger Devlin would put it, just got a heck of a lot narrower. Far from giving the guy who's down on his luck a "mercy shot", they will follow their instincts and simply set their sights on the few remaining Alphas left in the field, and vie like made against all the other Females in the round hoping to rope him in.

This is why there has been no discussion of these types of topics along these lines in the Femosphere, BECAUSE WOMEN SEE THE ISSUE IN A FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT WAY THAN MEN DO. They don't need to figure out "workarounds" like Men do. They only need to figure out, how to get the Top Guy to stay with THEM.

Now…

Let's go back to the site, Girl Game. It is a site found by a bunch of Women, who's sole purpose is to give Ladies the tools with which to land the Best Guys-again, nothing wrong with that…in theory. The problem comes in when one considers what has happened in the sexual marketplace over the past four decades or so.

Aside from medical interventions like the Pill and Abortion, things like access to education and money/jobs, along with massive support from the gov't, have made it possible for Women to make choices she could have never dreamed of only a half century ago, let alone 5 centuries ago. That she can do this all with a minimum of censure or reprisal, makes it all the better. I consider this a kind of "deregulation" of the sexual marketplace, where people, definitely Women, but as we'll soon find out, a goodly number of Men, too-can really do as they wish. If ever there was a time when one could see our raw mating strategies at work, this timeframe, the late 20th to early 21st century, was it.

Because, while Women now have maximum choice in terms of mating, so too do Men-but, as I've said before, and contrary to popular opinion, not ALL of them-only a select few. This is just how Women prefer it, of course.

Remember-the scarcer a resource, the higher the price.

The problem is, that the current situation, the SMP if you will, is greatly inflated-a kind of SMP “bubble”-and sooner or later it will burst-meaning that there will be A LOT of Lady Losers in its wake. They will have all the sex they can handle, but because of the Mancession and because of their own ability to provide for themselves, very few will be able to land the Man of their Dreams for more than a fortnight, if that. For one, the environment doesn’t support it, and two, of the few remaining Alphas left, they have every incentive to enjoy what is now essentially a Buyer’s Market of Poon.

This is where Game-and by that, I mean in its original parlance-comes in, because all it does is gives the Man more bargaining power at the table of the Sexual Marketplace. Of course, being gainfully employed helps, but it is NOT, I repeat, NOT, the end all be all, and we’ve all seen that to be true many, many times. Which is why my good friend, The Fifth Horseman, says that having Moderste Game Competence is worth roughly $2M. I, agree.

I’ve told the ladies at Girl Game before, and it bears repeating, that what they’re attempting to do can only, by design, “work” with a very small number of Women; by and large, unless the playing field is leveled again, the vast majority of Women, can and will LOOSE. Of course, there’ll be a lot of Male Losers, too, but that’s nothing new; what is, are little things like Glocks and Rugers, and the extreme losers will make use of these and exact their revenge on a number of ladies too. But I digress. The point is, for the first time in human history, Women enmasse won’t be the winners of the mating game. For the first time, they’ll be the losers.

I’m just sayin’.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Discourses Upon The GAME: From A Personal Point Of View

Obsidian · 18 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Since this has been weighing heavily on my mind, I thought what the heck, might as well post it up now.

Game (noun): A complex of concepts, methods and behaviors, designed to win the SEXUAL attraction of a Woman; also called Seduction. (Obsidian)

I offer that basic definition of the term, because there continues to be a great deal of confusion surrounding it, and to be fair, we in the community have to bear a good bit of the blame for this. So, hopefully this post will serve, in some small way, to clear the air about some things, at least as far as I am concerned.

Many critics of Game seem to be under the impression that Game can be used merely to sexually use Women, in pump and dump fashion; and, they would be at least partially right. It can indeed be used in this way. But, as my definition above points to, it is not the only use of Game. Indeed, it can be applied to many uses, even in situations that aren't sexual in nature. As I've said before, Ben Franklin used Game to secure America's Independence from the British Crown; a Man of his age wasn't likely to be boffing French honies left and right, LOL.

But there are many misconceptions and real problems within the Game community, that needs addressing so I'm going to try to do so as best I can.

Game is a powerful thing. It just is. Unlike what Women have on their side of the aisle, we guys have something far more advanced, scientifically proven, and field tested. It works. Very, very well, in fact. And because it works so very well, so consistently, we in the community bear a responsibility for how its used.

I am not against anyone having a rich and full sex life. Hands down, its one of life's biggest pleasures. What I'm against is in how some of my fellow travellers use Game to achieve this objective.

There is a great deal of anger and outright Misogyny in the community. There, I've said it. And there's no point in trying to wallpaper it or sweep this fact under the rug. It's there. It's real. And it doesn't do any of us any good to pretend like it doesn't exist, or rationalize the reasons for it. Because a guy with Game, who also has problems with Women, is a deadly combination. He can really hurt other human beings. For life. It's that serious.

The anger many guys feel, however justified, must not have any place within Game, at least in terms of how I approach it. Why? Because once you gain access to Game, you no longer have any excuses. You can no longer say you are at the mercy of the Fates. The power, lies within your hands. Taking that power, and wielding it with anger, malice, hatred, is out and out abuse. And it's wrong.

It's wrong. No Woman deserves that. Just like no Man deserves to be taken for all he's got, no Man here or anywhere else would justify such a thing.

I've often made analogies wrt Game and Star Wars, how there are the Light and Dark Sides of it. What predominates out there is the Dark Side, to tell the truth. Tyler Durden, Ross Jeffries, the umpteen snakeoil salesmen out there, looking like Tom Cruise in Magnolia, they abound, with the latest method, technique, routine, to get in a Woman's pants. And then give her the boot right afterwards. Hey, you can do it, but that's not me, Man. That's not me.

To me, Game extends far beyond mere parroting of lines and accumulating notches on the bedpost. To me, Game is about becoming a Better Man…a Good Man. And to do that, you have to actually work on yourself, what some refer to as "Inner Game".

I'm a big proponent of this. Because its something that will always remain with you, no matter what your age, race, education level, financial shape you're in, you name it. Simply put, Good Men are hard to find, don't take my word for it, ask any Woman within earshot of you, right now. They'll tell you. Oh, they'll only be so happy to tell you. And trust me when I tell you, the VAST majority of Women out there, do NOT have a very good or high opinion

of Game. That's not their fault. Its ours.

While I don't think most Men will ever learn or apply Game to any measurable degree, it is fairly apparent that Game itself has become fairly widely known. It is our responsibility to present the most honest, fair and balanced face on it as much as possible. That, is the purpose, among other things, of this blog. It is why I log this post now.

I am also a big fan of what some call LTR or longterm relationship (or marriage) Game. To me, while it certainly is enticing for a Man to rip and run through a bevy of Women, in many ways, its kind of empty. The reason why I say that is because, Women are deep people. And it takes time to fully plumb their depths. Me? I like to go Long and Deep on a Woman, and not just physically, although that certainly is part of the package. I mean it wrt her mind, her heart, her spirit. That can only be done through a relationship, and this is what I personally prefer. Plus, going the distance is a challenge for any Man-hey, afterall, any Man can be an overnite hit, a one-hit wonder, the Minute Man with a Hawaiian Punch, if you will. It takes a special Man indeed who can keep it going, over time. Keeping a Woman in love, *and in lust*, with and for you, over long stretches of time-thats not something that's discussed much in Game circles, and it needs to be, because sooner or later, most guys will want to settle down. Inshallah, I'll do my part.

So, I just wanted to do my part to try to clear the air on where I stand on things. My Brothers, go forth and have a good time! But it ain't killing you to show a bit of love and respect for the Ladies.

Or yourself.

I'm just sayin.

Now, adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Japanese Booty Bandits

Obsidian · 19 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

While commuting on the train, I ran across the following very interesting (and some may consider disturbing, depending on your POV) article by way of blogger Stopped Clock. Check it out and holla back.

New blog post tomorrow…

"Hey Babygirl, you gotta check this out…
Japanese police launch crackdown on commuter gropers

It is one of the safest cities in the world, but for teenage girls and young women, travelling on Tokyo's vast train and subway system comes with the ever-present risk of sexual harassment from fellow commuters.

But this week the Japanese capital's police launched a crackdown on the scourge of groping. In the first reported case, Tsutomu Yamane, 30, was arrested with minutes of allegedly groping a 15-year-old girl on Monday morning.

Undercover police officers have been dispatched to notorious train lines across Tokyo in a new offensive against chikan , a catch-all term that covers groping, sexual rubbing and surreptitious mobile phone photography.

The introduction almost a decade ago of women-only carriages during the morning and evening rush hours failed to put an end to Japan 's chikan plague, despite warnings that convicted gropers face up to six months in prison and a fine of up to 500,000 yen (£3,300).

Police in Tokyo make between 1,500 and 1,800 arrests a year, and have recorded more than 700 cases in the first six months of this year. More than 50% of victims are women in their 20s, and about a third are teenage girls. According to one survey, nearly two-thirds of young women say they have been touched inappropriately in train or underground carriages.

Kimiko Kitagawa, a 31-year-old business consultant, joined the long list of chikan victims as she stepped off a subway train near her office in central Tokyo earlier this year. "I felt a hand grab my backside, but when I turned around there were several men rushing to get past," she said. "I had no way of knowing who had touched me."

Confusion and embarrassment mean the number of groping incidents is suspected of being much higher than official reports suggest. "Many victims are reluctant to come forward, as they feel too embarrassed," a police spokesman told the Yomiuri newspaper. "We are going to concentrate on the most serious cases."

The crackdown came in response to a recent jump in cases involving groups of men who use online chat rooms to arrange where and when to target women. At least 100 websites list prime groping locations, offering hints on how to fondle undetected and, if that does not work, evade arrest.

One site advises would-be gropers to select carriages with doors that open near platform escalators or staircases – perfect escape routes.

Several men arrested in recent months have admitted being encouraged by the websites and emboldened by the prospect of working as part of a group. A typical tactic is to position two men in front and behind a victim, while as many as six other men block the view of other passengers.

The police are targeting nine railway lines in Tokyo where groping has become endemic, especially the Saikyo line, which takes commuters between Ikebukuro and Akabane in the capital's suburbs.

Attempts to prosecute gropers, however, have been frustrated by cases in which women, often with the help of male accomplices, make have made false accusations in the hope of securing huge out-of-court settlements.

Men who are apprehended are usually found guilty. The 2007 film, I Just Didn't Do It, was based on the true story of a young man accused of groping who cleared his name after a five-year battle. In another high-profile case, the supreme court last year acquitted a 63-year-old professor of molesting a teenage girl in 2006. He had earlier been

sentenced to 22 months in prison.”

The Obsidian

That's So Gay: Adam Lambert, & Other Musings On The American Male

Obsidian · 26 November 2009 · Archived copy · Original

By now I'm sure everyone's either seen or at least heard about American Idol runner-up Adam Lambert's racy performance at the AMA show. I haven't seen it myself and honestly have no desire to, but the event, among a great many other things, have given me pause to consider what all of this means at a time when guys in general have taken it on the chin from a larger cultural standpoint.

First of all, let me say that I am happy for Mr. Lambert's success and wish him a long and prosperous career. From all that I've read about him, he seems to possess legitimate singing talent-and making it big in the Music Business is no small feat, regardless of one's private life.

That said however, from that which I've gleaned in the news reports about Lambert's recent performance, I must say that I was put off by it-not because he's Gay, but because it reeks of sensationalism and the kind of pandering that a Man of his caliber shouldn't even have to consider doing. It reeks of Low Class behavior in the worst way.

Comparing Lambert with other known, or at least widely rumored to be gay Male performers, like Liberace, Luther Vandross or Rock Hudson, is like comparing night to day. Like I said, it was widely rumored if not known outright that these Men were gay, yet they never used it as a kind of "pass" with which to trade on their talents. If anything, these Men represented the best of their art and craft, a kind of refinement, dignity and gentlemanly grace that is fast becoming a thing of the past in a Tucker Max/Thug Life Age.
Which leads me to the next point-that it is truly sad that we live in a time where a Man has to be looked at sideways if he actually cares about his appearance, likes to look nice, has any fashion sense or has any appreciation for art; that the term "That's So Gay!" has become a part of the American pop cultural lexicon. All of these things have become associated with "Gayness" in what, a generation, if that? Former President Bill Clinton was derisively called a "Metrosexual" for his liking for expensive haircuts on Air Force One; Presidential hopeful John Edwards received similar treatment for his similar interest in his hair.

When I was coming of age, in the late 80s and early 90s, it was a real sign of growing up if you had a copy of GQ magazine lying around in plain view of visitors at your crib; today, I doubt most younger guys even know what GQ IS. At one point in my life I owned roughly 30 suits and all that came with them-ties, shirts (ALWAYS french-cuff), overcoats, hats, belts, suspenders, shoes-I've actually had several ladies (including the current one, LOL) seriously complain that all my clothes were "crowding their space", and that shopping with me was worse than shopping for themselves. Yet I don't have a Gay bone in my body. I just like to look good.

Something very bad has happened in the national culture where Nat King Cole & Frank Sinatra morphs into either Adam Lambert or Lil Wayne. And, please don't get me wrong, I'm not against freedom of expression nor am I a prude; just simply noting that we've seemed to turn our collective backs on the idea that being Manly and being Gentlemanly could and often did go hand in hand. Today, the former means being a Jerk and an Asshole; the latter has been relegated to the preserve of the Stonewall Inn.

I've known Men-grownassed Men-in my life who's NEVER owned a suit. Not even one for when, God forbid, they die. I've known Men who's never been on the inside of a Men's clothing store that actually sells suits, not sneakers and the like. Who don't know what their shirt size is. Who don't even wears a watch-an important fashion staple in its own right, what, less than a half century ago? Nearly everyday I get some youngbuck (or worse, a much older guy) asking me for the time, because they see my watch.

It's sad.

And I think this sentiment that I'm sharing, has even permeated the thinking of the Hip Hop Moguls turned fashion designers in the past few years. Recently I was in Brooklyn's famed Fulton St Shopping District to do a bit of

shopping and stopped at a very nice Men's clothing store; to my surprise, ALL of the suits I picked out were made by the famous Hip Hop-inspired fashion houses: Mecca, Sean John, Roc-A-Wear and Phat Farm. The next day I noticed rapper 50 Cent on the Rachel Ray show wearing a very nice steel grey suit chatting it up. And he's not alone – Jay-Z and Sean "P.Diddy" Combs have been seen out and about more in suits and more casual attire than the standard urban B-Boy fare more common to rappers.

Some of you may recall my recent post Are You A Slob?-it was featured at the online Men's magazine The Spearhead. Could you believe that I was attacked by some of the readers for "being gay"? After you get finished laughing at the ridiculous premise, it kind of makes you sad that the very idea of not looking like a slob is akin to having a love affair with Judy Garland or something.

Wow.

The Obsidian

A Manifesto On Game & Relationships: Obsidian's Personal Views

Obsidian · 2 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

OK, since this whole thing about Game and relationships/marriage/etc has totally sputtered out of control here, I'm hoping I can clear the air about a few things while giving my own take on the whole ball of wax at the same time.

One: Game is a complex of behaviors, norms, strategies and ideas, all designed to win the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of the Woman of your choice. It is completely neutral on the question of long or short term relationships. Obviously, it can be immediately applied to the latter, especially given today's "Hookup" culture. However, it can also be applied to longer term commitments as well, and there are quite a few examples in our time of this being played out. Aside from that, I am living proof, that Game and a longer term commitment are NOT incompatible.

Two: When it comes to social dynamics between the Male and Female, the sexual element cannot be missed. This is crucial, and while yes, other factors do come into play, what a lot of people loose sight of, is that without that "spark"-that sexual attraction-things rarely move further. Because Men and Women are wired fundamentally differently, it is important for the Male to win the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of the Female, FIRST. Men are easily aroused and require little in order to "get ready". Women are considerably different, even in our time today. If a Woman doesn't show in some way (aka an "IOI" or Indicator Of Interest) that she's SEXUALLY ATTRACTED to you, you might as well stop right there and move on. In fact, Game teaches a Man to learn to discern these things sooner rather than later, so as to know when to gracefully bow out if she ain't feeling you, rather than to cling on and on in the dire hope that she'll change her mind. Not. Gonna. Happen. And in my own personal experience, any such Woman you do "convince" will wind up being a Pyhrric Victory for you in the end. Trust me, it's not worth it, she's not worth it, and you deserve better for yourself. More than anything, Game teaches a Man to have some self-respect and dignity about himself. There is nothing dignified about trying to convince a Woman to go out with you.

Three: I personally have ALWAYS favored more longer term relationships to the One Night Stands, even when I've had many opportunities to partake of the latter. I've never been attracted to such activities, and don't personally advocate them myself; if a Man were to ask my advice and counsel on which is better, invariably I would respond that the LTR is better, because he gains in ways that the Same Night Lay does not. Having said that though, I respect a Man's right to live his life as he wishes. Going back to myself, as I grew into the Man you see before you today, I came to learn to respect myself and to actually like and love myself enough not to engage in quick and easy sexual affairs and the like; though difficult, particularly in my younger years (btw, today's my birthday!), I would learn that it was the wise choice. Many Men are slaves to the quim, they can think of nothing else, and will do virtually anything to acquire it. To be sure, Happiness and Heaven on this Earth lay between a Woman's Thighs; but it is important for a Man to develop himself so that he is not addicted to the cooch. Far too many Men are in our time, and this fact is not lost on a goodly number of Women, who use this information for their own ends. Game helps a Man to keep these things in perspective, if taught and learnt properly.

Four: More on a Man needing to respect himself. For I will not mount any Female that is below me in terms of station, mindset, comportment, character or all around human traits; moreover, any Woman who wishes to have me must Court ME first, for I am not a Cheap Thrill. I don't meet Women in bars, clubs and the like, nor do I take my Woman to such venues. Nor am I interested in any Woman offering herself in too quick a fashion. In Seduction, Speed Kills.

Five: I do not agree with the notions of some, that lying or otherwise misrepresenting yourself to a Woman, using Game as the primary weapon. I consider it to be morally wrong, EVEN IF IT WORKS. And yes, it does work. Still, I consider such a state of affairs to be a test of a Man's True Grit: is lying to a Woman to get the bang, worth it? And even so, what does it ultimately say about you? Where I come from, True Players never have to lie. Indeed, when I was out there, working hard to make my place in the world and single, I made it very clear in no uncertain terms, that I was not able, or interested, to devote any time to a relationship, and that I could only offer casual

companionship. Women are very well versed at reading between the lines, which is why Men need to learn the Art of Subtlety. It is vital to the Seduction process. Quite a few Women turned me down, but I was shocked to learn the number of Women who were relieved that I felt that way-they too didn't want a relationship! What a lot of Men don't realize, is Women do not always want a LTR all the days of their life. Like most things Feminine, it's fluid, depending on where they are in Life's Cycle. They may want it more at certain times, and less at others, but they have to be more careful about such things than we Men do.

Six: This brings me to the next point, one that should in my view be MORE emphasized in Game circles than is already the case: a true Seducer never, ever, takes a Woman against her will, or without her express consent. This is why a proper seduction, which takes TIME, is so important, because in so doing, she is giving her consent for what will eventually happen, which is the sexual event, and, if you're like me, more. Women don't spend time talking and courting guys they don't have any serious designs on, trust me. If they ain't feeling you, they can't get rid of you quick enough, LOL! So if you're taking a Woman through a slow-burning, subtle, and delicious seduction, trust me, its because she wants it. Because by definition, such a process involves stages or steps, each a signpost that Women are very good of tracking of. This is her form of consent, fellas. The Wise among you will take heed.

Seven: Finally-do NOT use Game to "tease" a Woman you have no intention of "following through" on. Virtually all Men hate a "dickteaser"-well, when you toy with a Woman using the Crimson Arts, you're basically doing the same thing. The temptation is strong, I know, I struggle with it all the time. And it's so easy to do, because so many Woman long to be seduced so. As you grow in your skills, do not be surprised by how the number of Women giving you blatant IOIs increase. By leaps and bounds. A Man has to be firmly rooted in his Code not to get all caught up. For me, I deliberately try to "tonedown" my Inner Game when out and about, because it is so very easy for me to pull Women. Having the Power of Game means that you also have the Burden of Responsibility, too. Respect yourself.

Respect the Game.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Pre-Selection Thought Experiment: Biggie Smalls & Susan Boyle

Obsidian · 2 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Since my last post elicited challenges, all from the ladies, about my thoughts on the Game principle of Pre-Selection, I'd like to propose the following thought experiment:

By now, everyone knows who the Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie Smalls was. Many in the Hip Hop community consider him one of the best rappers to ever hold a mic. But one thing was certain-he had at least THREE quite attractive Women in his life, at the same time: Charlie Baltimore, Lil Kim, and Faith Evans, his wife.

According to Biggie himself, he wasn't a very attractive Man; he referred to himself as "fat, Black & ugly as ever" and that he went from "ashy to classy".

Yet, how many Women could Biggie have pulled, and most likely did, in his lifetime? If he was just a broke dude in Brooklyn, could he have garnered as much attention from the ladies? I think we all know the answer to that one.

It was due to his social status, success and fame-all forms of "social proof"-that made the difference. That Biggie wasn't a physically attractive Man, doesn't really matter, because Women are attracted to different things than are Men. For Women, being attracted to a Man that OTHER WOMEN FIND ATTRACTIVE is huge. For Men, not so much.

To prove it, let's now consider Susan Boyle, an immensely talented Woman-and also a seriously homely one. According to recent news reports, her album had more pre-release orders on Amazon.com than any other music cd on record. Clearly, she's got social proof.

Does this make Susan Boyle hot(ter) to Men?

I don't know, so let's ask the fellas!

So-what do you say, fellas?

Holla back, speak out and be heard!

The Obsidian

Skimask Way

Obsidian · 9 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday evening, I received the following text message from my best friend, Zam:

"- Fwd: Daud got robbed at gun point again. Took his jacket, 200$ iPod, 100$headphones, cell phone and 85$ in cash. Happened on the corner of his block too. Niggas"

People, times are hard. Unemployment figures nationally exceed ten percent, and in my hometown of Philadelphia, it's nearly twelve percent, with Mayor Nutter projecting it to increase in the coming year. It's cold outside, we're in the midst of the Holiday Season, and when brothas can't find work and things look bleak, they can and will resort to the Skimask Way.

Philly is one of the nation's biggest stickup cities; there are even organized crews of stickup boys. I knew of one outfit, composed largely of Puerto Rican fellas, who referred to themselves as, ready for this-the Robin Hood Niggas.

There's a lot to be said for crime and the acts of the neer do wells of the world in certain corners of the Internet; from where I sit, it all just looks like glorified scapegoating to me.

Because, this isn't an academic, quote/unquote, discussion for me-it's a real, flesh and blood, life and death thing for me. The vast majority of the people who whine, bitch and moan about "NAMs" have never had to deal with what my buddy Daud had to deal with last night. They really don't care about good Nigras like him either, guys and gals who played by the rules and are subject to this sort of thing.

But if you think you're exempt from the Skimask Way, think again-here in Philly, one of thee hardest hit spots crimewise, has been Chestnut Hill. Historically one of the most affluent areas of the entire city, in more recent years it's been hit with more bank robberies and just more crime than a little bit. In fact, back in Jan of this year, the Philadelphia Daily News ran as its cover story: "29 Bank Robberies in 28 Days". That's right, you heard me-there was a bank robbery nearly every day in the month of Jan, 2009. And to add insult to injury, two of those banks were the firemen's and cop's credit unions(!). Quite a few of those banks? Yup you guessed it, in Chestnut Hill.

Prior to that, this time last year, one of the city's biggest Wal-Marts got hit by the Skimask Way. It was all in the news.

All of this went down as Wall Street fell. And my friends, trust me when I tell you, we're only seeing the beginning.

Please, please, please, be careful out there this Holiday Season. Do not get it twisted and think, because you're White, upper middle class, educated or suburban, that such things cannot possibly happen to you-they can, and will, if you get caught "lunching"". Try to get yourself in the crib by sundown; use the Buddy System, especially if you're Female; don't go to places with which you are unfamiliar; and try not to make yourself a target. Stickups can and do happen in the darnest of places, and within seconds. And a false move can cost you a lot more than just your personal belongings. It can cost you your life.

There will be some who will take a hardline on all thi, suggesting that getting tough(er) on crime is what's called for. Believe me, I'm no apologist for criminality. But the handwriting is on the wall here. This is directly linked to the absolutely abyssmal situation the socalled best and brightest has put us all in, and until we get that fixed, the Skimask Way can and will only get worse, because we can't arrest our way out of the problem.

Besides, the jails are already overflowing as it is.

Merry Xmas.

The Obsidian

Brothas Gonna Work It Out-Alone

Obsidian · 15 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

While putting around on the Internet yesterday, doing a bit of research on one of my favorite sociological voices, one Dr. Lionel Tiger of Rutgers University (Go Scarlet Knights!), I ran across an archive of weekly columns he writes for Forbes Magazine online. The following column, from April this year, zeroes in on something I've been giving a good bit of thought to of late:

"A Fraternity For Those Who Need One

Lionel Tiger,
04.29.09, 12:00 AM EDT

Where's the White House Council on Men and Boys?
The story from the White House is that President Obama has asked that each day 10 of the thousands of letters he receives are selected and brought to his attention. With this device he wants to know, to the extent that he can, how his correspondents regard his administration.
One letter he is sure to read, or at any rate should without question read, is dated April 17, 2009, and signed by Herman "Skip" Mason, who is general president of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.
It's a 200,000-member group of African-American men at American universities that has churned out members of the American elite–both the light- and dark-skinned varieties. Its roster includes Martin Luther King, John Hope Franklin, Edward Brooke, Thurgood Marshall and Adam Clayton Powell, among many others.
The fraternity system has long been a significant spinal chord of social and professional life among African-American men. These organizations' initiation ceremonies are among the most demanding of any in the country; their esprit de corps among the most resilient. When I was serving as a witness in legal case against a (light-skinned) fraternity whose poorly supervised initiation led to the quadrapeligia of a recruit, data emerged describing actual branding with hot irons in one African-American national fraternity.
And of what do they write to the president?

The group is committed to developing leaders and providing advocacy for its communities. The letter asks the president to follow up his recent executive order, which established a White House Council on Women and Girls, and quickly create a White House Council on Men and Boys.
The female version was stimulated by Michelle Obama's policy group of highly educated activist concernocrats. Its establishment was about as controversial as the "Happy Birthday" section of the Hallmark card selection.
There is already a lively array of organizations devoted to female advancement, from the Title IX bureaucrats in the federal government to the Association for the Advancement of University Women, which remorselessly cries of poverty despite the fact that the great majority of university students and graduates are women.
But these Alpha males are drawing attention to a disastrous neighborhood of the City on the Hill, one that is most critical for men of African origin. It's also parlous for men of any lineage, skin color or region–and for the women and children who are in their lives or would like to be or should be.
The Bureau of Labor Statistics has announced that during our current economic misery, no less that 82% of job losers are men. (See: " In This Recession, Men Drop Out " and " Life With Father .")
A Schott Foundation report from 2006 found that, in Chicago, only 35% of black male students graduated from high school. In the same year, New York boasted 26% of its black students reached that essential rung of the occupational ladder.
Beyond that, relatively few Afro-American men who actually complete high school then attend college. It appears to require an improbable giant step. And despite all the costly guilt-soothing government-mandated Vice Presidents for Affirmative Action and Remedial Programs in This-and-That, only 22% of the tiny number of African-origin college entrants nationally actually earn a degree.
With rather quick aggression, these fraternity males have asked the president–who should understand their rue and

sense of curtailment–to begin in their community what should be a national renovation of an educational system which, for whatever reason, serves boys sharply less effectively than girls.
A tsunami of aggrieved feminist certainty has been justified in the past and still has vibrant utility somewhere and sometimes. But the shrinking disparity between male and female income prospects has had various impacts, not the least of which is that many men are now unattractive partners to many women because they are unlikely to be able to provide financial and occupational stability during the years of raising families that the majority of women still anticipate. So they have babies on their own, outside of marriage, with relative frequency. Meanwhile, the males become outlaws, not in-laws.
Since he is not a charter member of the kind of group that sent the letter, the president may understand the issue he is being asked to address less well than Michelle Obama could intuit the needs of women and girls, of whatever color and origin.
But this is a massive problem in one of the communities within which the president has taken personal and communal action. His functional response to this letter, which came from an impeccable and virtuous source, will be significant.
A vote of support from Obama is, however, likely to be a vote-loser; think of other pressing issues–teamsters and Mexican trucks and the UAW and financial sanity.
For some reason, there is only a wan constituency among females for pro-male action despite the fact that about half of children are boys and many women cohabit with the grown-up version. Nevertheless, when my book, The Decline of Males , was published, the warmest category of response was from the mothers of boys who saw their sons, whose energies of which no one fully comprehended, engaged in unequal struggles within the school system. But little has changed for years, and countless young men live on an abrasive island with no bridges to anywhere.
Obama's personal example could have and should have an impact on the activity of males colored like him. I recently had the good fortune to witness a remarkable performance by Savion Glover, one of the finest tap dancers in the world. In the program notes for the show, he describes himself as "Savion Glover, hoofer, husband, father."
Tiger is perceptive indeed, and goes right to the heart of why such a "department" isn't likely to happen anytime soon, ESPECIALLY if it is perceived to benefit Black Men and Boys. As NYT writer Charles Blow recently observed, President Obama simply cannot afford to be seen as pandering too hard to African Americans, lest he run the risk of alienating his White base of voter support. What we can expect of and from Obama insofar as Black Men and Boys are concerned, is more "tough love" rhetoric, much like he riffed on during his Father's Day "dressing down of the Brothas" last year in his hometown of Chicago last year during his campaign. That's politically feasible. That's what the public, particularly the White, Male voting public, wants to hear. And because they still very much matter in the scheme of things, like I said, we can expect to hear, if anything at all, more such rhetoric from Obama.

And that'll be about it so far as any help or focus on the real problems American Black Men and Boys face.

Simply put, and this is something one would think the "best and brightest" among the Brothahood would have figured out by now, is that ANYTHING that is even perceived as being beneficial to Black Men is politically radioactive. This is because that Black Men are in many ways, Persona Non Grata in American life; we are seen as "the problem", and this is not without any merit. Afterall, for anyone to deny our problems in this regard is to play with denial. That said, nothing occurs in a vacuum, there are always contributing factors that play a role as well.

But, because we're an idealistic and unrealistic lot, Americans expect exceptional things from ordinary, at best, people. Hence the whole "bootstraps" rhetoric and so on.

Black Men will simply have to get used to the idea, that if anything's gonna change for the better, it'll be because we chose to make it so. We'll have to work harder, longer, and for less, than others. We'll have to learn to, as I put it, "focus on the Light"- develop our character, eschew the quick and easy path, be willing to do the unsexy, dirty work that others turn their nose up at, including many of our own Sistas, I might add. Ours is a tough road, no doubt about it. But I say, that, as we always have, we have a special purpose in America-for we have always been its moral conscience. We defined "cool". We gave her its sense of keeping time to the beat of the music. And we made its

founding principles real.

Today, in a time when White Men are only now beginning to get a taste of what we've been feasting on since Day One, we can show them the way as to how to become something better-and to do it without appeals to yet more government largesse. But it will require us turning to each other, instead of away from each other, or worse, turning on each other. Here, I have to keep it real with our Frat Brothas-many of you hightail it outta the hood as soon as you can, never to return. Hey, that's your right as an American, but let's not get this twisted-in my eyes, you are just as bad as Pookie and Ray Ray who sling rock on the corner and terrorize the neighborhood. Nature abhors a vacuum.

We can turn this thing around. Not only am I living proof that this can be done, but I am far from alone. But we need to stop entertaining grandiose notions of some kind of savior coming in to save the day. We're on our own, Brothas.

And maybe that ain't so bad afterall.

The Obsidian

Yet Another Example Of What I Mean...

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…when I say that Women CANNOT address these issues meaningfully.

Case in point: one Dr. Tricia Rose, Africana Studies Professor at Brown University. She considers herself to be a "Hip Hop Theorist" and has written and/or edited a number of books on the subject.

Yesterday, I had the chance to watch the Tavis Smiley "State Of The Black Union" program which is carried live on CSPAN every Feb (Black History Month); one of my buddies burned it onto DVD for me, and I had finally gotten around to watching it yesterday. Rose was one of the panelists.

Aside from her comments regarding Hip Hop being totally offbase, she goes into the same, tired "misogyny/sexism" tank that 99.9% of all Hip Hop detractors go into. Of course, the FACT that Missy Elliott is Hip Hop's most commercially successful female rapper EVER, or that Queen Latifah was able to parlay her successful rap career into tv sitcoms (and BOTH Lesbians, by the way!), movies and a perfume line, or that Lauryn Hill was a multi-Grammy award winner, doesn't in any way detract from the "fact" that Hip Hop is horribly tilted against Women. And of course, the irony can't be strong enough, considering the source where all this comes from-a product of one of the most prestigious universities *on the planet*.

We all should be "oppressed".

But, here's my burning question for the Good Doctor:

If indeed Hip Hop is so irredeemably sexist, and if Black Women have such a hard time getting a fair shake as it's currently been done in the Hip Hop world-then WHY don't some smart and brave Black Woman, or indeed a group or team of Black Women, come together and form their own record label, that would feature female rappers? They could present an alternative view and perception of Black Women that prevails in Hip Hop videos and the like today.

Think about it-Jay-Z is the success he is today, not just because he's a great rapper, but also because he's a great *businessman*. Back in the mid-90s, he teamed up with Damien Dash and co-founded Roc-A-Fella Records, and the rest, as they say, is history. He didn't complain, whine or moan about the big record labels not signing him-he simply got together with someone of likemind, did the damned thing, and again, the rest as they say, is history.

What's stopping say, Lauryn Hill, Queen Latifah and Missy Elliott from forming their *own* version of Roc-A-Fella? Heck, they could even get the ear and aid of Oprah Winfrey herself(!) to get the project off the ground.

Of all the many criticisms that have been levied against Hip Hop for its supposed misogyny, isn't it fascinating that NO ONE has ever asked this question? Hmm?

Now, since we both have an interest in markets and how they work, and Men and Women and how *they* work, let me layout for you WHY such a question has not and will not be posed by the Prof. Rose's of the world:

1. Because doing what Jigga and Dash did takes RISK, and Women by and large are risk averse.

2. Because there isn't a large enough market to support female rappers-this has been confirmed by 50 Cent himself, who said that he wanted to market female rapper Remy Ma, but the current Hip Hop market won't support a female raper like that. Sound familiar? Ever heard of the WNBA? Yea, they've been on financial life support for YEARS now, and don't look to make any money anytime soon. Simply put, guys don't wanna see gals playing hoops.

3. But wait, there's more! Not only don't guys wanna see gals playing hoops, BUT WOMEN DON'T EITHER-and this transfers right over into the current discussion. I personally know Black Women who'll buy Kanye West, The Roots, Common and Jay-Z, but will NOT buy Missy Elliot OR Queen Latifah. I've seen the iPods myself.

So, when you really get down to it, all the largely female critics of Hip Hop can really do, is squawk and crow about

why rappers are going so hard on *some* Women. Because they really don't have any viable alternative.

And of course, they'll never, ever, ask whether what the rappers are saying, has even a scintilla of truth to it.

Oh, no…

Any questions?

Holla back

The Obsidian

The Lady Raine-Roissy Wars: Analysis & Opinion

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Those familiar with what some have coined the Roissysphere will know well a certain lady blogger who refers to herself as Lady Raine, and burst onto the Roissy scene earlier this Spring, after getting word about the Crimson Gamster's exploits online. Acerbic and snarky, irreverent to a fault, Lady Raine soon gained the ire of the regulars who frequented the place, to say nothing of the singular focus of the host himself.

A match made in heaven, was born.

Several months later, as I recall, Roissy put up a post asking whether Lady Raine was a pornstar, and featuring photos taken, presumably, from her MySpace page. I didn't like the move-it was beyond petty and small-minded, and veered off into the downright meanspirited category-and worse, it did nothing to edify the readers, or add significantly to the considerable body of work that Game is, and that Roissy, say what you will of him, has indeed made legitimate contributions to. As the ensuing comment-thread shows however, I was in the minority opinion.

Last month it seems, Lady Raine had had enough, and decided to fire back, seeing Roissy's low blow and lowering the bar another half a foot, by posting what she claims to be not only Roissy's likeness (which he has always obscured), real name(?) and place of employment (again-?), along with adding her own commentary, which I found to be sophomoric in extremis. But, aside from the obvious breaches in decorum and "just looks bad" nature of the whole enterprise, what truly disturbed me about Lady Raine's "revenge", was that she deliberately used, then vociferously defended and justified, a now seen as universal slur of the Anti-Semetic kind, repeatedly referring to Roissy as "Jimmy The Jew". Whether R is indeed Jewish or not-and according to him, he isn't (my understanding is that is is a mixture of German and Italian, with probable Catholic roots religiously), the point remains, that Lady Raine did no better than that which she accuses Roissy of, among other things, low character-and as has been pointed out by several observers on her blog (ladyraine.wordpress.com, easily found via Google search), she's actually crossed several ethical, if not potentially legal lines in her quest to sock it to the R-Man.

Let my voice be counted among the multitude here. Not only do I agree with the aforementioned commenters, but I would also go so far as to say that Lady Raine has done nothing to advance the discussion, enlighten observers, edify minds or change hearts-if anything, she has only given legitimate (in their minds) ammo as to the reasons why they view all or most Women with a raised eyebrow, if not out and out disdain, even hatred-which was Lady Raine's chief criticism of Roissy in the first place. Now the Men that regularly frequent his site, can point to her as Exhibit A as to what is wrong with the world today, backed up by her many comments on the Man's site itself, and her more recent activities in this regard on her own.

Talk about shooting oneself in the foot.

Nor will she have made any lasting changes wrt Roissy In DC-it would not surprise me that his site got MORE hits and/or comments since her "salvo", not less-and let's be honst here. I have on quite a number of occasions, publicy, openly and vociferously disagreed with Roissy myself, and will do so again without hesitation as the need arises. I have deep and abiding, fundamental areas of real contention with him, and do not share quite a few of his attitudes and stances, not just wrt Women, but wrt to Life overall.

But, on the issue of Game, the Man has studied to show himself approved. ANY Man who uses ANY part of Game, as explained by him, WILL become successful with Women. I'm the living proof of that. In fact, I've even gone so far as to say that the questionable, from my standpoint, facets of Game, and/or his take on them, work-I just choose not to implement them myself, for philosophical reasons.

If Lady Raine truly wanted to show Roissy up, she could do it not by attacking the Man-which is always a sign of intellectual weakness at most, and intellectual sloth at least-but by systematically dismantling the Man's *argument*. Love him or hate him, Roissy's understanding of Game-Human Male and Female Sociosexual Dynamics-is deep and profound, and it is not for nothing that his name has become, in less than three years' time,

synonymous with Game itself.

And since I can hear Lady Raine simply dismissing the Roissyites as mere losers and haters of Women, particularly those like her who are self-assured, supporting and the like, riddle me this, My Lady-could it be possible, that the very fact that Roissy's site attracts so many Angry Young Men, says something about the zeitgeist of our times? Do we simply dismiss, out of hand, the palpable anger and discontent, as the impotent blatherings of life's losers? We as a society, as a civilization, did that in the days following Sep 11. How'd that work out for us?

When so many Men, from so many walks of life, who wouldn't know each other if they bumped into each other at broad daylight in Times' Square, all have such a deep sense of anger wrt today's dating scene, simply calling them all "haters" ain't gonna get it. Say what you will, but Game is an honest attempt, to address a real, deep and profound need among Men. And none of us would give a damn and taking up considerable bandwidth, if it didn't WORK.

Lady Raine, we've had some degree of interaction over at Roissy's, and last night, after carefully reading your blog's contents, decided to leave you a comment of my own saying that I would be taking up this issue here at my place. Please know that I bear you no ill will, and have no personal axe to grind with you; indeed, if anything, we actually have two very important things in common. One of them, was in starting a blog, either directly or indirectly, as a result of the Man who refers to himself as Roissy.

When I began my blog-which was more in response to repeated requests of well-wishers who had seen my postings at Roissy's and elsewhere and urged me to do my own thing-I gave a great deal of thought as to why I would be doing it, what I would say that would be different, and how it would make a difference. Blogs come a dime a dozen these days, and in the Gamesphere, theorists and self-styled gurus abound. And in my quiet space, after much due meditation on these things, that voice said to me, that it's important to be the change I want to see, to show others the way through my own example, to try to bring as much light as I do heat. This blog, is an attempt to do just those things. What your own will ultimately turn out to be, is of course, completely up to you.

The other thing we have in common is a deep interest in, and in my case love, for Astrology-and since you've been so gracious in offering your own horoscope data, I think it is most fitting to briefly speak to that in light of our discussion. You like to stir things up and be provocative-in fact, it may (or may not) surprise you to know that you share a chart very similar to Feministing.com founder Jessica Valenti, and the similarities in "voice" are quite striking. But, and I would suspect this would be true for Ms. Valenti as well, now that you have made the transition from mere bystander to being a player on the field, you have to decide whether your voice will be used FOR something as much as it was against something previously. When it's all said and done, what will you have accomplished? If it's for mere ego-aggrandizement-surely not an illegal, or even immoral, pursuit so long as its clearly stated-by all means, knock yourself out. But you see, I know Scorpio Women quite well, and they seek Power. Power to change things.

But with great power comes great responsibility, and you are at a time in your life when you will get quite a lesson in this principle-one way, or another. For you specifically, you must learn that it is not your place to see to it that those whom you dislike or disagree with, get their just due comeuppance. Vengence, is mine, sayeth the Lord, and if indeed those arrayed against you or on the wrong side of history, it will be borne out in due course of time. Failing to heed this lesson can and most likely will land you in situations where things boomerang back on you.

My work is almost done here. I truly hope a ceasefire in the War is called soon, because I really don't see much point in the whole affair, from either side. Afterall, you didn't have to comment on the Man's blog at all in the first place. In the end, it was you who made the first move.

By all means, feel free to holla back.

Now adjourn your I must admit, rather cute ass…

The Obsidian Files

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For the astrologically astute among us

The Obsidian

Is Game “Deceitful”?-And Why Women Are So Concerned About It

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Is Game “Deceitful”?-And Why Women Are So Concerned About It

It won’t be long, if you hangout in Game-related circles online, before you begin to hear from a chorus of Women, Black, White and Hispanic, highly educated and worker bee, young chippies and dyed in the wool cougars, airing their grievances that Game-even in its best light-has a manipulative, or even deceitful quality about it-and that this, more than anything disqualifies the endeavor from the grounds of legitimate dating, romance and relationship building.

As you might have guessed, your humble Gamesman, Scholar, Teacher, Commentator & all-around Renaissance Man has given a great deal of thought to this question, and related questions, the following are my thoughts.

First of all, let’s be honest with the Ladies-YES, Game-that complex of norms, attitudes, behaviors and knowledge, designed to win the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of a Woman-CAN indeed be used in a deceitful, manipulative way. Moreover, it HAS been used this way, and *taught* in this way, by Men for sometime now. For my part, I find it reprehensible, disgusting even, because it not only cheapens the Game, but it sullies all of us who wish to use it to good ends; worse, it hurts, deeply, profoundly, Women who didn’t sign on to be used and abused, pumped and dumped, bamboozled and led astray. No one wants to be made a fool of.

From Day One, I have always stressed the utmost importance of a Man being truthful about his intentions and sticking to them. Many Men think that you have to either lie or be less than forthcoming with the truth in order to “score” with a Woman; I emphatically disagree with this view. There are ways in which a Man can convey his intentions clearly to a Woman, while giving her space to decide for herself if she wishes to continue. This is why Seduction, and by this I don’t mean that “Speed Seduction” crap that’s peddled in seedier corners of the Internet, but Robert Greene, for example, talks about in his excellent work, The Art Of Seduction-that slow-burning, delicious process of bringing a Woman along stage by stage into your clutches, heh heh. One of these days, I’m gonna have to discuss the importance of why the best Seductions are the slowest. You youngbucks today always are always wanting to hit it and quit it, ASAP, LOL. Youth…

Anyway, yea, Game can indeed be used in less than honorable ways, and I deplore it. And at every chance to do so, I will vociferously speak out against its abuse and those who abuse Game.

But, wait, there’s more!-because we now have to take things a step further. That so many Women, seemingly take issue with Game, hints at something other than mere concern-highly legitimate though it may be-with its lower sides. No, to this Gentleman, methinks there is something else going on here…

Could it be projection? I mean afterall, it has long been known and commonly understood-accepted as the conventional wisdom even, *and confirmed by Science even*-that Women, taken as a group, are far and away more discreet than are Men…and let’s be honest-isn’t the word “discreet” often just another way of saying “deceitful”? Hmm?

Oh, come on Ladies-tell the truth and shame the Devil, LOL-the whole lotta ya know full well that you do all kinds of manipulative, even deceitful things to guys *all the time* and in ways big and small, and has been thus, *for centuries*-again, see Greene. And, please cite me that grand fount of Feminine Wisdom, that exhorts its sisters to always be true to the fellas, let alone themselves?

I’ll wait. Tick tock tick tock tick tock…

I’ve said many times, and it bears repeating since so many Women apparently do not hear me, that you either have done it yourself, and/or you know other Women, who have, with full forethought, took advantage of a Man whom you knew you had no intention of reciprocating his romantic interests. Women go to bars and clubs for the *express purpose* of getting Men to buy them drinks. Women post up provocative photos of themselves on MySpace,

Facebook and Twitter, knowing full well that Men are visually stimulated, so they can get that ego-gratifying boost of desire from hundreds, possibly thousands, of Men, who will NEVER have a chance of getting with them-and that's just the way a lot of you Women like it. Isn't that "manipulative"? Women go out on dates for the *express purpose* of getting a night out on the town on another Man's dime. And Women have accepted all manner of gifts, from relatively inexpensive baubles to cars and even homes, from Men who they had no intention of EVER letting them hit it.

Of course, you Ladies will say, hey, just because you spend money on me doesn't mean that I'm obligated to have sex with you, or go out with you, etc. And you know what-thats 100% true. I know some of my brothers will not like to hear me say this, but the cold hard brutal facts of life says, that if a Man puts himself out there to be taken for a Sucker, it will not be long before he comes across someone who is all too eager to take him up on the offer. Five will get you ten that "taker", will be Female.

Oh, the Ladies say, *I'm not like that!*. My brothers, how many times have YOU heard that? Hmm? But you know what, because this point can and often is used as a kind of "debate killer", I'm willing to take you all at your word, in good faith-you all would *never, and have never* done anything approaching what I'm talking about, right? OK, cool! But you all know Women like this, and no, I'm not talking about the Hoochie Mama. I'm talking about that highly educated, gainfully employed lady out there, of which there are millions. They've done it. They actively do it, as we speak.

So, to all the Ladies out there, who as they read this indignantly assert that they've never done any such things-

Why haven't YOU spoken out against such things, as you see me here speaking out against those who abuse Game? You do, you say? Really?

Again: you can see my stand, in black in white, literally.

Where's yours?

In fact, let's take it a step further-there are Women who hav done what I'm talking about, who, years later, knowing full well what they've done, hasn't even occurred to them to try to find that guy and recompense him for his expenses. Even if he declines, the point is, its the principle of the thing. Let's ask how many Women have done that, right now:

crickets chirping in response

And you all have the nerve-and it does take some serious chutzpah-to question guys like ME about the ethics of Game?!? Talk about Whiskey, Tango, Foxtrot.

Sheesh.

In the words of the great philosopher Marc Rudov, here's the no-nonsense bottomline: Women have deep concerns about Game, no matter the intentions or character of the Men wielding it, because it gives him OPTIONS. Moreover, Women are deeply concerned that they can be took for B A D, *like so many Men they see everyday*, and, like those poor saps, there ain't much they can do about it. Women, even those who don't do such things, know full well just how adept Women can be at being discreet, claiming plausible deniability, and inference-and now know that Men have access to information that allows them to counteract ALL OF THAT.

And it's a legitimate concern. Too bad they had to woken up to this fact by experiencing it themselves. Maybe if Women had a bit more empathy, to say nothing of honesty and willingness to openly call their own out on the carpet, we wouldn't be having this conversation, right now.

But all's fair in Love & War-

Right?

Now adjourn your beautiful arses, Ladies…

The Obsidian

I Want A Bigger Butt : A Former Miss Argentina Died While Having Plastic Surgery

Obsidian · 19 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

I received this article by Stanley Crouch:

“A former Miss Argentina died while having plastic surgery to sculpt her buttocks. Stanley Crouch on why white women are suddenly seeking big behinds.

If one is lucky while looking down at the insubstantial, minor men and women made into magnets of attention by our storm of electronic fluff, the truth might roll over and show its ass. That is all one can say about the recent death for a big bottom suffered by Solange Magnano, who had once been Miss Argentina. At 38, Magnano was the mother of two and was married to a guy who didn’t mind her going under the knife for a fashion curve that wasn’t always considered beautiful.

This puts a new perspective on all of the things said in condescending tones by those making fun of Jewish women who, as I once heard it said, had nose surgery in order to “unhook themselves.” We all should know now how many barbs are verbally hurled by those driven to laughter, disgust, or shame when they witness all of the hoops through which black American women will jump in order to supposedly measure up to European beauty standards.

America has come to a point in which white women are not only getting silicone shot into their lips but silicone inserted into their bottoms.

Now it seems that those with white female bodies sometimes seek other bottoms and have decided that they, of course, deserve them if they can be afforded. This was not always the case.

I read many years ago that aggressively large and curved buttocks on arriving African slaves helped convince some whites of their animal origins and were used as other examples of why American slavery was just fine and dandy. Look at that backside, they are obviously less human. Disgusting.

Even so, by the end of the 19th century, the bustle was in full play and was a quite popular “booty mask,” as one black female intellectual said to me during an evening of impassioned revelry near UCLA. This was at a self-segregated 1960s party where the black people made as much fun of whites as they could, whether or not any of them had white friends, lovers, or spouses. That seemed as obligatory for us, as I was learning it was a rule of the ethic game for Jews to satirize Christians to the fullest extent humanly possible. It was not always good clean fun, but it was largely not malicious, just the sort of satire meant to bring the supposedly high and mighty down into a world below those thought lesser, where all things might be judged by the low-down and dirty.

When I was a boy growing up in the 1950s, it was not at all out of the ordinary to hear black people observe that if white people really did not think that brown or dark brown skin was attractive, why in the hell did they break their necks and lay out in the sun so long in order to get the “deepest, richest” tan they could.

At college, when I was sightseeing among white guys and we all pointed out the females we thought looked good. If a fine woman with an “abundant history”—or a lot behind her—was identified, the response startled me until I realized that we saw things differently. These white guys would usually say, “Yes, she has a pretty face and a nice chest, but her ass is just too fat, man.”

As a writer, this intrigued me, and I was frequently startled by the flat backsides of the women chosen for the men’s magazines. In his abominable autobiography, Miles Davis explains why he was reluctant to be interviewed by Playboy, “All they have are blonde women with big tits and flat asses or no asses. So who the fuck wants to see that all the time?” Some black guys would laugh that those blondes in the nude really didn’t have shallow hindquarters but “very long backs,very, very long.”

Things began to change over the years as Italian movie stars started to make their way into the electronic firmament,

particularly Sophia Loren. She may not have had a Negroid bundle in her bottom, but it was close enough. Once the love of certain forms start coming up from Africa, its first stop might be Italy but eventually it makes its way into the Hispanic world, and we all know what Jennifer Lopez did for that conversation. She was too popular to be denied and put a newly appreciated curve in the fashionable female body. Whenever we get to Puerto Ricans, we are only a few curves or skin tones or fullnesses of lips from black Americans. The black American of choice is almost always a half-caste of some sort, like Halle Berry, or someone looking the part of a half-caste, like Beyoncé Knowles.

Upon seeing the movie Thirteen in 2003, I realized that something big had happened and the girls depicted in the harmless beach party movies with Frankie Avalon and Annette Funicello had switched reels. Young white girls in high school commended one another during recess for having “ghetto booty.” We were no longer in flat-ass Kansas. Hardly. The United States had arrived in a time when African physiognomy had finally made the cut, so much so that certain white women were not only getting silicone shot into their lips but silicone inserted into their bottoms.

When a woman like Solange Magnano dies because a substance intended only for her buttocks gets loose and results in an embolism, we are forced to cut short the jokes and step up to the serious consequences that can result from taking too many chances to remain young, beautiful, and up to date. There it is.

No society will ever so reverse its standards of attractiveness that those now considered beautiful will be rejected and replaced by those presently considered unattractive. What has and will happen is that beauty standards, like everything else in our shifting contemporary world, will expand and we will have more choices of what to like, to love, to be inspired by and even to use as sources of aspiration.

But the moment a Magnano or the mother of Kanye West dies from cosmetic surgery complications, we need to slow down to the point of understanding our lives a bit better than we presently do. If we had a greater appreciation for the human values which so many are capable of developing or embodying, far fewer might be overwhelmed by the constant blather about surfaces.

The essences of humanity are about confidence, empathy, and support. We know it is a tragedy that superficial things have become so important but we rarely have the chance to see, as we did with the death of a somewhat desperate former beauty queen and the highly educated mother of a dim-bulbed pop star, just how completely a human life can be smothered under the weight of an obsession with the surface of existence rather than the vitality of its pulse.

Stanley Crouch’s culture pieces have appeared in Harper’s, The New York Times, Vogue, Downbeat, The New Yorker, and more. He has served as artistic consultant for jazz programming at Lincoln Center since 1987, and is a founder of Jazz at Lincoln Center. In June 2006 his first major collection of jazz criticism, Considering Genius: Jazz Writings, was published. He is completing a book about the Barack Obama presidential campaign.”

Let's Give The HBDers/Eugenicists What They Want! – A Thought Experiment

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Let's Give The HBDers/Eugenicists What They Want! – A Thought Experiment

Some have, in their offlist emails and letters to me ask, why do I even spend any of my time and space talking about the HBD crowd? Well, aside from my own pugnacious nature, LOL, I recognize that there is, whether we like it or not, a bit of overlap between the Game/PUA community, and the HBD-Race Realist one. There are several, clearcut reasons for this, I think: one, because both camps subscribe, to varying degrees, to the ideas of Evolution and it's offshoot disciplines, like Evolutionary Psychology in the case of Game (and more along the lines of Evo-Biology in the case of HBD), and so there's bound to be *some* conversation taking place between the two camps; but the second compelling reason I submit, is because of the nature of Game-a discipline and area of study that makes it possible for a Man to experience at the very least moderate improvement in his sex and relationship life-and the apparent fact that the HBD community online, is made up largely of "geeks" who aren't typically known to be as successful with the Ladies. In many ways, it's a kind of perfect fit.

And perhaps no where are the two camps more intertwined, than the area of Eugenics-the deliberate, and selective, breeding of certain groups of people over others, for various reasons. In this case, for cognitive purposes-simply put, so the HBDers say, the wrong kinds of people are reproducing, and the right kind of people aren't reproducing enough. In other words, the not so bright people are outnumbering (and getting more nookie) than the bright ones.

There's no use trying to get these guys to give up on notions of "improving" the Human Race, no matter how many times Eugenics has been at the least given a bad name due to failed attempts in the past (Hitler, anyone?) to bring this about; sex and procreation are driving forces of the species, and as such will never be far from our minds.

So, instead, I thought to present the HBD and Eugenics crowd with the following thought experiment-feel free to chime in!

OK…

Let's say that the USA gov't, in the very near future-within the coming decade-decides that the leading thinkers wrt HBD and the like are onto something, and decides to give their ideas a whirl. Since "NAMs" and the like are the lowhanging fruit, the gov't starts there: in order to qualify for Welfare if you're such a Woman, given that, on average, NAM folk aren't as smart as Whites and certain kinds of Asians, you must agree to birth control of the shot-kind, or some other method that ensures, for the life of your being on the dole, you can make any more NAM babies. And let's say, for the sake of argument, this program proves quite successful-afterall, Welfare Reform was and is currently, viewed by both Left and Right, to be largely a success, right?

OK, so we've now taken care of the NAM-Tribble Problem.

Here's the interesting part…

We know need to increase the number of bright White people. In order to do that, we need to find a way to convince bright White Women, to have babies-and not just one baby around 35 or so, but about 3 babies *by the time they hit 35*-meaning, that they would have to get started a lot sooner than that. More like say, 21, 22 years old?

So here's how it would go down:

The USA gov't, at the same time it crackdown on NAMs, also offers the following to any Bright White Female who applies to an Ivy League or otherwise topflight Big State School:

Take the gov't sanctioned and mandated IQ Test; if said BWF scores 120 or higher, she is automatically granted to the Ivy League or Big State School of her choice, all expenses paid, from undergrad all the way through PhD-with

the provision that she will agree to mate with the Male students the school will have selected and birth no less than three babies, *before the age of 30*, to ensure the babies' good health and genetic heritage.

As noted above, the Baby Daddies will be selected for the BWFs, on the basis of, first and foremost, their IQ scores. So, Rachel, let's say, will be introduced shortly after the first quarter of her semester at university-Jeremy, from the Astrophysics Dept. They'll meet at one of the state-sponsored, on-campus socials, designed for the specific purpose of bringing couples together. Jeremy will have already been screened to ensure that he comes from a similar familial and social background like Rachel, and the Guidance/Admissions Officers will run the point in doing this kind of on-campus matchmaking. Rachel will be expected to take a liking to Jeremy, and to begin setting about the business of bringing on the next Bright White Generation. Come semester's end, the Deans and Trustees fully expect to hear a happy report of Rachel and Jeremy expecting their *first* child.

Of course, the school will cover all medical, pre and postpartum expenses, plus daycare, which will be on-site. Relationship counselors will be available, and of course the happy couple will be mandated to check in with them for the duration they're at school. And of course, we fully expect the happy couple to marry before they leave school as well.

If any of this sounds too far-fetched to be real, I have two words for you in response: Yao Ming. You all know him, right? One of the stars of the NBA, Ming is the product of a state-sponsored Eugenics program of the Chinese gov't. His mother and father were the captains of their respective national basketball teams, and the Party Bosses made sure they got together in a very close way-shortly thereafter, not-so-little Yao was born.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Of course, this isn't the People's Republic of America, this is the United States of America, where people have to freedom to reproduce or not-but, if the HBDers want to be intellectually honest about their position, they simply can't stop with forcing NAM Women not to reproduce-in order for their plan to really work, they must also FORCE Bright White Women to reproduce, too.

And there's the rub.

Have at it, folks!

Holla back
The Obsidian

What Have Atheists Ever Done For Anybody???

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One of the big interests on the part of socalled smart people is Religion-not their admiration, but rather their disdain, contempt and in some cases, hatred for it. In fact, it's kinda seen as a badge of honor, if you're supposedly smart, to be a non-believer.

In recent years, thanks to the efforts of Christopher Hitchens, Richard Dawkins and others, Atheism seems to have made something of a comeback. Books, radio and tv interviews, and in some cases, even publicly held debates against believers have been mounted by the Unfaithful.

Much of these debates I find to be boring, but the one debate, which is easily accessible on YouTube, made me take pause. It was held at King's College in NYC, and had on the pro-religion side Dinesh D'Souza; and on the anti-religion side, Christopher Hitchens. Both had put out books arguing for their side around that time.

I have to say, that while I enjoy much of what Hitchens has to say, he got pawned by D'Souza in this debate. When D'Souza mentioned all the atrocities done in the name of Atheism, Hitchens tried to backpeddle from his strident advocacy of Atheism; when he tried to bully D'Souza by hogging the mike, D'Souza rightly noted that the Atheist position is to basically try to dominate the public square and the terms of debate.

For me, it's a no-brainer-anyone, and I mean ANYONE, who tries to make he case that Religion is a net negative for Humanity and that Atheism is a better choice, I have but one question:

What has Atheism EVER done for Humanity, in the positive?

I mean, here in the USA, it's a documented fact that both Slavery and the Civil Rights Movement was started and seen through to its end in one case and success in the other, by the religious community, not the atheist one.

Wilburforce, a devout Man, was the driving force in getting Slavery abolished in the UK; where were the Atheists?

When Black folks were getting hosed, and dogs set on them, and being blown up in churches, etc et al, where were Atheists? Where were they on that Pettis Bridge on Bloody Sunday?

Was it Atheists who stood with the Solidarity Movement in Poland against the Soviet Union? As I recall, it was a religious Man, Pope John Paul the Great, who did that.

Hitchens likes to kick dirt on Mother Theresa, but I don't recall him pulling up stakes to help lepers in Calcutta. Or any other Atheist for that matter.

Let me be frank. Atheists, taken as a group, have NEVER stood up to be counted when it mattered the most. It's easy to talk smack from the comfort of your cushy jobs and comfy homes, but when it comes time to the showdown, Atheists have a marked track record for not showing up.

So, on the Eve of Jesus Christ's birth (PBUH), I call out the Atheists-what has your kind ever done for Humanity? Seems to me all you've ever done, aside from basically being freeloaders on the freedoms and achievements of believing folk, is destroy lives. Atheism, in aggregate, amounts to desolation, pain and death.

If you disagree, holla back.

Now adjourn your heretical asses…

The Obsidian

Why Do Plus-Sized Women Get So Much Hate In The Game Community?

Obsidian · 25 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

This is the question I've asked myself on quite a few occasions from reading the various Game-related websites. Not all of them engage in this kind of behavior to be sure, and I don't recall reading many authors on the matter going out of their way to get in a dig on a chunky chick-but come on. I think it's fair to say, that if you've spent any length of time on any Game-related online forum or venue, it won't be long before you're assailed with unmitigated assaults on larger Women.

My whole thing is, WHY? I mean, let's face facts here-the average Woman in America, today, in 2009, is about 5′4″ and about 160lbs. That would correlate to, if I'm not mistaken, to a dress size of about 16 or so. Oh, and this pretty much goes for British and Canadian Women, too, give or take 10lbs. Even if one's Game is super tight, there ain't that many thin gals to go around.

Then there's the other part of the equation-many of the guys doing the complaining are gainfully employed and highly educated; they could easily pull up stakes and move to where they think there are thinner gals, like the much lauded Eastern Europe (personally, I've met quite a few chunky Eastern European gals who look like they could bodyslam you if you're not careful, so I don't know where so many White guys get this idea that the Eastern Bloc ain't filled with nothing but skinny chicks)-why don't they? Seems to make much more sense to me than merely bemoaning the Fattening of the American Female. Right?

Then there's the uncomfortable truth, which Psychology Today's Saotoshi Kanazawa points to, which is that, brutal truth be told, thicker gals actually get laid MORE than their thinner counterparts. He lays out all the reasons for why this is, from an Evolutionary Psychological perspective, and I'd urge those so inclined to Google it up. But the fact remains that with so many Women in America and beyond clearly being in the plus-size range now, that they're bound to get action. It's just a simple numbers game, pardon the pun.

I just don't get why there's so much outright hatred of plus-size Women in Game circles. I mean, no one's holding a gun to your head and making you go out with one-if you don't like chunkier chicks, DON'T DATE THEM. Problem. Solved. Spending copious amounts of time denigrating them, to my mind, seems utterly counterproductive. Look, I'm not crazy about Asian chicks as a general rule, but you won't ever find me taking precious time out of my day to denigrate them-I simply focus on that which I DO like. The End.

To the Haters of the Plus-Sized Female out there-give it up, fellas. Not only are your ministrations falling on deaf ears if the national size stats are any indication, but if EP guys like Kanazawa has anything to say about it, that gal with the extra junk in her trunk can and will get laid quicker than you will. If you're willing to part with a sizable chunk of hard currency to test out this theory, hit me up and we'll arrange a Field Test.

Moreover, in the end, it only makes you sound like a bunch of losers-and the Game community has enough real problems with our image to deal with as it is (blatant Misogyny, keyhole-like focus on college-educated folk, very narrow focus on the very young, not enough said about non-White approaches to Game, etc, et al). This issue is a tempest in a teapot, a problem looking for a solution. Well, fear not, for The Obsidian has what you're looking for. If Fat Chicks ain't your shot, cool-shut up and keep it movin'.

I'm just sayin.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

The Obsidian

Nice Guys CAN Finish First-IF They Have GAME

Obsidian · 27 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

A major and undeniable feature of the combined MRA and Game sectors of the Internet-what some have coined collectively as the "Manosphere"-is the very real and palpable sense of disillusionment, pain, anger, rage and even hatred on the part of many of its participants. Onlookers-usually but not necessarily limited to Women-often make the observation that these are the losers of the Dating and Mating Dance, the Sour Grapers of Life who no reasonable Woman would want. In some cases, this is true, but even in that being the case, it doesn't entirely invalidate the feelings many Men have.

This is because for so many Men, they feel they've been duped-that they've been sold a bill of goods about how the real world works, especially as it relates to Women, sex and relationships. Every Man reading this has seen, with his own eyes, Women falling head over heels for the Jerk, the Cad, the Asshole-they care not one whit for their feelings, nor bodies, and use and abuse them-only for the Women to come back for more and more. Often, it takes years for the Women involved to wakeup and smell the coffee. In the meantime, the Nice Guys get…the hand. Theirs.

Of course, we know that it is difficult for Women, taken as a group mind you, to see any of these thins clearly, let alone to be brutally honest about their own, and/or the behavior of their Sisters. One of the first things a Man learns in his Game training is that Women, by and large, simply will NOT initiate things; if the Man doesn't do it, nine times out of time, it won't happen. Moreover, a Woman will "backward rationalize" WHY she did/does what she did/does, seeking Plausible Deniability so as to avoid taking any responsibility for her role in things. This is because being called on the carpet, having her feet held to the fire, and potentially bearing the brunt of social disapproval, is a very, very painful experience for the vast majority of Women in ways the vast majority of Men never even stop to think about. We cannot expect this to change, at least not in the full blush and bloom of a Woman's life-in her late teens through late 20s, and even beyond-because it is "hardwired" into her psyche. Men who learn and understand Game principles, accept this as the cost of doing business, and get on with it.

Still, the personal sting of having gone through a callous rejection for in essence, being what Postmodern Society says we should be, in favor of the Reprobate Male, is deep and longlasting. And sure, while such an experience can dominate our destiny, it need not be so.

There is the view among many in the Manosphere, that one cannot be a Gentleman and still be successful with Women; on this, I patently disagree. In this post, I will attempt to layout why I take such a position, and how Game can indeed help the Nice Guy finish first.

OK-so let's look at a few things. The number one reason why Nice Guys finish last isn't because they supplicate themselves (although that IS a factor, no doubt), are passive (again, another important factor), or are doormats (yet another factor), but because they've never been taught the difference between being a Gentleman, and being a Chump. There's a huge, huge difference.

A Chump is all of the things I've just mentioned above-a lilly livered emotional tampon to Women, who never stands up for himself and lets Women run all over him. As a rule, these behaviors "spillover" into other areas of his life, often having nothing to do with Women. They signal a lack of options in life, and simply put, no Woman if she can help it, wants a Man with no other options.

A Gentleman, on the other hand, is one who has made a conscious choice to develop himself in as many ways as possible-mentally, spiritually, physically, socially, economically, etc. He may be more successful in some areas than others, but he is always seeking to improve himself, even if that only means in small ways. Gentlemen take the high road, not because they hope it will get them the girl, but because it's a statement about them as Men. It has NOTHING to do with the Women; its about the Men.

Many Chumps do what they do in the hopes of scoring with the Woman; I'm here to tell you, you're not only

wasting your time, but the Woman who scorned you will, if she refers to you at all, will be to clown you to her friends. It may be cruel, but its the truth. This is why being a “friend” to Women, responding to Women on social networking sites and the like, are many time wasters for the vast majority of Men, signal DLV, and only provide low investment ego gratification boosts to Women. This is because, it is hardwired into Women to want to be sexually *desired* by Men. She doesn’t need to follow through on anything; simply getting the attention is enough.

Gentlemen, knowing well the ways of the realworld and how it operates-especially with regard to Women-understand that it is a Fool’s Errand in most cases, to pursue Women in such a way. In fact, a Gentlemen almost NEVER pursues Women; if anything, it’s the other way around. Why?

Because Women know Quality when they see it, even if instinctively-and especially in a day and age where Quality Men are in drastically short supply. Being a Gentleman sets you apart from the pack, by your appearance manner of speaking, and all around general decorum. It is NOT a matter of formal schooling (though it can help), or a matter of one’s occupation and by extension, income (though again, it can help); rather, it is the suite of character traits that a Man has acquired throughout Life, that makes him into a Gentleman, IF he learns to see things in their proper perspective. Women are drawn to such Men like moths to a flame. A Gentleman never need worry about not having Feminine company if he desires it.

Here’s a good example of what I mean, and speaks directly to what I’ve spoken about above-most Men blame themselves when they see a gal going hard for a socalled Alpha Asshole Male. This is natural and to be expected. But a Gentleman understands, that actually, such a Woman is to be pitied, on two counts-she’s missed out on a truly good thing, and she’s signalled that *she is not worthy of a Gentleman’s time*. It is not what happens to you in Life that defines you, but *how you respond* that makes the difference. The difference between the angry fellows throughout the Manosphere and the Gentlemen of the World, is that they see what happens to and around them in completely different ways, which then leads to them responding in totally different ways. Simply put, it takes a strong Man of character to resist catering to the lowest common denominator in the name of sex or even relationship; a Man who does is rarely a fulfilled or happy one, to say nothing of principled.

Can a Man be a Gentleman and have Game? *sly grin* Why, of course! Study your history. Some of the most sought after Men in History, weren’t brutes or assholes, but Gents.

The difference is, that Gentlemen don’t give Women anything they haven’t EARNED. Women, in order to respect a Man, have to feel that they’ve “won” him over all other Women in the round, so to speak; when a Man gives too much too soon, which can happen in many forms, it signals to a Woman that, again, he is of lower value, rank, social class, etc, and she will lose interest. Moreover, such Men will let obvious infractions on the part of Women slide, out of FEAR THAT HE WILL LOSE HER. Women know these things, if only dimly in the back of their hindbrains, and act accordingly. Which explains why, for example, so many guys go home alone after being at the club or bar for four or five hours straight. They don’t even have any phone numbers to show for their night out, because let’s face it, the goal for the vast majority of guys going out to such places is to score.

Gentlemen, on the other hand, have no problem calling a Woman on many of her irrational and indeed, immature ways-the difference is in the manner of tone, style, language and so on. Ever notice that I rarely use foul language? Notice how more and more WOMEN, are using it? Part of the reason why I don’t engage in such low speak, is to one, differentiate myself from the those who do, in this Women, who are reacting emotionally; and two, to convey that I can express myself in ways that does not resort to me sounding like a drunken sailor on the docks. Trust you me, there is NOTHING more painful, to a Woman, than to have a Man dress her down in such a smooth and eloquent way. In fact, the best way, other than Bemused Silence, to deal with Women, is to simply and calmly, point out their flaws in perfect diction, tone and vocabulary befitting a Gentleman of Higher Value-and then take your leave.

Gentlemen don’t LOOK like all the other Men out there-they take great care in their appearance, and often can and do make WOMEN jealous of how pretty they look. I myself have been upbraided by Women for my “outshining them” at a social function and so forth. I’ve been told by WOMEN that I have too many suits, shoes, coats, and that

all of this is “crowding her space”. I’ve drawn the ire of a Woman because I chose to wear a suit that looked particularly nice on me (and that many other Women approved). Mind you, I’ve never set out to make a Woman jealous; its simply a fact that I care so much about how I look, and express myself to others in social settings, that can and does make Women MAD AT ME, for taking the focus off them, and putting it on ME. Trust me, you’ve seen nothing until you’ve seen a Jealous Woman.

Gentlemen are always mindful of their word, and keep it, not because they’re hoping to get some, but because its about their word. Men who can’t keep their word aren’t fit for anything in this world. So if a Gentleman has pledged to be monogamous with a Woman, he holds to it. If he’s “managed expectations” with a Woman, he holds to that. And so on. Men who can’t be trusted to uphold their word aren’t Men to be trusted, and certainly are not Gentlemen.

Gentlemen work to develop their minds-and it has NOTHING to do with what school they attended. In fact, if anything, history tells us that the most intelligent, eloquent Gentlemen had little if any formal schooling. One of my personal heroes, motivational speaker Les Brown, once said that for every suit or piece of clothing you buy, you should also spend the equivalent sum on books and other materials to develop your mind. I took his advice to heart-for every suit I bought, I also bought at least one book, if not several. My personal reading habit got to the point that I was reading four to five books (non-fiction) a month, including newspapers, magazines, journals and periodicals. It’s a practice that has stood me in good stead, and has paid off-virtually all who know me consider me to be very well read and spoken, both of which earns me the respect of others.

Gentlemen also have a great degree of control over their desires and tastes-Chumps, and for that matter, Assholes, do not. Neither are terribly discriminating, they just go about it in very different ways. Notice how Gentlemen almost NEVER hops on the first skirt that moves; in fact, they are often oblivious to it, often than a quick glance to enjoy the view.

There’s much more that I can say here, but here’s the bottomline: being a Gentleman takes consistent effort, diligence, patience and focus. It is about personal refinement and agency, and it is about a deep and profound sense of empowerment. What many Men lack in our time is someone to show them real alternatives to what passes now for “masculinity”. This lil blog of mine, is one small step in addressing the many misconceptions out there. Inshallah, it’ll make a small difference.

Now, adjourn your arses…

The Obsidian

Throwing Down The Gauntlet: The Lady Raine-Obsidian Great "Game" Debate..

Obsidian · 28 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Frequent readers of The Obsidian Files know well that I tend to log one post a day, and almost always early in the AM hours, as I tend to be an early riser myself. However, a quick trip over to Lady Raine's blogsite has given me the occasion to make an exception to my usual posting rule; with this post, I officially invite Lady Raine to come and actually reason together on the merits, or the lack thereof, of Game.

Her newest post up on her blog is one which not only mentions my name, but is also one of the finest expositions of Strawman Shadow Boxing I've ever seen. Aside from repeating for the umpteenth time why she refuses to educate herself on the most basic of facts surrounding some of the seminal writers on the topic, to say nothing of actually reading the book(s) herself, she also goes into full-on Ad Hominem mode, attacking the authors (and by extension anyone who adheres to Game principles) as something less than reputable. I'll layout more definitive evidence over the course of this post and subsequent threads, but for now, let me address her primary "teaching" tool, *an episode from network tv (CBS, I believe) called "Criminal Minds"(!!!)-uh, yea, really academic, LOL!

Of course, primetime tv being what it is, the episode, according to Lady Raine herself latches on the most sensational aspects of the PUA/Game community and weaves it into a murder-mystery where the chief suspect is a Mystery-like character, complete with outlandish "peacocking" outfits and the like. And of course, we're treated to a Tom Cruise/Magnolia-like sleaze of the Seduction Guru, which Lady Raine is very careful to latch onto-nevermind the FACT that to date, NO ONE HAS SUGGESTED THAT NEIL "STYLE" STRAUSS, is a sleazeball, douchebag, sexist, misogynist, or in any other way creepy (if so, I'd need to see the direct quote and source, Lady Raine.)-to say nothing about the fact that, to date, in the realworld, there hasn't been ONE report of rape, much less murder, implicating ANYONE in the Seduction/PUA/Game community. And that's been in more than a decade-not a bad track record, by anyone's estimation, I would think.

Lady Raine claims not to have any beefs with Game, and instead only with sleazeball guys who basically use Game to "get back" at Women, but I've personally known many Men who aren't sleazeballs nor hate Women; my own blog clearly lays out my position on both fronts. Moreover, her hiding behind these and ancillary strawman only does a very poor job of her inability to actually discuss Game intelligently, no matter how much handwriting she's claimed to have studied.

I have pointed out to her several times, that she is incapable of even discussing what Game is, because of her basic ignorance on the topic, and have proven this with someone she "endorses" in a PUA who calls himself Assanova; recently, on his blog and in the comments section of a thread about yet another photo she claims is Roissy, I said the following:

"(Post #70): And now Lady Raine, I'd like to take you up on your challenge, before I follow my good friend Ferdinand Bardamu's advice and do some other more productive things with my time-with all due respect.

Several times over the course of our exchange, you have spoken favorably of Assanova, a PUA and Game blogger of some repute. I've decided to look him up on the web and peruse his site. At random, I chose three posts of his: on Peacocking, his 7 Rules for Natural Game, and his post that talks about how all Women are the same.

You've left comments on each of those posts. I can tell you, that not only don't you know what you're talking about, but that Assanova's used the MYSTERY METHOD in every single one of the aforementioned posts.

Let's count the ways:

On his Peacocking post, Assanova elaborates on its importance and gives his views on what it's true purpose is. While both he and you take issue with Mystery's personal style of peacocking (NOT a requirement, nor does Mystery or Style ever say as much-but you wouldn't know that, as you've never read either book, right?), Mystery's

point, which is rooted in EVOLUTIONARY PSYCHOLOGY remains-that in Nature, Males display, and Females choose. Since you're so adept and knowledgeable about Psychology, you really can't argue with that-right?

The issue isn't to wear silly hats and paint your nails black; the issue is to make yourself, as a Male, standout from all the other Males, in the Mating Grounds-which, in our time, are bars, lounges, clubs and the like. Being very well dressed is one of many ways, and definitely one of the more important, for a Man to standout from his peers to a Woman.

But of course, you already knew that!

Next, Assanova speaks about how all Women are basically the same psychologically. Again, being so knowledgeable about the subject, this basic point would elicit no argument from you, right?

Well, not quite. Instead of actually taking up what Assanova said, you instead log a highly defensive comment about how so and so would NEVER work on you (how many times have we in Game heard this line from sooo many Women before? Sheesh!), that you simply say "NO!" umpteen times until the guy gets the message, and about how you would "punch a guy out" if he groped you-something that Assanova NEVER said, and in his response, said as much. He then specifically mentioned KINO-a theory not coined by Mystery, but is definitely part of his school of thought-and briefly explained how it works. To date, you've yet to respond.

Finally, on Assanova's "7 Rules of Natural Game", you chime in to inform him that his notions of "not chasing" females simply wouldn't work on you (God, that is so tired). Of course, Assanova responds to further explain why a Man shouldn't chase a Woman, something that my own personal experience definitely tallies with, and this, plus many other of his "rules" can be traced right back to the MM (for example, his "Keeping Poised"? Just another way of saying "Frame Control". No disrespect to Assanova, but I'm just saying)-which, according to you, is based in "9th grade Psychology". If so, it's all so elementary Watson, then why all the defensiveness, Lady Raine? I mean, either Assanova's basic points are correct in aggregate, or they're not-which is it? And remember, this is YOUR guy, someone YOU suggested was a much better source of and for Game, than Style/Strauss or Mystery. Fair enough-so why is it that on the three posts I chose at random on Assanova's site, the ONLY comments from you are those that appear to openly contradict what Assanova says? Even when he responds to you? What's up with that?

Again: learn how to debate with Logic.

And how to play Chess.

Here then is the end of today's lesson.

Merry Xmas.

The Obsidian

By theobsidianfiles on December 25, 2009 at 6:55 AM"

And, as if to add insult to injury, my good friend and brother in arms, blogger Ferdinand Bardamu, says the following, just a few comments up the thread apiece:

"(Post #67): Obsidian, I dropped in here after seeing referrals from LR's blog to my old WordPress.com address. I honestly don't understand why you're wasting your time with these people.

It's one thing to engage folks like OneSTDV, Todd White, or Susan Walsh, people who you may disagree with but have intellectual acumen and can argue in good faith. But Lady Raine isn't even capable of getting the basic facts of the debate right. From one of her comments here alone:

(Lady Raine): A fictional and never proven to have even HAPPENED biography written by a REALITY TV STAR.

Basically, I would have to regress intellectually and abandon my understanding of the very ROOTS of "Game" and study the completely fictional, completely biased, completely opinion-based novel written by MYSTERY???

(Ferdinand Bardamu): What the hell is she talking about here? Mystery, the “REALITY TV STAR,” never wrote any biographies. If she’s referring to “The Game,” that was a memoir (which is by definition factual, with zero evidence out there to suggest otherwise) written by Neil Strauss, who has never been on any reality shows, much less been a star. Mystery wrote “The Mystery Method,” which is a handbook, not a biography.

Secondly, she keeps referring to Mystery as a “REALITY TV STAR,” when everyone with an IQ above room temperature knows that Mystery didn’t get a TV show until years after he had written “The Mystery Method” and established himself as a seduction guru. Referring to him as a “REALITY TV STAR” is like referring to Hugh Laurie as a novelist – factually accurate but untruthful in its incompleteness, and betraying the ignorance of the person saying it.

LR: Why would I want to “muddle” the actual science and fact with some random dude’s diary of “my midlife crisis” in the form of a “biography”??

FB: Strauss wrote “The Game” when he was in his mid-30’s, based on events that happened in his late 20’s/early 30’s. “Mid-life crisis”? Are you kidding me?

It’s one thing to argue with someone who hasn’t read a necessary book in order to understand what’s being debated. It’s another thing to argue with someone who doesn’t know information that can be found on fucking Wikipedia! If Lady Raine can’t get little, easy-to-verify things like this right, how the hell can you trust her to debate honestly on issues of actual fucking importance?

Listen man, you know I respect you, but I really think you’re casting your pearls before swine. This whole blog reeks of bad karma. The people here are chugging Haterade by the liter and doing nothi stewing in their bitterness and misery. Let them rot – all they can do is drag you down with them.

By Ferdinand Bardamu on December 25, 2009 at 5:22 AM”

Perhaps along with all the Cold Reading, Psychology and Graphology Lady Raine studies so much, perhaps it might do her some good to also study Logic and Critical Thinking, to say nothing of Debate? We’ve all seen how well she can tapdance. Now let’s see how well she can actually address actual issues, hmm?

Lady Raine, and I know you’re out there-the floor is yours. Please address my and Ferdinand Bardamu’s comments directly-and no Bullshittery from you, or you will be erased. Time to put up or shut up.

Your move…

Holla back
The Obsidian

Value Judgments Are Real, Necessary, & Part Of Human Nature

Obsidian · 28 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

A perennial topic in our Body Politic is the idea of “freedom of expression”, in this case, with regard to how we present ourselves to the wider world in terms of dress and appearance. Perhaps some of the biggest supporters of the notion that not only should we be allowed to present ourselves any way that we wish, but that there shouldn’t be any judgments of same by anyone, are, as a group, Women. We’ve all heard the defiant refrain about a Woman should be able to walk down the street nude, with no repercussions from the act. Such a statement, while tenable perhaps in theory, is in the realworld, horrendous in actual fact. It is so because it turns a blind eye to the reality of Human Nature, and it is Human to make *value judgments* about each other-based on how we act, speak, dress (or undress), and associate with.

Of course, Human Nature has its foibles and excesses, and to be sure, Women as a group have borne the brunt of much of this down through the years. But that’s a separate issue from the simple fact that we, arguably the most social animals on the planet, care deeply about the kinds of signals we send out into the larger environment, and that said signals carry with them consequences, big and small.

The real issue, insofar as Women taken as group is concerned, is that they don’t want to be *shamed* for behavior or perceptions that don’t sit well with the society at large; as I’ve noted in my previous post, Gamesmen understand well WHY Women are very much into the idea that one shouldn’t be “judged” for their behaviors. But, much to their chagrin, many Women find, that despite polite society ostensible “progressiveness”, Women can and will be judged rather harshly if she’s been found out to have presented herself in a questionable way, and shouts of “sexism” and/or “misogyny” are at this late stage of the sociopolitical game, are really getting old.

Since I find that whenever I bring up just about any topic that addresses Women in any way someone will bring up Black folks as a kind of retort, I think the following recent news item will add a bit of illumination to the discussion:

Yesterday while watching Fox News, they gave a report about how the country’s HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges & Universities) were beginning to mandate dress codes, particularly for its Black Male students; among the prohibitions were no more wearing saggy or drooping jeans, doorags, “grillz” (gold teeth) and the like. Morehouse, a traditionally all Black Male college in Atlanta, and alma mater of the late great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., seems to have lead the effort in this regard back in Oct of this year, and has been at the epicenter of this “debate”-I phrase it this way, since I find it deeply ironic that MLK’s alma mater has had to codify into “law” rules against its students looking like Thugs-moreover, I see it as a real nadir in Black American mores that such a thing even has to be “debated”.

Around the same time that Morehouse came forth with its dress code, Conservative talk radio personality Rush Limbaugh came under intense scrutiny because of his bid to purchase the St. Louis Rams football team; a major part of the reason why he was denied admittance into the NFL Owner’s Club, was because of his politically incorrect comments about many of its Black players, among them, that he couldn’t tell the difference between them and members of the Bloods & Crips street gangs, on the basis of how they looked (and in many instances, acted). While there was much squawking about Limbaugh’s comments, I submit that there was so much flailing of arms BECAUSE WHAT HE SAID WAS TRUE.

Indeed, part of the reason WHY Tiger Woods’ peccadilloes is making so much fodder for the news and rumor mills, was BECAUSE of his squeaky clean image as a Black (or at least, partially Black, according to him) Sportsman, at a time when both the NBA and the NFL had an ever increasing image problem with regard to its Black Male players-to such an extent, that finally David Stern, commissioner of the NBA, has to do basically the same thing that Morehouse and other HBCUs did, institute, for grown Men, an offcourt dress code. The general, though never openly stated in polite company consensus among a heck of a lot of Whites-and a not insignificant number of Blacks-is that the NBA and NFL is chockfull of Gangsta Thug Niggas-and all the tats, braids, baggy

clothes, big SUVS and “Jesus pieces” worn by many of the players, don’t do much to allay these concerns by the wider (and often, paying public).

The other night, at a Christmas dinner I was invited to, we discussed these and related issues. When asked how I viewed it, I simply noted that at the end of the day, I, as a Black Man, have to be pragmatic, IF my goal is to make it back home in one piece. Because, I explained to them, as a Black Male, this is far more than a more abstract academic point of debate for me-how I present myself to the larger world carries with it real consequences. It can make the difference between whether I get hired (or fired!); whether I get a bank loan or not; whether I get a house or apartment; or whether I go to jail or not-indeed, looking the way wrong way could get me shot and killed, by a really nervous cop who’s not gonna bother to make distinctions out there on the bricks between the good and not so good Nigras-because, he’s trying to go home, too.

I told my dinner hosts that a week previous, my Lady and I went to the local mall to do a bit of Christmas shopping; it was very cold that day, and she wanted to buy me a “skullie”. I took great pains to get one that differentiated me from the “hoodrats”, and made light of it in humorous terms-but the point was made, and she understood it as well-because Black Men have the perception of being up to no good, the simple fact of life is that guys like me have to give a bit of forethought about what clothing to buy and wear. Because there are clear and real, consequences for putting out the wrong kind of perceptions. And again, this just ain’t a “racial” thing, because LOTS of Blacks think the same way as Whites-recall what the Rev. Jesse Jackson once said about being somewhere dark and hearing footsteps behind him.

At some point, arid academic “debates” and infantile cries of “expression” have to give way to hardheaded reality-which is, that people can and will judge you, based on how you present yourself to the world. For Black Men like me, it means I have to give a good bit of thought as to how I want to be seen and perceived by others regardless of color; for Women, it means whether they want to be treated as Ladies or “Ladies of the Evening”-or worse. To pretend otherwise, is not to approach the world as an adult-but as a child.

“Now these ladies is lookin pretty from city to city
I refined a few I met, around the country
The nitty gritty, it’s all reality, no question
Actual fact like tight jeans cause yeast infections
And sisters with good minds, get no respect when
Their ass is all hangin out, playin the bar section
of the club shake what your mama gave ya, back to the lab
I drop the truth, cause rhyming is more than just my craft
Or a way to get ass, or fast cash, or blasted
Black women, make sure you’re respected
When niggaz is kickin that old off the wall shit, let em know from jump: “Dead it”, you’re not ignorant
Knowledge wisdom understanding is the key to wealth
Put some clothes on that ass if you respect yourself

Chorus:

With those hooker type wears hon you’re, playin yaself
With those skin tight jeans baby you’re, playin yaself
Everything all exposed you’re, playin yaself
You’re, playin yaself, you’re, playin yaself

Everything all exposed you’re, playin yaself
With those skin tight jeans baby you’re, playin yaself
With those hooker type wears hon you’re, playin yaself
You’re, playin yaself, you’re, playin yaself”

-Ya Playin' Yaself, by Jeru The Damaja

Now adjourn your childish asses…

The Obsidian

Guess Who's Coming To Xmas Dinner...

Obsidian · 29 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

Since we've kinda touched on it in the last comment thread, I thought now would be a good time to write about a very nice, and very interesting, Christmas Dinner I was invited to.

It was held at the home of a prominent Ivy League academic, specializing in Africana and Carribean Studies, and as one might guess, not soon after my Lady and I arrived, a vigorous discussion ensued round the huge wooden dinner table in the dining room. Among the topics discussed, was President Barack Obama's first year in office and his policies thus far, as well as his responsibility to African Americans in exchange for their staunch support; the War in Afghanistan, the Economy, and of course, Tiger Woods.

But, as it always happens when Black folk of any stripe come together, the conversation invariably turned to Black Male/Female Relationships, and proceeded pretty much along the lines of the recent Nightline special that featured comedian, talkshow host and author Steve Harvey (I'll have more to say about Harvey in due course)-*why* Black Men and boys were having such a hard time "showing up". Our host was doing some work for one of the state's educational system, and wanted everyone's input on the question.

My comments were not very positive, I'm afraid-I told everyone, that there were several very powerful forces at work that account for what we see:

1. There will be, nor can Black Men expect, any major public policy initiatives to tackle the Black boys failing in school issue, or any related issues such as incarceration or employment, because as I recently noted in my post Brothas Gonna Work It Out-Alone, ANY such proposal is a political nonstarter. Simply put, Whites-particularly White Males-simply will not stand for public monies being diverted to assist a segment of the population that is widely seen as a victim of its own pathologies. Like it or not, the "Black Male brand" has been seriously damaged, and one cannot expect much in the way of public support outside increased police presence, etc. So, expect very little from Obama on this score.

2. If things are going to change for the better, Black Men as a group, largely independent of government, will have step up. The big problem with this is, that the Black Middle and Upper Middle Class, is heavily comprised of, and dependent upon, the government apparatus, at all levels (local, state, federal) for its livelihood-in other words, most of the Black Middle Class aren't net producers. They're at best service providers, and governmental ones at that, if not simply in the resource transfer business. One reason why the Black Male unemployment rate is so high is because there aren't enough Black folk in the private business sector that can absorb these Black Men. Moreover, working for government or quasi-governmental entities and agencies tends to bend one's thinking and mindset toward a governmental way of dong things-hence, when such topics come up, the go-to move or position is one where government is required to do something or spend something. Of course, this can't help Black Men enmasse.

3. Finally, and no one ever stops to consider this-but a very simple and parsimonious reason as to why school at nearly all levels turns off so many Black Men and boys, is simply because they don't want to be there. Freedom means just that-the freedom to be, or NOT to be. A lot of people automatically think of Freedom in its best light, a well-intentioned view, but also a very naive one as well. A lot of people have a very hard time getting their head around the fact that a lot of Black Men aren't interested in such pursuits. And they're not alone-its starting to happen in the White Middle Class and even Asian communites. When people don't have to do something, they won't-and, just like we as a society haven't come up w/a more convincing message to sway would-be Al-Qaeda suicide bombers from joining their cause, we haven't made a compelling case to Black Men and boys as to why they sit still and endure years of boring-to-tears stuff that has at best limited utility in the realworld.

Thus, I concluded, outside of small enclave-like programs, or one-on-one mentoring, in the main, we can expect to take considerable casualties insofar as Black Men are concerned.

That, of course, leaves Black Women, who are more and more, getting educations and good to great jobs. While

some have suggested that they date and/or marry outside the race, and so forth, I posit that the likely scenario for most in that cohort is a string of transient relationships of Black Men of varying stripe while younger, interspersed with years of being alone. Since Black Women, like all Women, have great difficulty seeing things in this regard with clear eyes, it will be very hard to embrace what lies in store for a great many of them in the coming years. Simply put-theres not enough of the kinds of Black Men these Women want, and this will mean they will have to decide on a number of options:

1. Sign up to be part of a de facto harem (see: Tiger Woods)

2. Become a Jumpoff Girl (again see Tiger above)

3. Date White or otherwise non-Black Men (not hugely likely, outside of a few outliers for a whole host of reasons)

4. Become lesbians (see Alice Walker)

5. Consider Black Men from Africa or the Carribean (which brings with it its own set of unique challenges)

6. And finally, SETTLE for a Black Men who may not have as much formal education or make as much money, but he is of good character.

Trust me when I tell you, you will see all the other five options tried before you'll see the sixth one attempted, because the very idea of ANY "settling" is anathema. And when you understand Evolutionary Psychology, you know why this is so. I'll have a lot more to say about this, in due course. Stay tuned.

Anyway, like I said, we had a heck of a Xmas dinner, and looking forward toward breaking bread with those good folks again in the near future!

Holla back

The Obsidian

Something (Really) New: Debunking The Myths As To Why Successful Black Women Can't Find A Mate

Obsidian · 31 December 2009 · Archived copy · Original

This time of year, and today in particular-New Year's Eve-is one where most people look back, not only on the year that's passed, but also over the arc of their lives up to this point. It forms the basis of New Year's Resolutions and the like, moving forward into the New Year ahead.

Since that's the case, and since ABC's Nightline program recently focused on the perennial issue of why successful Black Women can't find a "good" mate, and since I've grown way passed tired listening to all the solipsism common to the Female Mind no matter how well "educated", I've decided to do a Morpheus and dispel the Matrix-like illusions so many of my Sistas are operating under. Strap in Ladies-you're about to take the Red Pill…

Several years back, a film called "Something New" came out. Starring Sanaa Lathan and Simon Baker, it was hailed as a kind of cinematic triumph for Black Women, who could find love across the color line just as well and easily as any Brotha. I personally found the movie chockfull with contrivances and conceits which should raise the eyebrow of anyone who had a pulse-like the main premise of the two characters. Lathan is a high powered corporate type, who can't find any Brothas "on her level" (what Black Women mean when they say this is: same education, job, income, status as herself or very similar), and one day runs into Baker, a free-spirited landscaper. After a bit of rigamarole, they hit it off an the rest as they say, is history.

OK, I get the whole suspension of disbelief thing, but any Brotha who's been alive for any length of time can and will tell you, that such a premise is WHACKED, and NOT consistent with reality AT ALL-I mean, a Sista like Lathan's character, going in for the landscaper? I mean, take race out of it, and really think that one over for a second. Uh, yea, riiiiight…

This alone, rubs up against realworld realities-how many Sistas of Lathan's character's class can be heard not only to defiantly "refuse to settle", but to also putdown Brothas who share a more modest work profile like Baker's character? To ask the question is to answer it. So right off the bat, the film's premise is booty.

But then we get to the good part-that the guy is WHITE. This is a major area of concern for many Sistas, largely fueled by the fact that at least some Brothas can and will exercise their mating options-which often don't include Sistas. While the whole thing is overblown in importance-only about a quarter million marriages exist today between White Women and Black Men-still it has huge weight in the minds of so many successful Black Women; Hell hath no fury, like a Sista scorned. Lathan getting with the attractively handsome Baker, is a kind of thumb in the eye to the idea that only Black Men can play that game; you go grrl!

Well, again, in the words of Cedric The Entertainer, "stop right there"-there's some very good reasons as to why Black Men have always had an easier time crossing the racial lines when it came to love or just getting some-and they ain't entirely what Sistas think. Moreover, there are reasons-deeply politically correct reasons-as to why the "Lathans" of the world, still have a hard time following suit. Let's examine all this, shall we?

1. Successful Black Women are Elitist Snobs: this is absolutely true. No one wants to say it for various reasons-non-Blacks can't say it lest they be tarred and feathered as a racist-sexist Black Woman hater; Brothas themselves can't say it lest they be labeled a sexual loser who "can't handle a strong Black Woman", and so on. But the truth is, that one major reason why so many of these Sistas are alone, isn't because they can't find good Black Men; it's because their standards and "lists" have effectively priced them out of the Black dating market. As anyone with a working knowledge of economics knows, there's a limit to how much you can "charge" for your products or services in the markets before you just make yourself too damned expensive to deal with; when that happens, "customers"-in this case Black Men enmasse-begin to shop elsewhere for better deals. Being all that doesn't mean much when no one wants what you're selling-which explains a goodly part of what's going on with a lot of Sistas today. Every Black Man reading this can and will tell you of such a Sista turning down an otherwise good Brotha,

because he didn't go to college, make six figures or has a fancy title. In truth, these Sistas never did care all that much about character or for that matter, love-they cared about appearances, money, and living the socalled "good" life-all of which are perfectly within these Sistas' rights to do and have. But they need to stop blaming Black Men for having the audacity not to live their every waking moment grooming themselves to be the Sistahood's Prince Charmings. Going to school, getting into crushing debt, and slaving away in some cold corporate or quasi-governmental edifice aren't the only ways to live a life-and as more and more Black Men wake up to this reality, they will, in ever-increasing numbers, reject this "paradigm", as has been happening now for sometime.

Yea, yea, I know-"Blue Collar Brothas" aren't "evolved" nor want to be-fellas out there reading this, how many times have you heard THAT trope? Come on. I personally know Brothas who never set foot in a college, but are MORE knowledgeable about the world around them, than the VAST majority of Sistas I've known who've attended the best uni's this country's had to offer. One of my best friends is a walking encyclopedia of information, among them Jazz, and not the "smooth jazz" fluff that many Sistas think is sophisticated-I'm talking about Louis Armstrong right through the height of the Bee-Bop era – ALL sef-taught, which, when you really stop to think about it, is a proud tradition among Black Men. To date, I've yet to hear a "sophisticated" Sista come anywhere close. And don't even get me started on History, Politics, Current Events…the list goes on and on. In fact, it really makes one ask what the heck were they doing all those years in college…but I digress…

This same Brotha is one of thee kindest, morally upright Men I've ever known in my life. And yet he routinely gets shot down by Sistas who refuse to "settle". I say the joke's on THEM, since they usually go on to get dogged out something fierce by other Brothas "on their level" who figured out early on in the game, that they can pretty much set their price and do whatever they want with impunity. Of course, by then, "Black Men ain't sh*t". Yeah, riiiight…

The dirty little secret here, is that a lot of Sistas have bought, hook, line and sinker, into what I and some others refer to as the Matrix Mentality-that, if you go to the "right" schools, and get that "right" job, all or most of your problems will go away. I think it's fair to say at this juncture, that Females are easier to "sell" on such notions than Males-afterall, it's no longer Black Men voting with their feet, but increasingly White and even Asian Men, too. Guys know a sham when they see one, by and large, and many ain't buying into it anymore. They have better things to do with their time and life-and notice how few of them ever complain. A lot of Sistas, now approaching midlife, are quite perturbed that the Matrix has not delivered for them, and like so many Women do, seek to blame others instead of first and foremost, taking a good hard look at themselves.

Sure, there are knuckleheaded Brothas out there-just like there are incredibly narcissistic, vapid, elitist, snobbish, selfish, loony headcase Sistas out there, too-especially those in the "high-powered" cohort we're discussing right now. But that doesn't stop Brothas from finding Love or Poon-my best friend I told you about? He has NO problem getting either, and not just from the Sistahood-there are plenty of Ms. Ann's and Juanita's who want his company, too. So, the Sistas who won't "settle for less" end up ALONE in the end. I guess they missed that part of the class where the professor told them never to let the perfect be an enemy of the good.

Hmm…

2. Why Black Women Will NEVER Be As "Hot" An Interraical Commodity As Black Men: oh boy. We get to the really good stuff. As the film Something New trumpets, if Brothas can do it, so can we!-NOT. What so many Sistas-ostensibly smart ones at that(!)-fail to get here, is that there are very powerful reasons as to why Black Men are more sought after as dates and mates than Black Women…and it ain't quite what they, or maybe even you, might think. If you can handle the raw truth, read on intrepid reader-read on!

2A: Black Women, like all Women, taken as a group, aren't that interested in "dating/mating out"-there's all kind of studies on this, look up the GNXP site for example. A lot of this has to do with offspring concerns, and so on. At any rate, Women determine who gets "lucky" and who doesn't, so again, this makes sense. So, one major reason why Black Women enmasse haven't dated out anywhere near Black Men have, is rooted in this factor alone-Black Women don't wanna do it-but there's another reason as to why so many more Black Men date out than Black

Women:

2AA: BECAUSE OTHER WOMEN FIND BLACK MEN SEXIER AND ARE WILLING TO "RISK IT" TO BE WITH HIM MORE, THAN NON-BLACK MEN WITH BLACK WOMEN. Think about this for a sec-interracial marriage became the law of the land with the landmark Loving v. Virgina decision by the Supreme Court in the Summer of 1967, right? And, as you will recall, that was a marriage involving a WHITE MAN & A BLACK WOMAN. Yet in the four decades since that decision, the needle has barely moved on that score when compared to marriages and pairings featuring White Women and Black Men. Why? Because of what I said above-and because Black Men are seen as more "manly" by virtually all groups of Women, that's why. White Women were willing to risk significant danger to be with Black Men-about a half-century before the Loving decision, guys like Jack Johnson had White Women under the threat of death (lynching, Emmit Till), yet that didn't stop him from finding love/sex across the color line. Yet, in an age where no one can stop Sistas from doing the same, a lot of em talk a mean ame about "crossing over" but very few actually do so. The above reasons explain why, but there's an even more powerful reason:

2AAA: Black Women overall, aren't seen as feminine as White and/or Asian Women, by White and/or Asian Men. They simply aren't. And no amount of "White supremacy" talk and the like, is gonna change that. Personally, I couldn't care less, because I love my Sistas, always have and always will, even when they get on my Reserve Nerve. But I'm just sayin-the reason why, in aggregate, White and other non-Black guys aren't falling over themselves trying to win the hand of the Sistas, is due to what I just said. Oh, don't get it twisted, if they can, they're down for a roll in the hay, provided no one finds out. But in the main, choosing a Sista as a public mate? To ask the question is to answer it. Black Women, as a group, travel a heck of a lot more than do Black Men, again, on average-one would think they'd have found quite a few White or otherwise non-Black Male lovers and mates by now. By all the yammering so many Sistas do, we cannot assume this to be the case. Oh, well. But, if this means anything, most Sistas ain't really that crazy about non-Black Men either, for a whole host of reasons, so it all balances out. Thus, despite all the sound and fury, the bulk and mass of the Sistahood, ain't goin' nowhere. They want and love Brothas. They just gotta get out of their own way in order for the good ones to come into their life.

Conclusion: I've said it before, and it bears repeating-Black folks are the canary in the coalmine that is the United States of America. We, as a part of this nation, have always had to "keep it real" while our White "betters" could afford to indulge in flights of fancy, insulated from the harsh day to day realities we knew all too well. In a way though, a lot of Sistas are in the same boat as our White brothers and sisters so many decades ago-they too are living in a fantasy land, an illusion that can and will prove injurious, more to them than to any Brotha. We are now living in a time when more and more White Men will know what it's like to be a Black Man-being locked out of the economy, opportunities limited, and just retaining your dignity becomes a daily struggle. And yet, with all that, Black Men have, overall, done remarkably well for ourselves. To be sure, there are many problems, and as I've always said, Black Women can't nor should solve them for us. But Black Men have, I think, found ways to redefine themselves-ways that our White brothers will, in time, learn from us.

The challenge then, lies not on the Brothas' side of the asile, but the Sistas'-it remains to be seen if they really are willing to let go of their pretensions and prejudices, and embrace Men, regardless of color, who don't choose the uni campus and corporate life. It remains to be seen just how "strong" many of these Sistas are-more and more Men simply aren't interested in being breadwinners anymore, and for good reason. It remains to be seen how many of these Sistas are willing to make adjustments in how a relationship-a true companionship-is defined, because in an age where Women don't need Men financially anymore, money is no longer a player in the mix, now is it? So why focus on it? A Man who cares for you as a human being, who thinks you're beautiful inside and out, who is a witness to your life, those are things they don't teach you in college, or can learn on the job, or can purchase at Neiman Marcus. For my part, that's what I think this whole societal meltdown is teaching all of us, to focus on the things that really matter in life. Seen in its best light, that's what the meaning of "Something New" is really all about.

Wakeup Sistas. The world you live in is a fantasy.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

The Obsidian vs. The Undiscovered Jew: Who's Plan To Save Smart White Folks Is Better?

Obsidian · 2 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

On Dec 28, 2009, Prime, of the Beta Revolution blog found on WordPress.com, says the following about your humble scribe:

"Not that the opinions of Negroes matter much in the long run (joke), but Obsidian's had some well-articulated postings of late, two of my favorite being:

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2009/12/24/what-have-atheists-ever-done-for-anybody/

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2009/12/21/lets-give-the-hbderseugenicists-what-they-want-a-thought-experiment/

I actually read through the entirety of the comments on each and was both dismayed and mayed, mayed by the atheists and dismayed by the HBDers (who I now like to call biorealists , myself being one) who weren't really up to answering Obsidian's very incisive remarks. I think I can, however, but it will take some "unpacking" as the postmodernist, hippy, enviro-librl, queermo professors of humanities like to put it."

Yea, tell me about it-I've been waiting like, forever, for OneSTDV and the HBD Crowd to get back to me on my rather novel idea. For his part, One says the following in the comments:

"ember 2009 at 5:39 pm

@ mike:

I also enjoy his "you're a white nerd who can't get laid".

The guy is an absolute clown and possibly the most dishonest debater I've ever encountered, which includes young-earth creationists. Not to mention he's incredibly childish. What grown man stoops to 5th grade insults when discussing politics?!"

Somehow, I get a distinct sense of irony there; consider the source, hmm?

Speaking of OneSTDV, over the past month or so, he's been featuring HBD commenter and guest blogger The Undiscovered Jew and his thoughts on the problem of what he terms "Smart Fraction Fertility". Recently he proposed bringing the latest cutting edge in medical science and technology to bear on the problem; since smarter White Women tend to have kids later, simply make it so the eggs stay fresher longer, as well as making it so a Woman can successfully withstand the birth process well into her 40s and beyond on the regular.

From what I've read thus far at One's place, it doesn't seem that his "solution" was all that warmly received. Hmm.

At any rate, this is what I said over at Prime's Beta Revolution blog, in the comments; I compare both my plan and TUJ's-which is the better, sounder plan, and why?

"Hello Prime,
It's nice to see you and others duck and dodge my central point-that not only are the "Biorealist" crowd hypocrites, but they refuse to deal with the central theme in all of this-which is the idea of American Freedom and Invidualism.

Let me explain.

The HBD crowd says, that all problems will be solved if only those NAMs stopped breeding. Now, as FeministX noted on my blog when I first posted my bid to give you guys what you want, that in truth the overall Black birthrate has fallen quite considerably, due in the main to widespread availability of abortions-something one would think HBDers like you and OneSTDV would be cheering about. According to stats on the subject, the current Black birthrate closely mirrors that of most Whites in America, about 2 kids or so, on average. And this rate falls the

more education the Black couple, especially the Woman, has (sounds familiar to TUJ's "fertility extension argument").

Not only that, but Welfare Reform has been proven to be a huge success, in large part because it has put hard time limits that a person can be on it, which has an impact on them having kids, intentionally or otherwise. This again, actually helps the position of the HBD crowd-in truth, NAMs-Blacks anyway-are having fewer kids, accross the board. Welfare Reform and Abortion, have played a big role in this. It's documented.

But that's only one side of the equation-in order to raise the "smart fraction" of White births, we need to have some kind of incentives in order to convince smart White Women to have babies. Now, let's compare TUJ's recent "fertility extension" scheme, to my modern day Deliberate Eugenics Program. We'll do mine first:

The USA gov't announces that it will pay for the full tuition, medical and daycare costs, for any White Woman (Jews would be excluded) between the age of 18 and 25 who passed the IQ test with a score of 120 or above, to any Ivy or Big State university of her choice, provided she agreed to be fixed up with the highest IQ White Males on each campus. This would be arranged by the Admissions Officers, who would in essence the University Match Makers. The White Males would only be selected from the Hard Sciences Departments of each school-Computer Science, Astrophysics, Mechanical Engineering, that sort of thing. NO Humanities guys allowed. This will ensure that these guys get laid, and fixed up with gals who come from similar backgrounds etc as well.

In exchange for full tuition etc, the Women agree to mate with the Men selected for them, and birth no less than three kids each, by or before they hit 30 years of age. In my scheme, age is the key, because as we all know, Women in general, and White Women in particular, really have a tough time of it on average, safely having babies at this age. We want to ensure minimal defects and complications, so we need to get em young, which is how you White guys like em anyway.

Now, in TUJ's scheme, high-tech is called to solve the problem-it not only will harvest "fresh" eggs and freeze them for storage to be used at a later date, but medical science will also extend the life quality of a Woman's childbearing age well into her 40s, 50s, or even beyond. Moreover, in addition to having babies safely at significantly older ages, gov't incentives like lower income taxes, reduced loan fees and daycare assistance could be offered as well. In this way, TUJ asserts, the Smart Fraction Whites will just naturally gravitate toward having the kids on their own-they simply need the technology and tax incentives to clear the lane.

OK, now…

Both plans present some very interesting problems. Let's take mine first.

Now, my program can definitely work-afterall, if a kind of coercsive plan can be brought to bear on NAMs to lower their birthrate, surely the same can be done in reverse on the Right End of the Bell Curve to raise the Smart White birthrate-but here's the trick. For HBers, since NAMs are dumber and need guidance anyway, basically "telling" then what to do is OK; that sort of thing doesn't really fly with them personally because, hey, they're *smarter*. See? They can figure it all out once the NAMs are outta the way.

OK, but here's the thing-how many smart White Women, would actually go along with my plan-even when they have guarantees from the US gov't that their education will be paid for, all the way through to PhD level? Answer-not many. Why? Because to this very same cohort of Women, Reproductive Rights are seen as sacrosanct, and my plan would in essence, piss on that, but it would bring the Smart White birthrate up. Bottomline: White Women simply don't care about having babies that bad, they want to screw, get cushy jobs and enjoy a SATC lifestyle, at least for a little while. And they definitely ain't going for their Admissions Officer fixing them up with goofy, socially inept and clueless Jeremy, who's weird and nerdified. By and large, Women don't care if you have an IQ that rivals Steve Hawking's-thats something only other nerdy White guys care about, in the main.

Now on TUJ's side, there are problems there, too. Even assuming that all that he proposes could work, there's still the little problem of how many White guys are gung ho for doing the deed to a 40 or 50 year old White Cougar. If

what we can see online in terms of porn, Game and the like are any indication, no White guy with options is gonna wanna do that. So that's one thing.

The other is, how many White Women would opt to have say, 3 kids, starting in her late 30s? Even if she could so safely, and even if she could find a Man or Men who'd be willing to be Daddy, knock her up, etc, there's still the issue of dealing with those kids as they grow up-and as Meep over at One's blog tried to explain to the childless TUJ, it's no small feat for a Woman in her upper 30s and beyond to deal with small kids. Something tells me that at best, most Women who make use of this high tech will be a one and done deal.

In the end, as I've tried to tell OneSTDV before, Nature has its tradeoffs. For the Smart White folks, it means a decreased fertility, no matter how you slice it. The guys aren't deemed sexy by the gals, and the gals have better things to do than making like Alice Kramden or Mrs. Brady or June Cleaver. Hence, bringing down the NAM birthrate, at least as far as Blacks are concerned, is only really a smokescreen, high cognitive way of scapegoating, because again, the facts simply don't square with what the HBD crowd's saying. In the end, Smart White People are literally, dying out.

And they've no one to blame, but themselves, for that.

But if anyone out there thinks they can give a reasoned response, by all means, holla back

The Obsidian"

Indeed-holla back!

The Obsidian

Obsidian Archives: A Point For Point Response To Mr. Feldman

Obsidian · 3 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since Dragnet and others have asked me to cull the Roissy archives for my previous posts there, and since it's something I've been wanting to do for sometime myself, I thought it would be a good time to start. The following is a point for point response by me to a Mr. Feldman, an op/ed writer Roissy featured on his blog Sep 1, 2009, under the post heading "Good News":

"Roissy, thank you for posting up Mr. Feldman's op/ed piece. And while I deeply appreciate the comments, I noticed that no one really refuted Mr. Feldman's claims in point for point fashion. Since Game is indeed gaining ground worldwide, I felt it necessary to do my part to clear the air (and it serves as a good chance for me to keep my Game analytical skills sharp) by responding, point for point, to Mr. Feldman's comments:

FELDMAN: Ladies, if a guy ever comes up to you and starts doing magic tricks, resist being impressed. It will be a struggle, but if you can overcome your hard wired instincts to get aroused by the "guess which number I'm thinking" game, you will have struck a victory for women's empowerment.

OBSIDIAN: Mr. Feldman's tossed several things on the table here, so let's begin at the Beginning: what, exactly, is "Game"? It is a proven, codified body of knowledge, concepts and behaviors, designed to win the *sexual attraction* of a Woman. This is the basis of ALL Male to Female interaction, and has no "moral compass" in and of itself, nor is it an end unto itself-it is merely a means. It is completely up to the Man in question to determine how he will use this highly effective tool-he can be a Libertine, a devoted husband, a good boyfriend. He can use Game to attract just one Woman, or a truckload. The choice, is totally up to him-and therein lay Game's greatest strength, for it gives a Man options-sexual options, from which all other aspects of Male-Female relationships flow.

Now, having said that, what Mr. Feldman refers to above are elements of what is perhaps at this point the biggest and/or widest known "school" of Game/Pickup called the Mystery Method, named after its creator, Mystery, who was indeed a magician. Mystery's system teaches not only how to approach a Woman, but more importantly, how to approach a group of Women, since per the MM, the hotter the Woman, the greater chance she is likely to be among other Women. This is because Women are inherently more socially aware and sensitive than most Men walking around. Moreover, the magic tricks and the like are what are called "Demonstrations of Higher Value"-ways to show your social worth and dominance over not only other Men in the immediate area, but over your intended "Target" and her friends. The reason why this is necessary is because Women are also hardwired to want to partner up w/a Man who has shown that he has more social dominance than everyone else in the area.

F: If after reading that, you suddenly feel attracted to me, don't worry. I just ran game on you.

O: It has been shown and proven that Women do indeed enjoy such things done over the course of an approach; some refer to these things as "Chick Crack". And they are quite powerful lures in one's Pickup Arsenal.

F: What the hell am I talking about? I am talking about "the pickup." In matters of love we've all struck lucky once or twice. If that's not enough for you, there are self-help books to help you strike lucky every single time. Written by Pick-Up Artists, they reveal the secrets of love. Specifically, there are things you can do to a girl that will instantly make her attracted to you. What kind of things, you might be wondering?

O: The very use of the term "lucky", as in "getting lucky", has ALWAYS been applied to MALES in the Courtship process. It not only reflects the evolutionary truth of the inherent difficulty of the Male to get laid, but it also speaks to the millennia-long "mystery" that was figuring out exactly what did and did not work when it came to successfully bedding Women. Game has finally taken the guesswork out of the process. No more "getting lucky". A Man can indeed get laid and more, if he wants, with the Woman or Women, he wants. That's what the various products and services pro PUAs provide to those who want them.

F: Magic tricks. Palm reading. Handwriting analysis. If you're feeling lonely at 3 a.m. on a Friday night, grab a pen

and some paper and head for the nearest club. Girls love to hear truisms about their handwriting while they're dancing.

O: Again, all of the aforemention is considered "Chick Crack" and are also considered "DHVs" as well. See above.

F: Yes, this is ridiculous. The first step in the program is to create an "avatar" for yourself. I don't even need to stretch my brain to make fun of these tools. Of course it doesn't work. Of course it's a scam. It's a scam because a Pick-Up seminar costs several thousand dollars to attend. And to someone who has no social skills to begin with, being told that palm reading is a great way to introduce yourself to people might shatter an already fragile psyche.

O: Yes, that's true, if said person is "intructed" in the way you describe. However, and this is someone who's attended a few seminars personally, I can say that's not what goes on at such gatherings, nor was that what Neil "Style" Strauss himself said at his very first meeting with Mystery in his NYT bestselling book The Game.

But yes, choosing a "seduction name" is often the natural course of events once one has dedicated himself to learning and applying pickup. However, such names aren't always chosen by the person himself-often a name can be given to him, based on certain traits or actions on his part. Style for example, was given that name by Mystery; my own seduction name, "Obsidian", was given to me by an observer who likened what he thought was my smooth style and laidback ways to the volcanic mineral substance itself. Personally, I think of seduction names in the same way that I think of the pilots in Top Gun, who all have "call signs": Maverick, Goose, Iceman-its fun and not that deep, really.

F: There is a show on VH1 called The Pick-Up Artist. It is hosted by the greatest PUA in the entire world, "Mystery." According to pickup lore, every pickup trainee must pick a unique name. I believe it's so their mothers never find out their children grew up they way they did. They believe it's for intrigue.

O: Sometimes, anonymity has its advantages. And yes, Women DO love intrigue. Can't say much about the VH1 show, though. Never seen it. Not much of a tv watcher, I'm afraid.

F: Maybe you want to try it out for yourself. Are you a freshman? Does hooking up with a blacked out sorority girl present a major challenge to you? You need to develop some game. There are a few central tenants you must follow.

O: It must be noted that college freshman aren't the only ones signing up for Game classes; it cuts accross all walks of life, and it is not unusual to see manjor business leaders, officials in local and federal gov't, etc to be among the participants in a seminar.

F: 1. Never, ever, be friends with a girl. You want to avoid the "friends zone." You want to be in the "no-friends zone." Have no friends.

O: This is because being "LJBF'd" (Let's Just Be Friends) by a Woman is the de facto end of your chances to get with her sexually. Game is about winning the *sexual attraction* of the female. Once a Woman considers you a "friend" you are out of the running, and it is next to impossible to get out of said Friend Zone. Game teaches ways and methods to effectively put accross the message that you as a Man has a sexual interest in a Woman, and how to "escalate" from there.

F: 2. Dress flamboyantly. This is called "peacocking." It adds to your intrigue if you are, for example, wearing a top hat. You always want to keep girls guessing whether that lacy black button-down is yours or your boyfriend's.

O: Yes, "Peacocking" is based on Mystery's in-field testing and research, rooted in Nature, where the Males display, and the Females choose. For humans, it means that in order for the Male to be successful, he must stand out in some way from all the other Males in order to win the attention of the Female. Peacocking, the wearing of eyecatching clothing, is one way to do that.

F: 3. Play hard to get. If a woman ever approaches you, ignore her completely. This is the only way to win her respect. And whatever you do, don't ever go all the way. If you want to get laid, getting laid is the worst thing you

could do for yourself.

O: I am not familiar with the teaching that “not going all the way” is the surest bet to get laid. That said, I’m not against it either, as I am not personally a fan of “SNLs”, or Same Night Lays. Nevertheless, what yove spoken to above is what is known as Supplication-a Male being overly gracious, politie or paying attention to the Female. This is considered a Demonstration of Lower Value, and a sexual buzzkill for most Women. This is why Game teaches to avoid “supplicating” oneself to a Woman, especially early on in the courtship dance.

F: 4. Be a douchebag. Making fun of things proves you are a man of greater value. Wait a minute …

O: “Asshole Game” is predicated on the notion that high value Males have little need or indeed, awareness of, observing the niceties of everyday life, because they are, well, high value Males. People defer to them, not the other way around. And often, brusque Males tend to get farther with Women than mild mannered, Clark Kent-types.

F: Basically, abandon everything that came naturally to you. If you currently walk on the side of the curb, as gentlemanly standards suggest, stop. Next time, push the girl you like into traffic, to show how little you really care.

O: Again, I am not familiar with the teaching of Game that says to do this, and in any event, I have and continue to be gentlemanly with no dropoff in my Game whatsoever; if anything it exponentially increased once I had a firm grasp of the underlying principles of Game. As noted above, there is a big difference between being a gentleman, and supplicating oneself. Game showed me the difference.

F: PUAs would argue that learning these pickup techniques advances you as a human being, if nothing else. If you have trouble meeting girls, you can at least gain confidence using these techniques to meet new people. Can the advice in these training materials really help you grow? To quote the TV show, “Never let the window to ‘sexualize’ it go out the door.” Take that and put it in your self-help book.

O: This is exactly what Style himself says in his book The Game, and I can personally back him up on this. A big part of a Man’s life lies in the sexual area. A confidant Man is almost invariably one who gets laid. A lot.

The Obsidian”

Comment & reply, invited!

Holla back

The Obsidian

An Open Letter To Denise Romano, MA, EdM (A MAJOR Corrective To Her Views On Game, & Other Issues...)

Obsidian · 4 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

An Open Letter To Denise Romano, MA, EdM (A MAJOR Corrective To Her Views On Game, & Other Issues…)

Perhaps as a result of the Internet, among other things, Game and what was once a "secret society of Pick Up Artists" has gotten the attention-and ire, it seems-of quite a few Women bloggers, some of whom seem intent on tearing the House that Mystery & Style have built to the ground. This, I find to be disturbing on a whole host of levels, but perhaps the most disturbing, is the fact that oh so often, these "crusaders" are so misguided, if not misinformed, not only about Game itself, its key thinkers and writers, but most sadly, about where they're getting their source information from.

In the few months that my blog, The Obsidian Files has been in existence, I've run across several Women who all have key things in common:

1. They're all bloggers of varying stripe
2. They all have deep issues with regard to Game
3. But they haven't read the key source material, and almost always use, as their "primary" source info, Roissy in DC, or blogsites like it (such as say, Tucker Max, in the case of Ms. Susan Walsh of Hooking Up Smart.com)

Keep in mind here-all of the Women I'm talking about would be, in the minds of the average person, highly educated, even accomplished people; Ms. Walsh for example, boasts an MBA from the Wharton Business School of UPenn; Ms. Romano has multiple degrees from Columbia U. Yet, the level of reasoning, and simple investigative research into the basic of issues surrounding Game by these and other Women is, I have to say, a slap in the face to all that the Academy stands for. I am NOT arguing that these or any other Woman has to AGREE with Game, but rather, to merely be educated on its basic premise and methodology, as propounded by its creators and key thinkers themselves. I've written in some detail previously here at TOF, about this very disturbing tendency on the part of quite a few ladies I encounter in my Internet travels.

So, with all that said, enter one Ms. Denise Romano, a certified psychologist who specializes in spousal abuse and the like. Apparently, she got wind of my back and forth epic struggle with Lady Raine, yet another Woman blogger she can't get the bee out of her bonnet that is Roissy, despite her multiple goes at the Man, and which I have extensively written about. Like Romano and Walsh, she too has minimal understanding, at best of what Game exactly is, but worse that the former two, she has flatly refused to at least read some of the widely recognized and accept sources of information on the Game, such as Style's book The Game, and Mystery's The Mystery Method, dismissing both as the fodder of snake oil salesmen and reality tv show stars. To be honest, I have never encountered such an individual in debate. I suppose the old saw is true, that there's a first time for everything.

Ms. Romano's comments over at Lady Raine's struck me as a bit odd, considering the string of letters following her name; perhaps I do give such people a bit too much credit, because I have always been taught that such individuals are by definition, people who attempt to live by Reason, Logic and at least some understanding of and application of, the Scientific Method. It would appear, that I was wrong.

For not only has Ms. Romano made what I consider to be comments inconsistent with the core meaning of the letters that follows her name, but her more "fleshed out" commentary on the matter of Game, PUAs and Seduction, which can be found on the Aug 1 2009 entry at her blog eqwithdenise.wordpress.com only gave me more dread-how can such a highly educated and credentialed human being say such outrageous things?

The post referred to above by Ms. Romano is quite lengthy-even for me(!)-and I would highly recommend anyone so inclined to read it to be sure they have an hour or two to kill before settling in to take it up. In it, she lays at the feet of Game and PUAs, charges of patent abuse of Women, and even goes so far as to lump in Neil "Style"

Strauss, with OJ Simpson, Mike Tyson, and Scott Peterson. Yes, that's right-Ms. Romano, Columbia U grad twice over, has made such an outrageous remark. Outrageous because it is ridiculous on its face-all of the other Men she's mentioned are convicted felons, and in the case of Simpson, we know, for a fact, that he was indeed abusive towards his then-wife, Mrs. Nicole Brown-Simpson. There is no such convictions, or for that matter, charges, against Style; moreover, given that the Man has written, to date, no less than two memoirs on his life in the Game/PUA community, one would think that by now, if he wasn't on the up and up, quite a few Women-at least one-would have come forward. To date, not a peep from the Sisterhood. That's gotta say something. To me, it says that they're quite satisfied with what Mr. Strauss has had to say.

Speaking of Style, it should also be said, that he goes out of his way in BOTH of his books, to warn Men about the very real Dark Sides of Game; in fact, I attribute a goodly bit of my own "style" to Style, not just in a stylistic sense, but in a moral one, too. No one reading his books can say, with a straightface, that he comes off or sounds anything like the Tom Cruise, Ron Jeffries-inspired, and truly disturbed and sleazy character seen in the film "Magnolia". Style is very careful to chronicle the pitfalls of Game, and I for one am very glad that he did so; of all the many books, dvds and the like out there on the topic, I maintain that his is the most honest-often painfully, brutally so-of the entire genre. He gives Game a human face.

So for Ms. Romano to suggest that Mr. Strauss is in any way akin to Mr. Simpson, Mr. Tyson or Mr. Peterson, it only goes to show how far our educational institutions have fallen; such sentiments are to be expected from the Great Unwashed; its akin to heresy when academics like Ms. Romano does it.

Secondly, her assertions about the methods, techniques and the like within the Game community being deceptive and the like are also laughable, because it just goes to show the degree to which her ignorance of Game truly is. So, once again, unto the breach I go dear friends, to give a quick primer on what Game is, and how it operates:

Game (noun, verb): A corpus of knowledge, and series of behaviors, designed to win the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of the Female. PERIOD. The act of employing Game is often referred to as "running Game" or "Gaming". It is a mating strategy, and ALL living things found on the Earth has one, if not several. Game, is simply a mating strategy for Human Males to use. Game draws its knowledge from the insights gleaned from Evolutionary Psychology, itself considered by some a controversial corner of the Psychology world; PUAs (or "Gamers" if you will) study not only Game-specific materials, but also the work of noted Evolutionary Psychologists, like David Buss, Mat Ridley, and Steven Pinker. In addition, Gamesmen (my preferred term) study the great works of literature on the topic of romance, seduction and Human Sexuality, such as The Story of O, the compendium written by Robert Greene The Art Of Seduction, My Secret Life and others. Many of its core tenets may seem bizarre or counterintuitive to the uninitiated or otherwise untrained eye; but to those well-practiced in the Game, they know well the efficacy of its use and practical results.

Game can also be said to be an "applied science" in the sense that it relies heavily on trial and error, after periods of intense and lengthy observation. Field reports, detailed accounts of actual, realtime interactions with Women are a staple of Game practice, and much of what is viewed today as the core tenets of Game came from said practice. It remains perhaps the singlemost valuable aspect of Game today.

Moreover, Game is NOT in itself moral or immoral; in fact, Game is AMORAL, and it is left solely to the practitioner as to how he will use it. This is where methods such as the use of what is known as NLP-and forms the backbone of the Ross Jeffries school of Seduction or Game-comes in, because it uses considerable degrees of hypnosis in its methods. Does it work? I've seen it in action and can say, YES, it does work. But then we are left with the moral implications of such a strategem; is it RIGHT to do it? I say NO, and I am not alone. It is unclear if Mystery himself is cool with NLP, but what is clear, that his school of thought does not include or incorporate NLP in any way; instead his school of thought deals with what has become known as Social Dynamics, how people interact with each other within the context of group activity.

Again: Game is amoral. In and of itself, there is no "right" or "wrong" way to get a Woman into bed with you. The only one to determine ultimately if something is good or bad, is the practitioner himself. In this regard, I view

Game in the same light as Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince-a practical and pragmatic, how-to guide to gaining political power and keeping it. It doesn't concern itself with the moral or ethical implications of Statecraft; it is left to the "Prince" to decide for himself which way to go.

Furthermore, Game is NOT relegated to the niteclub, bar or lounge, although it certainly can be used in such environments; Game can be applied to a whole host of situations and scenarios, from the boardroom and shopfloor, to the local taproom or formal events. Basically, ANYWHERE Men and Women get together, there will you also find GAME. Additionally, the idea that Game is designed only as a short term mating strategy is immensely misinformed and shortsighted-Game can be applied to both, a one night stand, and to a marriage, or anything in between. Game can be used to win the affection of one Woman, or a thousand. Nor does one with Game have to actually bed any Woman AT ALL-all of these things are purely up to the Man in question, as to which way he will go. And that, is the true Power of Game-it gives a Man options.

That so many Women are so very concerned about the blatherings of weird guys with funny names in our time-a time where Women enjoy an unprecedented level of advance, freedom, opportunity and largesse-is proof if there ever was any, that Game does indeed WORK. The very fact that Women from Lady Raine to Susan Walsh and now Denise Romano, make such a stink about it all, is again proof positive, that despite all the protestations and denunciations and denials to the contrary, that Game is indeed, highly effective. Understandbly then, they would be concerned about the way in which it is applied by its practitioners, and to what ends.

It is important for these ladies to understand that, like any discipline or field of endeavor, there will invariably be many approaches, understandings and stances by many corners of said community; it is not at all unusual to find multiple, seemingly conflicting interpretations of things such as, say, the "Neg" is and how it is to be applied. For example, some say that Negs are indispensable to any seduction; others argue that it plays at best, a tangential role. Some say that Negs are to be employed in "carpet bombing" fashion regardless as to the Target is, others say that Negs should be "calibrated' for use depending on how "hot" the Target is-the hotter she is, the more you Neg her. Those who attempt to diminish the whole of Game, are akin to those who attempt to diminish the whole of ANY field of endeavor, because within each one is bound to find differing takes on core or key tenets and ideas or principles. Such critics shouldn't see this as a weakness or failing of Game, but indeed a strength, just as we would say, Psychology, and its many differing takes and "squabbles", LOL. Viva La Difference, indeed!

Now-with all the above being said and laidout-it is also important to let Ms. Romano and every other person, Male or Female, reading this, know that YES, there are what I consider to be "Dark Forces" in the Game; who twist and pervert it to their own ends, and has the potential to really damage many lives with their "Black" Arts. For my part, I and others whom I consider good friends, do what we can to act as a kind of check on said behaviors, by speaking out against them and their kind. For example, I liken NLP to Sith Magic, effective and highly seductive, but deeply morally unethical and potentially soul-killing, for both parties involved. While I respect Tyler Durden's knowledge of Game, I refuse to use much of what he's gleaned, because I so thoroughly disagree with his philosophical stances and just overall "vibe". He creeps me out, quite frankly. And, as much as I respect Roissy's deep knowledge of Game, I also deeply disagree with his application of same in many instances, as well as the overall vibe of his "house"-which explains why few if any people have seen me posting there after my own blog launched, nearly three months ago.

While I'm on the topic of Roissy, let me also say, that in many ways, his presence on the Internet is both a triumph and a curse. He is a triumph in the sense that Game has real utility and, quite frankly, power, to change things. His promotion of Game has touched many lives, mine included, and I would to think, at least in my case, for the better.

But he is also a curse, in the sense that because of the way in which he blends his personal views on many topics in with Game itself, people on the outside looking in get the impression that HIS TAKE ON GAME IS "THE" TAKE ON GAME, and that's where they would be sorely mistaken-but by then, the damage is done. Women, such as Lady Raine, Susan Walsh and Denise Romano, are convinced, based on Roissy and a few others like him, that Game is no good, that it is inherently misogynistic, and that it is also deliberately deceptive and manipulative. That Roissy

attracts so much attention to Game on the one had, yet so much negative publicity for it on the other, is truly sad. It's sad because Game itself has a much harder time getting a fair hearing. I've taken it on as my own personal mission to do what I can to present Game in its best light, since it's been so good to me in meeting my goals in life. The record clearly shows me not only speaking out against what I consider "Sith" applications of Game no matter who does it, but I have also opposed Roissy himself publicly on a host of issues, both on his actual blog and here at my own, and will do so again if the need arises. Let me be clear here: Roissy's understanding of Game information is not and cannot be in dispute; it is his application of Game, his undergirding philosophy, that IS in dispute, and that which I take deep issue with. This is the key distinction that I think is lost on many of his critics, many of whom refuse to properly acquaint themselves with key Game source materials, most notably Style's works.

I would also like to address Ms. Romano's charges that to be a Gamesman is to be an abuser-something I take great umbrage with, for a number of reasons. First, depsite the presence of Men like Roissy, there has been no reports of Women being abused, and by that I mean, physically abused by PUAs. By the way, Roissy does NOT consider himself a PUA, he's said so himself. Just wanted to be clear on that point. Moreover, as one who has put his livelihood and very life on the line to protect Women from abuse, I find Ms. Romano's slinging out the term "abuse" to BE abusive, and a most disturbing trend in the popular culture of late-merely call anything you have a personal issue with or otherwise don't like, "abusive", "misogynistic", "racist", "homophobic" and so on. Such abuses of truly powerful terms cheapens their meaning, makes REAL instances of such abuses seem trivial, and makes the whole exercise a joke and a laughingstock, while at the same time throwing the true victims of such practices under the bus. One would think that a Woman of Ms. Romano's statue would be a bit more deliberative with her language, especially the written word.

I also find it most interesting-aw heck, I'm just gonna call it what it is-hypocritical-of Ms. Romano to, on the one hand, deride those in the Game community who sell their wares to customers as snakeoil salesmen, to then turn around and implore Men to instead spend some $250 on "NVC" training. Mind you, I'm not yet in a position to say whether NVC is worth its weight in gold or lead-just that I find it interesting that she wants to shut down one aspect of commerce in favor of another. Hmm.

Then there's Ms. Romano's seeming indifference, or intellectual dishonesty when it comes to the full range of "abuse", indeed violence. Her Aug 1 2009 post was terribly one-sided in its view of the situation: Women are victims, Men victimizers. And while no one would deny that Woman are indeed abused and victimized, it seems incredibly hard for Women to even acknowledge that the same can happen to Men, too-even when the stats back this up. For more on the spousal abuse side of it, please see such authorities on the matter as Glenn Sacks, a Men's Rights Advocate who has long been known to have his facts straight, just to name but one person in the fight. According to him, nearly half of ALL domestic partner violence, was initiated by the Woman. And, as if to bring heaven sent proof of this fact, we need no other than one Mr. Tiger Woods, who, on Thanksgiving Day, was clocked upside the head with one of his own golf clubs by his wife, Mrs. Elin Woods. To be sure, no one I personally know-and definitely not me personally-defends Mr. Woods actions. But that doesn't give Ms. Elin Woods the right to physically abuse her husband.

Now, where is the intellectual consistency on Ms. Romano's part here? Hmm? To ask the question is to answer it. If she can take time out of her schedule to write a lengthy hit piece on Game and PUAs and MRAs, if she can find time to log her comments in to Lady Raine's blog about same, then why can't she find the time to speak out against what Elin Woods did? Hmm? And why is that NO MAJOR FEMINIST WEBSITE TO DATE, has done so either? If anything, it's the exact opposite, a kind of "You Go Girl!" sentiment, not tacitly expressed, by EXPLICITY expressed. If Ms. Romano is truly interested in the fairness she exhorts PUAs to exhibit with regard to Men and Women, one would think she could start in her own backyard. Afterall, charity, begins at home.

What about Mary Winkler-who shot her hubbie in the back with a shotgun, while he was sleeping? The only "proof" we have that she was "abused" comes from Mrs. Winkler herself-there was no independent record of spousal abuse on Rev. Winkler's part, and to add insult to injury, Mrs. Winkler was even feted on Oprah-white platform shoes and all-to tell her story. No one was there to speak for Rev. Winkler. Dead Men tell no tales.

I saw no such denunciation of Mrs Winkler on Ms. Romano's or quite frankly, any other Woman's site who claims to care about "domestic abuse". Seems that they care about it only when it involves Women-on the receiving end.

Last month, in specific response to my lady readers, I put up a post taking up the question as to whether Game was inherently deceptive and manipulative. Without exception, excuse or apology, I said that YES, Game can indeed be used this way, that there is a contingent of the Game community who does this, and that I neither condoned or endorsed it, nor did I want to be associated with anyone who was known to be engaging in such activity. Then I asked the Women who claimed to be so concerned about the ethics of the Men in the Game community, about the many deeply deceptive and manipulative things Women do, and have done, for YEARS. I invite Ms. Romano or anyone else reading this open letter to see my post for themselves, it's in the Dec 2009 archive and very easy to find. The replies I got back from the majority of Women-notable exceptions aside-were in a word, ming boggling. Some actually wanted to justify the actions I pointed ouit that Women did; others wanted to actually put up for debate, other things Women have long done that was at the least a misrepresentation of herself, if not out and out deceit. Finally, in a followup post I put up directed at the ladies of my forum, also found in the Dec 2009 archives, I questioned them as to why we never see those issues addressed on so many Women's blogs and websites. The responses were again, in a word, mind-boggling-if not quite deceitful in themselves.

It all adds up to a feeling on the part of many Men, of a very real double-standard-Women want Men to be held accountable, but they don't want to be held accountable themselves. Women have no problem using every advantage they can get out there on the Mating Grounds, but deplore anything that might help Men get an advantage, too. Women want Men to speak out against their own who do wrong, but Women can never seem to be found when time comes to speak out against a Elin Woods, a Mary Winkler, a Crystal Gale Mangum, to say nothing about the many scores of Women who take advantage of Men every way till the next Xmas. Women want Men to take the high road, but don't seem to have trouble at the very least, condoning the low behavior of so many of their "sisters".

That Ms. Romano makes outrageous claims against Game, indicts someone like Style and lumps him in with known and documented spousal abusers, rapists and murderers, asserts that ALL PUAs are "abusers of Women" and then falls completely silent on the well known and publicized events of clear, present and REAL abuse perpetrated by the Women above, someone who's LIFE WORK is to advocate for victims of violence and abuse, really says it all to me, and to any thinking, caring person who gives a damn about fairness, decency, and just plain ole getting the facts straight. If this is the best our Academy can do, it is little wonder we as a society are in the mess we're in afterall.

I'll say this in closing, and it behooves Women like Ms. Romano to listen close: your "war" against Roissy, Savoy and others, will not succeed. It won't because not only are your motives wrong, but so to are your own convictions. So long as Women like you refuse to remove the 2×4 out of your own eyes before you go to plunking spliters out of the eyes of Men like Roissy and Savoy, your efforts will fall flat on its face. More and more Men aren't flocking to these guys for nothing, Ms. Romano-there's a "there" there. And so long as you and others like you refuse to address the root causes of why the Roissys exist in the first place, all you'll be doing is standing in the middle of a sinking boat, trying to prevent it from going under by tossing overboard bucketfuls of water.

That's it. If you want to talk, you know where to find me.

Thanks for listening.

The Obsidian
The Obsidian

Speaking Of Thugtician...

Obsidian · 8 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

While we're all patiently waiting for Ms. Denise Romano's reply to my recent Open Letter addressed to her (and which also appeared at The Spearhead earlier this week), I'd thought to post a few thoughts about, and invite you, my esteemed readers, to checkout, a Gentleman by name of Thugtician, a video blogger who's missives grace sites such as YouTube and DailyMotion.com.

I got wind of Thugtician by, of all people, "Desi FPUA" aka Bag Lady, a frequent and sometimes troublesome commenter here and elsewhere online. She's been asking of of late to give him a listen, and I have to say, that I was impressed with what I heard, after finally being able to wind down a bit and check his "vlogs" out.

Thugtician is apparently a Black Brit from the United Kingdom, and has quite a bit to say about what he considers the "War On Men". He's an impassioned Men's Right's Advocate, who also takes shots at his ideological brothers from another mother, fellow Black folks, and especially, Black Women. Frequent readers here at The Obsidian Files know well that while I love my Sistas, I pull no punches in telling them about themselves either, so to hear this Brotha from across the pond basically address many of the same issues I did brought a smile to my face.

Thugtician's well spoken, reasoned, articulate and is a formidable debator-I've seen several responses on YouTube by Sistas, and I have to say, that what Ferdinand Bardamu recently said about why Women in aggregate aren't particularly suited for rigorous debate may indeed have some merit. Give him a listen-this post is devoted to your thoughts and impressions on the Brotha.

Comments and replies, welcome!

Now adjourn your arses…

The Obsidian

A Most EXCELLENT Realtime Example Of GAME In Action…

Obsidian · 10 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

A Most EXCELLENT Realtime Example Of GAME In Action…

While we're STILL patiently waiting for Ms. Denise Romano, MA, EdM, to respond to last week's Open Letter, I thought the following from said comment thread would be of much interest to my esteemed readership. It's a Field Report from TOF member Dragnet.

Field Reports, to those who may not be aware, forms the backbone of Game, in that they are detailed, after the fact accounts of methods and techniques tried out "in the field" (bars, clubs, lounges or anywhere else Men and Women are known to congregate socially) by Gamesmen on/with Women, and their findings as to said methods/techniques effectiveness. Again, the following is Dragnet's FR, and I personally find it not only one of the tightest examples of Solid Game I've read yet, but one that very much mirrors my own particular style-low investment/high yield, minimum effort/maximum impact. Dragnet has asked me to go a bit more into my own "evolution" and "back story" wrt Game, as well as a bit into what my particular style is, and I intend to do that in the coming days, so stay tuned. But in the meantime, please allow yourself to savor this FR, and, more importantly, test your Game skills-see how many specific things that Dragnet did in his successful seduction of this High Level Target.

Enjoy! And Holla back…

The Obsidian

"A few years ago, I spent a Saturday night like I did most weekend evenings at that time—at bars or clubs with my friends. This time, a friend of mine brought along some new people— two guys and three girls who had just moved to area. The guys were nice enough but both had girlfriends and were unlikely to be a factor. Two of the girls were friendly enough…and one was absolutely gorgeous—easily a 9. We got on with our evening and I made it a point to meet and chat up the guys and other girls—but never her. I ran light Game on other girls in the club of similar attractiveness to her…but never her. Over the next three weeks we'd all get together and go out and I made it a point to completely ignore this fine young lass. I never told her so much as my name. I just let my social proof & pre-selection (lots of friends, obvious easy way with other women), and my physical attractiveness do the work…and kept delivering a constant, low-level neg in the form of my refusal to validate her. I would watch her in my peripheral vision and then position myself to be fairly proximate to her but never interacting with her. She could "look"—but no more.

Except this wasn't true—she had another option. She could approach . But she didn't, probably because she didn't approach men generally—she considered herself too attractive for that. In those weeks, she was getting approached by all manner of guys…but she clearly had some difficulty handling the fact that I wasn't validating her. One week, I eventually sidled up to the bar a few feet down from her to get a beer. She slid over as nonchalantly as she could and finally introduced herself. "Hello", I smiled—"You're really scraping the bottom of the barrel with that Bud Light". It was like an ocean of validation had washed over the neglected and barren drought of her bruised ego. She immediately began qualifying herself to me—and would not shut up. She mounted one or two shit tests, but they were so weak I just ignored them—I knew she was still in considerable turmoil from the sudden reversal of events. A little kino from me, and we were back at her place. We ended up seeing each for a few more months before it fizzled. She would later confide how unsettled she was by my initial disposition toward. To date, I regard this as one of my most clean & efficient seductions ever."

Roissy Returns (& A Warning To Lady Raine & Ms. Denise Romano...)

Obsidian · 11 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

After more than two weeks without a peep out of the Crimson Gamester, amid fears by his readership that the kibosh was put on him by an (unholy?) alliance of Lady Raine Ms. Denise Romano, Roissy did indeed return to his scribing duties today on his highly popular-and controversial-blogsite.

It would appear, that the reports of Roissy's demise, have been at least somewhat exaggerated.

I never thought I'd be in the position to defend the Man, but politics does indeed make strange bedfellows; and the past few weeks have been in many ways, an eye opener for me.

Before anyone out there tries to get my words all twisted, let me say, for the umpteenth time: there are many things that I vociferously disagree with Roissy about, and I've directly confronted him about them long before I began my own blog. Indeed, his archives will clearly show evidence of this fact. I've disagreed with many of his racial views, his views toward at least some Women, and his approaches towards Game itself, among other things.

Having said all that, I do respect his knowledge of Game, largely informed by the Mystery Method, and have found some of his writings along these lines to be insightful. Moreover, he is a very talented writer and blogger.

But the past few weeks' events have left me, to be quite frank, cold, and with a very bad taste in my mouth. I say that because of the way "the Roissy issue" was handled by Lady Raine and Ms. Romano-instead of seeking to engage Roissy like I and so many others have done, or, creating an alternative forum to express alternative ideas-again, like I've done here-they instead sought to have Roissy in DC, his blog, shutdown. Moreover, they also sought to have the Man himself arrested, fired from his job, and banished from polite society.

If today's post by Roissy himself is any indication, the ladies have failed, on all counts.

And rightly so-for while I vehemently disagree with much of what the Man says, in the words of Voltaire, I will fight to the death for his right to say it. If Roissy was indeed run off the Internet by those who oppose him, it would not be a "victory" but indeed a loss-a huge one. It would mean that I and everyone who has a blog or is thinking of starting one can be in the crosshairs, too, for merely saying something that people like Lady Raine and Ms. Romano disagree with. Sure, the rationale surrounding seeking Roissy's ouster sounds good: the apparent misogynistic commentary, the posting of purportedly underage girls on the site, and so on; but both these ladies have made it clear that their disagreements with Roissy extend far beyond his ruminations; indeed, both these ladies insist that the whole of the Seduction community itself should be done away with, for, in the words of Ms. Romano, "its inherently abusive" ways. This, I find to be akin to the "Red Scare" of the 1950s, lead by zealot Senator Joe McCarthy. One would think we would have learned something from those truly harrowing times. It appears, that once again my faith in Humanity's better nature, might have been a bit misplaced, if not a bit premature.

In my recent Open Letter to Ms. Romano, I called into question not only her motives, but more importantly, her methodology in her "crusade" against the Game community; I noted the utter lack of academic rigor, and lamented the absence of even the most rudimentary investigation into the matter to which she seems hellbent on eradicating. I made clear then, and I maintain now, that the very fact that she proceeds in the way she does, defiles the very letters behind her name, and the institution that granted them to her. She makes a mockery of the Academy's long history of protecting Freedom of Speech & Association, inquiry, investigation, debate & expression of UNPOPULAR ideas. She wants to shutdown Roissy and by extension the whole of the Seduction community, not because of proven acts of abuse and violence towards Women, but because it doesn't sit right with HER. And the scary thing about a Ms. Romano is, that because she has the power of the Academy behind her, and the status of her position as a "somebody" in polite society, she has the potential to do real and lasting damage-not just to Roissy, not just to the Seduction community, not just to the MRA community, but anyone who gets her ire, because she will be able to

find a way to fandangle the slippery slope definitions of “violence”, “abuse” and “hate groups” and use them as a cudgel against anyone she doesn’t like. And to my mind, that’s not only un-Academic, it’s decidedly and patently un-American, too.

I was taught that the way to deal with unpopular beliefs or ideas wasn’t to try to push them out of the public square, but to air them in the light of day, and to engage said ideas and their purveyors on their own merits; and through rigorous reason, logic, debate and deep Socratic questioning, determine if said ideas can indeed stand up to scrutiny. To date, Ms. Romano, nor Lady Raine and their acolytes, have done NONE OF THIS. Instead, they’ve stooped to the worst kinds of Logical Fallacies, Ad Hominem attacks and Solipsistic (soft) reasoning. It all comes off as something deeply personal, instead of a purely clinical interest, that animates these people, Ms. Romano especially.

I will have more-much, much more-to say about this and related issues, because, as an Archer, the ideals Freedom of Expression & Association, are so important to me that I’d glady give my life to defend them. But I’ll end with this warning to Lady Raine and Ms. Denise Romano, MA, EdM:

You will not win in your “war” with Roissy nor the Seduction or even MRA communities, no matter how hard you try, no matter how low you stoop to do so. The reason why you will not win is because what you’re doing is in direct contradiction with the ideals that have made our country the greatest ever known to Human Beings. It won’t work because the very nature of technology and the way it connects people of like mind, is such that it is impervious to efforts to stamp it out ala Marxist regimes. It won’t work because people-largely Men, but quiet as its kept a not insignificant number of Women too-are on to your act. They will not be intimidated by threats of “outing” or fake the funk witch hunts by the police and other authorities; nor will they be shamed by those who hold themselves out as holier than thou while revealing that they know next to nothing about the very subjects they seek to destroy. If you two really are serious about creating change for the better, you can start by actually boning up on the topics you take issue with, and then conducting actual clinical research that buttresses your arguments. Both of which, if what I’ve seen recently from the two of you is any indication, would be a good a great starting point indeed.

Your serve, Ladies. Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

The Cowardly Ms. Denise Romano, MA, EdM, (Finally!) Responds...

Obsidian · 12 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Esteemed readers of my humble blogsite, The Obsidian Files, will know well my Open Letter to Ms. Romano, a Columbia U educated "Love/Life Coach" who's stock and trade seems to be what is known as "EI" and "NVC". You'll recall that I have specifically addressed the concerns as they relate to the PUA/Game communities, per her Aug 1 2009 post on her blog, EQ With Denise. She's finally responded! And below you can judge for yourself, whether she has the intellectual chops to go twelve rounds with me, LOL.

I'll respond to her assinine, er, erudite response in the body of the comments. I also invite comment and reply from the forum! Oh, her reply was posted on Lady Raine's blog, today:

"More specific response to "The Obsidian"'s Open Letter:

"*1. They're all bloggers of varying stripe"*

The above statement is one of the few things you've said that is actually true).

"2. They all have deep issues with regard to Game"

The issues we have with Game are not "deep" but are legitimate.

"3. But they haven't read the key source material, and almost always use, as their "primary" source info, Roissy in DC, or blogsites like it (such as say, Tucker Max, in the case of Ms. Susan Walsh of Hooking Up Smart.com)"

Again, you make statements that are untrue and misinformed. Lady Raine and I have BOTH quoted from primary sources (which you don't need to put in quotes by the way).

"Yet, the level of reasoning, and simple investigative research into the basic of issues surrounding Game by these and other Women is, I have to say, a slap in the face to all that the Academy stands for."

Again, you express an uninformed opinion that ignores what we have already put forth. I am weary from repeating myself to you. Perhaps you should reread the entire thread on Lady Raine's blog and the threads on my blog as well to remind yourself of what is true.

"I am NOT arguing that these or any other Woman has to AGREE with Game, but rather, to merely be educated on its basic premise and methodology, as propounded by its creators and key thinkers themselves."

We ARE educated on its basic premise and methodology; it's not rocket science. We've made this clear in all of our blog posts. I'm beginning to think you have severely deficient reading comprehension skills.

"Apparently, she got wind of my back and forth epic struggle with Lady Raine…"

Are you delusional as well? I did not "get wind of" any "back and forth epic struggle with Lady Raine" and you. YOU are the one who decided to post an open letter to me, and I am now keeping my word and responding even though you've proven that you are intellectually dishonest and have no understanding of what it means to be an American.

"Ms. Romano's comments over at Lady Raine's struck me as a bit odd, considering the string of letters following her name; perhaps I do give such people a bit too much credit, because I have always been taught that such individuals are by definition, people who attempt to live by Reason, Logic and at least some understanding of and application of, the Scientific Method."

I have used the scientific method above. Read it again.

Just because YOU think my August 1, 2009 blog post is "outrageous", does not mean you are correct. What is YOUR expertise? Oh, that's right, you won't tell us because you're too cowardly to use your real name or real identity.

"Speaking of Style, it should also be said, that he goes out of his way in BOTH of his books, to warn Men about the very real Dark Sides of Game; in fact, I attribute a goodly bit of my own "style" to Style, not just in a stylistic sense, but in a moral one, too."

Neil Strauss' warning about "the dark side of Game" is insufficient. He has made a great deal of money teaching men to deceive, manipulate, coerce, and utimately harm women and themselves whether they realize it and whether you agree with me or not. End of Story.

"Game (noun, verb): A corpus of knowledge, and series of behaviors, designed to win the SEXUAL ATTRACTION of the Female. PERIOD."

As usual, you are being intellectually dishonest. You fail to acknowledge that the word "win" above really means the following given how Game is taught to men: **con, trick, deceive, coerce, lie to, manipulate, pressure, psychologically abuse, hypnotize, and misuse NLP techniques.**

"It is a mating strategy, and ALL living things found on the Earth has one, if not several. Game, is simply a mating strategy for Human Males to use."
Yet more lies from Obsidian above. It is NOT a mating strategy; it is a strategy to get men laid by any means necessary; there is an enormous difference.

"Game draws its knowledge from the insights gleaned from Evolutionary Psychology, itself considered by some a controversial corner of the Psychology world; PUAs (or "Gamers" if you will) study not only Game-specific materials, but also the work of noted Evolutionary Psychologists, like David Buss, Mat Ridley, and Steven Pinker. "

And yet more misinformation from Obsidian above: Game uses cherry-picked aspects of Evolutionary Psychology which have been grossly distorted in an attempt to justify the abusive, manipulative, and unethical methods which Game intentionally uses and teaches.

"In addition, Gamesmen (my preferred term) study the great works of literature on the topic of romance, seduction and Human Sexuality, such as The Story of O, the compendium written by Robert Greene The Art Of Seduction, My Secret Life and others."

You have a very odd idea of what constitutes a "great" work of literature and what the definitions of "romance" and "human sexuality" are. I would suggest instead that you read

***Getting Love Right* by Terence Gorski,**

***She Comes First* by Ian Kerner,**

***Cutting Loose* by Howard Halpern,**

Boundaries and Relationships* by Charles Whitfield, *Why Does He

***Do That*by Lundy Bancroft,**

***The Verbally Abusive Relationship* by Patricia Evans,**

UnexpectedAllies: Men Who Stop Rape by Todd Denny,

The Macho Paradox by Jackson Katz, and

***Coercive Control* by Evan Stark.**

"Many of its core tenets may seem bizarre or counterintuitive to the uninitiated or otherwise untrained eye; but to those well-practiced in the Game, they know well the efficacy of its use and practical results."

For the Millionth time, we are NOT saying it doesn't work to get men laid. We ARE saying it's unethical.

"Game can also be said to be an "applied science" in the sense that it relies heavily on trial and error, after periods of intense and lengthy observation. Field reports, detailed accounts of actual, realtime interactions with Women are a staple of Game practice, and much of what is viewed today as the core tenets of Game came from said practice."

You've got to be kidding. Game is NOT an applied science, Game materials and practitioners have proven their lack of critical reasoning skills and ability to reality-test their beliefs, and "field reports" are not reliably accurate.

"Moreover, Game is NOT in itself moral or immoral; in fact, Game is AMORAL, and it is left solely to the practitioner as to how he will use it."

This is the same argument used about guns, fireworks, and cough medicine. And the conclusion is that the argument is invalid; THAT is why most states do have some amount of legal control for who can obtain and use those things. That is because they ARE harmful to many people.

"This is where methods such as the use of what is known as NLP-and forms the backbone of the Ross Jeffries school of Seduction or Game-comes in, because it uses considerable degrees of hypnosis in its methods."

Yes, and I've already posted on Lady Raine's blog the comments from NLP and Hypnosis professional practitioners statinm.g that these methods do work, a person can be hypnotised without knowing it, and that it is unethical to use these methods on people to get sex from them.

"Does it work? I've seen it in action and can say, YES, it does work. But then we are left with the moral implications of such a strategem; is it RIGHT to do it? I say NO, and I am not alone."

Yet you still defend game and the other methods in Mystery's book which I've provided examples of above.

"*It is unclear if Mystery himself is cool with NLP, but what is clear, that his school of thought does not include or incorporate NLP in any way; instead his school of thought deals with what has become known as Social Dynamics, how people interact with each other within the context of group activity."*

Ah yes, "social dynamics" – another fake, scientific-sounding concept made up by an entertainer, not a psychology professional.
Again:

"Game is amoral. In and of itself, there is no "right" or "wrong" way to get a Woman into bed with you."

You're kidding, right? There are multiple WRONG ways to get a woman into bed with you, and Game very intentionally teaches almost all of them.

"The only one to determine ultimately if something is good or bad, is the practitioner himself."

Really? I disagree. The women the Gamer has deceived, manipulated, lied to, hypnotized, used NLP on, psychologically coerced, and whose boundaries have been minimized and defiled by calling them LMR, and violating them – THEY are the ones to determine if something was good or bad.

"In this regard, I view Game in the same light as Niccolo Machiavelli's The Prince-a practical and pragmatic, how-to guide to gaining political power and keeping it. It doesn't concern itself with the moral or ethical implications of Statecraft; it is left to the "Prince" to decide for himself which way to go."

And the above is a complete cop-out. Guess what else didn't concern itself with moral or ethical implications? Slavery. It was very very good for the American Economy, which would have completely collapsed if Slavery had been abolished earlier than it was. Do you feel the same way about that?

"Furthermore, Game is NOT relegated to the niteclub, bar or lounge, although it certainly can be used in such environments; Game can be applied to a whole host of situations and scenarios, from the boardroom and shopfloor, to the local taproom or formal events."

Right – and that makes it even worse. Women can't even avoid these unethical manipulators by simply avoiding bars and clubs.
"Basically, ANYWHERE Men and Women get together, there will you also find GAME."

And that is why all PUA trainers, students, and practitioners need to honestly acknowledge the unethical aspects of it, denounce those, STOP using them, learn the definitions of rape, and learn how STDs are transmitted. Otherwise, they're all willfully being negligent and choosing ignorance.

"That so many Women are so very concerned about the blatherings of weird guys with funny names in our time-a time where Women enjoy an unprecedented level of advance, freedom, opportunity and largesse-is proof if there ever was any, that Game does indeed WORK."

You are again being obtuse and missing the point. I'm going to start referring to you as "Obtuse" rather than "obsidian" as it suits you better.

Try again please to use some critical reasoning skills. That so many women have a very bad reaction to Game, indicates only that women have serious and legitimate concerns about it.

In fact, Lady Raine and I have both outlined these and instead of acknowledging them, you lie and say that we havnen't done this. Instead of thinking about what we've said, you erroneously claim we are making ad hominem attacks, proving you don't even know what an ad hominem attack is.

"The very fact that Women from Lady Raine to Susan Walsh and now Denise Romano, make such a stink about it all, is again proof positive, that despite all the protestations and denunciations and denials to the contrary, that Game is indeed, highly effective."

You're already said this. So I will reply again. No, what that proves is that we have legitimate concerns about it which should be taken seriously. You and Nick Savoy have both proven that you are too cowardly to do that.

"Understandbly then, they would be concerned about the way in which it is applied by its practitioners, and to what ends."

So, now you understand that we're concerned about the way in which it is applied and to what ends? HERE is where you should have started your thinking and writing to me. Let's see if you're able to further develop that thought into anything useful as part of this discussion….Nope. You had one tiny moment of constructive clarity – and now it's gone. Obtuse, indeed.

"It is important for these ladies to understand that, like any discipline or field of endeavor, there will invariably be many approaches, understandings and stances by many corners of said community; it is not at all unusual to find multiple, seemingly conflicting interpretations of things such as, say, the "Neg" is and how it is to be applied. For example, some say that Negs are indispensable to any seduction; others argue that it plays at best, a tangential role. Some say that Negs are to be employed in "carpet bombing" fashion regardless as to the Target is, others say that Negs should be "calibrated' for use depending on how "hot" the Target is-the hotter she is, the more you Neg her. Those who attempt to diminish the whole of Game, are akin to those who attempt to diminish the whole of ANY field of endeavor, because within each one is bound to find differing takes on core or key tenets and ideas or principles. Such critics shouldn't see this as a weakness or failing of Game, but indeed a strength, just as we would say, Psychology, and its many differing takes and "squabbles", LOL. Viva La Difference, indeed!"

The Neg is abusive. I've already blogged about this. So have other men and women. I do not have the energy to explain it to you YET AGAIN.

"Now-with all the above being said and laidout-it is also important to let Ms. Romano and every other person, Male or

Female, reading this, know that YES, there are what I consider to be "Dark Forces" in the Game; who twist and pervert it to their own ends, and has the potential to really damage many lives with their "Black" Arts.

Are we know in the middle of a science fiction script or are we having a discussion? Your intentional obufscation is really exhuasting. The point many of us have made is exactly that there are those "who twist and pervert it to their own ends, and has the potential to really damage many lives".

Again, had you even tried to find common ground with us and respecting our legitimate concerns, you might have started with that point. But you are not trying to find common ground. You are more interested in using big words and latin phrases you don't understand in a long blog post to increase traffice. Disappointing indeed.

"For my part, I and others whom I consider good friends, do what we can to act as a kind of check on said behaviors, by speaking out against them and their kind."

And yet you have put enormous energy into arguing that none of our concerns are legitimate. Do you even understand what the concepts of "dicussion" and "finding common ground" are?

"For example, I liken NLP to Sith Magic, effective and highly seductive, but deeply morally unethical and potentially soul-killing, for both parties involved. While I respect Tyler Durden's knowledge of Game, I refuse to use much of what he's gleaned, because I so thoroughly disagree with his philosophical stances and just overall "vibe". He creeps me out, quite frankly. And, as much as I respect Roissy's deep knowledge of Game, I also deeply disagree with his application of same in many instances, as well as the overall vibe of his "house"-which explains why few if any people have seen me posting there after my own blog launched, nearly three months ago."

Ah yes the launch of your blog. I keep forgetting that is *really* what this is about for you.

My question to your statement above is the same question I posed to Nick Savoy and other Gamers: IF you truly respect women, why would you be comfortable with being confused with men like Durden and Roissy? And, furthermore, WHY would you compliment anything about Roissy, given his egregious violence against women? That is alot like defending what a great painter Hitler was despite his "transgressions".

"While I'm on the topic of Roissy, let me also say, that in many ways, his presence on the Internet is both a triumph and a curse. He is a triumph in the sense that Game has real utility and, quite frankly, power, to change things. His promotion of Game has touched many lives, mine included, and I would to think, at least in my case, for the better."

Exhibit A Above: Obtuse thinks Hitler is a great painter. That's why we call him "Obtuse".

"But he is also a curse, in the sense that because of the way in which he blends his personal views on many topics in with Game itself, people on the outside looking in get the impression that HIS TAKE ON GAME IS "THE" TAKE ON GAME, and that's where they would be sorely mistaken-but by then, the damage is done."

And now again, above, a momentary yet fleeting glimpse of clarity in Obtuse's brain.

"Women, such as Lady Raine, Susan Walsh and Denise Romano, are convinced, based on Roissy and a few others like him, that Game is no good, that it is inherently misogynistic, and that it is also deliberately deceptive and manipulative."

You have clearly failed to read or comprehend anything I've written on Game. I base my assessment of it on many sources, other than Roissy.

"That Roissy attracts so much attention to Game on the one had, yet so much negative publicity for it on the other, is truly sad. It's sad because Game itself has a much harder time getting a fair hearing. I've taken it on as my own personal mission to do what I can to present Game in its best light, since it's been so good to me in meeting my goals in life. The record clearly shows me not only speaking out against what I consider "Sith" applications of Game no matter who does it, but I have also opposed Roissy himself publicly on a host of issues, both on his actual blog and here at my own, and will do so again if the need arises. Let me be clear here: Roissy's understanding of Game information is not and cannot be in dispute; it is his application of Game, his undergirding philosophy, that IS in dispute, and that which I

take deep issue with. This is the key distinction that I think is lost on many of his critics, many of whom refuse to properly acquaint themselves with key Game source materials, most notably Style's works."

If it looks Obtuse, sounds Obtuse, and thinks Obtuse; it's Obtuse.

"I would also like to address Ms. Romano's charges that to be a Gamesman is to be an abuser-something I take great umbrage with, for a number of reasons. First, depsite the presence of Men like Roissy, there has been no reports of Women being abused, and by that I mean, physically abused by PUAs."

Roissy counts and you don't know that there have been no reports of women being abused in any way by Game, and you are mistaken.

"By the way, Roissy does NOT consider himself a PUA, he's said so himself. Just wanted to be clear on that point. Moreover, as one who has put his livelihood and very life on the line to protect Women from abuse, I find Ms. Romano's slinging out the term "abuse" to BE abusive, and a most disturbing trend in the popular culture of late-merely call anything you have a personal issue with or otherwise don't like, "abusive", "misogynistic", "racist", "homophobic" and so on."

Right, I nearly forgot until you just reminded me that when I disagree with you I am both UnAmerican *and* abusive. Yet your frequent lies about what Lady Raine and I HAVE said and how I've told you repeatedly why I would not be able to respond to you right away but that I eventually would do so is an acceptable way for you to communicate.

"Such abuses of truly powerful terms cheapens their meaning, makes REAL instances of such abuses seem trivial, and makes the whole exercise a joke and a laughingstock, while at the same time throwing the true victims of such practices under the bus."

YOU are cheapening the meaning of every word and phrase you've misused in this ridiculous letter. Lady Raine and I have been using legitimate defintions of the words we've used, we have not cheapened their meaning, we have not trivialized instances of other abuse, others agree with us (including men who have stated so on LR's and my blogs), and YOU are the one who is making this an unnecessarily ridiclous experience.

YOU have misquoted us, have lied about my communications with you, have been intellectually dishonest, and have failed to acknowledge that there are men who find merit with aspects of PUA trainings yet also share most of our very legitimate concerns.

"One would think that a Woman of Ms. Romano's statue would be a bit more deliberative with her language, especially the written word."

You're kidding. Once again: I've been extremely deliberative with my language, have provided citations, and have asked others in this important conversation to do so as well. YOU, however, need a repeat of tenth grade English, agood dictionary, and a course in critical reasoning skills.

"I also find it most interesting-aw heck, I'm just gonna call it what it is-hypocritical-of Ms. Romano to, on the one hand, deride those in the Game community who sell their wares to customers as snakeoil salesmen, to then turn around and implore Men to instead spend some $250 on "NVC" training."

This is not hypocritical at all. Again, your astounding lack of any ability to think rationally is shocking. Let's try this in baby steps and see if you get it:

1. Yes: I see Game as something that is a fault product sold to men.

2. I encourage men to NOT spend their money on it because it is a faulty product.

3. I do encourage them to spend money on HELPFUL and HEALTHY products.

4. I do not teach NVC, so I'm NOT encouraging anyone to give ME their money.

There is nothing hypocritical about that.

"Mind you, I'm not yet in a position to say whether NVC is worth its weight in gold or lead-just that I find it interesting that she wants to shut down one aspect of commerce in favor of another. Hmm."

This is not a mystery; I have made it clear that I believe Game is a fault product that harms both men and women, and I've repeatedly said why, though you fail to comprehend or acknowledge this. Let's try some baby steps again.

What I am saying is just like when someone says, "It is alot better for you to buy and consume fresh fruits and vegetables than it is to buy and consume fast food. It's alot healthier for you".

See? Now do you get it or are you still obtusely confused?

"Then there's Ms. Romano's seeming indifference, or intellectual dishonesty when it comes to the full range of "abuse", indeed violence.
Her Aug 1 2009 post was terribly one-sided in its view of the situation: Women are victims, Men victimizers. And while no one would deny that Woman are indeed abused and victimized, it seems incredibly hard for Women to even acknowledge that the same can happen to Men, too-even when the stats back this up."

This is another lie. In that post, I do say that men can be abused by women and that such abuse is wrong.

"And, as if to bring heaven sent proof of this fact, we need no other than one Mr. Tiger Woods, who, on Thanksgiving Day, was clocked upside the head with one of his own golf clubs by his wife, Mrs. Elin Woods. To be sure, no one I personally know-and definitely not me personally-defends Mr. Woods actions. But that doesn't give Ms. Elin Woods the right to physically abuse her husband."

I've thought alot about this. This is my take on it. Tiger Woods intentionally and willingly CHOSE to have unprotected sex with more than ten women outside of his marriage vows to his wife (which he also willingly chose to make) thus exposing Elin (and their youngest child if that child is being breastfed) to every STD there is – including potentially fatal ones.

AND, any sex that Elin had with Tiger after his very first instance of infidelity (whether it was unprotected or not) WAS AN ACT OF RAPE.

WHY? Because Elin would NOT have chosen to sleep with him after that, as is true for most women. After the very first time he betrayed her, he was no longer who he claimed to be, and every sexual encounter with his wife thereafter was a rape because he DENIED her the information she needed to give full consent to sleep with him.

Had he told her what he did, she would NOT have slept with him.
Furthermore, I will say it again: Infidelity IS Emotional, Psychological, Verbal, Sexual, and Physical Abuse all at once.

Therefore, I see Elin's having hit Tiger with a golf club as justifiable given that he raped her and abused her in every way possible repeatedly, and she now has to wait several months to learn what STDs she's been exposed to.

"Now, where is the intellectual consistency on Ms. Romano's part here? Hmm? To ask the questin is to answer it. If she can take time out of her schedule to write a lengthy hit piece on Game and PUAs and MRAs, if she can find time to log her comments in to Lady Raine's blog about same, then why can't she find the time to speak out against what Elin Woods did? Hmm?"

You are a complete idiot. Yes my intellectual inconsistency MUST be the only explanation for me to write a lenghty post on Game and post on Lady Raine's blog but not to speak out against Elin Woods! There couldn't possibly be any OTHER explanation for this.

Seriously: You've recently hit your head very hard, right?

First: I have clarifiied my position on Elin Woods over the past week, having thought about it quite a bit. Hint: it's a good idea to think before you comment, you may want to remember that. AND, the focus of my blog has been on concepts and learning, not on individual acts of violence, other than my very recent post highlighting Dimitri, the

PUA who was prosecuted for criminal behavior.

Second: Let's talk about YOUR intellectual inconsistency. Have you gone to the MRA websites and asked them to evenly examine and publicize violence against women and violence against men? No, you haven't. Because you see that their mission IS to bring attention to violence against men, and you respect that. Now try respecting this: I have a different mission for my blog, which you obviously don't understand and did not consider.

"And why is that NO MAJOR FEMINIST WEBSITE TO DATE, has done so either? If anything, it's the exact opposite, a kind of "You Go Girl!" sentiment, not tacitly expressed, by EXPLICITY expressed."

There is a reason for this. Reread my Elin Woods comments above. I'm sure many women feel the same way.

"If Ms. Romano is truly interested in the fairness she exhorts PUAs to exhibit with regard to Men and Women, one would think she could start in her own backyard. Afterall, charity, begins at home."

You get minus 10 points for misusing a cliche. And, you haven't seemed to notice that my backyard is EI and NVC. And there is nothing unethical going on with those.

"What about Mary Winkler-who shot her hubbie in the back with a shotgun, while he was sleeping? The only "proof" we have that she was "abused" comes from Mrs. Winkler herself-there was no independent record of spousal abuse on Rev. Winkler's part, and to add insult to injury, Mrs. Winkler was even feted on Oprah-white platform shoes and all-to tell her story. No one was there to speak for Rev. Winkler. Dead Men tell no tales."

What is your point? If you want to blog about this, go ahead. I am interested in raising awarness about how GAME is unethical and how most MRA groups are (like the PUA industry) alarmingly misogynistic and lacking in the most basic critical thinking skills.

"I saw no such denunciation of Mrs Winkler on Ms. Romano's or quite frankly, any other Woman's site who claims to care about "domestic abuse". Seems that they care about it only when it involves Women-on the receiving end."

There you go lying again. This is officially the LAST time I will ever respond to you. Your lying is inexcusable and exhausting. You KNOW that both Lady Raine and I have denounced abuse and violence (other than self-defense) regardless of the gender of the person committing it or being victimized by it.

I see what Elin Woods did as completely different as Tiger raped her and exposed her to many diseases including potentially fatal diseases. And their young child has likely been exposed as well.

"Last month, in specific response to my lady readers, I put up a post taking up the question as to whether Game was inherently deceptive and manipulative. Without exception, excuse or apology, I said that YES, Game can indeed be used this way, that there is a contingent of the Game community who does this, and that I neither condoned or endorsed it, nor did I want to be associated with anyone who was known to be engaging in such activity. Then I asked the Women who claimed to be so concerned about the ethics of the Men in the Game community, about the many deeply deceptive and manipulative things Women do, and have done, for YEARS."

Perhaps the problem is that you read your own posts but not those posted by LR and myself.

"I invite Ms. Romano or anyone else reading this open letter to see my post for themselves, it's in the Dec 2009 archive and very easy to find. The replies I got back from the majority of Women-notable exceptions aside-were in a word, ming boggling. Some actually wanted to justify the actions I pointed ouit that Women did; others wanted to actually put up for debate, other things Women have long done that was at the least a misrepresentation of herself, if not out and out deceit. Finally, in a followup post I put up directed at the ladies of my forum, also found in the Dec 2009 archives, I questioned them as to why we never see those issues addressed on so many Women's blogs and websites. The responses were again, in a word, mind-boggling-if not quite deceitful in themselves."

Here's a hint to you: when something is mind-boggling, you need to learn how to THINK about it and ask questions so you can then do your best to understand something you don't understand. That is how we learn. Try it; you might like it.

"It all adds up to a feeling on the part of many Men, of a very real double-standard-Women want Men to be held accountable, but they don't want to be held accountable themselves. Women have no problem using every advantage they can get out there on the Mating Grounds, but deplore anything that might help Men get an advantage, too. Women want Men to speak out against their own who do wrong, but Women can never seem to be found when time comes to speak out against a Elin Woods, a Mary Winkler, a Crystal Gale Mangum, to say nothing about the many scores of Women who take advantage of Men every way till the next Xmas. Women want Men to take the high road, but don't seem to have trouble at the very least, condoning the low behavior of so many of their "sisters"."

RE: the above: please read my post: "In Response to Several Questions Posed to Me at this Blog About PUAs and MRAs" about logical fallcies, intellectual dishonesty, and a complete lack of critical reasoning skills in the PUA and MRA groups.

"That Ms. Romano makes outrageous claims against Game, indicts someone like Style and lumps him in with known and documented spousal abusers, rapists and murderers, asserts that ALL PUAs are "abusers of Women" and then falls completely silent on the well known and publicized events of clear, present and REAL abuse perpetrated by the Women above, someone who's LIFE WORK is to advocate for victims of violence and abuse, really says it all to me, and to any thinking, caring person who gives a damn about fairness, decency, and just plain ole getting the facts straight. If this is the best our Academy can do, it is little wonder we as a society are in the mess we're in afterall."

Where have I said that my life's work is to advocate for victims of violence and abuse? That is not my life's work. Where do you come up with this stuff?

My life's work, is to examine issues of those who wish to have POWER-OVER others and the many ways those people and groups try to accomplish that. My life's work is also to write about such things so that others can be eduated about these important issues.

"I'll say this in closing, and it behooves Women like Ms. Romano to listen close: your "war" against Roissy, Savoy and others, will not succeed. It won't because not only are your motives wrong, but so to are your own convictions."

I do hope and pray that this is really nearly the end of your ridiculous letter to me. Our motives are not wrong and neither are our convictions. If you had merely repeated for the 100th time that you disagree with us, your only error would have been more redundancy on your part. But, now you've also made a further ass of yourself by claiming to know what motives and convictions are right or wrong.

"More and more Men aren't flocking to these guys for nothing, Ms. Romano-there's a "there" there."

Yes, men are flocking to the PUA industry because they haven't read the many healthy sources of relationship advice and training that are out there because are not slyly marketed directly to their insecurities as Game is. Men flocking to Game is a triumph of marketing and nothing else.

"And so long as you and others like you refuse to address the root causes of why the Roissys exist in the first place, all you'll be doing is standing in the middle of a sinking boat, trying to prevent it from going under by tossing overboard bucketfuls of water."

I'm SO glad you brought this up! Let's clarify what you mean by this:

Are you giving women credit for the root causes of creating a man as wonderful as Roissy or are you blaming women for the root causes of creating a monster like Roissy? Which is it and why?

I need to repeat to you that due to the many lies you've told since you posted your letter and IN your letter, I will not again give you this kind of attention or respond to any open letters you post to me unless I choose to do so for some reason of my own.

Thanks,
Denise"

Considerations Of The Denise Romano Worldview

Obsidian · 13 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

As one might suspect, I get quite a bit of letters and emails from people, asking why I even bother taking to task Denise Romano's ideas and actions; in this post, I'll answer those questions, as well as laying out Ms. Romano's worldview, how it fundamentally conflicts with that of Ms. Susan Walsh, & what it means for Women overall.

OK, so let's get right to it: way do I bother w/the likes of Ms. Romano? Well, aside from the fact that I can, one major reason is because I take charges of Rape very, very seriously-why? Because, as a Black Man, I understand in a very real way, what can happen when such a charge is cheapened and indeed, raped itself-indeed, the historical record of the United States clearly shows, that hundreds if not thousands, of innocent Black Men were lynched, burned, shot, murdered and otherwise mutilated, merely on the trumped up charges of a Woman, *a White Woman* I might add. "Rape" means something very, very important to me. It's not merely an arid academic discussion, or some emotive, perverted, misguided crusade. It, for me, is the cold, hard realization that Women can twist and pervert the meaning of ANY word or act they choose, in order to justify ANY behavior on their part-and have Men pay for it. Notice how Ms. Romano is quick to use Slavery in her response to me, but completely sidesteps the One Hundred Years of Lynchings-largely predicated on false charges of Rape. MY ANCESTORS WERE HANGED, SHOT, LYNCHED, BURNED AND KILLED, BEHIND THAT SHIT, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, MS. ROMANO? Pardon my emotive outburst, but I really had to say that.

People like Ms. Romano, who use all kinds of convoluted definitions for the word "Rape" not only abuse the term itself and cheapens it for Women who were truly raped, but it pisses on the graves of Black Men like Emmit Till, who met a grisly and truly barbaric end under such BS circumstances. I object to her ridiculous "definitions" and declarations of what is and is not Rape, and I will use this and any other platform or medium to oppose her every step of the way. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it is also doing right by my ancestors, who didn't have a voice to say "Hell No!".

But that's only one reason.

Another reason why I take the time out of my otherwise regularly scheduled blogging duties to take on Ms. Romano and her ilk, is because I do not appreciate her efforts to shutdown our First Amendment Rights. Earlier this week I wrote in defence of Roissy, and I did so not because of personal interest one way or the other, but because I saw that if he goes down, all of us aren't far behind. The First Amendment protects all of us, because it defends the speech WE DON'T LIKE, not the speech we do like. Similarly, the idea of Tenure in the Academy operates much in the same way, to protect academics whose ideas may not be popular or likeable. For example, I found the late Boston College professor Mary Daly's teachings to be abhorrent and reprehensible, but you never saw me trying to have her ousted for her views; what needed to happen, was to have her ideas and views to be shown for the weak and shoddy reasoning that they were, by other academics who had the balls to oppose her. THAT is the Academic Way to deal with ideas that we find abhorrent, NOT the way Ms. Romano and Lady Raine have attempted to deal with the Roissys of the world. As I've noted in a previous post, the very fact that he remains online, proves that they have failed in their self-appointed mission. And I surely do hope they will continue to do so.

The third reason why I oppose Ms. Romano's ideas, is because I see them as an affront to Women themselves. In a previous post dedicated to Ms. Romano, and taking up the Roissy issue in particular, I made careful note of the fact that it is through deep Socratic questioning that we can determine if an idea is indeed valid. Well, this principle has borne itself out to be true in Ms. Romano's case-for, as a result of my interactions with her, she has revealed a dominant line of thought throughout her arguments. In a word, and simply put:

Women cannot be viewed as Free, Independent, Responsible, Human Beings.

Bear with me now.

As we all know, Ms. Romano wants Game, if not removed from the scene altogether, to be deeply modified, so as

to “warn” Women out there so they can make better, “informed” decisions. Sounds good at first glance-but doesn’t that suggest a kind of Nanny State reasoning-that people aren’t saavy enough to figure things out for themselves? Especially in a time where more Women than Men earn college degrees? Earn their own money? Have careers? And huge help in the many forms of the State? To be honest, if I were a Woman on the outside looking in at the debate between myself and Ms. Romano, I would be deeply offended-because what she’s saying basically is that I don’t have the basic wherewithall to know who I’m with or what I’m getting myself into.

But it gets better. Recently on Lady Raine’s blog, Ms. Romano was asked, not just by me, but a number of Male participants there, about her views of the violent actions of Ms. Elin Woods against her cheating husband Tiger. Ms. Romano’s response was, if ever, a vindication of Mystery’s “plausible deniability” maxim about Women: she said that Ein Woods was justified in physically attacking Tiger, on the grounds that he “raped” her by having unprotected sex with multiple Women, putting her and one of their kids at risk for contracting STDs. She completely sidestepped the matter of legality-which is quite clear on this point, by the way-and instead rationalized (or as we Gamesmen would say, “backward rationalized”) Elin’s actions, even when it was crystal clear that not only was she in violation of the law, but if news reports are true, that she’s now also a fugitive from the law-much like Roman Polanski is. When she and Lady Raine were asked, if the shoe were on the other foot, and it was Elin doing all the tomcatting around on Tiger, and he commenced to kicking Elin’s behind up one side of the street and down the other, Ms. Romano and Lady Raine suddenly demurred. Talk about adding insult to injury-not only do they want to justify Elin’s violent acts, but they also want to maintain a clear and present double standard as well. Rich.

But as if a Theatre of the Absurd couldn’t get wierder, Ms. Romano outdoes her own self, by saying that, because she has ever-perky nipples, and because she can’t help it, no one should judge her for this; that it is society’s responsibility to “grow and evolve” to learn that having engorged nipples doesn’t mean anything at all. Nope, nothing to see here, keep it movin’.

Riiiight.

My response to Ms. Romano was that not only did I write a post about this very same subject-that of how and why people can, do and will make value judgments about you based on how you present yourself in the world, and that it was right and NORMAL to do-but that I included the fact that, as a Black Man, I too have to give considerable thought to how I present myself to the world when I step outside my front door. Failure to do so could prove catastrophic for me-and the harsh realities of life don’t care if I think it’s fair or not. I have two choices-either pull my pants up, get a shave, look and act like I got some sense-or-bear the full brunt of the consequences if I choose to do otherwise. That’s. It.

But not for Ms. Romano-she insists that its EVERYONE ELSE-ESPECIALLY MEN who must change, who must “grow”, who must “evolve”-not her. Everyone else must be a grown up. She, on the other hand, has the right to remain a child.

In each instance-her crusade against Roissy, MRAs and Game/PUAs; her defence of the violent actions of Elin Woods; and her “Nipple Defence”-Ms. Romano lays out that Women have no agency, personal responsibility, or even basic reasoning faculties and commonsense, to act in an advanced and free society-one who’s fulcrum is based on these ideals. She claims that we are the ones wo are behind the times, but in truth, by her own hand and reasoning, it is SHE who still regards Women on the whole as incapable of independent thought, actions, rights or duties, as Citizens of the Free World.

Which finally brings me to Ms. Susan Walsh, of the website and blog, Hooking Up Smart.com. Over the past few months that my blog, The Obsidian Files has been in existence, I’ve had the chance to interact extensively with Ms. Walsh, online and off, and have found her to be an exemplary Human Being, to say nothing of a truly Classy Lady. She is not because she agrees with me-indeed, there are some things on which we deeply disagree-but because she refuses to cowtow to the line of Infantile Reasoning that is Ms. Romano’s stock and trade.

Instead of seeking to shut Roissy and Tucker Max down, Ms. Walsh instead uses her spare time and blogging

talents to educate young Women about their ilk and how to reign in their innate urges to mate with such Men; instead of seeking to get more and more laws passed to “protect Women” Ms. Walsh instead uses her site to teach young Women to respect themselves, and to use their head; and instead of approaching everything and everyone as if it were one big group therapy session, Ms. Walsh uses her more than a quarter of a century’s experience as a married mother of two grown kids of her own, to counsel young Women in the ways and wherefores of Sex and Relationships, as have many “Big Mamas” before her in a not too distant past. These are but a few of the big differences between Ms. Walsh and Ms. Romano, and I think she would agree with my analysis of the latter’s essential worldview here.

Lastly, let me say this. I have three sisters of my own, and NONE of them have been duped, brainwashed or led astray by some fuzzy hat wearing Player, LOL. They’ve had their ups and downs sure, but for the most part, they all done well for themselves. Part of the reason for that was because they had an older brother who gave em all a no holds barred talking to about the Real Deal out there on the bricks, and I’m happy to say that it sank in. I think, if they were able to read any part of what Ms. Romano wrote, and compared it to what Ms. Walsh writes, that they would regard the former as on some other ish, and the other not that far off from our dearly departed Mama. In any event, I want Ms. Romano to know, that not only am I deeply offended by her assertions as laidout above in her worldview, but I’m even more offended by the notion that, per her line of reasoning, my three sisters cannot discern Life for themselves. I take tremendous umbrage at that notion. I object!

I’m done on this point, but do not get it twisted, I ain’t no ways tired when it comes to opposing Ms. Romano. I will fight her deranged view of things with all the vim and vigor at my command. Count on it.

Now adjourn your Captain Bligh arses…

The Obsidian

Haiti & The HBDers

Obsidian · 18 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Like everyone else in the world (HBDers, Rush Limbaugh and those of their ilk excluded, of course), I was glued to the tv, Internet and smartphone for the newest updates on the truly horrific series of events that has unfolded I Haiti in the past week, where now estimates of 100,000 or more are feared dead, and that's just for starters. Entire sections of the country is in ruins, following a devastating earthquake that measured 7 on the scale; millions are displaced, hundreds of thousands injured. Talk about something out of Dante's Inferno. Wow.

That the whole world mobilized to lend aid and comfort to a People who has known nothing but pain and anguish for so long, was for his wary and weary soul, I sight to behold. People from as far as Turkey, China and Australia, brought medical supplies, food and water, sophisticated listening and recuse equipment, highly training "sniffer" dogs and the like, and all on the run up to MLK's actual birthday and the official holiday observing his life and what it means for our nation, not only made me feel proud to be an American, or one of African-descent, but proud to be a Human Being.

But good vibes were not to last. No sooner than the earthquake itself happened, Conservative icon and fixture, radio show talk host Rush Limbaugh, wasted no time at all in suggesting that a Rahm Emanual-led White House would take advantage of such a mammoth tragedy to further the Obama Administration's agenda, namely the much beleagured Healthcare Bill. Limbaugh was of course, referring to remarks attributed to Emanuel in the waning days of the 2008 Presidential campaign, and the early days of the Obama Presidency, that Democrats in particular, should never let a tragedy go to waste, that it can be exploited for political gain. I don't know for certain if that is indeed what Obama's Chief of Staff said, but it has been attributed to him by Limbaugh and others on the Right, and to be honest, it wouldn't be the first or last time such a sentiment would be uttered by a public official. Everyone knows that Politics is a nitty gritty bloodsport, a most cynical one at that. So, Limbaugh's assertions along those lines don't bother me.

It was his follow-up comments that took me aback-he suggested that the Haitian earthquake would be a perfect time for Obama to "burnish his image in the Black community, among the light-skinned AND dark-skinned Blacks" and so on. My immediate response was WTF does "light-skinned and dark-skinned Blacks" have to do with the discussion, even if what Limbaugh asserts about Obama was indeed true? How does that impact what happened in Haiti either way-a disaster that hit the "light and dark-skinned" Haitians equally to begin with? What was that all about? What's up with that?

Then, my next reaction was, how can Limbaugh sit there and say such a thing, at a time when TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HATIANS ARE DEAD, through NO fault of their own? And they're Hatians anyway, not American voters-how can Limbaugh be so out there to say such a thing? Where is his sense of basic decency? Of basic Humanity?

But Limbaugh, as if to outdo his own self, takes it one step further-when asked by a caller to his radio show as to whether he should donate funds to the disaster relief effort, Limbaugh responds that he and all Americans already have donated-it's called the income tax. Keith Olbermann, host of MSNBC's Countdown with Keith Olbermann noted later that night, that all of the major Republican-friendly news organizations, websites and the like-which included Townhall.com, Fox News and even Sean Hannity's website-all had banners on their front pages to the Red Cross and how to donate. Limbaugh's site had a banner up as to how one could purchase gold coins.

SMH

Having seen such a display by Limbaugh, I knew it was only a matter of time before our erstwhile racists, er, friends in that corner of cyberspace known as the HBDsphere would chime in-and they didn't disappoint. OneSTDV, the self-proclaimed "iconoclast muser on all things racial" promptly asked whether we as a nation had a moral obligation to give aid to Haiti-because, you know, they're Black and Dumb? Prime, from the website Beta

Revolution, posts a few weeks before the earthquake in Haiti, about how some of the kids there are being sold into slavery, apparently by their own parents/caregivers-of course, the in-between-the-lines implication here is that see!-Blacks have always sold themselves into slavery, and hence, it's really not us White guys' fault afterall!

As Thugtician would say: hock, and spit.

Of the dozens, possibly hundreds of famous quotes I've committed to memory over the years, one immediately sprang to mind over the past week's events: that tough times don't shape one's character-they reveal it. And in so doing, the words of Limbaugh, OneSTDV and Prime, among a not insignificant number of others, have, by their own hands, revealed themselves for who and what they truly are: not "iconoclasts" or "politically incorrect" or "scientific" minds looking to shakeup the status quo-but as good ole fashioned racists, who in the cases of the latter two instances so mentioned, need to find a new way to package their rank bigotry, racism and hypocrisy. At least Limbaugh's got the balls to show his face everyday on webcam.

And since this is King Day, both OneSTDV and Prime have made their entires on the blog devoted to MLK's legacy, in their twisted way. I could slice and dice their weak-kneed logic once again, but by now, everyone knows the deal-they're not worth the trouble. Maybe it's a good thing that they're facing evolutionary oblivion. Perhaps what Darwin said about Natural Selection was correct afterall-what Woman of any consequence would want to get with such rank losers?

Now adjourn your pitiful, pathetic, pseudo-intellectual, no action getting arses…

The Obsidian

A Woman's Nation: The Acid Test

Obsidian · 19 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Amid the ongoing coverage of the horrific earthquake in Haiti and today's special Senatorial election up in Massachusetts, was this little gem that made the rounds on the cable news networks as well as the Associated Press and even got some love over at Jezebel.com:

"AP – Chart shows financial gains of married men vs. unmarried men.

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK – Historically, marriage was the surest route to financial security for women. Nowadays it's men who are increasingly getting the biggest economic boost from tying the knot, according to a new analysis of census data.

The changes, summarized in a Pew Research Center report being released Tuesday, reflect the proliferation of working wives over the past 40 years — a period in which American women outpaced men in both education and earnings growth. A larger share of today's men, compared with their 1970 counterparts, are married to women whose education and income exceed their own, and a larger share of women are married to men with less education and income.

"From an economic perspective, these trends have contributed to a gender role reversal in the gains from marriage," wrote the report's authors, Richard Fry and D'Vera Cohn.

"In the past, when relatively few wives worked, marriage enhanced the economic status of women more than that of men. In recent decades, however, the economic gains associated with marriage have been greater for men."

The article goes on to discuss current marital rates, giving particular attention to how it all breaks down racially; it perhaps comes as no surprise that while current marital rates for Whites remains well over 60%, for African Americans the rate barely touches 45%. In both groups, marital rates are continuing to slip, and the root causes behind the article above, clearly spell out why.

The "Mancession"-what some pundits and talkingheads refer to the current economic downturn-is so named because the overwhelming majority of job losses have taken place in the sectors of the economy Men dominate, namely the "hard" areas of manufacturing and construction; some 70-80% of ALL job losses have been Male.

Meanwhile, as we're constantly reminded by the Chattering Classes-of which Maria Shriver, author of the much-heralded report "A Woman's Nation" belongs-things couldn't b better for the Ladies. Not only are more them employed at present, but many are gainfully so, primarily to be found in the Professions of Education, Healthcare and the like, almost always tied into some kind of governmental apparatus-which means great pay, stellar benefits and job security at a time when such an animal, if it hasn't gone entirely extinct, is certainly a rare bird. Not bad work if you can get it.

The above article brings home what many in the Manosphere-and by that I mean both the MRA and PUA ends of the spectrum here-have been talking about for at least the past year, if not longer. What will happen when all that the Feminists have wished for, actually comes to pass?

We're about to find out.

The noted article above clearly speaks to a harsh economic factor on the ground-that if you're a single guy in the year 2010, you're best bet from a purely economic standpoint, is to be hitched, because its likely that your spouse makes more moolah than you. On the other hand, if you're single and a guy these days, you're really kinda up against it, unless you rolling like Richard Branson.

No matter which side of the issue you fall on, the fact remains that things have indeed changed on the social gender landscape-and let's give the Ladies their due-for whatever reason, they went on to school and got the jobs. Guys, by

and large, didn't.

So, this begs a whole host of questions, and not necessarily the ones you might think. How will Men respond to this much changed landscape? And perhaps more importantly-how will Women???

That's what this essay seeks to explore, and hopefully answer.

First, let's again consider the facts on the ground: a clear majority of job losses over the past few years, have been Male in nature. Not only is this trend likely to continue for at least another year, but when the "recovery" finally does begin, it will do so in a way radically different than we Americans are used to. That's because many of the jobs lost during the "Mancession", will NOT be coming back. The economy, says a number of pundits, is likely to contract a bit, part of the ebb and flow nature of the Markets; and during such a process, it's not uncommon to see some jobs or sectors of the economy permanently lost.

For the fellas, this will be a painful thing to endure indeed. But it also opens a new door of opportunity, too. They will have the chance that their dads and grand-dads didn't have-they will have the power to choose what being a Man means TO THEM. They will no longer be hidebound to what anyone who has eyes to see are clearly archaic notions of Manhood are, and can forge a new path for themselves. For some, it will mean moving into another sector of the economy; for others, it will be a time of inner discovery and outer adventures; and for still others, it will be a time to strikeout on one's own in that small business venture, or that pursuit that they had denied themselves for so long. Sometimes, in order to go two steps forward, you have to take a step back, and in this regard, and seen in this light, the "Mancession" ain't such a bad thing afterall.

Of course, I'm putting the best possible spin on things, one because I'm an optimist, at least most of the time, and two because, as Nature's Guniea Pigs, we guys always seem to get it together and adapt to the changes on the ground when we have to.

So, despite all the spinning we hear by the pundits, I'm not really all that concerned about the guys-its the gals that have me a bit concerned.

And here's why.

We who study Game and by extension, Evolutionary Psychology, understand well that contrary to popular opinion, it isn't Men who have a hard time adjusting to change; it's Women. "How do you know this, Obsidian?", you ask? Simple. As I've noted above, it is a scientific fact that the Male of the Human species is Nature's lab rat-we endure far and away more changes, exposures of all kinds to extremes, you name. Women, the Females of the Human species, do not-in fact, when you think about it, it makes perfect sense. She is the conduit through which Human life continues on the planet; she MUST be stable for this to occur, Human pregnancy and birth being precarious as it already is.

This explains why one is far more to find more super achievers as well as colossal failures among Men than Women as a rule, just for starters. In almost every field of human endeavor, Men are more apt to go to extremes than Women, for better and for worse. Women as a rule, tend to "clump" in the middle of the scale, on a whole host of issues and in a whole host of areas. Kinda rare to truly find Feminine outliers of any stripe.

So, what does this have to do with the topic of this essay? Well, we've been fed a steady diet of "social constructionism" by our Feminist Sisters, for the better part of at least three decades now-that any differences between the sexes, is purely arbitrary, part of the dreaded "patriarchy" that seeks to keep Women in particular underfoot.

The current social landscape, is about to submit A Woman's Nation to what I like to call the Acid Test of Truth.

We will soon find out if indeed Women are completely cool with Men *enmasse* not earning, or as prestigious, or as educated as they are. We're about to find out how Women like being the higher and in many cases, the sole breadwinner in the home (Jezebel.com makes clear what it stands on this point; they lambasted the article quoted above as no good louts trying to mooch off of Sugar Mamas). We're about to find out if Women really mean it when

they claim that “character” is as important in a Man, if not moreso, than the thickness of his wallet. And we’re about to find out if Women truly are the more flexible, amenable and reasonable sex.

Game informs this Gentleman, that the answer, in aggregate insofar as Women are concerned, is a big fat NO, they ARE NOT as “progressive” as they would like to have us believe, or even believe themselves. Not only do we have tens of thousands of years of evolutionary hardwiring to contend with here (and which I have discussed in detail elsewhere), but today’s current times *demand* that a Woman have high expectations, not just for herself, but especially for her Man. And paring back those expectations, will be all but impossible for many Women to do. Particularly those who fall in the 20-30 something age cohort, highly college educated, and are considered “pretty”. They simply will not settle for anything less-so they will find themselves, in a post-Mancession world, increasingly alone.

I have always questioned the logic, if one can call it that, of Feminist thought along these lines; I know Women just a bit too well to be taken in for such a ride. For those Women who fall outside of the groups I mentioned in some kind of way, making the transition in our time will not be so daunting. They will have realized the changes on the ground and made their peace with that, choosing to make the best of it. They’ll find that there’s more to a Man than what he does, or went to school, or how much he makes. That you can’t buy compassion, or passion for that matter, someone who likes you in the skin you’re in, and who’s a witness to your life. In a word, they’ll learn to settle-as scores of millions of Men down through the ages, on the hunt in the Game of Love, have done.

But for the Entitlement Class of Ladies who still live in a kind of bubble, the realities that this article speaks to will be a rude awakening. A kind of Dead Reckoning that can truly be horrifying to contend with, and I fully expect the incidences of emotional and mental illnesses among Women to go up in the coming months and years as a result of all of this, no joke.

You heard it here.

Now adjourn your confused and befuddled asses…

The Obsidian

Evolution Of An Obsidian

Obsidian · 19 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Dragnet's been on me forever and a day to write a bit as to how I got into Game, my own personal journey, how I found my own niche, etc. So this post is gonna talk about that a bit.

I got into Gameby way of Roissy in DC, actually. I'd heard about him via, I think, Steve Sailer's site. I'd been reading Sailer on and off for about a decade, and had always been interested in his take on things. I believe I saw a few comments by Roissy and decided to checkout his site once he got it up and running.

I had read Roissy's site for a good six months to a year or so, off and on, before I began posting; so we're talking about late 2007 or so, something like that. I began posting there in the Fall of 2008.

I was deeply impressed with Roissy's understanding of Human Nature and what makes people tick, especially along sexual lines, and especially as it related to Women. One of the few subjects that ever motivated me in my school daze, was Psychology, and I would conduct my own social experiments in the years that followed my formal schooling, just making observations of people and taking notes about the results of my own experiments.

One day, while reading a post he wrote in response to reader emails, Roissy gave a shortlist of Game-related books. I jotted them down and ordered them up from Amazon that week. When they arrived that weekend, I shuttered myself in and read them all nonstop and back to back-The Mystery Method, The Game, The Art Of Seduction, The Red Queen. I've always been something of a voracious reader, so knocking off large tomes was all par for the course for me; but this time around, it was like stepping into another world.

I say that because, reading all these books only made clear the many things I had observed over the course of my life, and not just my own experiences, but those of others, Male and Female alike. In fact, it was my recalling of my observations of others, that really came together as I was reading the work of Mystery and Style, of Greene and Ridley.
Game only focused my inherent gifts and made clear what I had already seen and done-for example, take the Seven Hour Rule, a maxim by Mystery that says that it takes anywhere from four to ten hours of comfort building time to get a Woman ready to have sex with you, with an average of seven-I'd done this before and didn't know it. Another example was the PAS, or Proximity Alert System-which is another way of saying that when a Woman is attracted to you, she may "present" herself in a way that, to the untrained eye, is completely innocuous-Women always have to have plausible deniability, yet another "blast from the past" so to speak. Anyway, PAS is a very important principle to keep in mind, because lots of guys lose out on opportunities to get with Women due to their lack of social awareness. Which is yet another thing I found extremely valuable from studying all these works-just how socially attuned and sensitive Women, in aggregate, truly are, and just how clueless Men in aggregate, are along these lines.

Of course, all of these works, and the general community which spawned and/or endorsed them, were, well, White. And not only that, but of a certain profile-college educated, White Collar, kinda nerdy, etc. The kinds of approaches, methods and the like were, for an inner city born and bred Brotha, a bit cumbersome, if not downright weird, and worst of all, highly unlikely to work. I know, because I tried them, LOL.

So, I decided to take what parts of Game, as propounded by the community, to work for ME, and chucked the rest. Oh, to be sure, I studied it, I just didn't apply it in the field in which I found myself. I didn't do it to give myself some kind of edge or whatever, it was just a purely pragmatic move on my part.

So, take for example, the many "canned routines" that lots of Game types teach and advocate-well, you really can't do that with Sistas. As a rule, Black folk living north of the Mason-Dixon line aren't all that chatty with people they don't know, and this is especially true of Black Women. What you really need to do in order to be successful with them is set yourself apart from everyone else-which, luckily for guys like me, isn't as hard as it sounds at all. In order to make it with Sistas, you need to Peacock like mad, and that doesn't mean painting your fingernails black

(or any other color) or wearning outrageous hats. It simply means setting yourself apart, visually, from the droopy pants/Timberland boots/oversized shirts/skully wearing Brotha multitude. The point is, with Black Women, and I think I ought to know as I've dealt with them all my life, you need to get their attraction FIRST, and the best way to do that is to look really nice.

Which wasn't that big a leap for me at all, as I've always been a more "gentlemanly" type and eschewed the droopy pants style that is and has been envogue among a significant portion of Black Men for sometime now.

That's another thing: in Greene's AOS, he gives a list of varying types of seducers; he advises the reader to pick the one that most closely resembles their own personality. It was a no-brainer for me: I'm a Dandy, through and through. So much so that when I actually studied the history of Dandyism it couldn't be any other way for me. Game works best when the person studying it is very introspective; this is hugely important, not only because of the aforementioned, but because so much of a Woman's life is internal. And if you want to be successful with them, you have to see things as they do.

Anyway, choosing the best "type" for yourself is also very important, because of what is known in Game circles as "congruence"-whether what you project matches with who you are on the inside. Women are very good at sniffing these sort of things out, and this is known in the community as "shit tests"-and if there's a discrepancy between what you say and what you do, you're in trouble. So, you have to experiment if you don't know yourself very well.

As for the name, LOL, that's interesting. As I was going through the project, I realized that everyone in the community had a "seduction name" and I wanted one, too-hey, I'm the type of guy who, when he takes on something, doesn't go halfass-I go all the way. So, while I was still an active member of Roissy's blog, I asked around for suggestions. After a few really lame ones, LOL, a poster named J5 suggested "Obsidian", because of the fact that I'm Black, sharp, smooth and potentially lethal-the cauldron of scalding passion and power, laying just beneath the surface of a smooth facade. That it comes from the Earth, that it is elemental, all of that, made it the perfect choice for me. I was sold. Obsidian, it is.

My own "style", if you want to call it that, LOL, is actually a kind of hodge-podge of things, both Game and non-Game related, but all from central aspects of my own life. For example, I "wield" a kind of modified version of the Mystery Method, combined with key insights from The Prince, The Art Of War, certain Martial Arts disciplines, most notably Aikido/Daitu Aki-Jujitsu/Kali/Krav Maga, and the Kama Sutra/The Perfumed Garden, the Bible & Qur'an, to name just a few. My style is a lot more "passive", in that I bring the action to me, rather than run about like a chicken with its head cutoff trying to get the attention of others. I then take the energy of others to use it for my purposes. But, do not get it twisted-when I need to, I can be brutally efficient, ruthless to an extreme-and I project that in a way that others pick up on it, and decide to deal in a more reasonable way, lest things go in a more unpleasant direction. At any rate, when it comes to the topic, one of the reasons why I've never encountered "Last Minute Resistance" is because I never chased the Woman down-it's been the other way around. In fact, as a general rule, I don't chase Women, and this is something I've been doing for years before I stumbled upon Game as its currently known in the wider culture. I simply present myself in a way that separates me from all the other Men, much like setting down a clean glass of fresh spring water in it, next to a dirty glass with muddy water in it. Women are very smart and saavy human beings; they know which is the better choice.

I also incorporate a kind of Code with my Game, which is something I notice not a heck of a lot is spoken about in the community at large; I won't lie, cheat or steal in general, and I definitely won't do it to get in a Woman's pants. Real Gamesmen never have to do such things, because Women abound, and are an endless resource. Moreover, he doesn't have to deny his needs, desires or urges. I've found that if you're straight up with a Woman, she'll pretty much go along with what you want to do, if she's that attracted to you in the first place.

So yea, that's pretty much it in a nutshell. One of these days, I'll scour what's left of the Roissy archives, scrub the posts and present them here in a kind of archive file for more details on all I've just written above. But the aforementioned, this post, should do the trick. For now, at least.

Holla back
The Obsidian

To Pickup With Anger: Why Anger, Rage & Hatred In The PUA Community Is Deeply Misguided

Obsidian · 21 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

With Roissy evidently back to his usual blogging duties despite attempts by others to have him shutdown, and because I frequently get letters from interested readers offline asking me about the subject title of this post, I thought now would be a good time to address all of that.

Many have observed the degree of out and out anger, rage and hatred expressed by many young Man in some Game-related venues, and often, Roissy in DC is at or near the top of the list in that regard. There's been much that has been said about this, on all sides, and to be sure, there's a lot of meat on the bone-there's enough blame to go around, as the old adage would say.

But I thought to approach the matter from a more individualistic perspective, since in the end, that's what Game is all about-YOU. It, in and of itself, doesn't focus on wider social issues, the economy or politics, or even Feminism; sure, one can argue that Game is a response or adaptation to a changed social landscape, and in this regard I would agree that the Crimson Gamester is perhaps the first to really "connect the dots" in that regard, among other things, regardless as to whether you agree with him or not. But my view has been, that unless you're in a position to directly, heck, even indirectly, influence public policy, there's really not much point in spending too much time worrying about things you don't have much power over to change.

And besides, let's face it-many people like dealing in "big" stuff, BECAUSE it gives them an "out" as to why they can't make changes in their own lives. It acts as a kind of scapegoat, because if there are outer, larger and more powerful forces, the rationale goes that it is that which must be dealt with first, before anything on the more personal, intimate level can change.

This is surely the case in the Game community, or at least certain corners of it. Many Men are deeply angry at what they perceive-and let's be fair now, with some degree of veracity-an essentially stacked deck insofar as the advantages that Women have in our time, from flirting and the way Nature has determined the mating dance will go, all the way through to divorce law and child support edicts-all of which are bolstered by the Power of the State. Many Men are deeply resentful about all of this, and again, there's a "there", there. So for some who take issue with the deep well of discontent on the part of so many Men in the Roissysphere and beyond, yet refuse to see any of the real and legit causes/sources of said discontent, is to be at best naive, and at worst disingenuous.

Having said all that though, the fact remains, that at the end of the day, the only person you can change, or directly help for the better, is YOU. Moreover, your issues, your failures, your this and your that, are not problems others can or should solve. They are your concerns, and can only be addressed by YOU. And if you don't seem all that interested in solving your problems, you really can't blame anyone else for not being all that excited in giving you a helping hand either. It may be trite, but its true nevertheless-God helps those, who help themselves.

So, while I too am fascinated at the kind of "Roissyian" analysis of Game, focused a bit on the larger macro forces at work, I'm gonna focus in on what the individual guy reading this can do with his anger, his discontent, to make a difference in his own life.

One, let's start here, with what I see as thee biggest failing on the part of a lot of guys who enter the Gamesphere-they learn a hodge podge of methods, canned lines and the like, none of which are, in and of themselves, a bad thing, but they go out and get angry (or angrier, depending), because they was never taught, or they never got, this essential truth:

In order to be successful with Women, to ANY degree, yo have to see things the way they do.

In other words, you have to have empathy. Yes, that's right. You have to give a damn about the people or person you're dealing with enough to at least try to see things from their point of view. Why? Because, as Sun Tzu himself

once famously said, know you're enemy, and you know yourself. If you don't know who you're dealing with, how can you possibly "win"? The simple truth is, that most guys-even those in Game circles-simply don't know or understand Women much at all. That's OK. We all gain knowledge in degrees. Fortunately for us guys, learning about Women, about Life itself, is a skill that can be acquired, through observation, study, patience and diligence. Your success with Women is in direct proportion to how well you know them, how they think, how they're most likely to act or react to given situations, and so on. A lot of guys are angry at Women, because they don't understand them and think they should respond to things the way THEY would. This is classic Projection, and something we all do, and must try to reign in if we want to be successful with others. That doesn't mean toss away who you are or forsake you're about. It means being able to know what the other is like, so that you'll be in a much better position to get that which you want.

Two, lots of guys are angry at Women because of the inherent, they believe, disadvantage Women have in the mating dance-and let's be honest, on some levels and in some ways, they DO have an advantage. For one, Women mature physically faster than boys-emotionally, too. This means that they can size up social situations quicker than most boys of comparable age and exploit them to their advantage. Moreover, because they've become Women at a younger age than when boys become Men, they can now wield a powerful weapon-their Sexuality-over Men and boys alike. Trust me when I tell you, it is not lost on Women the power this has over Men, they know it well. And because Women, even in our time, know full well that they don't have to approach Men much at all, yea, I can see why a lot of guys would be miffed at the seemingly unfairness of it all.

But what they don't get, is the full picture. A lot of guys in this cohort are looking at this thing through a keyhole, instead of through a door. Many guys miss the fact that for starters, a reasonably attractive gal-let's say she's a solid 7-can and will be approached, easily, dozens, if not hundreds, of times in a month?-by guys who for the most part, she's not interested in AT ALL. Remember, for Women, the name of the game ain't quantity, its quality. Lots of guys can't see that because of their own lack of getting any action at all, and its quite understandable. But it doesn't change the facts on the ground. Second, Women have a completely different concept of Time than we do-a guy can afford to piss away an entire decade, pull himself together and become a success. We've all seen this, in ways big and small. Take actor Robert Downey Jr, for example. His struggles with drug addiction are well documented. His career, until very recently, was all but dead; prior to hits such as Iron Man, The Soloist and Sherlock Holmes, people only really remember stuff like Chaplin, for which, as I recall, he got an Oscar nod. Yet, look at him today-talk about a comeback. I mean really, how many guys can pull off being Tony Stark AND one of the greatest detectives in all of English Literature-to say nothing of still being able to turn in powerful performances about real life stories, like The Soloist or Zodiac? And keep in mind, Downey is well north of 40 years old. Based on his career at this point, he's finally really, truly, come into his own.

Now, consider any major Hollywood actress, and ask yourself is there anyone on that side of the aisle who's done anything similar? I'll wait. Oh, sure, there are older Women actresses-Meryl Streep comes to mind-but none who did the Downey thing.

And that's my point. Women simply cannot afford to take such a "detour"-for them, the lost, or wandering years can prove fateful, even "fatal" for them, because they have a time limit on their hotness, to be frank. If they've taken care of themselves, combined by a huge helping hand by Mother Nature, they'll be able to get 20 years out of it-somewhere between late 30s to early 40s, at most. And, for all intents and purposes, that'll be about it. For us guys, it is not at all unusual for us to still be rolling-on the ascent-well into our 40s. As a Man who's 40-plus myself (just had my 41st b'day last month), and having been where so many of you are now at, I can tell all of you, without any fear of doubt, that Life for me is just beginning, that sex is the bomb, that I truly like what I see looking back at me in the mirror when I get up in the morning and before I hit the sack at night.

So, I completely understand when Women act as they do, why they put so much focus on a "successful" Man and so forth, because they instinctively know, despite all their verbal protestations to the contrary, that their time is limited in a way that just isn't the case for us Men. We don't have to like it, and what Man wants to basically be rejected-but we should respect the hand Mother Nature has handed the Ladies. We can't be mad at em.

And thirdly, many Men are angry at the way in which Women get all kinds of help, from school and college, to jobs and the Law. And much of their observations on this point are true, indeed. To the untrained eye, it appears that the Girls have all the cards.

But, consider this: on Sep 11, 2001, 19 Men, armed only with boxcutters, wrested control of two airliners and knocked out America's two front teeth. And we ain't been right since. Our country has fought and defeated the most powerful military forces known to Man-the Soviet Union, Tojo's Japan, Hitler's Germany, King George's British Empire-but we couldn't do anything with 19 Brown guys from the desert who put a hurtin' on us using the Jason Bourne Method. And to add insult to injury, the same group who sent those dudes?-they sent another who came *this close* to suckerpunching us in the gut, just last month, w/a bomb in his BVDs.

GAME, if I may make a deeply politically incorrect analogy, is a lot like those Brown guys from the desert, and Women are a lot like the USA. With just a teeny amount of Game a guy can change things, literally, overnight. I BS you not, I've seen it firsthand. This, given the advantages in time that we have, makes the Man with Solid, or even Moderate Game, for all intents, Invincible. Think about it-Women need, in addition to makeup, hairdos, tons of shoes and dresses and bags, Title IX, Affirmative Action, set aside contracts, gov't protected jobs, Child Support and Divorce laws, Sexual Harrassment laws, Rape laws in all its permutations, VAWA, IMBRA, PLUS the inherent advantages Mama Nature gave em, and they STILL cannot defend against GAME. With a minimal financial investment (I personally spent no more than about $60 for four books) and a minimal investment in time studying, observing and practicing (personally, I got results within 60 days or less), a guy can turn the tables in the dating game and mating dance, to his advantage, and of course, to his and his intended Woman's mutual benefit.

Which explains, in part, why one of the traits of an Alpha Male, is his smile.

When you're on your A-Game, you'll be smiling a lot, too.

Puts on Patridge Family theme song

Now adjourn your smiling asses…

The Obsidian

A Woman's Nation – The Acid Test: Part Two

Obsidian · 22 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since commenter "Black & German" requested that I make this observation of mine into its own separate post, and since I want to focus on being just a weebit more responsive to my readers, here it is, a kind of "Part Two" of my recent "A Woman's Nation: The Acid Test" post; as always, comment and reply, invited!

Holla back:

"As much as I would like to remain optimistic about things, I fear that things will get worse before they get better on this front. Simply put, we are now entering a generational phase where Women are outearning Men almost across the board-and this WILL have real consequences in the dating realms. What you're talking about is also age sensitive-I'd say Women post-30-but even there, for "Todd Palin Men"-Blue Collar types-there have been articles that have appeared in the NYT that clearly shows such Men aren't as likely to marry, nor are there any Women presenting themselves to them much.

And then there's the things both Nova and Deery mentioned, and we can put that together with your recent linking to that NYT article that featured all those ostensibly high-powered Women:

-Nova mentioned the book The Big Sort, which speaks to how we're increasingly becoming a segregated country along many lines and on many fronts, by our own volition and to our great detriment-this speaks particularly to assortative mating, and as we all know, Women drive the sexual marketplace; what they do, Men follow, for the most part.

-Deery noted that few Women will travel and/or move explicitly for the purposes of love, romance or even sex, although the latter can and does happen wrt vacation cruises and the like, which Women go on more than do Men, perhaps in part because they can afford to do so (although, money or not, I've never been interested in paying lots of money to basically get something that I could get at home-I always wanted to go to really different places: Cambodia, India, parts of Africa and the Middle East, other spots in Southeast Asia-and I've found that not too many Women are particularly crazy about that, LOL).

-And Meep's linking to that NYT piece really brings all this home-it never occurs to the Women featured in the article that there's a world outside of NYC-whats the chances of *ever* running into a "Todd Palin" there? And even among the "Todd Palins" in and around NYC, these ladies' attitudes completely shoots their own feet off. Why do I say that? Because again-in the mating dance, Women, like all Females, sets the tone, whether they like it or not. Never once did any of those Women consider their own role to play in things, and automatically assumed that they guys they were with "couldn't handle their success/wealth/smarts/etc. Well, I'm here to just point out a few things:

1. When it comes to the current day economy, NO ONE'S SAFE. People who are on top today, could very well be a footnote tomorrow. We've all seen this happen in ways big and small over the course of the past decade, so don't even front. There's no such thing as company loyalty, no gold watch, sometimes you don't even get a going away party-you just get escorted to the door by the goons, box of stuff in hands if your a cubicle dweller, and that's about it. One reason why more and more Men are "disappearing" from the work world is because they know the game is rigged, and want no part of it. They know, firsthand, what a lot of Women-those same high-powered types-are about to experience over the course of this decade-that you can and will be replaced, when such time comes that you're either too expensive to keep around or are in some other way perceived as dead wood and the higherups need a scapegoat and plausible deniability as a cover for their own incompetence. And girlfriend's body will still be warm while they unceremoniously remove her name off the door, cleanout whatever's left of her grand office, the band will play on, and she'll be forgotten inside a month. If that long.

2. Therefore, a lot of Women are headed for a seriously rude awakening in the next decade-many of them will enter their 30s, 40s and beyond, and despite their probable financial success, will in truth have little to show for it. Not

only will they get chewed up in the corporate grinder, but they will have wasted their best years doing so, while at the same time trying to chasedown guys who were never going to commit to them in the first place. Sure, some will have kids along the way, and others will find solace in their pet causes-but there's really no substitute for a companion and life mate. Which brings me to the next point…

3. A lot of these Women have got it all wrong, gotten Life itself all wrong. Which reall isn't surprising since Women are more likely to buy into the Matrix moreso than Men (Men tend to be outside the box thinkers-go back to the school thing. One big reason why Women excel in school moreso than Men is because they're more likely to go along to get along), and only when theyr backs are against the wall do they finally start to get a clue. Of course by that time, the guys they wanted are gone, having used them up, and the guys that they didn't want, *don't want them now*. They could easily find other gals who aren't as much of a hassle, or simply enjoy life ala Todd Palin-style-hunting, fishing and the like half the year, working in the great outdoors the other half, in quiet, slower paced surroundings. Lots of guys are starting to figure out what Todd Palin knew years ago-that true happiness comes from living the kind of life you want, and that doesn't always mean being a corporate bigshot. In fact, for many, many Men, it won't mean that at all.

In truth, who earns a bigger paycheck, or who went to this school or that, or what your "friends" and "colleagues" think of who you spend your time and dime on and with, all of that is Bullshit-because in the end, and trust me on this, I've seen enough death and misery to last two lifetimes, none of that's gonna matter. What matters is having someone to share your life with, who's your companion, mate and lover, who you can enjoy quiet time with, and so on. What matters is having someone who gives a damn about for more than a pump and dump, who respects and treats you with human decency, and who is a witness to your life.

Personally, I rather welcome the "turn" of events, because, like the old saying goes: tough times don't build character; they reveal it. With more and more Men not being the breadwinners they used to be, and with more Women getting higher educations and salaries, we will soon see what people on both sides of the aisle are truly made of. Sure, there are a lot of loser guys, but that's nothing new, nor is it the sole preserve of the poor-as many of these Women soon find out, having money and lots of degrees has little to no bearing whatsoever on one's character.

And with Women now fully in the driver's seat-like that which are featured in the NYT piece Meep linked to earlier-they'll have no one to blame but themselves if things go south. Afterall, according to the rules they bought into hook, line and sinker, they're in control, or at least a large part of it. If that's so, why blame the guys solely? No one made these Women live in NYC-one of thee roughest dating environments on the planet. No one made them chase down guys they knew from the get go, were problematic. And no one made them go on and on about their success, as if that somehow makes a difference between the sheets. It's all a crock." The Obsidian

Men Are Expected To "Settle" More Than Women

Obsidian · 24 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

The past week's crush of press coverage regarding the Pew Center's study about Men marrying for greater economic stability in our time actually points to quite a few things, as this forum and others like, have discussed-namely, that there is a growing cohort of Women who are finding themselves alone, and not necessarily by their own "choice". Simply put, these Women have, in one way or another, essentially priced themselves out of the market, and makes it so they have a very hard time finding anyone because of their "high price"-either the guys who want to "buy" simply can't afford it, or the guys who can "buy" have other options-usually much, much cheaper-and so there she sits, on the shelf way past her "sell by" date.

Because of evolutionary realities, Women are and have always been the choosier sex. This is understandable-Women only have a limited amount of eggs, a limited amount of time to "make good" on them, and human childbirth is perhaps the most difficult of all the mammals on the planet to pull off successfully. All of this makes sex, even in our time of vastly improved medical science, quite risky for the Female; if she makes the wrong choice of mate and has his kid(s), it can prove disastrous in a whole host of ways. I personally know scores of Men who, upon merely finding out that a Woman has a kid or two, immediately drops her from contention, not only as a date, but even as a pump and dump. They don't want to be bothered, and in our age of "Maury Baby Mama/Baby Daddy" high drama, I can't say that I blame them. Of course, there are also scores of Men out there who can and will screw just about everything in sight, and that's kind of the point of this post today.

Simply put and again, because of the evolutionary truths about the sexes, Men have always, *and are expected to*, "settle(d)". The average healthy human Male will create, over the course of his lifetime, some *16 gallons of semen*. That's A LOT of jizz, folks. Therefore, it's a virtually infinite resource-and you don't need to be an "Freakonomics" scholar to know, that that which is plentiful, also tends to be cheap. And the reverse is true for that which is in limited supply. Hence the formula: Eggs expensive, sperm cheap.

Moreover, and again from an evolutionary point of view, sex ain't that big a whup for Men-they does their thing and keeps on getting' up shortly thereafter. If the gal he was with has a baby, great, and if she doesn't , great-doesn't really "hurt" him either way, because he doesn't make such a huge investment in the same way Women do.

This natural "imbalance" has been approached by varying ways and methods throughout the world's many cultures down through the ages, and by trial and error, in fits and starts, finally arrived at a somewhat happy medium. That was called, for the most part, marriage, and usually in the "one Man, one Woman" model. Other cultural "interventions" came about to "even out" the inherent imbalances on the sexual score between Men and Women, and while they haven't been perfect, they have largely worked.

But what we have today are a series of circumstances where all of what we've known is starting to unravel. Marriage is fast going the way of the Dodo Bird for all but the uppercrust of American society (and the very small intensely religious communities of the nation); Women now have more "choice" then ever, due to the Four Sirens; and as a result, Men now have their own amount and degree of "choices", too.

Women cannot help but be choosy, its in their nature; yet they often will advise Men to be more "realistic" in their mating choices. How many of us have heard some gal advising a guy to "stay in his league"? Of course, such sage advice usually follows the shopworn "just be yourself" as well. LOL.

Well, Women have reasons for saying such things, although most don't quite understand it on a more conscious level. Guys "staying in their lane" clears the field and makes more identifiable the guys these ladies *really* want. Which, for them, ain't a bad thing; afterall, who can knock anybody for going after what they want, right?

But the problem is, that guys are *expected* to take whatever they can get, and like it. And to be sure, as I've said in this venue before, barring severe old age or congenital homeliness, the vast majority of Women will never have any trouble getting some company for the evening. And there are indeed a lot of hard-up guys out there, so there's

indeed a great deal of truth in all of this.

But what's happening in our time is that, Women as a group, because of their inherent choosey ways and ability to "act" on them due to education and money, are more unhappy than ever. *It actually works against their longterm goals*, because and studies have borne this out, the more choice you have, the harder it is to make a choice to begin with.

So, in a very real way, the very things that "freed" Women are the things that will prove to be their downfall. Meanwhile, because it ain't that big a deal for most Men in our time, the vast majority of em will happily shag a 5 or less, and if something better comes along, all the better. At the end of the day, at a time when many of things that made most Men valuable is now moot at best, just about any warm body will do for most Men for the night.

Of course, Game really throws a monkey wrench in the works for reasons bloggers Snark and Ferdinand Bardamu have talked about, and I urge those so inclined to look them up. And to be sure, there are voices of discontent, on both the Female and Male sides, but little if anything can be done about all that. Game is here to stay, and more and more guys know it, and the implications it points to. And for those willing to invest just a bit of time to learn some, the world is their…oyster. They can choose between the 5 and the 9.5, and anywhere in between. I've seen it happen, and I also know that quiet as its kept, A LOT of Women are starting to get desperate.

Anyway, that's my Sunday Morning Rant. Holla back.

The Obsidian

Why OneSTDV & Sofia Of "Girl Game" Doesn't "Care About Haiti"

Obsidian · 25 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

It's always interesting to observe the comments of others in reply to a post you've put up; more often than not, despite the best efforts of the authors, the comments invariably seem to veer off onto some other ish that's got little to nothing to do with the actual topic in the first place.

Today's comments were no different. Bloggers OneSTDV and Sofia, of "Girl Game" renown, have posted comments in yesterday's post about Haiti, when the actual topic was about how and why Men are EXPECTED to "settle" moreso than Women. Unsurprisingly though, I kinda expected Mr. One to do this, as he almost never comments on sexual-social relations, *particularly his own*, which begs the question: does he even have such relations at all? At any rate, his Aspergy-commentary, devoid of human compassion, is to be expected.

What's a bit surprising however, is Sofia's remarks, at least for me-I
don't know her particularly well, but I've seen enough of her over the past year to get the sense that she's basically an "honorary White" and somewhat privileged young lady who, as it is common these days, really has no idea about how the realworld works or what life is truly all about. But I always took her to be harmless if a bit grating. Her comments made here, and those made on her own blog (which I won't link to, go look it up for ourself if you're so inclined) on the Haitian disaster, only goes to confirm what I said on my original post on the matter:

That tough times don't shape character; they reveal it.

The one good, I'd say great thing, that has come out of this truly horrific disaster-and I have friends, good friends of longstanding, who just happen to Haitian-they're like family to me-is that we get to see just what people are made of. As has been pointed out to me recently, a very similar horrific earthquake went down in Kobe, Japan roughly 15 years ago, and I don't recall anyone entertaining the kind of "dispassionate", "objective" discussions of why aid should have been given to the Japanese people, or sophomoric declarations of why they "didn't care" about it. Maybe such discussions were taking place-the Internet as we now know it was in its infancy, so it could be argued that we'll never know for certain-but using Occam's Razor here, it really doesn't take a lot of mental gyrations to see what's really going on.

A very popular strain of thought in our corner of the blogosphere is the notion of skewering Political Correctness; first, it was the "Angry White Males" who led the charge; now we see that they're being joined by their "sisters" (Lady Raine is a good example) and now even those who aspire to be their "wannabe" sisters, in young ladies like Ms. Sofia. They take pride in their self-appointed duty of roasting the body politic's sacred cows on the spit; they wear their idea of Iconoclastism on their sleeves as if a badge of honor; they revel in being jerks and bungholes out of some deeply misguided sense of "keeping it real".

What a sick, pathetic joke they are, a putrid sight to behold indeed. It would be one thing if these people were true standard bearers of unpopular thought and belief-they would earn my respect for sure-but they are no such heroic figures. I mean, think about it-One's a part of one of largest and most respected educational institutions in the history of Human Beings-if he truly stood for "truth" why does he blog from the shadows? And Ms. Sofia? Let's just say, that perhaps it is not her lack of feminine charm that prevents her from finding the Man of her dreams, marrying him and keeping, but perhaps something a bit pernicious in her soul that turns such worthy Men off?

I'm just sayin'.

As one who does not believe in chance happenings or accidents, it is definitely quite prescient to note that the worst natural distaster to strike the world's first Black Democracy, one that threw off Slavery decades before any of the Great Powers of the World, and nascent United States did so, who happen when the latter nation now has, for the first tme in its national history, a Black President. Indeed, the "coincidences" here are so blatantly obvious, that one hardly needs to point them out, or the kinds of reactions we're seeing in people like the one aforementioned, and others like Rush Limbaugh.

To OneSTDV: the reason I and my readers, of which Ms. Chic Noir was one, took you to task was quite clear-no matter how hard you tried to dress up your commentary in the gard of dispassionate academe, in truth they were little more than thinly veiled race-baiting, if not out and out hating on Black folks, peppered with “woe is me-ism” in your bringing up a tornado-stricken Iowa. As Cinque Malcolm Powell, another commenter on this site wrote in response to your asinine remarks, that to attempt to equate the aforementioned tornado to a massive earthquake that has destabilized the entire nation, all in the name of “reverse racism”, really says something about your own twisted and demented ways of looking at the world. The uproar from this sight had to have had done some good-you soon admitted the error of your ways. The post remains on the previous Haiti thread. Perhaps you aren’t a lost cause afterall.

As for Lady Sofia, I’ll say this: at the very least, you have revealed yourself to be an utterly self-absorbed, vapid and overly-entitled lass who wouldn’t know hard times if it gave you the pimp hand in downtown Toronto at high noon. I’m not one to engage in petty personal attacks, so I’ll refrain from your looks-but assuming you were indeed a bonafide HB10 all day, everyday, your spirit is what makes you ugly. And if you and I were together sharing a meal and such effluent pour from your mouth at that time, I would immediately end the meal and depart, with, God willing, the hope of never seeing you again in this life, or the next. Life is hard enough as it is, than having to deal with know-nothings who spew their bile in the name of being something other than they are not.

Now, adjourn your amoral, Godless, & sickened pretentious arses…

The Obsidian

The HBDers' Black Crime Canard

Obsidian · 26 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

For the HBD crowd, and by that I'm talking about guys like Half Sigma, Cold Equation, OneSTDV and others, crime-particularly those committed by African Americans-is a huge area of concern. Even though by their own oft-repeated admissions, they don't live near or associate with many, if any, African Americans, still, their overwhelming concern about "Black Crime" is something that is a staple go-to topic of discussion in their haunts on the World Wide Web.

Today's post for examination, is no different. It's from Prime's site, Beta Revolution, and I've taken the liberty of posting up in its entirety, his words. Give em a careful read, and I'll chime back in after he's done:

"Live Not By Lies; or Educating Obsidian

25 January 2010 12:22 am

From a recent post by OneSTDV entitled "Best" Insults from the Opposition , Obsidian expresses his disdain for the general temper of the post and the practical point of consistently invoking black crime statistics. His comment:

The problem for me isn't the fact that Black folks commit more crime or a type of crime, but the point that's being made. I don't get it. It's not as if anyone who lives in America doesn't know this, and even if they didn't, the fact remains that we lock up more people than places like Russia or China. So offenders, regardless of color, are being dealt with.

If you say the point is that Whites shouldn't delude themselves about Blacks, my response would be that if residential patterns of the former are any indication, then Whites are quite capable looking out for their best interests, real or perceived.

So again, I really don't see what practical point there is to be made that "Blacks commit more crime/rape/etc".

Perhaps you can enlighten me?

Thanks
The Obsidian

Commenter Statsaholic responds dutifully thus,

The point of it is that there has been a massive brainwashing campaign the purpose of which is to stop Whites from discriminating against Blacks as individuals.

While at the same time the Rape Statistics show that a White Female SHOULD be discriminating against individual Black Men (and NOT just crime prone Black Neighborhoods), in terms of viewing each Black Man she encounters as a much greater threat to Rape her.

This makes sense for the exact same statistical reasons that it makes sense for a White Female to view men as a greater threat to Rape her than women, and men in their sexual prime as a greater threat to rape her than old men or little boys.

When you realize how many White Women get themselves raped by Black Men each year, and my calculations indicate that over the next 35 years the average 12 Year Old White Girl will have an incredibly high 1 in 20 chance of being Raped or Sexually Assaulted by a Black by the age of 47, it becomes all too clear that Political Correctness has blinded the eyes of too many White Women to basic prudence.

The only way to wake them up from their stupor is to expose them to the Interracial Rape Statistics.

Back to Obsidian's original statements. First he states that A) most Americans are aware of the prevalence of black crime. Secondly, B) those who are not aware are protected anyway by the US Government locking up more people

than Russia and China (to note the irony of American self-portrayal as freedom-loving). So in light of B , he can conclude that C) " offenders, regardless of color, are being dealt with."

Regarding A , in light of a lifetime of experience including hearsay, and even striking the statistics I have been privy to from the record, I would also assert that most American adults are aware of the prevalence of black crime. A short jaunt into your local ghetto will leave one with a sense of pity wrt the lack of upkeep, pride, and value, but it might also leave one with a rock through a windshield, a heaping of boisterous mockery, or at best, an intimidating stare. American adults, glued to the TV news as they are, also imbibe a daily stream of black crime stories. For these reasons do they maintain such "residential patterns," i.e. live as far away from the ghetto as possible (without giving up too much in the way of convenience to downtown amenities).

One exception to A is with kids. Most white parents teach their kids to be considerate of others, maybe even to be more considerate of nonwhites. They are not yet privy to the "secret knowledge" of the white adult world as to the true rationale behind not living near DeShawn or Latrice. In fact, it could be argued that with Diversity being public education's Great Commission, the official equality story is just that, a nice story we tell our kids which will one day be found out as false, like with Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy.

Whites, in our deepest heart of hearts, do wish that blacks would not commit so many crimes, that they would not need or take advantage of welfare, that they would not always be the ones needing extra food and gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas, that they would not be the ones sitting around waiting to be saved in times of crisis. Deep within every white adult's mind is the knowledge that blacks are not like us, but many of us try to push past it anyways and treat others as we would like to be treated, either because of religious education or native moral judgment. This longing is however met by reality on a daily basis for many so that general equality becomes something more of a spirit that we should all appeal to for our sakes and blacks'.

Regarding B and its conclusion C , I think Obsidian puts his cart before the horse. Let's look at the argument again:

B. Those who are not aware (of the prevalence of black crime) are protected by the US Government and its locking up of a great many criminal.

C . Following B , offenders of all races receive punishment/incarceration.

In B , we have a hypothetical white character who may not be aware of a certain area's racial makeup and may therefore be endangering himself. According to Obsidian's assertion, the US Government protects him from his ignorance by providing a surplus of law enforcement in said area, and if he were to become the victim of a crime, there would be some sort of recompense within the judicial system.

So C , because the black perpetrator of the crime on our white person in the above example has been caught by law enforcement.

But what if the perpetrator is not caught? Or if he is, and is released on a technicality, or skips bail? Remember, I am supposing that the black perpetrator in the example did indeed commit a crime against the white man in the example. Does the white man's ignorance prove him deserving of said crime? What steps and in what ways could this crime have been prevented? What if the environment had been an upper middle class mall late at night instead of on the outskirts of a ghetto? Is he guilty of ignorance when he is somewhere "he is supposed to be"?

And the big question, if the crime had been a murder-theft, is any recompense possible for the victim's family and friends? Does the statement "offenders being dealt with" have the sting it did in the above argument?

In this case, the hypothetical white man has become just another statistic–gunned down by a young, black male for the amount of money it might have taken the perp 6 or 7 hours to earn. And he should be known as a statistic so that others be mindful. My point in writing this is that it is necessary to educate, at the very least, those who are interested in the reality of mean differences in criminality, caused by differences in moral judgment, self control, and IQ. It should not be taken for granted that everyone knows to stay clear of ghettoes of whatever color. And even that is not enough because of encroachment.

On top of the freedom to speak the truth regarding crime statistics goes the freedom to discuss possible scenarios leading to the decrease of those crimes in the first place. Many incarcerated individuals are where they are because of drug convictions and domestic issues, and I do not really wish to include these in this post. What I and most white citizens are most concerned about is the random , the so-called senseless tragedy. Someone being somewhere “they are supposed to be” and still getting assaulted, robbed, and/or killed. It is plain to me that it is not specifically random. The control environment was perturbed by an outside variable.”

Back to Obsidian: Okay boys and girls, let’s make sure we get this straight:

1. There’s a “mass brainwashing campaign” going on, no doubt masterminded by the Non-Asian Minority Multimedia Industrial Complex, to pull the wool over the eyes of young and otherwise unsuspecting White folks-*especially young White Females*-as to the true nature of Black Crime.

2. That, despite the fact that African Americans make up a larger proportion of those incarcerated, and for longer prison sentences as punishment for their crimes, this is not enough; we simply must make sure that everyone, on the Planet Earth, is made aware of the congenital propensity on the part of anyone with any traces of African DNA that they are much more likely to rob, rape or otherwise maim you.

3. That, despite the fact that Whites clearly have a higher IQ than Blacks, and one would think this would kick in and warn them of wandering into Black ghettos alone at 3AM, we still need a massive multimedia counteroffensive to offset the NAMMMIC’s efforts to pull the wool over the eyes of even ostensibly cognitively superior White folks.

Hmm.

I think the Gents doth protest too much.

I mean, come on-does anyone here really dispute the simple facts on the ground here? As I’ve said above, I’ve never denied the higher crime rates among African Americans in relation to the rest of the country, nor have I ever been against incarcerating said offenders, harshly if need be, depending on the nature of the crimes. And, it has been documented, that since the early 1990s, violent crime of all kinds has actually fallen, and that includes the Black communities in th USA-and this is due to a number of reasons. One of the obvious is because we’ve built more prisons, put more cops on the street, and lengthened prison sentencing. But another reason that may not be so obvious, is because during the vicious Crack Wars of the mid 80s all the way up to the early 2000s, massive numbers of Black Men KILLED EACH OTHER, mainly as a result of warring drug gang and cartel factions duking it out over prized drug selling territory. All of these factors combined to bring violent crime, often drug-related, down in a big way, particularly in Black America-and if anyone doubts that, just ask people living on Bushwick Ave in Brooklyn, or near Z Street in Washington DC, or on the notorious Westside of Baltimore, or Chicago’s Southside, or Detroit’s many troubled areas, of East LA, Watts and Compton in Os Angeles, about what life was like in those times, particularly in the 80s and 90s. By comparison, today is infinitely more safer. And rightly so.

Well Obsidian, the HBDers will say, the media-which is controlled by those dastardly NAMs, mind you-they never talk about what happened in Wichita, KS, or how a bunch of Black Marines killed a White Marine because he dared to date a Sista, or how often White Women are brutally raped by BLACK MEN, so we, we’re doing a valuable service of alerting the public to da truth! Yea, that’s the ticket.

LOL. OK, let’s examine all of that:

For one thing, yes, in a way, you are doing your part to shine a light on these horrific crimes. That’s to be lauded, and one of the great things about our Information Age-you can start up your own media outlet for pennies on the dollar, if that; as we all know, you can start up a blog, for free.

But having said that, what many of you don’t seem to get, is that invariably, the biggest victims of Black Crime, are BLACK PEOPLE. And if you wanna squawk about crimes that go unreported, Man, you ain’t saying nothing but a word. Scores of crimes, from home invasions to rapes to out and out murders, not only go unsolved, they don’t even

get ANY time, even on the local news. Two of my own cousins were gunned down in cold blood, with eyewitnesses present, and to this day-coming up on two decades later-no one's been found. Nor should this come as a surprise to any of you-neither Tupac Shakur's murderer, or the Notorious B.I.G.'s, have been brought to justice either-and these are Men known, worldwide. While the whole planet was transfixed by news coverage of Natalie Holloway's disappearance, a young pregnant Woman here in Philly name LaToya Figueroa was brutally murdered by her boyfriend and was only found after a massive outcry on the part of her family members and the general citizenry of the city, demanding that the media show her some love. Once again, what you guys rag on about in the abstract, I and countless other African Americans know in real terms.

And again, no one has ever addressed my main point-that by and large, Whites largely live separate an apart from Blacks. Whether that is right or wrong, good or bad, is irrelevant for the purposes of this discussion-the simpl fact of the matter, is that it is, what it is. Even in densely packed urban centers, like here in Philly, or in NYC, it is very possible to be White and make it so that you spend minimal to no time around or among Blacks at all, and especially among those who are most likely to commit the kinds of violent street crimes that so many of you piss on about. Simply put, if you're White, your chances of being gunned down, over nothing, are far less than mine, someone who's been shot at, robbed at gunpoint by multiple assailants, and who's also successfully fought off would be attackers, unarmed and unscathed. All of them, were Black. And truth be told, Black folk are hardly enablers of Black Crime-when Michael Nutter, now current Mayor of Philly, proposed a "Stop & Frisk" measure to interdict gun violence, you wanna take a wild guess as to which part of the voting public overwhelmingly supported the measure? Yup, that's right you guessed it, BLACK PHILADELPHIANS DID. It was White SWPL folks, who don't live in North Philly, Southwest Philly (the stickup capital of the world), or parts of South Philly, where the next time you walk outside your door could very well be your last. Black folks living in the hood-good people, who's only sin is that they're working class and can't afford to move out-carry no torches for the criminals in their midst. They want to see them gone, too, which is why Nutter's Mayor today. When Philly's SWPLs accused him of "racial profiling" they got laughed down so hard it wasn't even funny. Oh, and by the way, quiet as its kept, the single biggest group that favored racial profiling of Arab folk after Sep 11? Yup, that's right, Black folks.

The idea or notion, that African Americans are not only more genetically pre-disposed to commit crime, but are also more likely to condone or endorse it, is just another of the simple ways in which the HBD house of cards tumbles down under its own shoddy construction and flimsy making. Moreover, the facts on the ground that I have spoken to, only goes to show what rank amateurs and fools these guys are. They are so blinded by heir racial animus, so eager to hang every social ill or problem around the necks of "NAMs", so misinformed and misguided in even the basic facts of the issues, that it is little wonder as to why no self-respecting academic of public official would ever take these guys or their ideas seriously. And that's a shame, too, because I do believe HBD study could make the world a better place.

But not by using it as a flimsy foil for legitimating one's racial animus, and stoking the flames of racial discontent.

Fellas, get a cue, huh?

Now adjourn your wannabe, funk the funk Archie Bunker arses…

The Obsidian

Obama's 1st State Of The Union Address

Obsidian · 28 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Being something of a politics and news junkie, I've always tried to catch such events, and last night's was no exception. Obama's first State of The Union address was a historical event for the obvious reasons.

I want to keep this post brief, because I'd like to open up the floor to your comments, not just on last night's speech, but on the Obama Presidency to date. What do you think? Has he lived up to his campaign promises? Are we better off today, than we were a year ago? What do you project for his Presidency going forward, in the next year or so? Will his Party take a drubbing in the coming midterm elections?

Your thoughts?

The Obsidian

Black Crime & Barack Obama: Comments?

Obsidian · 29 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Following up on recent discussions concerning “Black Crime” and President Obama, I present the following article by Manhattan Institute fellow Heather MacDonald. Here’s her opening remarks:

Chicago’s Real Crime Story by Heather Mac Donald, City Journal Winter 2010

“Barack Obama has exploited his youthful stint as a Chicago community organizer at every stage of his political career. As someone who had worked for grassroots “change,” he said, he was a different kind of politician, one who could translate people’s hopes into reality. The media lapped up this conceit, presenting Obama’s organizing experience as a meaningful qualification for the Oval Office.

This past September, a cell-phone video of Chicago students beating a fellow teen to death coursed over the airwaves and across the Internet. None of the news outlets that had admiringly reported on Obama’s community-organizing efforts mentioned that the beating involved students from the very South Side neighborhoods where the president had once worked. Obama’s connection to the area was suddenly lost in the mists of time.”

Here’s the link to the rest of the piece:

http://www.city-journal.org/2010/20_1_chicago-crime.html

OK, so the floor is open. Let ‘er rip…

Holla back

The Obsidian

OneSTDV's Swiss Army Knife" Argument: The Acid Test

Obsidian · 30 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Readers of The Obsidian Files know well that there are a number of "targets" that I like taking shots at, for reasons that by now, should be obvious. I'm basically a good guy, but I fully and freely admit to having something of a sadistic streak. I try to confine my sadistic ways to only whupping up on those who in one way or another attempt to make our world a worser place. I consider OneSTDV such an individual, and every chance I get I make sure to deliver a rhetorical Muay Thai knee to his head.

Yesterday's post by OneSTDV, advances once again his "utilitarian" argument for society, what I like to call much more simply, the Swiss Army Knife argument. We all know what this is, that famed tool that you had as a youngster growing up. I know I had one as a kid, and have owned one ever since. Its utility is unsurpassed, and can be applied to a whole range of problems and uses. OneSTDV basically applies this reasoning to human beings, where clearly some people are inherently viewed to have more "utility" than others. Moreover, not only should we plainly recognize this, but we should also actively promote this idea. Don't take my word for it, see for yourself:

"So which group, Native Americans, South Americans, and Africans or Europeans, is best able to utilize the land and natural resources of the Western Hemisphere and Africa? While Jared Diamond might disagree, HBD research, including Lynn's seminal work on IQ and wealth of nations , tells us ethnic and racial groups will succeed or fail relative to their innate predilections. [This also applies to Asian countries, but they formed largely insular societies during this global colonization.] If we seek to maximize gross utility, and do so by taking into account all peoples, it's clear that imperialism represents the most moral strategy available for dividing land."

And:

"Leftists seek a global society where arbitrary borders have little meaning. So why then does imperialism, which is essentially a denunciation of traditional ethnic borders, represent such a dastardly activity? Further, European imperialists created daughter states that provided a boon to their home countries, early settlers, and subsequently, the world at large (where would Haiti be without America?). Native Americans, South Americans, and Africans are simply incapable of gross technological and societal advancement . If Europe hadn't set about colonizing the West, it would have possibly succumbed to overpopulation, disease, or have been stifled due simply to geography. [This may be a current problem for Japan.]"

And:

" Finally, there's the issue of violence and forced subjugation. I'm going to veer into eccentricity here and contend that the Native Americans and South Americans should have peacefully acquiesced to the demands of the European settlers. By engaging in a peaceful surrender, the conquered peoples may lose some freedom and cultural vigor, but the positive changes derived from increased trade, including medicine or technology, would offset these harmful ramifications. In the end, a conquered peoples loses autonomy, but again, utilitarianism sometimes must ignore emotional desires in order to achieve some greater good."

Here's OneSTDV's "Swiss Army Knife" argument fully presented:
http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/01/howard-zinn-and-morality-of-imperialism.html

So!-OneSTDV's argument is quite clear: for the greater good, we simply have to do away with such silly conventions like human rights, or due process, or even individual autonomy. Clearly, some groups of human beings are better than others, and we should stop with all the handwringing over the fact that "lesser" people's lands were taken because a better use of said land and by extension the indigenous peoples that lived within them, has made not only the world but said peoples, *better*.

OK! I'm game.

So, let's put his "utilitarian" argument to the acid test. A little while back, in response to his and many other

HBDers' favorite obsession, that of Eugenics, I advanced the following plan to increase the birthrate of Smart White People:

"We now need to increase the number of bright White people. In order to do that, we need to find a way to convince bright White Women, to have babies-and not just one baby around 35 or so, but about 3 babies *by the time they hit 35*-meaning, that they would have to get started a lot sooner than that. More like say, 21, 22 years old?

So here's how it would go down:

The USA gov't, at the same time it cracksdown on NAMs, also offers the following to any Bright White Female who applies to an Ivy League or otherwise topflight Big State School:

Take the gov't sanctioned and mandated IQ Test; if said BWF scores 120 or higher, she is automatically granted to the Ivy League or Big State School of her choice, all expenses paid, from undergrad all the way through PhD-with the provision that she will agree to mate with the Male students the school will have selected and birth no less than three babies, *before the age of 30*, to ensure the babies' good health and genetic heritage.

As noted above, the Baby Daddies will be selected for the BWFs, on the basis of, first and foremost, their IQ scores. So, Rachel, let's say, will be introduced shortly after the first quarter of her semester at university-to Jeremy, from the Astrophysics Dept. They'll meet at one of the state-sponsored, on-campus socials, designed for the specific purpose of bringing smart White, non-Jewish couples together. Jeremy will have already been screened to ensure that he comes from a similar familial and social background like Rachel, and the Guidance/Admissions Officers will run the point in doing this kind of on-campus matchmaking. Rachel will be expected to take a liking to Jeremy, and to begin setting about the business of bringing on the next Bright White Generation. Come semester's end, the Deans and Trustees fully expect to hear a happy report of Rachel and Jeremy expecting their *first* child.

Of course, the school will cover all medical, pre and postpartum expenses, plus daycare, which will be on-site. Relationship counselors will be available, and of course the happy couple will be mandated to check in with them for the duration they're at school. And of course, we fully expect the happy couple to marry before they leave school as well.

If any of this sounds too far-fetched to be real, I have two words for you in response: Yao Ming. You all know him, right? One of the stars of the NBA, Ming is the product of a state-sponsored Eugenics program of the Chinese gov't. His mother and father were the captains of their respective national basketball teams, and the Party Bosses made sure they got together in a very close way-shortly thereafter, not-so-little Yao was born."

You can see my proposal in full here:
http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2009/12/21/lets-give-the-hbderseugenicists-what-they-want-a-thought-experiment/

So-it's crunchtime for Mr. OneSTDV: if he's really serious about his "utility" argument, then he won't have any problem whatsoever with my proposal to increase the number of Smart White People, now will he?

Let's see what he says…;)

Holla back
The Obsidian

Men, Women, Sex, Love, Game & The Great Recession: What Do YOU See Happening?

Obsidian · 31 January 2010 · Archived copy · Original

If you're familiar with what some have coined the Manosphere, you know well that some of its more prolific voices have been cogitating on this question for a good minute now. Some suggest that, since Game is the "killer app" of the postmodern dating/sexing Western World, it will fundamentally change the way we do business along those lines. Others have opined, that Game itself will continue to "mutate" under the current socioeconomic climate.

Whatever the case, what seems inevitable to this humble scribe, is that the Mancession will most certainly be a "game changer" in terms of how people meet, the proverbial Boy and Girl thing. The traditional "date", long withering away on the vine, will in my view be a footnote in American history come the end of this decade, if that long, the final nail driven in the casket by the recent economic downturn. Fellow Gamesman Ferdinand Bardamu has suggested that nightlife industries in the major cities will go into decline as a result of Guys Being Broke. Personally, I tend to agree with that assessment, although the final verdict on that score remains to be seen.

So, that leaves a bit of speculating as to how Boy Meets Girl during the Great Recession: what, do you say, dear reader? Do you think most people will still hookup via the niteclub scene? If so/not, why?

Two quick observations, and then a warning to those who's tendency it is to go off the rails before I hand off the rock to you, my esteemed readers:

1. I think the Mancession is the perfect proving ground of a Man's Game, because the conditions are such that it quickly reveals and separates the contenders from the pretenders. Guys with little to no Game at all HAVE to rely on their wallets; Gamesmen almost never make upfront investments like that. In fact, it's always been my view that the best time for a Man to learn and refine his Craft, is when he's flat broke, or damn near it.

2. If History is any indication-and here I cite as a reference point the Victorian work My Secret Life: Autobiography of a Victorian Gentleman-we WILL see a resurgence of Whoredom very soon, if it hasn't begun already. By that I mean, not in the official sense-legalized prostitution still has a ways to go on American shores overall-but in terms of the general population of sexually available Women, 18 to 44, let's say. Times are hard, and if you read the aforementioned work, you'd be surprised what Women can and will do in these economically strapped times.

And now, a warning:

I am not interested in discussing anything off topic, or, from hearing from "outliers" in any way, shape, form or fashion. I don't care if "Game doesn't work on you", or if "you would never do" thus and so. If this is your response to what is being written here, please save it for your blog, if you have one, or someone else's. The issues have been clearly laidout and presented. I am interested in how the Mancession changes the American dating/mating scene, if at all. What you do or don't do as a distinct numerical minority is none of my concern or interest, nor of that of my readership. Failure to participate in the freely admitted precisely structured way this post outlines will result in summary deletion without comment or observation of any kind.

OK, with all that said: Comments?

Holla back
The Obsidian

How NOT To "Game" Lady Raine (Or Any Other Woman, For That Matter)

Obsidian · 1 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I know some of you are gonna get a bit mad at me for going back to the well yet again, but what the heck, she's the gift that keeps on giving and I couldn't pass this up. In her ongoing "jihad" against Game, Lady Raine gives a series of responses to PUA blogger Assanova, as to "how to properly Game Lady Raine".

Folks, *laughing as I type this*, I can't make this ish up.

wiping tears from eyes from laughing so hard

I'm not gonna cut and paste excerpts here, partly because its too long (is it possible for a human being to be MORE self-absorbed?), and partly because I suspect that trying to make sense of what this Woman has written will in all likelihood make you head hurt. I know I got a headache after reading it.

Here's the direct link so you can see for yourself:
http://www.realassanova.com/2010/01/guest-post-how-to-game-lady-raine.html

Now, aside from the fact that I've already chin-checked LR on the basis of her own comments on Assanova's blog showing just how woefully inept she was and is about Game in the past, which can be found on her blog, run a search if you're interested, let me also add this:

Lady Raine is in many ways a very accurate picture of a kind of Modern American Woman in our time, one that is, sad to say, a bit more common than many would like to openly admit in polite company: narcissistic in extremis, entitled to the Nth degree, an incredibly over-inflated sense of self-worth that, when you examine the realworld reality, doesn't warrant such hubris (and we all know what said history is, no need to recount it here, please), and is, as per usual, totally lacking in any degree of self-reflection or for that matter, even able to make correct deductions based on realtime observation of events. Worse, she's the kind of MAW who, deliberately or otherwise, plays fast and loose with "equality"-she's a feisty, independent, "don't need no Man" kind of lady, but not only wants, but has the nerve to DEMAND that a Man "ask her out on a proper date" and "helps her put on her coat".

Uh-uh.

My Brothers-I submit you do the following, if you think what Lady Raine (and just about every "relationship advice expert out there on the fruited plain) is saying is indeed the way to go to reach relationship bliss:

Do exactly what she says, and report back the results.

Then, DO THE EXACT OPPOSITE. And report back the results.

I'm not the betting type, but if I were, five'll get you ten that the latter will land you in a better position, literally, to both get laid and get a relationship should that be your desire. And the same odds can be said of the former "method", which will all but guarantee that you'll wind up, be it on the weekend or during a lonely week night, with the hand.

Yours.

I don't know Assanova personally; we've yet to have any direct communication. But from what I've read of him I gather that he's relatively young (I'd put him in the mid 20s or so?), from the Midwest and African American; he definitely understands many principles of Game and while I'm not crazy about his moniker and what it suggests, I give him his due with regard to the aforementioned things I've said. It's for this reason that I suspect his asking Lady Raine questions has a more than meets the eye purpose and meaning to it, at least that's what I hope. If he as sincere in posing those questions to her, on the other hand…then he's nowhere near as sharp as I thought he was wrt Game.

Finally, in closing…

Personally, I find Lady Raine a major turnoff, for the following reasons:

1. She's not my physical type-skinny chicks don't do anything for me, and they usually don't hold up well to the kinds of sessions I like

2. She's a racist-nuff said

3. What has she done to justify her over the top views/behavior/demands? To ask the question is to answer it

4. See my analysis of her above.

In other words, a Lady Raine type-and again, they're out there in spades in all shapes, ages and colors, Brothers-couldn't get the time of day from me, or any other Man I know. We find such persons uncouth.

And Gentlemen don't consort with the uncouth.

Please do yourself and everyone else a bug favor: tonedown all the "mememememe" Moon in Aries overdrive routine. Its beyond tiresome, its getting to be an eyesore. It would be different if you had actually done something in your life that merited you being so whipped up about yourself, but you haven't. Not. One. Bit. And the "Lady" bit? Please understand: chivalry, like respect, is EARNED. When you act like a Lady, you'll find Men treating you a lot better.

In the meantime, "Lady" Raine-EPIC FAIL.

Now adjourn your narrow arse…

The Obsidian

Location, Location, Location: Your Game Depends On It

Obsidian · 2 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This is a topic that I've been meaning to get to for some time now, but, in that I've also received a goodly amount of letters from ladies wanting a bit of my worldly wisdom on affairs of the heart, this is a post they can make use of as well.

Among the complaints of detractors of Game, is that it is too narrowly focused on the niteclub scene and on the younger set of folks-early to mid 20s-and it is for this reason that it's not "really" effective. Well, let me address both:

They're right. And they're wrong.

They're right in that Game was indeed focused on these factors, but they're wrong to think that it cannot "work" outside of said environment or outside said demographic. In that Game is inherently a social pursuit, it can theoretically "work" anywhere; and in that Game has to do with understanding what makes Woman tick sexual-socially, it can theoretically "work" on just about any Woman, regardless of age.

More to the point, I have studied these matters. The Haters, have not.

Although one of my key maxims is that wherever Male and Female are, there too, is Game, I also realize the simple fact that everyone ain't cut out to rip it up at the club, or may not be interested in a teeny bopper. So this post will focus on a very crucial element of your Game, which actually goes beyond than mere Target Selection:

But about the varying locales in which you'll have more success in bagging said Target in the first place, over others.

This is so very important, and it's nothing wrong with admitting that you do better in some environments than others. In fact, it is a Wise Man indeed, that knows his limitations, and instead plays to his strengths, rather than running around acting a fool. If the club environment isn't for you, DON'T GO TO CLUBS. Go to environments that give you a higher chance of giving you the results you seek.

Smaller venues are always better than bigger ones. Why? Because it gives you a better chance to stand out, that's why. Futhermore, it also gives you a higher "hit rate" because chances are that you'll already know at least one person at said venue previously; they can act as your social proof, and assist you in winning the rest of the crowd over to your side.

This principle can be extended to cities. There's a reason why New York and Los Angeles suck for both sexes, insofar as dating are concerned. They're both too big. And unless you have big, over the top personalities, that don't mind pretty much ad hoc random hookups with little chance of anything permanent, neither city is for you. Now, I've dated a number of gals from the Big Apple-but here's the thing. I either met them outside of NYC to begin with, or failing that, I met them at a smaller gathering where I was already "pre-approved". Picking up gals on the fly in NYC is notoriously difficult for a whole host of reasons. Personally, I don't even bother.

Game is a lot like hunting, and I firmly believe that if a guy has never hunted before, he's likely to have a tougher time of understanding Game itself. Hunters by and large, don't chase gazelles and does across the landscape. They carefully study their prey, learn its habits and comings and goings; they learn the lay of the land. Then, they post up, put out the bait-and wait. Patience is a big part of hunting, and I think the same is true for Game as well. This is why I strongly disagree with the idea of "speed seduction", because when you really think about it, the term is an oxymoron. In Seduction, speed kills. If a quick lay is what you're looking for, I'd suggest a Whore. If you're looking for something more than that, I'd suggest learning how to run Solid Game.

Anyway, yea, Game is a lot like hunting. I'm something of the latter myself. And that experience has given me a keen understanding of what undergirds Game. Lots of guys take no time to learn their surroundings, the nature of the Women their going after, etc. Don't make a PhD's thesis out of it, just merely take some time to know where

you're going and who you're dealing with. Doing so will immediately up your chances of success.

This goes even for a single city. There are better places and venues and by extension, Women for you in said city, than in other parts. Again, know your speed. Hit up those places or venues that are more likely to give you the success you seek. Makes no sense at all trying to chase down a gazelle.

And now, for the Ladies reading along…

It occurs to me that Women overall, aren't a terribly introspective lot, at least not in their prime attractiveness years, 20 to 30. After that, I've found that they tend to be a bit more sober in these areas, but only because Necessity is the Mother of Invention-they HAVE to be, due to declining age and attractiveness. And because so much of a Woman, particularly one that is deemed hot, or even nicely attractive, is on "autopilot" in those years, it's gonna be very tough to talk some sense into her during that time. Usually I've found, its the not so hot or homely gals who tend to take to this kind of advice during those years. Other than that, it's the gals who are a bit longer in the tooth.

So I suspect that I'm speaking to one of the aforementioned groups, and hopefully, this will work for you.

Like I said above, the first thing you gotta understand is your location. Where are you, what kind of guys are you looking for, what kind of guys are in your same location, and what are the chances of you landing the guy you actually want? These I've found are some very difficult questions for a lot of Women to honestly answer, because they tend to be a lot more pipedream-influenced than are most guys. For example, let's say you're in NYC, and your goal is to nab a hotshot on Wall Street-uh, unless you're a stompdown hottie, good luck with that. And even then it may not be enough. You're aiming for the top of the stack, guys who by definition have more options than a little bit, and with some 8 million people in the Big Apple, you can best believe you are by no means the only one, even if you are a stompdown hottie. What makes you so special and different that he's gonna want to get with and settle down with YOU?

So, unless you're built like that to play in the big leagues, you're better off going to a smaller venue, in this case, a smaller city or town. They're be fewer guys overall, but also less competition too. And the guys that are there won't be NYC bigshots. You'll have a better chance of landing a guy for the longhaul than if you did your thing in NYC. Unless again, you're cool with just casual dating, that sort of thing. If that's the case, by all means, knock yourself out.

OK, that's it.

Now adjourn your big city pipedreamin' arses…

The Obsidian

RooshV & Anoukange: A Cautionary Tale About Love In The Internet Age

Obsidian · 3 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

When the Moon passes thru the Zodiac Sign of Libra, all things amorous is in the air, particularly when Valentine's Day is a little more than a week away* and the Moon herself is making her way to aspecting Venus, the planet of love, sex and Game itself. It is for this reason that I wasn't surprised in the least when I was alerted by one of my readers about the "war" going on between RooshV-a venerable Gamesman and notable authority on the Crimson Arts; and Anoukange, a local Washington DC blogger in her own right. By now, I'm fairly sure you've heard about it, and so I won't bother posting up the links. Besides, my point goes to something else that, insofar as I know, hasn't been discussed to any degree in Game-related circles, and which has been long overdue.

From what I gather, Roosh and Anoukange met at a club or lounge, he spit his Game, it was effective and they're off to the races. Things got pretty heated pretty quickly, and, as such things often do, they fizzled out just as quickly. Along the way, Anoukange "caught feelings" as we say in the hood, and apparently, Roosh didn't see eye to eye on the matter; this led the lady to "feel some kind of way".

Hence, yet another confirmation of the wisdom of the ages: Hell hath no fury, like a Woman scorned.

At some point it seems, Anoukange discovered that the Man she'd been keeping company with was RooshV the Game blogger, which, given the series and nature of the events that transpired between them, only added to her discontent. Again, the details, from both sides of the fence, are readily available via a quick Google search. I leave it to my readers to come to their own conclusions.

But I will say this: dating and mating in the Internet Age can be a MFer if you're not careful. It is not that hard to ferret out information on someone, as the recent "Lady Raine/Roissy Wars" clearly shows-and if feelings are hurt, time invested, messages are misconstrued, it can lead to headaches at the least, and very serious consequences at the worst. Public voices like RooshV, have even more reason to be circumspect with what they do, because whether they like it or not, and I include myself in this cohort, we indeed standard bearers and leaders in this community. What we say has impact; people read us and often respect us; and many will follow our lead.

It appears clear to me that Ms. Anoukange was both deeply hurt, but more to the point, she appears that she is clearly pained in a way that may require counsel beyond that of a good friend and a glass of zinfandel. Reading her email to Roosh that he posted on his website, with the term "sand nigger" in the subject title (its my understanding that Roosh is of, I think, Persian background?), and the long stream of comments that followed, speak both to anger but also to deep emotional problems that need to be addressed. I am hopeful that she does this, for her own sake and happiness in the future.

As for Roosh, I am hopeful that he has learned something most profound from this experience-that not only is Game powerful, but so too is the Internet. And like it or not, because he's one of the Big Dawgs, he now has to exercise a degree of circumspection that he may not have had to consider in the days when he was just another face in the crowd. As one who has always been a close watcher of both the seen and Unseen, I do not think it is a coincidence that Roissy would be in the crosshairs, and now Roosh, although for slightly different reasons. Game has indeed gone mainstream, and those of us who have any say so simply must do a better job of policing ourselves. One of the most fundamental rules of Game is the importance of Target selection, and for my money, it's not just because of what is noted in most Game books. In my personal experience and observation of others-like Roosh-it can make you or break you, literally.

So, as I signoff for the evening, I'll impart a few quick pearls of wisdom in these matters:

1. Never deal with a Woman who you cannot see as the mother of your child. In fact, this is why I am NOT a fan of the "Same Night Lay" and so forth, because there's really no way you can get to know someone well enough to

determine if she's got problems in the span of an hour or two. Yes, this will mean that your "notch rate" will take a hit, but you're much less likely to experience what Roosh did as well. The last time I ran up on such a situation myself, was about a decade ago. And thank God, I learned from the experience.

2. ALWAYS be a Gentleman-we don't kiss and tell, we don't speak badly of the ladies in our lives, and we always acquit ourselves well when among them. Far from such notions being viewed as "Beta" or weak, it is indeed a true strength, and I've written about this elsewhere (Nice Guys Can Finish First, If They Have Game). When you treat a Woman with basic dignity and respect, it is highly unlikely that she'll go after you, and if she does, everyone can easily see, that she is an A1 Headcase.

3. When you step outside your door, hit the club, bar, lounge, etc, with the intention of using your Game skills, you are not only representing the Game itself, but by extension, you are representing ALL OF US. What you do or say, can and will be taken to represent Game as a whole-Denise Romano & Co are living proof of this. And while some may dismiss her and others' efforts to "curb" Game at the least, I see the big picture-either we make an effort to police ourselves, or eventually, someone who doesn't share our concerns, can and most likely will.

Respect the Game, and as The Stapleton Singers said, Respect Yourself.

Catch ya on the Blackhand side…

The Obsidian

Open Letter To Jamilla & StrikeForce

Obsidian · 4 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Recently Roissy gave his take on a spate of articles making the rounds of the nation's leading papers and sites about the chances are for today's Women getting and staying married; here's the link to get his spin:

http://roissy.wordpress.com/2010/02/03/one-key-to-marital-success-have-fewer-options/#comment-154747

In the ensuing comments, commenter Jamilla says the following:

"

As a black woman who has had most of her experience with black men I can say that I have definitely had to play down my intelligence for the average black man that I've been involved with.

When I was in college the black men were obviously a different group of black men as far as intelligence, ambition, and–dare I say it?–morals and values from Joe Shmoe-black guy walking the streets. There the black men preferred intellectual women.

Now that I'm not in the insulated world of academia anymore I've had black men get extremely angry with me to the point of telling me to "kick rocks" and get lost after I disagreed with them regarding politics or economics.

White educated men tend to marry educated white women. So from my experience and what the statistics say about who marrys whom I have to believe that there will have to be fair amount of "dumbing down" for the average educated woman to get along with a man who doesn't have as much education as her.

Note: education does not equal intelligence and/or a knowledge about politics, history, economics, etc., but for the sake of keeping this post simply I didn't distinguish between the two."

StrikeForce responds:

"

Jamila,
As a black man who has had the experience of debating with a black woman with a higher education degree over political policy or other matter of import, I can tell you that they seem to only really be focused on how that decision effects them as a woman. Also I notice an overbearing urge to upstage and dominate me as a man to prove that they can hold their own against me. Black men have it hard enough as it is from society to prove themselves equally qualified for positions in the workplace, and other parts of society. What black man wants to deal with that ish from a black woman.

I think what you mean to say is that you can't seem to understand why your phone doesn't ring after trying to upstage these men

Obsidian has an excellent post on this very subject. I strongly suggest that should go over there and check it out. I think you might learn something."

Jamilla's retort?

"

strikeforcemorituri,

Please spare me the "I'm a black man and I have it SOOOOOO hard in society" spiel."

I dont know whether or not the overbearing urge to upstage that you say you get from these women is really occurring or if its only in you mind, I suspect the latter. Did these attempt to speak louder than you? Did they attempt to embarrass you in front of people?

Or did they just refuse to agree and in your mind a woman that won't agree after you've expressed your far superior male intelligence along with buttressing your arguments with "its a hard world out here for a black man, " is overbearing?

However I do understand your point that many black men have fragile egos. After spending the day being dominated by the white man he should atleast be able to dominate the black woman. Makes perfect sense to me."

And so, since my name came up, I decided to contribute the following, addressed to Jamilla:

"Jamilla, SFM,
Since my name came up in the comments, I thought to join in.

I can't speak for SFM Jamilla, but for me, the issue isn't agreement, but rather factfinding and clarity on where and my interlocuter, in this case a college educated Black Woman may disagree. In fact, I've found that if anything, it's the exact opposite of what you suggest, that it's the Sista who's trying to get me to agree with her point of view. This makes sense, since it's a fact that Women as a rule don't like dissention or being a raised nail, hence one major reason why Black girls go farther than boys in school. I was kicked out of class continually for refusing to play along to get along, and for calling my WHITE teachers pathetically incompetent in their inability to hold my attention and make the realworld case for my needing to learn the ruminations of long dead White Men, and how that directly appiled to my world as a Black Man. And since I've had considerable experience in both the Blue Collar and college campus worlds, I can say without reservation that most college educated Black Women couldn't hold a candle to me when it comes to political debate on the issues. In fact, most have never studied a Logic 101 course, to say nothing of debate, and most suck at rhetoric, both in terms of formulate a convincing argument and the ability to deliver it in oral form. What they often do, is use their credentials as a foil for their subjective poilitical views, which is fine, but then if we're going to have a pissing contest about such things, SHOW ME YOUR DATA, I'll show you mine, and then we can determine where the rubber hits the road. What a lot of Sistas in this cohort get it twisted is that what either of us knows or doesn't about Churchill, Reagan, Burke or Cicero has ZERO to do with what goes on under the covers at night.

Having said all that, yes, there are some Black Men who are indeed intimidated by "strong" Black Women. However, based on again, my direct experience in these matters, it's alot more overblown than it is currently presented.

In any event, I too have been aware of the articles that are at the heart of this post and am very familiar with Coontz's work as I have read her book on marriage and other matters. By the way Jamilla, fun question, have you read Coontz's book? What about Hacker's Mismatch? Or Tiger's The Decline of Males? Or the book, Promises I Can Keep? They all directly speak to the issues we are examining, and I can promise you, I can find more Ivy League educated Black Women who haven't even heard of the aforementioned books let alone their authors, than you can who have read them. To say nothing of the Federalist Papers, The Prince , Plato's Republic or Churchill's memoirs, just to name a scant few.

So…you were saying?

The Obsidian"

Because this is a forum that is much more amenable to discussing the Black dynamics of the initial topics broached over at Roissy's, I thought to take the liberty of bringing said portions of that dialogue over here, so we can properly hash it out. Clearly, Jamilla feels strongly about this issue, and so do I and StrikeForce.

Come, let's sit upon the ground and sort it all out…

Holla back

The Obsidian

PS: The post of mine that StrikeForce was referring to was:

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2009/12/31/something-really-new-debunking-the-myths-as-to-why-successful-black-women-cant-find-a-mate/

Are Women MORE Relationship-Oriented Than Men?

Obsidian · 5 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since Jamila kind of “dared” me to make a post out of this, I decided to meet her challenge. We will now discuss if this matter is indeed of more import to Women than to Men, and what that can mean as we wander into the second decade of the 21st Century.

Yesterday I referenced Roissy’s giving his take on two recent articles that have appeared in the MSM on Women’s prospects for getting married in our times; I’ll link the articles below:

http://www.newsweek.com/id/232864
http://www.slate.com/id/2243179/

Here’s what Roissy had to say about the matter:

http://roissy.wordpress.com/2010/02/03/one-key-to-marital-success-have-fewer-options/

OK – Here’s my take on it.

Please notice that both articles, and many others of late, are all written either by and almost certainly FOR Women – which I really don’t have a problem with in an of itself, but it does point to one undeniable fact -

Women are far and away more interested in relationships, than are Men, on average and in aggregate.

Now, my question to you is – am I and Roissy for that matter, right or wrong, and why?

Please know that I am not interested in your being a statistical outlier. We are discussing what the underlying purpose of these articles means, who wrote them and what audience they’re aiming for. I am warning everyone right now – grossly off-topic comments will be deleted.

OK, so let’s have at it…

The Obsidian

Question For All The “Strong, Independent” Women Out There...

Obsidian · 6 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since Jamila’s been our special guest over the past few days and has inspired the past few posts, I trust she’ll be pleased that she has inspired yet a new one.

In the Black community, it is very common to hear the complaint on the part of highly educated Sistas, that they can’t find any Men “on their level”, which is taken to mean, similar or more formal education, income and status. Moreover, the biggest complaint these Sistas have and make, is that far too many Men simply cannot handle their fierce indepence, sparkling intellect and are too insecure for their own good.

So, after giving this a bit of thought and observation, I thought to post a simple question to such ladies (Jamila, etc et al):

If you’re so strong, independent and smart, why not focus on more passive Men? Wouldn’t that create a lot less friction in your life, and be a more mutually beneficial relationship experience for both parties involved?

For example, everyone knows David Alexander. He’s as genteel and agreeable as they come. Surely, strong, fiercely independent Sistas like Jamila could hookup with guys like him, right? Passive guys like him would love to have such a leader in Women like Jamila.

So, why don’t we see more such Sistas getting with such guys?

It seems to me that in order to be successful in getting what you want, you have to go to places where the kinds of people you’re interested in are. If indeed you’re a rare find, then corresponding mate material will also be rare to find, and you accept this going in. If indeed you are more independent and aggressive, then it only makes sense, for the sake of balance, to find a mate who is more passive. And so on. The big problem I see a lot of Sistas having is they don’t seem to understand basic Economics. You have to go to markets that want what you have to offer, and/or you have to tailor your “product” o meet the desires and demands of the current marketplace you’re in. Otherwise, your product winds up remaining on the shelf. Indefinitely.

While Women like to take pride in the fact that their sex is the one who calls the shots as to which Man “gets lucky” they continue to bear out the old Game maxim that they don’t want to take the corresponding responsibility for making sure they attract the right kind of mates from which to choose from. This is especially true for Black Women, who use the dearth of “eligible” Black Men as a crutch as to why they refuse to take any personal responsibility for their lives. Sure, to say that there is a shortage of the kind of Black Me Sistas want, is a given. But that doesn’t mean that Sistas can’t find suitable mates and by extension, have good relationships. Afterall, the very same uneducated, insecure Black Men these Sistas like to bemoan and excoriate, they all seem to do just fine finding mates of their own. Leaving these ostensibly sharp, on the ball Sistas…alone.

So, I thought that since, if you’re like me and are a bit snowed in, that I’d toss this question out on the table.

Comments?

Holla back

The Obsidian

WHY Do White Men Hate Michelle Obama?

Obsidian · 6 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This is the question that has most been on my mind ever since Barack Obama himself first decided to run for President back in what, 2007? And its been like a nonstop Haterationfest since.

People familiar with this corner of the Internet know well what I mean-the Roissysphere, OneSTDV, Half Sigma, Steve Sailer, basically White Guys whose politics are center-Right, just don't dislike the First Lady, they *loathe* the Woman to such a degree that it makes one wonder…why?

Like other pet interests many in the combined Game/HBDsphere that are advanced in the name of the "good of society", the anti-Michelle Obama attitude on the part of these dudes is, some say, a "pushback" against the Liberal Media/Chattering Classes and their edict that Obama is beautiful-these stalwart, stout Men of Honor and Character, are here to say, NO, she's NOT!

Uh huh.

Then, there are those who consider themselves taking a more principled stance, by opposing the First Lady on the grounds that she's a vengeful, anti-American (read, anti-WHITE) Sista, who's angry that she couldn't cut it in the world of high academia and juris prudence and had to be an Affirmative Action recipient. Moreover, some of these guys say, she's gotten over on the taxpayers, by taking a cushy makework job at the U of Chicago's hospital, making well over 300K/year. Nice work if you can get it. Jealous much?

But while all of these reasons seem on their face "legitimate" I suppose, something else is going on here. I mean, to elicit such vitriol on the part of these guys…there's more to the story than they're letting on.

Is it Racism? Anything's possible, but I'm not sure that's it.

Sexism? Don't know about that either, at least not entirely.

So, what is it? Why are these guys rabid at the very mention of the name Michelle Obama?

Personally, I think there are a few reasons. One, because she represents, rightly or not, the kind of stereotypical Black Woman that rubs these guys the wrong way-shes dark, tall, aggressive seeming, who was able to make significantly more money than most of these guys the old fashioned way-through The Hook Up. Of course, White guys had been doing this for centuries in the USA, but it wasn't supposed to Darkies, and especially one like Michelle Obama, who had the gall to say during the campaign, that it was the first time in her life that she felt proud to be an American. Of course, the comment was said within context of the fact that her hubbie was the first serious Black candidate vying for the Office, and she had every right to be proud of that. How anyone could take what she said as anathema to all that America stands for, is interesting to me.

But I also think Obama elicits sexual angst on the part of many of her White Male detractors in this corner of the Web as well, though they'll never, ever admit it. As last year's NYT story on Michelle Obama's family tree clearly proves, she, like virtually all native born African Americans, have White ancestry…White MALE ancestry…and it was not at all uncommon for a White Man to find his way between the thighs of Black Women who looked a whole lot more like Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey well before she lost the weight, than Gabrielle Union or Halle Berry. Indeed, the latter two Women, got their looks as a direct result of such "miscegenation".

I think all of the "pushback" against Michelle Obama is really a kind of cover for a lot of sexual anxiety on the part of many White Men, especially in a corner of the Internet where sexual themes and issues are already fraught with difficulty-afterall, it is well documented that high IQs, which these Men laud above all other measures of human potential and endeavor, have been seen to correlate with lowered testosterone, inability to empathize with others, and to correctly read social cues. When one thinks about it, it is completely understandable to see how Obama the First Lady-darkskinned, assertive, tall in stature-could make these guys very, deeply, uncomfortable in ways that

Eleanor Roosevelt or Hillary Clinton never could, even though both these former First Ladies had far and away more pull and influence on their hubbies administrations, and led powerful lives after they left 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

But, I'd like to get you, my dear readers, take on this:

Why do White Men Hate Michelle Obama?

What, say you?

Holla back

The Obsidian

Special Sunday Post: EXCELLENT Weekly Standard Article On Game

Obsidian · 7 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I don't normally post more than once in a 24 hour period, but frequent reader and commenter Meep gave me a heads up on the upcoming Weekly Standard piece on Game and some of its most notable names:

http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/new-dating-game

Folks, everything you wanna know about today's dating scene in early 21st century America is in this article. Please check it out, and by all means, do holla back with your comments.

A few quick observations before I turn it loose:

1. Lady Raine and Denise Romano have utterly failed to "shut Roissy down". That the Man is quoted, at length, in one of America's most prestigious political magazines, drives the final nail in the coffin of these two "ladies" jihad.

2. That what Roissy, Devlin and others have said about the essence of Feminism is indeed true-that it isn't about "evolving", but indeed *regressing*-to a lower form of being. It may not be politically correct to say, but it's true-like Camille Paglia said, if we had to depend on Women to build civilization, we'd all still be living in grass huts. For the good of society, there simply has to be limits put on female sexuality. Otherwise, you get Black America writ large. Among other things. I'm just saying.

3. Far from exhortations of Romano and Raine trying to argue that poor young Women don't know any better, Tucker Max proves every day and every night that these young hotties-the future business, economica and political leaders of America, mind you-definitely DO know what they're doing, and have no qualms about it. It is for this reason alone that their efforts to shut Game down will end in a hilarious failure.

4. That The Weekly Standard-a stodgy, seersucker suit wearing Rightwing mag that covers insider baseball politics in the Nation's Capital, has as its feature story a *12 page click* piece on GAME, really says it all-Game has indeed gone mainstream, and its very existence as an evolutionary adaptation to the Sexual Revolution of the 60s and 70s, that threatens to destabilize the entire country, should say to the few remaining naysayers, that we've got serious concerns that must be addressed.

And finally,

5. That if things are going to change, Women will be the ones leading the charge. They always have, and always will, set the tone in the sexual marketplace. So long as knuckleheads like Tucker Max has a steady stream of vaj to swim in, guys will ape Tucker Max. So long as Women think they can do their thing when young without consequence with the guys they want, the PUA business will thrive. And so long as this state of affairs continues, where the most acute losers will be the majority of Beta Males, we can reliably expect to see more Chos, more Sodninis, and more Hasans. To say nothing of a veritable army of terrorist recruits, spurred on by their permanent case of Blue Balls.

Of course, unbeknownst to most, the biggest Losers will be Women, not Men. In Nature, Women are the most vulnerable species-Men can manage to survive in the rough. And when guys aren't getting any, they really don't have any reason to give a f*ck. Hence one reason, albeit not a publicly spoken about one, of why violence against Women is so very high in urban America, for example. When most guys have a Woman and she's breaking him off proper on the regular, violent crime overall declines. Don't believe me? Take a look at where sexual access to Females in one form or another is highest, and where it's lowest, and compare and contrast.

This is a powerful, powerful read, y'all-and I must tip my Kangol to my Man, The Fifth Horseman, who's recent "Misandry Bubble" really nails it-expect to see many more mainstream media outlets speak on it, in one way or another.

OK-the floor is open!

The Obsidian

Yet Another EXCELLENT Game-Related Article In The Mainstream Media...

Obsidian · 7 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Commenter Freakshow tossed this link into the Weekly Standard thread, and after reading the article, from the New York Times (Jamila), I could resist post it up for incisive discussion:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/07/fashion/07campus.html

Now, please note that it shoots all kinds of holes in the arguments Jamila's been making in as many days. We'll get to said arguments over the course of the ensuing discussion.

Also, please notice yet again the slant, tenor and tone of the discussion: ITS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE WOMEN. Never once do they seriously examine WHY so many Men and boys are dropping out of school. Now, I'm not the conspiracy theorist sort, but I say, that this lack of analysis is no accident. It is verboten to suggest that there are real differences between boys and girls, Men and Women, and that what motivates one tends to turn the other off. And, as a result of decades of thoroughly feminizing the campus, Men are beginning to vote with heir feet.

Which explains why indeed, more and more Men are dropping out. As we've been saying here and elsewhere, since Day One.

Please look at the dates of both this article, and the Weekly Standard-and please understand, that this ain't a partisan issue.

Again, Kangol tip to The Fifth Horseman. Please read his Misandry Bubble article over at The Futurist? You'll be glad when you did:

http://www.singularity2050.com/2010/01/the-misandry-bubble.html

OK, people-and most especially Jamila-let's roll…

The Obsidian

2010 Virutal Roundtable: Predictions For The Next Decade

Obsidian · 8 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

The following was a kind of experiment in whether I could pull together some of the more sharper minds of the Manosphere, to see what they saw coming down the pike in the coming decade. The rest is self-explanatory from here. Feel free to chime in with your thoughts! This thing is always fun.

20 Questions & Issues For The Virtual Roundtable

OK Fellas, here we go:

There's been a lot said about what we can expect in the coming year and decade, and if you're anything like me-and I suspect you all are-you're thinking it's all BULLSHIT. Much of what passes for "analysis" more often than not is little more than the blatherings and yammerings-on, of talking heads and pundits who live lives far removed from the Common Man and life on the ground. I got tired of all the usual crap, and decided that I could do a better job of presenting the issues than all of the Chattering Classes combined. Moreover, I don't need their permission or approval, since the Internet affords me the chance and opportunity to be heard worldwide, from a smartphone. Many of you think as I do, and hence we're all gathered today.

So, you Gentlemen-Chuck Ross; Welmer; The Fifth Horseman; Dragnet; Advocatus Diaboli; Ferdinand Bardamu, and Novaseeker-Men from all walks of life-are to me, a key source of information, insight and wisdom, and in many ways, outclass the talking heads who do little more than provide background noise while we click away on our keyboards for our respective blogging venues. We have among us, myself included, a lawyer, an online magazine owner, a futurist, an astrologer, a "big pharma" type, a financial services guy; Men who are both single and married or divorced; and our ages run the gamut from the 20s to well beyond the 40s. I think we have a good bit to say about what lay in store for us all.

So, here's my questions:

1. Looking ahead for 2010-and the decade as well-how do you see the national economy? Will the stimulus package(s) work, and why/why not? Will the coming decade portend yet another round of convulsing recessions, and if so, when? How long will they last? And what sectors of economy (those that are left standing at present) can we expect to get hit?

2. Speaking of areas of the economy, what will be the "growth sectors" in the coming decade? What areas will we see a shrinking or contraction of? Will either hold post-2020? If so/not, why?

3. Over the past decade or so-from 2000 to present, we've seen two "bubbles" bursting-the socalled "tech" bubble, and the more recent banking/subprime mortage bubble. Te former wasn't as bad, some econ-type say, because it was largely an "insider baseball" kind of game; the only people truly effected, were the "players" themselves. Not so with the latter, and I need no reiterate here. My question to you Gents, is what is the next "bubble" to burst, when can we expect it to go down, assuming it does happen over the course of the current decade, and what will be the overall net impact?

4. Much has been said about the Walls St/Main St dichotomy; for the former, despite heavy losses and taxpayer funded bailouts, life has largely been good there, wit top dogs and fat cats at major American banks getting hefty year end bonuses, while Main St suffers a slow and undignified death. Many have observed that the chasm between haves and have nots continues to widen; worse, that the channels, or access, to upward mobility lessen with each passing year. What are your thoughts on all of this in coming decade? Will this trend reverse itself, ease somewhat, or will it continue unabated, a kind of 21st century Dickensian nightmare?

5. All of you are quite familiar with what some has referred to as the Mancession-what I want to ask you all is simply this: how long will it continue, what will be the likely impact and fallout, short term (this year) and long term (over the course of the decade), and where will the Men hit by it go from here? What do you see it most likely

to happen?

6. Continuing on from the preceeding question, not only is little if anything is said about the Mancession on ANY MSM channel, network, website or blog, but the same can be said for the inevitable social upheaval it brings in its wake. However, many of you have spoken on this to one degree or another, in particular you Welmer; your work at The Spearhead online Men's magazine is exemplary in that regard. My question to you all is, what are, and will be, the social ramifications for the literal flip-flopping of labor power here, from a majority Male workforce, to a majority Female one? How will this effect us, and in what ways will we see this over the coming decade? Does anyone see anything manifesting itself on the horizon, this year?

7. Again, in keeping with the theme of the previous two questions, we've all seen and heard of Tiger Woods' travails; more recently, Obama Administration member Mr. Peter Orszag has come into the spotlight for his own questionable deeds of a personal nature. Clearly, both stories says something about us as Americans, and shakes to the core everything we profess to believe: Love, Marriage, Sex, Ethics, and so much more. With all that in mind, what will the coming decade bring along these lines-more instances of Woods and Orszag-like scandals of heretofore "squeaky" clean imaged Men? What does this mean for social institutions like Marriage?

8. As you all know, I am an African American, and as such, I have a keen interest in issues that effects them a bit more than everyone else. When it comes to Men overall, one is hardpressed to think up a subset that has been hardest hit than Black Males. I need not revisit the stats, you all know them. With a Black President in office for the first time in American history, do any of you see President Obama actually doing anything to address the many problems that besiege Black Men particularly, and ironically enough are now starting to plague the wider and Whiter American community, and if so/not, why? Do you see, or don't see, any significant action or initiatives, taking place on this front in this decade?

9. Dovetailing the above and previous questions, what are your thoughts for the future of American education? I mean both in the primary and secondary levels? Some have openly begun to question the realworld utility of expensive and questionable college degrees out on the open job market; others have suggested that the elites have successfully duped everyone else into thinking that they cannot succeed without having gone into mountains of debt and obtaining a degree; and still others argue that colleges and universities act as de facto IQ certification courses, in an era where jobs cannot test for IQ outright. Personally, I am of the view that American higher education is not only vastly overrated, but that it actually does more harm than good in many cases. But that's just me. What do you is likely to happen in the coming decade on this score? Feel free to elaborate.

10. Much of our discussions revolve around Women; last year, Maria Shriver released her much lauded "A Woman's Nation" report. Given what it says, and your own thoughts on the matter, how will Women fare in this decade? What are the upsides, and downsides, and when do you see each manifesting itself? Again, feel free to elaborate.

11. Given the ever-quickening pace and accessibility of technology, what do you see on the horizon as the next big or even "micro" trends over the next decade? What will be the next "big thing" for the masses? What major pharma or tech-related innovations, discoveries and the like, that's next to come to market, this year and in the coming decade? How will all of this change the way in which we as humans, as Americans, relate to each other?

12. A tremendous deal has been said about Game over the past few years, and some have suggested that it has gone "viral" or mainstream. That begs the question-will Game ever become a dominant force on the present/modern day American social and dating scene, and if so/not, why? What *is* the Future, of Game, say, circa 2020? How will Women "adapt"-can they? How will Game "evolve"? Will it still be relevant, ten years from now? How? In which way(s)? Feel free to elaborate. Given the current economic climate, and what is likely to happen over the course of the decade, how will this, and/or Game, impact the American dating/mating scene? Again, feel free to elaborate.

13. On to the world stage. Let's begin with the recent "underwear bomber" scare a few weeks back. It appears clear now that we're no closer to getting a handle on Al Qaeda than we were nearly a decade ago, with Sep 11, 2001.

What do you perceive as President Obama's next move(s) will be on this front, will heads roll in the wake of the current fiasco, and how will all of this effect American lives? Can we install an "El Al" type scheme? If so/not, why? Do you see another major terrorist attack on US soil, and if so, when? Can Al Qaeda be defeated, and if so/not, why? Where do you see the War On Terror moving to next-Somalia, or some other African country? Yemen? Where?

14. What are your thoughts of Obama's plans for Afghanistan, and will they work? If so/not, why? What can it mean for the larger region-Iran, India, Pakistan? What about Iraq?

15. Assuming Obama runs for reelection, do you foresee him being reelected, or losing to a challenger? Who do you think that challenger will be? Will a Woman be elected by or before 2020? Who? Also, from your vantage point now, in Jan 2010, what will be Obama's legacy? How will he be viewed by future historians? Will he be assassinated, and if so, when?

16. Many have suggested that the "emerging" world economies/powers, like China, India, South Korea and Brazil, will overtake the United States in this century. 100 years is a bit far off for my radar and tastes, so let's just focus on the next ten years. What do you make of all the punditry surrounding these countries? Will they in fact become major players on the world stage by or before 2020, and if so/not, why? Personally, I see many social, political, economic and even environmental problems for all these countries, though to varying degrees depending on the particular country involved. But I put this question to all of you, my friends. Additionally, what do you see ahead for the African continent-what countries look to be up and coming stars on the horizon, and which ones are likely to fall over into the abyss in the coming decade? What role Africa, as a whole, play in the coming decade, and what role, is any, will the aforementioned "emerging powers", and/or the USA, play in it? What say you?

17. Speaking of the environment, what are your views of Global Warming/Climate Change? Will this have particular impact for our nation in the coming decade, and if so, how?

18. Many of you here are at the least familiar with "HBD", or Human Bio Diversity, if not out and out supporters of that view. What do you see as the future of said views, over the course of the coming decade? Do you see any evidence from where you sit in Jan 2010, of it becoming more mainstream, or the reverse? Some have suggested that it is the last remaining taboo of the Scientific World. Others have stated that it is little more than a 21st century of pseudo-scientific, racist-informed drivel, akin to Phrenology. Will Eugenics ever make a comeback to respectability since Hitler and Nazi Germany? What are your personal views of the matter? Feel free to elaborate.

19. This question follows the last, in that it has to do with a particular focus of the HBD crowd-IQ. For them, it is the most consistent and reliable indicator and predictor of life measures and outcomes across the human spectrum, from national GDP to personal conscientiousness. Many pundits, like the New York Times Tom Friedman, have made clear that the 21st century belongs to those who have the brainpower to take full advantage of all its wonderous possibilities. Personally, I think IQ is overrated, but I wanted to get the view of Men I consider much smarter than myself, LOL. What do you think? Is there one way to measure IQ, or many?

20. And finally, the last question-the last ten years has been dubbed "The Lost Decade". Personally, I would largely agree with that moniker-but I think it will not be the only one. It is my view, based on my astrological researches, that the current decade will not be looked back upon favorably either. But how do you think this decade will be remembered?

Gentlemen, I thank you all for your time in answering these questions! I should like to check back in on these from time to time, to see who got things right, and who got them wrong. Thanks for sharing!

*Welmer, please send these questions to Novaseeker; I don't have his email address, and please have him contact me via email. Thanks!

The Obsidian

Why Women Frequent Game Forums

Obsidian · 10 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since I and the rest of the Mid-Atlantic region is snowed in, and completely derailed very important business I had planned for today, I reckon I'll be posting a bit over the next few days.

This early morning topic will focus on a theme that's been discussed elsewhere-why Women frequent Game-related forums and online venues.

Although of course, different Women will have different reasons, motivations and drives as to why they find themselves in a ostensibly Male-dominated environment, I do think a string of common themes becomes apparent:

1. Because a lot of Women are taken aback that a system of picking them up *works*

2. Because they want to know why they keep choosing the same kinds of guys over and over and over, though they will never openly admit it

3. because they're attracted to some of the guys in said forums, though, again, they'll never openly admit it

There are other reasons, of course, and for Women like say, Ms. Susan Walsh of Hooking Up Smart.com, frequenting Game forums and venues helps hone her antennae so to speak, as she blogs to assist young ladies in today's dating scene. And there are other Women, like for example frequent commenters Meep and Black & German, who enjoy discussing Male-Female relationships, sociosexual dynamics, and may even be interested in learning more about Male "wiring" and by extension how their own hubbies tick, to improve their own marriages.

But for the most part, the above three points you will find, will lie behind most of the ladies who are "regulars" of the Game online scene.

One thing I've found particularly interesting is the idea voiced by quite a few Women, that Game would "never work on me!". Even without any knowledge or experience with Game, recent events that shall not be directly referred to clearly debunks such a notion. In fact, and those who study Game knows this more than anyone, those who shout the loudest about being "immune" to Game are almost to a Woman, the easiest to fall.

Yes, all things in the Game toolbox won't work with all Women, all the time. And yes, all guys won't be able to pull off or execute Game flawlessly. But the simple truth is, that for most Women, most of the time, it has been shown that most of Game's most bedrock, fundamental principles, do indeed work. Social Proof, Preselection, Peacocking, Negs, and so on, are age old concepts that have always been with us. All Game has done is "distilled" this information, formed into a systematic, compact body of knowledge that can be implemented by almost any Man who wishes to do so. And it is that knowledge, that concerns quite a few Women, most. It does because for one thing, it kinda blows the covers off notions that they're special or outliers-the reality of Game, would suggest otherwise. And second, if just about any guy can learn Game, how is she to know who's on the up and up, and who isn't?

Well, she can't-or at the very least, it will be very hard to do. Just like a Man has a hard way of knowing if the Hottie he's checking out at the club is indeed a Devil Worshipper, LOL. Based on what he can see, the way she's gussied herself up, and barring him being clairvoyant, he can't know. He just kinda has to wing it. The difference between guys and gals, for the most part, is that the former accepts that there are a certain set of things Women can do to get his attention and he isn't at all averse to this; with the ladies, its a bit unsettling, at least for some.

Because Women by and large are indirect beings, it is very hard for them to come to grips with things, especially when it comes to themselves. Many Women who find themselves in Game forums and the like, are very turned on by what they read about, and sometimes by the posters themselves. But because of their own hangups, there's a lot of cognitive dissonance on this front. At any rate, very few Women will just come out and admit that when a Man runs tight Game she gets really turned on by that. Just like very few Women will step to a guy that she likes.

Observing Women as I have over the years and even more recently, I've found that what they fight the most against is where their real issues, fears and challenges are, as well as what excites them most. Game is one of those things.

And after all the sound and fury, the reason why they are here, is because it works.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Excellent Article On The Great Recession At “The Atlantic”

Obsidian · 11 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

One of my readers sent me the link to a most excellent article about The Great Recession and what it portends for our society, originally appearing on The Atlantic’s website. I’m posting it in full below. Please feel free to chime in with your comments!

Economy March 2010

The Great Recession may be over, but this era of high joblessness is probably just beginning. Before it ends, it will likely change the life course and character of a generation of young adults. It will leave an indelible imprint on many blue-collar men. It could cripple marriage as an institution in many communities. It may already be plunging many inner cities into a despair not seen for decades. Ultimately, it is likely to warp our politics, our culture, and the character of our society for years to come.

by Don Peck

How a New Jobless Era Will Transform America

Image credit: Fredrik Broden

How should we characterize the economic period we have now entered? After nearly two brutal years, the Great Recession appears to be over, at least technically. Yet a return to normalcy seems far off. By some measures, each recession since the 1980s has retreated more slowly than the one before it. In one sense, we never fully recovered from the last one, in 2001: the share of the civilian population with a job never returned to its previous peak before this downturn began, and incomes were stagnant throughout the decade. Still, the weakness that lingered through much of the 2000s shouldn’t be confused with the trauma of the past two years, a trauma that will remain heavy for quite some time.

The unemployment rate hit 10 percent in October, and there are good reasons to believe that by 2011, 2012, even 2014, it will have declined only a little. Late last year, the average duration of unemployment surpassed six months, the first time that has happened since 1948, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking that number. As of this writing, for every open job in the U.S., six people are actively looking for work.

All of these figures understate the magnitude of the jobs crisis. The broadest measure of unemployment and underemployment (which includes people who want to work but have stopped actively searching for a job, along with those who want full-time jobs but can find only part-time work) reached 17.4 percent in October, which appears to be the highest figure since the 1930s. And for large swaths of society—young adults, men, minorities—that figure was much higher (among teenagers, for instance, even the narrowest measure of unemployment stood at roughly 27 percent). One recent survey showed that 44 percent of families had experienced a job loss, a reduction in hours, or a pay cut in the past year.

There is unemployment, a brief and relatively routine transitional state that results from the rise and fall of companies in any economy, and there is unemployment —chronic, all-consuming. The former is a necessary lubricant in any engine of economic growth. The latter is a pestilence that slowly eats away at people, families, and, if it spreads widely enough, the fabric of society. Indeed, history suggests that it is perhaps society’s most noxious ill.

The worst effects of pervasive joblessness—on family, politics, society—take time to incubate, and they show themselves only slowly. But ultimately, they leave deep marks that endure long after boom times have returned. Some of these marks are just now becoming visible, and even if the economy magically and fully recovers tomorrow, new ones will continue to appear. The longer our economic slump lasts, the deeper they’ll be.

If it persists much longer, this era of high joblessness will likely change the life course and character of a

generation of young adults—and quite possibly those of the children behind them as well. It will leave an indelible imprint on many blue-collar white men—and on white culture. It could change the nature of modern marriage, and also cripple marriage as an institution in many communities. It may already be plunging many inner cities into a kind of despair and dysfunction not seen for decades. Ultimately, it is likely to warp our politics, our culture, and the character of our society for years.

The Long Road Ahead

Since last spring, when fears of economic apocalypse began to ebb, we've been treated to an alphabet soup of predictions about the recovery. Various economists have suggested that it might look like a V (a strong and rapid rebound), a U (slower), a W (reflecting the possibility of a double-dip recession), or, most alarming, an L (no recovery in demand or jobs for years: a lost decade). This summer, with all the good letters already taken, the former labor secretary Robert Reich wrote on his blog that the recovery might actually be shaped like an X (the imagery is elusive, but Reich's argument was that there can be no recovery until we find an entirely new model of economic growth).

No one knows what shape the recovery will take. The economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent in the third quarter of last year, the first increase since the second quarter of 2008. If economic growth continues to pick up, substantial job growth will eventually follow. But there are many reasons to doubt the durability of the economic turnaround, and the speed with which jobs will return.

Historically, financial crises have spawned long periods of economic malaise, and this crisis, so far, has been true to form. Despite the bailouts, many banks' balance sheets remain weak; more than 140 banks failed in 2009. As a result, banks have kept lending standards tight, frustrating the efforts of small businesses—which have accounted for almost half of all job losses—to invest or rehire. Exports seem unlikely to provide much of a boost; although China, India, Brazil, and some other emerging markets are growing quickly again, Europe and Japan—both major markets for U.S. exports—remain weak. And in any case, exports make up only about 13 percent of total U.S. production; even if they were to grow quickly, the impact would be muted.

Most recessions end when people start spending again, but for the foreseeable future, U.S. consumer demand is unlikely to propel strong economic growth. As of November, one in seven mortgages was delinquent, up from one in 10 a year earlier. As many as one in four houses may now be underwater, and the ratio of household debt to GDP, about 65 percent in the mid-1990s, is roughly 100 percent today. It is not merely animal spirits that are keeping people from spending freely (though those spirits are dour). Heavy debt and large losses of wealth have forced spending onto a lower path.

So what is the engine that will pull the U.S. back onto a strong growth path? That turns out to be a hard question. The New York Times columnist Paul Krugman, who fears a lost decade, said in a lecture at the London School of Economics last summer that he has "no idea" how the economy could quickly return to strong, sustainable growth. Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, told the Associated Press last fall, "I think the unemployment rate will be permanently higher, or at least higher for the foreseeable future. The collective psyche has changed as a result of what we've been through. And we're going to be different as a result."

One big reason that the economy stabilized last summer and fall is the stimulus; the Congressional Budget Office estimates that without the stimulus, growth would have been anywhere from 1.2 to 3.2 percentage points lower in the third quarter of 2009. The stimulus will continue to trickle into the economy for the next couple of years, but as a concentrated force, it's largely spent. Christina Romer, the chair of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, said last fall, "By mid-2010, fiscal stimulus will likely be contributing little to further growth," adding that she didn't expect unemployment to fall significantly until 2011. That prediction has since been echoed, more or less, by the Federal Reserve and Goldman Sachs.

The economy now sits in a hole more than 10 million jobs deep—that's the number required to get back to 5 percent unemployment, the rate we had before the recession started, and one that's been more or less typical for a

generation. And because the population is growing and new people are continually coming onto the job market, we need to produce roughly 1.5 million new jobs a year—about 125,000 a month—just to keep from sinking deeper.

Even if the economy were to immediately begin producing 600,000 jobs a month—more than double the pace of the mid-to-late 1990s, when job growth was strong—it would take roughly two years to dig ourselves out of the hole we're in. The economy could add jobs that fast, or even faster—job growth is theoretically limited only by labor supply, and a lot more labor is sitting idle today than usual. But the U.S. hasn't seen that pace of sustained employment growth in more than 30 years. And given the particulars of this recession, matching idle workers with new jobs—even once economic growth picks up—seems likely to be a particularly slow and challenging process.

The construction and finance industries, bloated by a decade-long housing bubble, are unlikely to regain their former share of the economy, and as a result many out-of-work finance professionals and construction workers won't be able to simply pick up where they left off when growth returns—they'll need to retrain and find new careers. (For different reasons, the same might be said of many media professionals and auto workers.) And even within industries that are likely to bounce back smartly, temporary layoffs have generally given way to the permanent elimination of jobs, the result of workplace restructuring. Manufacturing jobs have of course been moving overseas for decades, and still are; but recently, the outsourcing of much white-collar work has become possible. Companies that have cut domestic payrolls to the bone in this recession may choose to rebuild them in Shanghai, Guangzhou, or Bangalore, accelerating off-shoring decisions that otherwise might have occurred over many years.

New jobs will come open in the U.S. But many will have different skill requirements than the old ones. "In a sense," says Gary Burtless, a labor economist at the Brookings Institution, "every time someone's laid off now, they need to start all over. They don't even know what industry they'll be in next." And as a spell of unemployment lengthens, skills erode and behavior tends to change, leaving some people unqualified even for work they once did well.

Ultimately, innovation is what allows an economy to grow quickly and create new jobs as old ones obsolesce and disappear. Typically, one salutary side effect of recessions is that they eventually spur booms in innovation. Some laid-off employees become entrepreneurs, working on ideas that have been ignored by corporate bureaucracies, while sclerotic firms in declining industries fail, making way for nimbler enterprises. But according to the economist Edmund Phelps, the innovative potential of the U.S. economy looks limited today. In a recent Harvard Business Review article , he and his co-author, Leo Tilman, argue that dynamism in the U.S. has actually been in decline for a decade; with the housing bubble fueling easy (but unsustainable) growth for much of that time, we just didn't notice. Phelps and Tilman finger several culprits: a patent system that's become stifling; an increasingly myopic focus among public companies on quarterly results, rather than long-term value creation; and, not least, a financial industry that for a generation has focused its talent and resources not on funding business innovation, but on proprietary trading, regulatory arbitrage, and arcane financial engineering. None of these problems is likely to disappear quickly. Phelps, who won a Nobel Prize for his work on the "natural" rate of unemployment, believes that until they do disappear, the new floor for unemployment is likely to be between 6.5 percent and 7.5 percent, even once "recovery" is complete.

It's likely, then, that for the next several years or more, the jobs environment will more closely resemble today's environment than that of 2006 or 2007—or for that matter, the environment to which we were accustomed for a generation. Heidi Shierholz, an economist at the Economic Policy Institute, notes that if the recovery follows the same basic path as the last two (in 1991 and 2001), unemployment will stand at roughly 8 percent in 2014.

"We haven't seen anything like this before: a really deep recession combined with a really extended period, maybe as much as eight years, all told, of highly elevated unemployment," Shierholz told me. "We're about to see a big national experiment on stress."

The Recession and America's Youth

"I'm definitely seeing a lot of the older generation saying, 'Oh, this [recession] is so awful,'" Robert Sherman, a

2009 graduate of Syracuse University, told The New York Times in July. “But my generation isn’t getting as depressed and uptight.” Sherman had recently turned down a $50,000-a-year job at a consulting firm, after careful deliberation with his parents, because he hadn’t connected well with his potential bosses. Instead he was doing odd jobs and trying to get a couple of tech companies off the ground. “The economy will rebound,” he said.

Over the past two generations, particularly among many college grads, the 20s have become a sort of netherworld between adolescence and adulthood. Job-switching is common, and with it, periods of voluntary, transitional unemployment. And as marriage and parenthood have receded farther into the future, the first years after college have become, arguably, more carefree. In this recession, the term funemployment has gained some currency among single 20-somethings, prompting a small raft of youth-culture stories in the Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Weekly , on Gawker, and in other venues.

Video: Experts explain why the current crop of 20-somethings is unequipped to face today’s job market

Most of the people interviewed in these stories seem merely to be trying to stay positive and make the best of a bad situation. They note that it’s a good time to reevaluate career choices; that since joblessness is now so common among their peers, it has lost much of its stigma; and that since they don’t have mortgages or kids, they have flexibility, and in this respect, they are lucky. All of this sounds sensible enough—it is intuitive to think that youth will be spared the worst of the recession’s scars.

But in fact a whole generation of young adults is likely to see its life chances permanently diminished by this recession. Lisa Kahn, an economist at Yale, has studied the impact of recessions on the lifetime earnings of young workers. In one recent study, she followed the career paths of white men who graduated from college between 1979 and 1989. She found that, all else equal, for every one-percentage-point increase in the national unemployment rate, the starting income of new graduates fell by as much as 7 percent; the unluckiest graduates of the decade, who emerged into the teeth of the 1981–82 recession, made roughly 25 percent less in their first year than graduates who stepped into boom times.

But what’s truly remarkable is the persistence of the earnings gap. Five, 10, 15 years after graduation, after untold promotions and career changes spanning booms and busts, the unlucky graduates never closed the gap. Seventeen years after graduation, those who had entered the workforce during inhospitable times were still earning 10 percent less on average than those who had emerged into a more bountiful climate. When you add up all the earnings losses over the years, Kahn says, it’s as if the lucky graduates had been given a gift of about $100,000, adjusted for inflation, immediately upon graduation—or, alternatively, as if the unlucky ones had been saddled with a debt of the same size.

When Kahn looked more closely at the unlucky graduates at mid-career, she found some surprising characteristics. They were significantly less likely to work in professional occupations or other prestigious spheres. And they clung more tightly to their jobs: average job tenure was unusually long. People who entered the workforce during the recession “didn’t switch jobs as much, and particularly for young workers, that’s how you increase wages,” Kahn told me. This behavior may have resulted from a lingering risk aversion, born of a tough start. But a lack of opportunities may have played a larger role, she said: when you’re forced to start work in a particularly low-level job or unsexy career, it’s easy for other employers to dismiss you as having low potential. Moving up, or moving on to something different and better, becomes more difficult.

“Graduates’ first jobs have an inordinate impact on their career path and [lifetime earnings],” wrote Austan Goolsbee , now a member of President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers, in The New York Times in 2006. “People essentially cannot close the wage gap by working their way up the company hierarchy. While they may work their way up, the people who started above them do, too. They don’t catch up.” Recent research suggests that as much as two-thirds of real lifetime wage growth typically occurs in the first 10 years of a career. After that, as people start families and their career paths lengthen and solidify, jumping the tracks becomes harder.

This job environment is not one in which fast-track jobs are plentiful, to say the least. According to the National

Association of Colleges and Employers, job offers to graduating seniors declined 21 percent last year, and are expected to decline another 7 percent this year. Last spring, in the San Francisco Bay Area, an organization called JobNob began holding networking happy hours to try to match college graduates with start-up companies looking primarily for unpaid labor. Julie Greenberg, a co-founder of JobNob, says that at the first event, on May 7, she expected perhaps 30 people, but 300 showed up. New graduates didn't have much of a chance; most of the people there had several years of work experience—quite a lot were 30-somethings—and some had more than one degree. JobNob has since held events for alumni of Stanford, Berkeley, and Harvard; all have been well attended (at the Harvard event, Greenberg tried to restrict attendance to 75, but about 100 people managed to get in), and all have been dominated by people with significant work experience.

When experienced workers holding prestigious degrees are taking unpaid internships, not much is left for newly minted B.A.s. Yet if those same B.A.s don't find purchase in the job market, they'll soon have to compete with a fresh class of graduates—ones without white space on their résumé to explain. This is a tough squeeze to escape, and it only gets tighter over time.

Strong evidence suggests that people who don't find solid roots in the job market within a year or two have a particularly hard time righting themselves. In part, that's because many of them become different—and damaged—people. Krysia Mossakowski, a sociologist at the University of Miami, has found that in young adults, long bouts of unemployment provoke long-lasting changes in behavior and mental health. "Some people say, 'Oh, well, they're young, they're in and out of the workforce, so unemployment shouldn't matter much psychologically,'" Mossakowski told me. "But that isn't true."

Examining national longitudinal data, Mossakowski has found that people who were unemployed for long periods in their teens or early 20s are far more likely to develop a habit of heavy drinking (five or more drinks in one sitting) by the time they approach middle age. They are also more likely to develop depressive symptoms. Prior drinking behavior and psychological history do not explain these problems—they result from unemployment itself. And the problems are not limited to those who never find steady work; they show up quite strongly as well in people who are later working regularly.

Forty years ago, Glen Elder, a sociologist at the University of North Carolina and a pioneer in the field of "life course" studies, found a pronounced diffidence in elderly men (though not women) who had suffered hardship as 20- and 30-somethings during the Depression. Decades later, unlike peers who had been largely spared in the 1930s, these men came across, he told me, as "beaten and withdrawn—lacking ambition, direction, confidence in themselves." Today in Japan, according to the Japan Productivity Center for Socio-Economic Development, workers who began their careers during the "lost decade" of the 1990s and are now in their 30s make up six out of every 10 cases of depression, stress, and work-related mental disabilities reported by employers.

A large and long-standing body of research shows that physical health tends to deteriorate during unemployment, most likely through a combination of fewer financial resources and a higher stress level. The most-recent research suggests that poor health is prevalent among the young, and endures for a lifetime. Till Von Wachter, an economist at Columbia University, and Daniel Sullivan, of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, recently looked at the mortality rates of men who had lost their jobs in Pennsylvania in the 1970s and '80s. They found that particularly among men in their 40s or 50s, mortality rates rose markedly soon after a layoff. But regardless of age, all men were left with an elevated risk of dying in each year following their episode of unemployment, for the rest of their lives. And so, the younger the worker, the more pronounced the effect on his lifespan: the lives of workers who had lost their job at 30, Von Wachter and Sullivan found, were shorter than those who had lost their job at 50 or 55—and more than a year and a half shorter than those who'd never lost their job at all.

J ournalists and academics have thrown various labels at today's young adults, hoping one might stick—Generation Y, Generation Next, the Net Generation, the Millennials, the Echo Boomers. All of these efforts contain an element of folly; the diversity of character within a generation is always and infinitely larger than the gap between generations. Still, the cultural and economic environment in which each generation is incubated clearly matters. It is

no coincidence that the members of Generation X—painted as cynical, apathetic slackers—first emerged into the workforce in the weak job market of the early-to-mid-1980s. Nor is it a coincidence that the early members of Generation Y—labeled as optimistic, rule-following achievers—came of age during the Internet boom of the late 1990s.

Many of today's young adults seem temperamentally unprepared for the circumstances in which they now find themselves. Jean Twenge, an associate professor of psychology at San Diego State University, has carefully compared the attitudes of today's young adults to those of previous generations when they were the same age. Using national survey data, she's found that to an unprecedented degree, people who graduated from high school in the 2000s dislike the idea of work for work's sake, and expect jobs and career to be tailored to their interests and lifestyle. Yet they also have much higher material expectations than previous generations, and believe financial success is extremely important. "There's this idea that, 'Yeah, I don't want to work, but I'm still going to get all the stuff I want,'" Twenge told me. "It's a generation in which every kid has been told, 'You can be anything you want. You're special.'"

In her 2006 book, Generation Me , Twenge notes that self-esteem in children began rising sharply around 1980, and hasn't stopped since. By 1999, according to one survey, 91 percent of teens described themselves as responsible, 74 percent as physically attractive, and 79 percent as very intelligent. (More than 40 percent of teens also expected that they would be earning $75,000 a year or more by age 30; the median salary made by a 30-year-old was $27,000 that year.) Twenge attributes the shift to broad changes in parenting styles and teaching methods, in response to the growing belief that children should always feel good about themselves, no matter what. As the years have passed, efforts to boost self-esteem—and to decouple it from performance—have become widespread.

These efforts have succeeded in making today's youth more confident and individualistic. But that may not benefit them in adulthood, particularly in this economic environment. Twenge writes that "self-esteem without basis encourages laziness rather than hard work," and that "the ability to persevere and keep going" is "a much better predictor of life outcomes than self-esteem." She worries that many young people might be inclined to simply give up in this job market. "You'd think if people are more individualistic, they'd be more independent," she told me. "But it's not really true. There's an element of entitlement—they expect people to figure things out for them."

Ron Alsop, a former reporter for The Wall Street Journal and the author of The Trophy Kids Grow Up: How the Millennial Generation Is Shaking Up the Workplace , says a combination of entitlement and highly structured childhood has resulted in a lack of independence and entrepreneurialism in many 20-somethings. They're used to checklists, he says, and "don't excel at leadership or independent problem solving." Alsop interviewed dozens of employers for his book, and concluded that unlike previous generations, Millennials, as a group, "need almost constant direction" in the workplace. "Many flounder without precise guidelines but thrive in structured situations that provide clearly defined rules."

All of these characteristics are worrisome, given a harsh economic environment that requires perseverance, adaptability, humility, and entrepreneurialism. Perhaps most worrisome, though, is the fatalism and lack of agency that both Twenge and Alsop discern in today's young adults. Trained throughout childhood to disconnect performance from reward, and told repeatedly that they are destined for great things, many are quick to place blame elsewhere when something goes wrong, and inclined to believe that bad situations will sort themselves out—or will be sorted out by parents or other helpers.

In his remarks at last year's commencement, in May, The New York Times reported, University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan addressed the phenomenon of students' turning down jobs, with no alternatives, because they didn't feel the jobs were good enough. "My first word of advice is this," he told the graduates. "Say yes. In fact, say yes as often as you can. Saying yes begins things. Saying yes is how things grow. Saying yes leads to new experiences, and new experiences will lead to knowledge and wisdom. Yes is for young people, and an attitude of yes is how you will be able to go forward in these uncertain times."

Larry Druckenbrod, the university's assistant director of career services, told me last fall, "This is a group that's

done résumé building since middle school. They've been told they've been preparing to go out and do great things after college. And now they've been dealt a 180." For many, that's led to "immobilization." Druckenbrod said that about a third of the seniors he talked to that semester were seriously looking for work; another third were planning to go to grad school. The final third, he said, were "not even engaging with the job market—these are the ones whose parents have already said, 'Just come home and live with us.'"

According to a recent Pew survey, 10 percent of adults younger than 35 have moved back in with their parents as a result of the recession. But that's merely an acceleration of a trend that has been under way for a generation or more. By the middle of the aughts, for instance, the percentage of 26-year-olds living with their parents reached 20 percent, nearly double what it was in 1970. Well before the recession began, this generation of young adults was less likely to work, or at least work steadily, than other recent generations. Since 2000, the percentage of people age 16 to 24 participating in the labor force has been declining (from 66 percent to 56 percent across the decade). Increased college attendance explains only part of the shift; the rest is a puzzle. Lingering weakness in the job market since 2001 may be one cause. Twenge believes the propensity of this generation to pursue "dream" careers that are, for most people, unlikely to work out may also be partly responsible. (In 2004, a national survey found that about one out of 18 college freshmen expected to make a living as an actor, musician, or artist.)

Whatever the reason, the fact that so many young adults weren't firmly rooted in the workforce even before the crash is deeply worrying. It means that a very large number of young adults entered the recession already vulnerable to all the ills that joblessness produces over time. It means that for a sizeable proportion of 20- and 30-somethings, the next few years will likely be toxic.

N o young people were present at a seminar for the unemployed held on November 4 in Reading, Pennsylvania, a blue-collar city about 60 miles west of Philadelphia. The meeting was organized by a regional nonprofit, Joseph's People, and held in the basement of the St. Catharine's parish center. All 30 or so attendees, sitting around a U-shaped table, looked to be 40 or older. But one middle-aged man, one of the first to introduce himself to the group, said he and his wife were there on behalf of their son, Errol. "He's so disgusted that he didn't want to come," the man said. "He doesn't know what to do, and we don't either."

I talked to Errol a few days later. He is 28 and has a gentle, straightforward manner. He graduated from high school in 1999 and has lived with his parents since then. He worked in a machine shop for a couple of years after school, and has also held jobs at a battery factory, a sandpaper manufacturer, and a restaurant, where he was a cook. The restaurant closed in June 2008, and apart from a few days of work through temp agencies, he hasn't had a job since.

He calls in to a few temp agencies each week to let them know he's interested in working, and checks the newspaper for job listings every Sunday. Sometimes he goes into CareerLink, the local unemployment office, to see if it has any new listings. He does work around the house, or in the small machine shop he's set up in the garage, just to fill his days, and to try to keep his skills up.

"I was thinking about moving," he said. "I'm just really not sure where. Other places where I traveled, I didn't really see much of a difference with what there was here." He's still got a few thousand dollars in the bank, which he saved when he was working as a machinist, and is mostly living off that; he's been trading penny stocks to try to replenish those savings.

I asked him what he foresaw for his working life. "As far as my job position," he said, "I really don't know what I want to do yet. I'm not sure." When he was little, he wanted to be a mechanic, and he did enjoy the machine trade. But now there was hardly any work to be had, and what there was paid about the same as Walmart. "I don't think there's any way that you can have a job that you can think you can retire off of," he said. "I think everyone's going to have to transfer to another job." He said the only future he could really imagine for himself now was just moving from job to job, with no career to speak of. "That's what I think," he said. "I don't want to."

Men and Family in a Jobless Age

In her classic sociology of the Depression, The Unemployed Man and His Family , Mirra Komarovsky vividly

describes how joblessness strained—and in many cases fundamentally altered—family relationships in the 1930s. During 1935 and 1936, Komarovsky and her research team interviewed the members of 59 white middle-class families in which the husband and father had been out of work for at least a year. Her research revealed deep psychological wounds. “It is awful to be old and discarded at 40,” said one father. “A man is not a man without work.” Another said plainly, “During the depression I lost something. Maybe you call it self-respect, but in losing it I also lost the respect of my children, and I am afraid I am losing my wife.” Noted one woman of her husband, “I still love him, but he doesn’t seem as ‘big’ a man.”

Taken together, the stories paint a picture of diminished men, bereft of familial authority. Household power—over children, spending, and daily decisions of all types—generally shifted to wives over time (and some women were happier overall as a result). Amid general anxiety, fears of pregnancy, and men’s loss of self-worth and loss of respect from their wives, sex lives withered. Socializing all but ceased as well, a casualty of poverty and embarrassment. Although some men embraced family life and drew their wife and children closer, most became distant. Children described their father as “mean,” “nasty,” or “bossy,” and didn’t want to bring friends around, for fear of what he might say. “There was less physical violence towards the wife than towards the child,” Komarovsky wrote.

In the 70 years that have passed since the publication of The Unemployed Man and His Family , American society has become vastly more wealthy, and a more comprehensive social safety net—however frayed it may seem—now stretches beneath it. Two-earner households have become the norm, cushioning the economic blow of many layoffs. And of course, relationships between men and women have evolved. Yet when read today, large parts of Komarovsky’s book still seem disconcertingly up-to-date. All available evidence suggests that long bouts of unemployment—particularly male unemployment—still enfeeble the jobless and warp their families to a similar degree, and in many of the same ways.

Andrew Oswald, an economist at the University of Warwick, in the U.K., and a pioneer in the field of happiness studies, says no other circumstance produces a larger decline in mental health and well-being than being involuntarily out of work for six months or more. It is the worst thing that can happen, he says, equivalent to the death of a spouse, and “a kind of bereavement” in its own right. Only a small fraction of the decline can be tied directly to losing a paycheck, Oswald says; most of it appears to be the result of a tarnished identity and a loss of self-worth. Unemployment leaves psychological scars that remain even after work is found again, and, because the happiness of husbands and the happiness of wives are usually closely related, the misery spreads throughout the home.

Especially in middle-aged men, long accustomed to the routine of the office or factory, unemployment seems to produce a crippling disorientation. At a series of workshops for the unemployed that I attended around Philadelphia last fall, the participants were overwhelmingly male, and the men in particular described the erosion of their identities, the isolation of being jobless, and the indignities of downward mobility.

Over lunch I spoke with one attendee, Gus Poulos, a Vietnam-era veteran who had begun his career as a refrigeration mechanic before going to night school and becoming an accountant. He is trim and powerfully built, and looks much younger than his 59 years. For seven years, until he was laid off in December 2008, he was a senior financial analyst for a local hospital.

Poulos said that his frustration had built and built over the past year. “You apply for so many jobs and just never hear anything,” he told me. “You’re one of my few interviews. I’m just glad to have an interview with anybody, even a magazine.” Poulos said he was an optimist by nature, and had always believed that with preparation and hard work, he could overcome whatever life threw at him. But sometime in the past year, he’d lost that sense, and at times he felt aimless and adrift. “That’s never been who I am,” he said. “But now, it’s who I am.”

Recently he’d gotten a part-time job as a cashier at Walmart, for $8.50 an hour. “They say, ‘Do you want it?’ And in my head, I thought, ‘No.’ And I raised my hand and said, ‘Yes.’” Poulos and his wife met when they were both working as supermarket cashiers, four decades earlier—it had been one of his first jobs. “Now, here I am again.”

Poulos's wife is still working—she's a quality-control analyst at a food company—and that's been a blessing. But both are feeling the strain, financial and emotional, of his situation. She commutes about 100 miles every weekday, which makes for long days. His hours at Walmart are on weekends, so he doesn't see her much anymore and doesn't have much of a social life.

Some neighbors were at the Walmart a couple of weeks ago, he said, and he rang up their purchase. "Maybe they were used to seeing me in a different setting," he said—in a suit as he left for work in the morning, or walking the dog in the neighborhood. Or "maybe they were daydreaming." But they didn't greet him, and he didn't say anything. He looked down at his soup, pushing it around the bowl with his spoon for a few seconds before looking back up at me. "I know they knew me," he said. "I've been in their home."

T he weight of this recession has fallen most heavily upon men, who've suffered roughly three-quarters of the 8 million job losses since the beginning of 2008. Male-dominated industries (construction, finance, manufacturing) have been particularly hard-hit, while sectors that disproportionately employ women (education, health care) have held up relatively well. In November, 19.4 percent of all men in their prime working years, 25 to 54, did not have jobs, the highest figure since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began tracking the statistic in 1948. At the time of this writing, it looks possible that within the next few months, for the first time in U.S. history, women will hold a majority of the country's jobs.

In this respect, the recession has merely intensified a long-standing trend. Broadly speaking, the service sector, which employs relatively more women, is growing, while manufacturing, which employs relatively more men, is shrinking. The net result is that men have been contributing a smaller and smaller share of family income.

"Traditional" marriages, in which men engage in paid work and women in homemaking, have long been in eclipse. Particularly in blue-collar families, where many husbands and wives work staggered shifts, men routinely handle a lot of the child care today. Still, the ease with which gender bends in modern marriages should not be overestimated. When men stop doing paid work—and even when they work less than their wives—marital conflict usually follows.

Last March, the National Domestic Violence Hotline received almost half again as many calls as it had one year earlier; as was the case in the Depression, unemployed men are vastly more likely to beat their wives or children. More common than violence, though, is a sort of passive-aggressiveness. In Identity Economics , the economists George Akerloff and Rachel Kranton find that among married couples, men who aren't working at all, despite their free time, do only 37 percent of the housework, on average. And some men, apparently in an effort to guard their masculinity, actually do less housework after becoming unemployed.

Many working women struggle with the idea of partners who aren't breadwinners. "We've got this image of Archie Bunker sitting at home, grumbling and acting out," says Kathryn Edin, a professor of public policy at Harvard, and an expert on family life. "And that does happen. But you also have women in whole communities thinking, 'This guy's nothing.'" Edin's research in low-income communities shows, for instance, that most working women whose partner stayed home to watch the kids—while very happy with the quality of child care their children's father provided—were dissatisfied with their relationship overall. "These relationships were often filled with conflict," Edin told me. Even today, she says, men's identities are far more defined by their work than women's, and both men and women become extremely uncomfortable when men's work goes away.

The national divorce rate fell slightly in 2008, and that's not unusual in a recession: divorce is expensive, and many couples delay it in hard times. But joblessness corrodes marriages, and makes divorce much more likely down the road. According to W. Bradford Wilcox, the director of the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia, the gender imbalance of the job losses in this recession is particularly noteworthy, and—when combined with the depth and duration of the jobs crisis—poses "a profound challenge to marriage," especially in lower-income communities. It may sound harsh, but in general, he says, "if men can't make a contribution financially, they don't have much to offer." Two-thirds of all divorces are legally initiated by women. Wilcox believes that over the next few years, we may see a long wave of divorces, washing no small number of discarded and dispirited men

back into single adulthood.

Among couples without college degrees, says Edin, marriage has become an “increasingly fragile” institution. In many low-income communities, she fears it is being supplanted as a social norm by single motherhood and revolving-door relationships. As a rule, fewer people marry during a recession, and this one has been no exception. But “the timing of this recession coincides with a pretty significant cultural change,” Edin says: a fast-rising material threshold for marrying, but not for having children, in less affluent communities.

Edin explains that poor and working-class couples, after seeing the ravages of divorce on their parents or within their communities, have become more hesitant to marry; they believe deeply in marriage’s sanctity, and try to guard against the possibility that theirs will end in divorce. Studies have shown that even small changes in income have significant effects on marriage rates among the poor and the lower-middle class. “It’s simply not respectable to get married if you don’t have a job—some way of illustrating to your neighbors that you have at least some grasp on some piece of the American pie,” Edin says. Increasingly, people in these communities see marriage not as a way to build savings and stability, but as “a symbol that you’ve arrived.”

Childbearing is the opposite story. The stigma against out-of-wedlock children has by now largely dissolved in working-class communities—more than half of all new mothers without a college degree are unmarried. For both men and women in these communities, children are commonly seen as a highly desirable, relatively low-cost way to achieve meaning and bolster identity—especially when other opportunities are closed off. Christina Gibson-Davis, a public-policy professor at Duke University, recently found that among adults with no college degree, changes in income have no bearing at all on rates of childbirth.

“We already have low marriage rates in low-income communities,” Edin told me, “including white communities. And where it’s really hitting now is in working-class urban and rural communities, where you’re just seeing astonishing growth in the rates of nonmarital childbearing. And that would all be fine and good, except these parents don’t stay together. This may be one of the most devastating impacts of the recession.”

Many children are already suffering in this recession, for a variety of reasons. Among poor families, nutrition can be inadequate in hard times, hampering children’s mental and physical development. And regardless of social class, the stresses and distractions that afflict unemployed parents also afflict their kids, who are more likely to repeat a grade in school, and who on average earn less as adults. Children with unemployed fathers seem particularly vulnerable to psychological problems.

But a large body of research shows that one of the worst things for children, in the long run, is an unstable family. By the time the average out-of-wedlock child has reached the age of 5, his or her mother will have had two or three significant relationships with men other than the father, and the child will typically have at least one half sibling. This kind of churning is terrible for children—heightening the risks of mental-health problems, troubles at school, teenage delinquency, and so on—and we’re likely to see more and more of it, the longer this malaise stretches on.

“We could be headed in a direction where, among elites, marriage and family are conventional, but for substantial portions of society, life is more matriarchal,” says Wilcox. The marginalization of working-class men in family life has far-reaching consequences. “Marriage plays an important role in civilizing men. They work harder, longer, more strategically. They spend less time in bars and more time in church, less with friends and more with kin. And they’re happier and healthier.”

Communities with large numbers of unmarried, jobless men take on an unsavory character over time. Edin’s research team spent part of last summer in Northeast and South Philadelphia, conducting in-depth interviews with residents. She says she was struck by what she saw: “These white working-class communities—once strong, vibrant, proud communities, often organized around big industries—they’re just in terrible straits. The social fabric of these places is just shredding. There’s little engagement in religious life, and the old civic organizations that people used to belong to are fading. Drugs have ravaged these communities, along with divorce, alcoholism, violence. I hang around these neighborhoods in South Philadelphia, and I think, ‘This is beginning to look like the black inner-city

neighborhoods we've been studying for the past 20 years.' When young men can't transition into formal-sector jobs, they sell drugs and drink and do drugs. And it wreaks havoc on family life. They think, 'Hey, if I'm 23 and I don't have a baby, there's something wrong with me.' They're following the pattern of their fathers in terms of the timing of childbearing, but they don't have the jobs to support it. So their families are falling apart—and often spectacularly."

I n his 1996 book , When Work Disappears , the Harvard sociologist William Julius Wilson connected the loss of jobs from inner cities in the 1970s to the many social ills that cropped up after that. "The consequences of high neighborhood joblessness," he wrote,

are more devastating than those of high neighborhood poverty. A neighborhood in which people are poor but employed is different from a neighborhood in which many people are poor and jobless. Many of today's problems in the inner-city ghetto neighborhoods—crime, family dissolution, welfare, low levels of social organization, and so on—are fundamentally a consequence of the disappearance of work.

In the mid-20th century, most urban black men were employed, many of them in manufacturing. But beginning in the 1970s, as factories moved out of the cities or closed altogether, male unemployment began rising sharply. Between 1973 and 1987, the percentage of black men in their 20s working in manufacturing fell from roughly 37.5 percent to 20 percent. As inner cities shed manufacturing jobs, men who lived there, particularly those with limited education, had a hard time making the switch to service jobs. Service jobs and office work of course require different interpersonal skills and different standards of self-presentation from those that blue-collar work demands, and movement from one sector to the other can be jarring. What's more, Wilson's research shows, downwardly mobile black men often resented the new work they could find, and displayed less flexibility on the job than, for instance, first-generation immigrant workers. As a result, employers began to prefer hiring women and immigrants, and a vicious cycle of resentment, discrimination, and joblessness set in.

It remains to be seen whether larger swaths of the country, as male joblessness persists, will eventually come to resemble the inner cities of the 1970s and '80s. In any case, one of the great catastrophes of the past decade, and in particular of this recession, is the slippage of today's inner cities back toward the depths of those brutal years. Urban minorities tend to be among the first fired in a recession, and the last rehired in a recovery. Overall, black unemployment stood at 15.6 percent in November; among Hispanics, that figure was 12.7 percent. Even in New York City, where the financial sector, which employs relatively few blacks, has shed tens of thousands of jobs, unemployment has increased much faster among blacks than it has among whites.

In June 1999, the journalist Ellis Cose wrote in Newsweek that it was then "the best time ever" to be black in America. He ticked through the reasons: employment was up, murders and out-of-wedlock births down; educational attainment was rising, and poverty less common than at any time since 1967. Middle-class black couples were slowly returning to gentrifying inner-city neighborhoods. "Even for some of the most persistently unfortunate—uneducated black men between 16 and 24—jobs are opening up," Cose wrote.

But many of those gains are now imperiled. Late last year, unemployment among black teens ages 16 to 19 was nearly 50 percent, and the unemployment rate for black men age 20 or older was almost 17 percent. With so few jobs available, Wilson told me, "many black males will give up and drop out of the labor market, and turn more to the underground economy. And it will be very difficult for these people"—especially those who acquire criminal records—"to reenter the labor market in any significant way." Glen Elder, the sociologist at the University of North Carolina, who's done field work in Baltimore, said, "At a lower level of skill, if you lose a job and don't have fathers or brothers with jobs—if you don't have a good social network—you get drawn back into the street. There's a sense in the kids I've studied that they lost everything they had, and can't get it back."

In New York City, 18 percent of low-income blacks and 26 percent of low-income Hispanics reported having lost their job as a result of the recession in a July survey by the Community Service Society. More still had had their hours or wages reduced. About one in seven low-income New Yorkers often skipped meals in 2009 to save money, and one in five had had the gas, electricity, or telephone turned off. Wilson argues that once neighborhoods become

socially dysfunctional, it takes a long period of unbroken good times to undo the damage—and they can backslide very quickly and steeply. “One problem that has plagued the black community over the years is resignation,” Wilson said—a self-defeating “set of beliefs about what to expect from life and how to respond,” passed from parent to child. “And I think there was sort of a feeling that norms of resignation would weaken somewhat with the Obama election. But these hard economic times could reinforce some of these norms.”

Wilson, age 74, is a careful scholar, who chooses his words precisely and does not seem given to overstatement. But he sounded forlorn when describing the “very bleak” future he sees for the neighborhoods that he’s spent a lifetime studying. There is “no way,” he told me, “that the extremely high jobless rates we’re seeing won’t have profound consequences for the social organization of inner-city neighborhoods.” Neighborhood-specific statistics on drug addiction, family dysfunction, gang violence, and the like take time to compile. But Wilson believes that once we start getting detailed data on the conditions of inner-city life since the crash, “we’re going to see some horror stories”—and in many cases a relapse into the depths of decades past. “The point I want to emphasize,” Wilson said, “is that we should brace ourselves.”

The Social Fabric

No one tries harder than the jobless to find silver linings in this national economic disaster. Many of the people I spoke with for this story said that unemployment, while extremely painful, had improved them in some ways: they’d become less materialistic and more financially prudent; they were using free time to volunteer more, and were enjoying that; they were more empathetic now, they said, and more aware of the struggles of others.

In limited respects, perhaps the recession will leave society better off. At the very least, it’s awoken us from our national fever dream of easy riches and bigger houses, and put a necessary end to an era of reckless personal spending. Perhaps it will leave us humbler, and gentler toward one another, too—at least in the long run. A recent paper by the economists Paola Giuliano and Antonio Spilimbergo shows that generations that endured a recession in early adulthood became more concerned about inequality and more cognizant of the role luck plays in life. And in his book, Children of the Great Depression , Glen Elder wrote that adolescents who experienced hardship in the 1930s became especially adaptable, family-oriented adults; perhaps, as a result of this recession, today’s adolescents will be pampered less and counted on for more, and will grow into adults who feel less entitled than recent generations.

But for the most part, these benefits seem thin, uncertain, and far off. In The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth , the economic historian Benjamin Friedman argues that both inside and outside the U.S., lengthy periods of economic stagnation or decline have almost always left society more mean-spirited and less inclusive, and have usually stopped or reversed the advance of rights and freedoms. A high level of national wealth, Friedman writes, “is no bar to a society’s retreat into rigidity and intolerance once enough of its citizens lose the sense that they are getting ahead.” When material progress falters, Friedman concludes, people become more jealous of their status relative to others. Anti-immigrant sentiment typically increases, as does conflict between races and classes; concern for the poor tends to decline.

Social forces take time to grow strong, and time to dissipate again. Friedman told me that the phenomenon he’s studied “is not about business cycles … It’s not about people comparing where they are now to where they were a year ago.” The relevant comparisons are much broader: What opportunities are available to me, relative to those of my parents? What opportunities do my children have? What is the trajectory of my career?

It’s been only about two years since this most recent recession started, but then again, most people hadn’t been getting ahead for a decade. In a Pew survey in the spring of 2008, more than half of all respondents said that over the past five years, they either hadn’t moved forward in life or had actually fallen backward, the most downbeat assessment that either Pew or Gallup has ever recorded, in nearly a half century of polling. Median household income in 2008 was the lowest since 1997, adjusting for inflation. “On the latest income data,” Friedman said, “we’re 11 years into a period of decline.” By the time we get out of the current downturn, we’ll likely be “up to a decade and a half. And that’s surely enough.”

Income inequality usually falls during a recession, and the economist and happiness expert Andrew Clark says that trend typically provides some emotional salve to the poor and the middle class. (Surveys, lab experiments, and brain readings all show that, for better or worse, schadenfreude is a powerful psychological force: at any fixed level of income, people are happier when the income of others is reduced.) But income inequality hasn't shrunk in this recession. In 2007–08, the most recent year for which data is available, it widened.

Indeed, this period of economic weakness may reinforce class divides, and decrease opportunities to cross them—especially for young people. The research of Till Von Wachter, the economist at Columbia University, suggests that not all people graduating into a recession see their life chances dimmed: those with degrees from elite universities catch up fairly quickly to where they otherwise would have been if they'd graduated in better times; it's the masses beneath them that are left behind. Princeton's 2009 graduating class found more jobs in financial services than in any other industry. According to Princeton's career-services director, Beverly Hamilton-Chandler, campus visits and hiring by the big investment banks have been down, but that decline has been partly offset by an uptick in recruiting by hedge funds and boutique financial firms.

In the Internet age, it is particularly easy to see the bile that has always lurked within American society. More difficult, in the moment, is discerning precisely how these lean times are affecting society's character. In many respects, the U.S. was more socially tolerant entering this recession than at any time in its history, and a variety of national polls on social conflict since then have shown mixed results. Signs of looming class warfare or racial conflagration are not much in evidence. But some seeds of discontent are slowly germinating. The town-hall meetings last summer and fall were contentious, often uncivil, and at times given over to inchoate outrage. One National Journal poll in October showed that whites (especially white men) were feeling particularly anxious about their future and alienated by the government. We will have to wait and see exactly how these hard times will reshape our social fabric. But they certainly will reshape it, and all the more so the longer they extend.

A slowly sinking generation; a remorseless assault on the identity of many men; the dissolution of families and the collapse of neighborhoods; a thinning veneer of national amity—the social legacies of the Great Recession are still being written, but their breadth and depth are immense. As problems, they are enormously complex, and their solutions will be equally so.

Of necessity, those solutions must include measures to bolster the economy in the short term, and to clear the way for faster long-term growth; to support the jobless today, and to ensure that we are creating the kinds of jobs (and the kinds of skills within the population) that can allow for a more broadly shared prosperity in the future. A few of the solutions—like more-aggressive support for the unemployed, and employer tax credits or other subsidies to get people back to work faster—are straightforward and obvious, or at least they should be. Many are not.

At the very least, though, we should make the return to a more normal jobs environment an unflagging national priority. The stock market has rallied, the financial system has stabilized, and job losses have slowed; by the time you read this, the unemployment rate might be down a little. Yet the difference between "turning the corner" and a return to any sort of normalcy is vast.

We are in a very deep hole, and we've been in it for a relatively long time already. Concerns over deficits are understandable, but in these times, our bias should be toward doing too much rather than doing too little. That implies some small risk to the government's ability to continue borrowing in the future; and it implies somewhat higher taxes in the future too. But that seems a trade worth making. We are living through a slow-motion social catastrophe, one that could stain our culture and weaken our nation for many, many years to come. We have a civic—and indeed a moral—responsibility to do everything in our power to stop it now, before it gets even worse.

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The Obsidian

Whiskey's Observations On "The New Dating Game"

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Those familiar with this corner of the Internet-that nexus of Game/PUA meeting grounds, and kind of Libertarian-HBD hybrid of blogs-will be familiar with blogger "Whiskey", who has a blogged named Whiskey's Place. He focuses primarily on the media and entertainment, and while I've my fair share of disagreements with him, overall I've found much of what he's had to say quite insightful and entertaining as well.

Recently, Steve Sailer seems t have gotten wind of both the Weekly Standard's feature story on Game and the modern day American dating scene, as well as the NYT piece on the college gender gap and its implications for dating along those lines; I'll have more to say about Sailer's take on all this in due course. But for now, I'd like to present Whiskey's comments, taken from the thread over at Sailer's place. What do you make of Whiskey's comments?

Feel free to chime in!

The Obsidian

http://isteve.blogspot.com/2010/02/weekly-standards-cover-story-new-dating.html

2/09/2010

Whiskey said…

Ignoring the very real disinvestment (and lack of reproduction, effectively with late marriage if at all) of beta males is puzzling from the HBD crowd. The very same folks who argue, persuasively, that average IQ and genes matter, want to pretend that massive selecting out of various traits in the Middle and Working class White population won't have any effect. Or that massive selection FOR the various traits associated with successful reproduction: low future time orientation, low self-control, high libido, and so on won't have an immediate and massive effect.

That's pretty funny. People here like to pretend that "the Black Ghetto just happened" or was always that way, when the truth is that Black negative success behaviors become super-charged over time, just as British lower class White behaviors did, for the same reason: unrestrained female hypergamy, leading to both social and genetic outcomes associated with violence, lack of education, and poverty.

It is not feminism or cultural marxism that caused female hypergamy. Rather, it was technology (cheap reliable contraception) plus anonymous urban living (no "calling women sluts" by a tight knit social group) and vastly improved female living standards and social freedom (in itself, a net plus) that caused the Whiskey-geddon and Cultural Marxism and feminism as side-effect justifications for the already existing negative outcomes.

NOTHING in life comes without a catch. This is one of them, simple as that. Since it is driven by technology that can't be outlawed, and permanent deep social changes, we will simply have to live with White working and middle classes acting pretty much like Black Ghetto people, as already has happened in Britain's White working (and now Middle classes).

2/10/2010

Whiskey said…

Let me add, the Alpha-Beta dichotomy is very, very real. The New York Times had a piece on "the New Math on Campus." Basically, below the Ivies, the sex ratio is 60-40 Women to men. EVEN with these odds, women don't adjust:

Bag Lady

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“Bag Lady”

Bag lady you gone hurt your back
Dragging all them bags like that
I guess nobody ever told you
All you must hold on to
Is you, is you, is you

One day all them bags gone get in your way
One day all them bags gone get in your way
I said one day all them bags gone get in your way
One Day all them bags gone get in your way

So pack light
Pack light
Pack light

Ooh ooh

Bag lady you gone miss your bus
You can’t hurry up
Cause you got too much stuff
When they see you comin
Niggas take off runnin
From you it’s true oh yes they do

One day he gone say you crowdin my space
One day he gone say you crowdin my space
I said one day he gone say you crowdin my space
One day he gone say you crowdin my space

So pack light
Pack light
Pack light
Ooh ooh

Girl I know sometimes it’s hard
And we can’t let go
Oh when someone hurts you oh so bad inside
You can’t deny it you can’t stop crying

So oh, oh, oh

If you start breathin
Then you won’t believe it
You’ll feel so much better
(So much better baby)

Bag lady

Let it go, let it go, let it go, let it go
Ooh, ooh

Girl you don't need it

I betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better
(Need someone to love you right)

Betcha love can make it better
(I betcha love, betcha love)

Betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better
(I betcha love, betcha love)

Betcha love can make it better
(I betcha love, I betcha love, oh)

Betcha love can make it better
Betcha love can make it better

(Oh…)
Betcha love can make it better…

Bag lady, hmm
Let it go, let it go, let it go, let it go
Girl you don't need that, hmm

- Erykah Badu, "Mama's Gun"

If you've ever wondered why I've referred to the troll commenter "Bag Lady" as "Bag Lady", well, now you know. The Woman's got ISSUES. Clearly, she's been deeply hurt, not just by her failed marriage but so too by her failed relationships-relationships in which she keeps attracting interracial, inter-ethnic and inter-cultural conflict. She's White, and possibly has what some have called "White Trash" in her family.

And she won't let it go.

She uses a plethora of screen names but the commentary's always the same-a vengeful, bitter tone towards just about any Man who attempts to better himself by availing himself of Game. Regardless as to my own personal stance or that of others who think along the same lines as I do, nevertheless she's relentless in finding the time to specifically coming here to derail comment threads.

She is so deeply offended by Game, that she can find time for nothing else in her life, other than to come here, up until now one of the few places she hadn't been blocked or banned from commenting on, to discuss it. She's a frequent cackler over at Lady Raine's blog, and that alone should tell one everything you need to know about her. Send her a postcard from me, telling her I said Hi!

There have been calls for her ouster, both online and off. And initially, I've resisted such calls, because I tend to be against banning in general. But all rules have exceptions, and Bag Lady is exceptional.

So, I hereby announce her ouster. She has left me no choice, given her repeated actions.

The place is beginning to smell better already.

Ahhhh…

Bag Lady,

Your tired, failed, racist, insecure, issue-addled, flat arse has just been adjourned…

The Obsidian

Styles Makes Fights-And Game

Obsidian · 13 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Fans of the Sweet Science will recognize the words in the title of this post; in boxing, its one of the first principles. As much as learning the universal basics of boxing are important, such as the rules, conditioning and so on, so too is it very, very important for a boxer to find a style of boxing that best works for him. Some boxers, being tall, can utilize their superior reach; others, speed; and still others, power. Some boxers, while not having awesome "one-two" knockout power, may nevertheless be able to use their keen understanding of the mechanics of boxing and the human body, as well as being astute students of history and watching tapes of their opponent, to use all of this knowledge to their advantage during the fight, using the "point" system and endurance to wear their opponent down. Other boxers are shorter, more compact, and may do much better as an in your face kind of fighter-which quite a few boxers aren't able to handle, especially for extended periods of time, say three or four rounds back to back.

The point is that very often, the boxer who has the best fit of his chosen style to his natural abilities, talents and gifts, more often than not, wins the fight. The same can be said of Game-after you learn the basics, such as the fundamental differences between Male and Female, what turns on both and why, etc, and when you've learned key principles such as Negs, Social Proof, PAS and so on, you're then ready to give serious consideration to the style you will use, to best take advantage of your natural abilities.

Since Game tends to attract geeky types, and because many Game writers and the like will tend to draw analogies between Game and the Force-I've done it myself-I thought to illustrate a bit more by discussing the styles a Gamesman can use, by way of the various combat styles the Jedi, the fictional ancient order of Force users in the Star Wars universe, display in the franchise of films.

In the Star Wars universe, there are what is known as the Seven Forms, a series of styles of combat that developed over millennia. Shortly after a Jedi trainee is finished with their basic training, they are then sent off to study the ways of the Force with a Master. It is usually at this time that they choose a style of combat that best suits him; often, his Master will aid him in this regard.

The Seven Forms are as follows:

1 Shii-Cho
2 Makashi
3 Soresu
4 Ataru
5 Djem-So
6 Niman
7 Jumo

Let's examine these forms briefly:

Shii-Cho is the first and most basic of combat for the Jedi. This covers all the fundamentals-stances, thrusts, striking points, swings, defence, offence. In Game parlance, this would be about learning all the most fundamental basics of Seduction, and while this style isn't as effective against more higher powered Targets, no other form can be effective without a firm grounding in this one. It's for this reason that such a style, for the aspiring Gamesmen, is most closely aligned in my view, with "Solid Game".

Makashi is a bit more obscure, owing to the fact that, at the time when the Star Wars films are made, very few Jedi encounter another Force user in combat. Makashi was designed with *dueling* in mind, and relies on elegant, subtle, yet quick and precise, almost balletic moves. Its most effective in one-on-one situations, though a verified Master of the form can take on two highly trained Force users and defeat them both (as Count Dooku did to Obiwan and his apprentice Anakin in Attack Of The Clones). In Gamespeak, this style is best in terms of Direct Game, yet elegant, swift, with a rapier wit (Negs in this form are ultra smooth, subtle and highly, highly effective),

perfect timing and a flair for fashion, elegance and style, perhaps just a bit over the top or having a thing for the dramatic.

Soresu is the third form of combat for the Jedi, and developed in the early days of blasters, which meant that Jedis had to learn to defend themselves from such attacks. In the films for example, when you see a Jedi blocking incoming fire from a blaster, he's practicing this form to some degree. At the time of the Star Wars films, this form was pretty much the "default" style of combat, due mainly to the prevelance of blasters and the rarity of coming across Force using opponents. Because of its focus on defense, and not on offense and attacks, this form is often referred to as "the true Jedi form" because of the Order's emphasis on passivity and peace, as well as mercy-Soresu tends to focus more on disarming an opponent rather than taking him out altogether. Obiwan Kenobi is recognized as the undisputed Master of the form and displays it beautifully, even as an older Man in the famous "cantina" scene of Star Wars: Episode Four, and his final duel with Darth Vader on the Death Star; and in his epic duel against his one time apprentice Anakin Skywalker in Star Wars: Episode Three. Notice how no matter how much rage and sheer power Anakin used against Obiwan, Obiwan remained calm and parried all his attacks, blocked all his blows and patiently bided his time, until, finally, Anakin revealed a blindspot-and Obiwan took him out. Its for this reason that Soresu is considered virtually invincible, because opponents have been known to get tired and give up. In Game parlance, this form doesn't expend much energy chasing Targets around, but rather *draws them in* and then uses their energy with which to build attraction. "Maximum effect with minimum output" is a big feature of this style, and it is for this reason that its one of the best styles to have. But its also heavily dependent on one cultivating strong Inner Game, because that's where this style's true strength comes from. This style of Game relies on patience, tranquility and calm-cool, smooth, refined, yet focused and determined in the eye of the storm. Through this inner calm and peace, firm yet relaxed cool and confidence, and ability to draw in a Target to himself, such a Gamesmen rarely encounters flakes, LMR or ASD. Closes are almost always complete and full.

Ataru is the forth form of Jedi combat, which is focused on the body; this style makes use of the Jedi to accomplish great physical feats, such as leaping far distances, or performing acrobatic moves in combat. Yoda is a Master of this form of combat, because it both takes advantage of his shorter height, and as well his deep connection to the Force which makes it possible to for him to move as if a young Man. Ataru is also more attack oriented; notice Yoda doesn't "defend" himself per se; offence is the best defence in this form. In the films, perhaps the best examples of this form in action was when Yoda engaged Count Dooku and more importantly, Senator Palpatine, who uses a Sith variant of Ataru as well. In Gamespeak, this style most relates to more flashier displays, like Peacoking that's really over the top, working a room hard and taking it over, taking full advantage of the situation and engaging a group at full blast. The Gamesmen really puts his all into it and pretty much overwhelms or bowls over the Target and her entourage. Because this style demands high levels of energy, it is recommended that only high energy guys use it, otherwise you can burn out pretty quick. Also, a more older and/or short Man can use this style to great effect, because both states infer a less vibrant or powerful Man, and your Target can be both taken aback as well as impressed by your "Big Man" personality and/or your formidable level of energy, despite being older.

Djem-So, the fifth form of Jedi combat, is actually a mixture of Makashi and Soresu, a joining of both a dueling style, and a more defensive, "protective" style. Less "flashy" then Ataru, Djem-So concentrates on the principle of "peace through strength" and even a "might makes right" mentality. Unlike Soresu, where the user defends himself but doesn't hurt the attacker, a practitioner of Djem-So deliberately turns defence into offence. This is seen for example, when both Anakin Skywalker and his son Luke, turn blaster fire right back on those who fired it at them. Some Jedi frown on this style, as it tends to focus more on the aggressive side of the Force. In Game parlance, this style tends to focus more on Direct Game, strong approaches, and taking any defences the Target will put up and turning back on her. Such a style is perfect for barrelling through a Target's "Bitch Shield", via use of sheer persistence, determination and will. Plus the more raw or naked displays of power is very often a big turn-on for many Women.

The sixth form of Jedi combat, Niman, is considered more of a diplomat's form or style, because instead of

focusing on any one form, these users kind of dabble in all of them, having a basic understaning of each. The problem with this form though, is that there isn't enough of a grounding in any one style to really be able to make an impact when out in field and going up against hardcore opponents-this is why most Jedi were killed at the Battle of Geonosis in Attack Of The Clones. However, one important feature of this form is its use of two weapons at once, known as Jar Kai; the only practitioner to do this in the films was Anakin in his first confrontation with Dooku, and for a time he held his own, but was eventually bested by the Makashi Master. In Game parlance, this relates to "Game theorists" but not Game *doers*, who know all the theory and what not, but have very little actual hands on experience. However, if one is able to make use of two "weapons" at once or in tandem-say both be able to work Social Proof and Preselection at once-this form can be highly effective. But by and large, not highly recommended.

Jumo, the seventh and final form of Jedi combat, is similar to both Ataru and Djem-So, in that it focuses on physicality, offence, power and passion, but much moreso than either of the two forms-in fact, it so relies on the latter, that it brings the user very close to the Darkside. It is for this reason that very few Jedi can even learn the form, much less have the inner focus needed to keep from veering over to the Darkside. Only two displays of this form have been seen in the flms-Darh Maul's Sith variant of Jumo, and Mace Windu's "take" on the form, which he calls Vaapad. A major feature of this form is the blinding speed at which attacks are mounted, coming from all directions in a seemingly disconnected and unorthodox manner, but which are intended to both overwhelm and disorient the opponent. In Game, the practitioner using this style focuses on his inner passions as a source of his Game, and basically overwhelms his Target, coming at her from all directions and throwing everything at her including the kitchen sink. When executed correctly, it takes a Woman by storm and sweeps her off her feet. However, the downside here is that thins can get too hot too fast, and can be over almost as quickly as it began. That's OK, if that's what you're looking for-but it does come at a price. For starters, the emotional toll this places on Women can be huge, since for them emotions and sex are closely linked; and the longterm effects can be hazardous to the Gamesman as well, unless he's constantly doing inner monitoring of his own state, and focusing on the Light. For this reason, it is best that should a Man choose to use this style, it is highly recommended that he first have a very clearly defined code of conduct and rules of engagement, lest he be seduced himself by the Darkside of Game.

Speaking of which, I've mentioned several times the term "Sith variant" to the differing forms of Jedi combat, and this applies to both boxing, or any other martial art, and as well, to Game. The difference is that while the former focuses on a code of ethics and the highest good, the latter focuses on the exact opposite-being amoral/immoral, and using the style in question to humiliate, demoralize or in some other way, bring the Target down or low. In boxing this would equate to hitting below the belt, using head butts and so on.

For example, much has been said about the Neg. It is a powerful tool, no doubt, but it can also be used to hurt a Woman, sometimes deeply. In Jedi speak, when it comes to Sith, there is the tactic of Dün Moch, basically taunting your opponent while using other "dirty" tactics designed to demoralize your opponent. Darth Vader did this to Luke Skaywalker during their first duel on Bespin, by using the Force to hurl objects at him from many directions while also attacking him at the same time. Senator Palpatine did this to Yoda during their battle on Coruscant while in the main chamber of the Galactic Senate. And Darth Vader did it again during his final duel with his son on the Deathstar, by mentioning Leia Organa, Luke's sister and his daughter.

In Gamespeak, Dün Moch is basically Negs Gone Bad, used intentionally to bring a Woman low, in a pernicious way. Other "dirty" tactics can be brought to play, too-just think of how a Gamesman can use Game in a negative, morally questionable way, and you have Dark Game. It's something that is both highly effective, but also very, very damaging, to the Target and the Gamesman both.

Anyway, the above should give you something to think about as we head into Valentine's Day Weekend. Remember: styles makes fights.

And Game.

Bonus Question: what style do you think The Obsidian uses?

Holla back

The Obsidian

Observations Of Femosphere Reaction To Weekly Standard & NYT Articles

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I kind of figured that the reaction to last week's articles appearing in the Weekly Standard and the New York Times-both having to do with the modern day American dating scene-would be pretty much cookie cutter: "Feminism is to blame", blah blah blah. And to be sure, all the Usual Suspects-Feministing, Feministe, Jezebel, Bitch Magazine, etc et al, didn't disappoint.

But what really struck me, aside from the most rank intellectual dishonesty by these writers, was their near universal take on the "left behind" of the Males in the dating game-

Basically, in a word, they can pound sand.

Either that view was made tacit in say, the column presented by Jezebel.com, or, it wasn't addressed at all, under the pretense that *all* guys always had it good under the old system and way of doing business. To see such a naked, raw display of hypergamy by Women who swear up and down a more enlightened, egalitarian view of life was eye-opening indeed.

Of course, much of the big, and huge, problem I personally had with both articles-and this comes as someone who was largely supportive of what both pieces had to say, mind you-was in their very narrow view demographically. Both pieces focused on young college aged folks, at least nominally middle class if not considerably higher up the food chain, and of course, virtually all White. Whenever discussions like these ensue, they almost *never* approach them from the perspective of, or cater to, Blue Collar Brothas like me. For all intents, we don't exist.

But at any rate, I thought the overall reaction to the articles, on the part of the more or less official Femosphere commentariat, was quite disappointing, and not for the reasons one might suspect. For example, I have no problem with their disagreeing with the arguments or points either piece was making-I'm disappointed because, for all their sound and fury, the best the Femosphere could do in response to either piece was to basically engage either in weaksauce Ad Hominem attacks on the authors and their supposed intentions, or erecting strawman arguments that never existed in the first place. I mean, how about actually grappling with the basic facts on the ground: that Women don't really want most Men out there, that more and more Men are dropping out in relation to Women, and all of this has profound implications for how our country will look and even feel in the years moving forward. No one, at least not I, is attempting or desiring that we "turn back the clock" on the progress of Women at all. All the articles are saying, is that things HAVE changed, and that we need to give some serious thought as to how all of this will play out in the not too distant future.

Perhaps one of the things that most upset me about the reaction to the articles, was not only the "pound sand" shoulder shrugging on the part of many Fempundits, but also their simultaneous whipping up on Game training-not only do they don't have much empathy for the Male losers of the new dating game, but they don't want him to attempt to help himself either. Its a kind of cruelty that really took me aback, all the while trying to paint the kinds of gals who hook up with the Tucker Max's of the world as some kind of statistical oddity; tantamount to rhetorically pissing in every Man's face while trying to convince him that its raining outside.

The whole thing was just so patently disingenuous that it was enough to make any reasonable person roll their eyes, if not retch outright. As a Man, you get tired of hearing all the obfuscations and BS from Women who are ostensibly on the ball for crying out loud. Is it their ideology that so blinds them to the basic facts on the ground, or has what Game theorists been saying all along basically true-that Women either can't be objective about what really turns them on, or, they are incapable of being brutally honest about it? As far as I'm concerned, either one will do, because the end result is the same-these Fempundits decry PUAs and putdown "schlubs" but they offer NOTHING in the way of real solutions that gives said "schlubs" a fighting chance in the dating scene, be it the college campus or beyond-other than the shopworn "be yourself" and of course, "date ugly girls" line of (un)reason.

Look, let me make something very clear here-I have no problem in the least with what a Woman wants to do with her life; if she wants to succeed in her business dealings, school, etc, et al, good on her, I say. I just don't get all the near hatred for guys who weren't blessed with natural gifts. Are they to be damned to a loveless, sexless purgatory? Should they do nothing to try to improve their lot in life? Or should they simply "know their place"-language and sentiments that, to be frank, I'd thought ironic to be coming from folks who profess to be the standard bearers of progressive thoughts and beliefs.

To say that there are hucksters and/or misogynists in PUAland is a given; to say that there are loser guys who whine and complain without making any effort on their part to try to make things better in their own lives, same. And to be sure, I think I've gone out of my way to address both in very stark terms. But for the detractors of the recent Weekly Standard and NYT pieces to putdown both, while offering no real alternative, really says it all to me:

That the ONLY ones who will care about Men, are Men themselves. Even more to the point-the only one who cares about you, is YOU.

So, if you're a guy reading this, you can be rest assured that there will be no commission to find out why guys are attending school less. There will be no other viable alternatives out there that will help you succeed with Women other than the aforementioned PUA/Game community, regardless as to how many detractors shriek and moan (Denise Romano); and YES, Women can and will continue to pass over ostensibly "good" guys in favor of ones who seem more superficial, because they can. In fact, if anything, those two pieces should have told you, that Women today have more ability and incentive to do this, than ever before, simply because of the gains via Feminism that have been made over the past half century or so. Now, its perfectly within a guy's right to grumble about what he's read, heard and seen for himself, or, he can basically take one of two courses:

1. Learn Game to the best of his ability, or

2. Drop out and accept his fate with some modicum of dignity.

Complaining on and on won't work because you're going up against tens of thousands of years of conditioning; simply put, it's unmanly to bitch and moan. No, it's fair that Women can complain and someone will hear them, more often than not other Men-but then, Life ain't fair. It never has been, and it never will be, *especially for Men*. This is why Sports is so important, because it teaches boys and young Men that very often, Life will be unfair-that the best teams don't always win. Being a "good" guy isn't enough in our time now. It. Just. Isn't. You need to bring more to the table, and it's perfectly OK if you don't have what it takes. It's a Wise Man who knows his limitations, nor should he have to accept that which he truly doesn't want. In fact, I would highly recommend he not settle for a Woman he doesn't really want if for no other reason than it dishonors both himself and her. If he cannot measure to acquire the Woman he truly wants, it is better for him to simply accept his fate with quiet, stoic dignity. Merely complaining and bleating on and on never got anyone anywhere. If it did, none of us would be discussing this very topic, right now.

What's that you say?-that Women shouldn't be so damned picky and superficial? Sure, that makes sense to me, but, here's the thing: they have a RIGHT to be as picky, superficial, vapid, shallow and downright foolish as they want. Last time I heard, this was America, where people have the right to Life, Liberty, and the PURSUIT of Happiness. Keyword in all caps. They have a right to pursue that Alpha cad and try to make him commit. They have the right to turn you down, for any number of reasons. And so on. Nothing will change from your being upset about that, my Man. Nothing. The only thing you can is change yourself.
Trust me, if anyone knows that, it's me. I was brutally shotdown by Women for being "too short"-and let's face it, when was the last time any of us heard a Woman longing for a guy *under* 5′10″? I've yet to see it. Sure, what Women actually wind up with is one thing, but still my point stands, virtually no Woman sets her sights on a shorter guy. Just a fact of life, and of course it hurt-just like it hurt to be brutally rejected because I didn't go to college, or have a degree, or because I worked with my hands or because I didn't drive a fancy car. But what I had to learn was that again, those Women had the right to choose who they spend their time with, regardless as to what I thought of their selection criteria. I could choose to remain bitter for the rest of my days, or I could choose to try to improve

myself on things I could actually do something about-and yes, I could consider perhaps spending time among people who actually enjoyed having me around. And until such people came along, then perhaps its a good thing that I spent time with myself.

What gets me about the Fempundits though, is that while I recognize their and any other Woman's right to choose as to who she wants to be with, for any reason whatsoever, they seem not as willing to extend me or any other Man the same courtesy-somehow, if I don't want a Woman I know for a fact had been chasing knuckleheads down and being dogged out by them for years, and now she's turned to me and I *politely decline*, somehow I'm the one who's stuck up.

Ain't that a blip.

No, it's the same, simple principle of recognizing the Right of Freedom of Association-I respect her right to spend her time as she choose. Is it so much to ask that in return? Without any rancor or acrimony on my part, in the least.

Hmm.

Anyway, I suspect many, many more such articles to come out from among the Chattering Classes as the Great Mancession continues on throughout the decade. And somehow, I won't be surprised, if we simply never get any straight talk from the Usual Suspects in response.

The Obsidian

Question For The Ladies: What Do You Think Of Axe Grooming Products?

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Seems like there are at least a few Women who feels some kind of way about this issue, that Axe Men's grooming products bespeaks a lower class Male not worthy of consideration because he uses such cheap (and cheap smelling) stuff.

All of this was news to me-afterall, I've been using the stuff for a good long minute now, and so far, so good. No complaints in the least. And besides, I thought the very fact that a guy who stocks up on the stuff is a sign that he likes to stay clean and wash his behind-isn't that a good thing?

And as for the supposed "lower class status marker" of the whole thing, I don't know about anyone else, but the stuff don't necessarily come at the price of Dollar Store items. It's not unusual to kickout a small Working Man's fortune for head to toe Axe stuff. At least that's been my experience.

But, I leave this question to you Ladies. What are your views of Axe Men's grooming products? Do you like them, or no, and why? What do you think of Men who uses them-do they reek of lower class knuckledraggery, or what, and if so/not, why?

Ancillary question: what do you find smells best on a Man-be it Muslim oil, cologne, aftershave, soap, etc, et al?

Comments?

Holla back

The Obsidian

The Reason Why So Many Black (& Other!) Boys Are Failing In School (& Why NOTHING Will Be Done About It)

Obsidian · 18 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Seventeen Years Of Sitting:

Teachers can tell you why girls are more academically adept, and many of the explanations offered here are based on my own years in the classroom. For one thing, formal education rests on a specified structure of learning, and students are expected to adhere to the regimen. Girls and women have a subtler understanding of authority. (When you have less power, it is prudent to understand how the system works) Very early, they come to understand that academic success depends on adult evaluations. So they become skilled at intuiting what teachers want, heeding instructions that accompany tests and assignments. Boys are more apt to listen with half an ear, already framing what they want to say. Teachers will tell you that in examinations calling for essays, boys usually begin writing right away, while girls spend more time thinking about how to organize their answers.

Girls are neater and more punctual. Many tests and worksheets are submitted in longhand, and girls' writing tends to be more legible, just as the notes they take for class or homework are better organized. Among those who turn in assignments late, boys outnumber girls by a considerable margin. When it is optional, or suggested rather than required, girls are more likely to do the work. For some, the motive may be to please the teacher and obtain a higher grade. But others put in extra effort because they want to learn more about the subject. They also tend to be more at home with ambiguity and uncertainty, more tolerant of imprecise boundaries and indeterminate shadings. Girls are also more reluctant to come to quick conclusions, an inclination that does not always serve them well, especially in an age of quickly paced tests.

Education, certainly through highschool, is staffed largely by women and bears their imprint. The 2001 count by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that women made up 97.8 percent of nursery and kindergarten teachers, 82.5 percent of elementary teachers, and now are a majority-58.5 percent-of high school faculty. Each year more are appointed as principals and superintendents. Although they account for less than half-43.3 percent-of all college staffs, they predominate among instructors and adjuncts, who teach most of the first courses that freshmen encounter.

A wag once defined education as seventeen years of sustained sitting, from kindergarten through a bachelor's degree. This assumes that students learn best when they are confined to chairs in orderly rows. It hardly needs saying that boys taken together are less suited for this regimen, which requires them to remain still and largely silent for six or more hours. So we should not be surprised when, upon being released from high school, growing numbers of young men are deciding against further confinement in college.

- Andrew Hacker, "Mismatch", ppg. 82-83

It bears noting that Professor Hacker wasn't addressing Black boys above, but rather, WHITE ones, although he does address Black America later on in the book. In fact, his chapter has in its title, "A Portent For America" overall; he sees what's happened there as a sign of things to come for the nation as a whole. The book was written in 2003.

While popular ideas and theories as to why Black boys are either failing school or dropping out outright such as Hip Hop, "oppositional culture" and "acting White" (to say nothing of being violent and the like-by the way, what color was the Colombine shooters?) prevails among the Education Cartels, the truth as to the reason why Black, White and now even ASIAN boys are falling out of school is simply, because the entire edifice has become Feminized-and as a result, is little reason as to why girls across the board, regardless of race, tend to do much, much better.

Which also explains why little to nothing will be done to address the problem, especially for those who need it most: because not only do Women now makeup a clear majority of the voting public, but they also makeup key,

core constituencies-like the Teacher's Union-who give generously to the Democratic Party. Moreover, Feminist lobbies like the National Organization for Women, and others, would surely make any politician's life difficult, if he or even she, were even to suggest that boys, Black or otherwise, need a different kind of learning model, and that the current one doesn't work, BECAUSE its largely Female.
Then, there's the Curse of the Bureaucracy-that governmental agencies, however well intentioned at the time of their creation, inevitably become interested in its own survival, in existence more to perpetuate itself more than anything else. So, given all these factors, there is little reason to see any political will being brought to bear on the problem, particularly one that has as its "face" (though not by any means, the sole "victims" of the problem, as Hacker's quote above clearly shows) that of young Black boys.

Which brings us to another what I consider to be fascinating point. Yesterday's interaction with frequent commenters Deery and Jamila-two smart, highly educated African American Women-didn't seem all that concerned with the issue. Indeed, if anything, they seemed agitated, angry even, *at* Black Men for not achieving as much as either of them had. For her part, Deery spoke of her brother in not too shining terms on the matter, and Jamila's corrective, if one can call it that, consisted of a variation on the "pulling oneself up by the bootstraps" meme that Black folk were often plied with by agitated Whites. Hmm.

This view-even, perhaps especially among African American Women themselves-all speaks to a kind of attitudinal lens through which this problem is viewed. Time will tell if indeed anything is done to address this problem, now that White Folk Who Matter are starting to feel the burn; but as it currently stands, Black boys are kind of treated like a pathogen to be contained, rather than as a national resource to be developed. One would think that, given the all-too oft-repeated "dearth of eligible Black Men" meme that the one group who would, if not spearhead some kind of change, at least cheer it on from the sidelines, were Black Women themselves. Well, if what we've heard yesterday is any indication, coupled with other many conversations along these lines I've had with other similarly disposed Black Women over the years, seeing that the dynamics that fail Black boys doesn't seem much of a concern.

Perhaps most striking that I've found about these kinds of conversations, is how so many Black Women recoil at the idea that Black boys and Men need to be "sold" on the idea of education, that they need to be recruited. Why should they have to get special treatment! Asian kids don't get that! I didn't have to have someone kiss my ass to get an education!-and so on and so forth. Yet, when you consider that nearly every organization of any consequence not only recruits but aggressively so-from the Military, to the NFL/NBA, to the Fortune 500, and yup, even top-tier colleges and universities-the idea that actually selling the product of education to Black boys shouldn't seem all that far-fetched, again, especially given the dire straits Black America in general, and Black Women in particular, finds itself. Yet, the very notion is akin to my suggesting that Men have sex with their mothers, despite the fact that there's never been a successful organization that didn't sell itself to attract recruits. It perhaps explains why Al Qaeda has no such recruitment, retention or "dropout rate" problems among young Men.

The overarching message Black boys receive from all this and more, is that not only aren't you wanted or valued, but the sooner you're removed the better-and so Black boys do just that. Some cities, like my hometown of Philly, has a Black Male highschool dropout rate of more than 50%. In other cities, like Detroit, it's closer to 80%. According to Hacker's 2003 book Mismatch, for every 100 Black Women with college degrees, there are roughly half as many Black Men. And shrinking.

That the current day educational system is thoroughly Feminized cannot be stressed enough, in large part because many Women will attempt to deny the simple facts of recent American history, such as Title IX, and instead adopt the same kind of "bootstraps" rhetoric Jamila attempted to foist on myself and my readers yesterday. To be sure, yes, their own talent, merit and effort, are not only to be noted but lauded-but please do not fool yourself into thinking that environment and "market conditions" do not play any role whatsoever in your success. Because the plain as the nose on your face data, to say nothing of just good ole commonsense clearly shows, that it indeed does.

That, of course, is a sobering fact to consider and take into account in this discussion, because one of the more

popular ideas that have been ramrodded down the body politic's throat by Feminists, is that there are no differences between Male and Female, and whatever differences are there are merely the throwbacks of patriarchal conditioning and doctrines. Yet this doesn't easily square well with the fact that Black boys are completely zoned out of school by as early as third grade, and that now even more Asian girls do better than Asian boys. But, being as this is arguably the most ideological country in the history of human beings, such facts will only serve to confuse the powers that be.

Much to the chagrin of Jamila and perhaps others, in recent weeks I have given my readers a glimpse into my own life and educational career, if one can call it that. A major part of that sharing included my questioning many of my teachers as to the reasons why I was being asked to engage in repetitive, boring material of questionable realworld utility, to say nothing of the boring to tears manner in which they imparted such pearls of wisdom. Unsurprisingly, I was unceremoniously removed from class, and had not my mother raised the roof, would have been expelled altogether. I have recounted this question to quite a number of people since-some of you may recall my post about attending a Xmas Day dinner which included a high number of educators-and to this day, more than 20 years later, no one could answer my questions. That, perhaps more than anything, is to my mind a powerful, and truly sad, commentary of exactly where we are, in the state of our times.

Now adjourn your non-thinking outside the box asses…

The Obsidian

Marry Him! (Really?): A Clear Example Of The Eternal Solipsism Of The Female Mind

Obsidian · 19 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This time of year when one of the biggest holidays on the calendar burns through the dead of Winter-Valentine's Day, what else?-it's common to hear of the newest/latest books and the like, almost always aimed at Women, to help them find their Mr. Right. Ms. Lori Gottlieb's "Marry Him: The Case For Settling For Mr. Good Enough" is no exception; in fact, it appears that her missive has started quite a backlash among her fellow travellers. It seems that all of the Usual Suspects of the Femosphere have kneejerked their disapproval at Ms. Gottlieb's sisterly betrayal: what, actually *settle* for some lowly Man? Women need Men like…oh, well you get the point.

Not only has Ms. Gottlieb's book been the talk of the town on the Web, but apparently it's been optioned to be made into a feature length film, by none other than Tobey "Spider-Man" Maguire himself-which, when one thinks of his Peter Parker persona, really makes sense.

That's because only a non-Venomnized Pete could ever, ever even consider such a thing. Not only is the very premise-that a Woman, any Woman, has to put up with a guy because she's simply run out of options-but the Y-chromosome yammering over the whole thing once again, leaves out one crucial element:

US.

But, we'll get to that in a moment, as well as the gist of Ms. Gottlieb's book. But before we do that, let's consider one little thing, shall we?

Gottlieb's book no doubt will be viewed as "dating advice"; perhaps even as "self-help"-and in any event, such books are marketed in droves to Women, *for years*. All kinds of truly dehumanizing language and allusions are made to Men, such as the very title of the book we're discussing; we're rated and objectified, ranked and given the heave-ho for the slightest imperfection, infraction or just the misfortune of being *human*-a necessary evil all in the name of the Precious Ladies' search for "Mr. Right".

Moreover, none other than the High Priestess of Relationship & Dating Advice herself-Oprah Winfrey-is known for her pricey workshops and seminars as she is for her long running tv chat show. And of course, she endorses everything for Women from The Rules to He's Just Not That Into You, to now, of course, "Marry Him!".

Yet, one of thee biggest complaints and charges by those who decry Game-almost, but not always Women, is that it is not only disrespectful to Women and trades in dehumanizing terminology to and about them, but it suckers in unsuspecting guys too, on the grounds that the Game/PUAsphere is chockfull of hucksters-21st century snakeoil salesmen who rake in the dough while their clients and customers get feeble, at best, results.

And to be sure, for my part at least, I don't deny that the Gamesphere has its share of hucksters and shady types. But the sheer hubris it takes on the part of many Women to actually fix their mouths to make such charges, in the face of scads of books and the like, such as the one we're examining today, really takes the cake. It, along with the other points that need to be raised and presented in the light of day for all to see, counts as just one of many examples of what fellow Game and all-around blogger Ferdinand Bardamu called the Eternal Solipsism of The Female Mind.

But wait, there's more!

Not only is Gottlieb's screed a half-hearted attempt to sound like she's gained some wisdom in her more than a *quarter century of frutiless dating*, but she has the nerve-the unmitigated gall-to suggest that she still has every right to be picky, because, afterall, she has a son to think about.

That's right. Ms. Gottlieb is a Baby Mama. The question becomes, *how* did she achieve this monumental feat, without so much as a hubbie, boyfriend, or even a Hookup?

The answer comes from Gottlieb herself. In her Mar 2008 article of the same name of her book in the Atlantic (and which is still available online; , she makes it clear that she took a trip to the local fertility clinic with time running out on her biological clock so she could knocked up the good old fashioned way-with the Turkey Baster-because, well, there just wasn't anybody out there good enough for her to make a baby with otherwise.

Let that sink in for a moment.

OK, so let me get this straight: she can't find anybody "good enough" for 25 YEARS, then finally, at the fag end of her fertile years, decides to get the Butterball Treatment. Then, STILL expects to find "Mr. Right", and failing that, will grudgingly "settle" for "Mr. Good Enough".

Is this Beeyotch out of her ever-loving mind?!?

Oh yea-I can just see the swarms of Men now, who can't *wait* to lineup to take to one knee and humbly beg for this Middle-aged Maiden's hand in holy matrimony, Test Tube Baby in tow, no less.

The sheer arrogance, hubris and out and out megalomania, that this Woman exudes is something the likes of which I've never set my eyes on before-and believe you me, I done seen a lot of stuff. She honestly thinks that her stuff don't stink-and she's by no means alone. More and more, both here in the States and across the pond in the UK, Women are being seen as increasingly demanding, narcissistic, unrealistic and haughty-with average, at best, cred to back it up. Consider the recent London Daily Mail article that talks about this very problem, the one written by American homegirl Kay Hymowitz, and others. Heck, forget all that-just take a look at Gottlieb herself-one can understand why she finally had to go under the Turkey Baster to do the deed. Girlfriend is hardly a prize by any Man's standard, even if you took the baby out of the equation and rolled the clock back a decade. At best, I'd rank her a middling 5. But the way she talks about herself, it's as if she's the identical twin to Megan Fox or something.

NOT.

And that's another thing that burns me up about Women like Gottlieb-which, I am very sad to report, are the coin of the realm in our times: they not only want, or expect, but DEMAND the tip-top absolute best Man in the Universe, but give little if anything in return. They surely aren't offering equal value, that's for certain. Ever took a peek at Craig's List, or Match.com, or eHarmony, and looked at these ladies ads? Their "lists" of the ideal Man are yay long, but notice something:

They never, ever, offer what the guy gets in return. It's almost as if these gals are doing such sought after guys a favor just to be in their hallowed presence. What's in it for me? Not a whole lot. Gimme, gimme, gimme.

No, screw that. It ain't "almost as if"-it IS as if.

Nor does it surprise me one little bit that Gottlieb's supposed cautionary tale talks about how all the guys she passed up in her life have moved on to have families of their own-you know, the one you make with someone you actually know and doesn't require a petrie dish-and trust me, they're thanking GOD in Heaven that they didn't get hitched to this Royal Headcase, or others like her. Men, in case no one's figured it out by now, are just simpler, more pragmatic and are much, much more likely to "settle" than are Women, and when they decide that the dating game ain't for them, they find happiness elsewhere. Which explains why for every Game or PUA website, blog, book or seminar, you can find easily dozens of the female-versions in any direction you want to go. Happiness for Men is a heck of a lot easier than for Women for the simple reason that we expect a lot less than do Women. And once Women, for all their vaunted brainpower, finally figure this out, they too just might get a freaking clue.

The ASSumptions this book and attendant squawking by the Femmetariot makes-very, very dangerous ones-is that the guys will simply go along with whatever the ladies eventually decide to do, assuming that's even humanly possible in the first place. It doesn't occur to them that Men have minds of their own, connected to their own ideas of what they'd like to have and do and be in life, and who to do that with. Moreover, they assume that the reason why they haven't found Mr. Right, is because, well, they just haven't found Mr. Right. It never occurs to them that the real reason why they haven't found Mr. Right, is because they're NOT Ms. All That-and the Mr. Good Enough's

of the world aren't exactly beating a path to their door either. They can't seem to make the connection between what goes on in their heads and what goes on outside it, and line the two up accordingly. And they can't seem to understand why anyone with any modicum of options, self respect or just plain ole sanity, would be out of their mind to even give one nanosecond, or one spark of brainpower towards even considering standing in the same room as such a Woman, let alone dating or worse, mating with her. Once again: Feminine Solipsism, anyone?

Parting Shot:

As if I couldn't be more pissed off by reading Ms. Gottlieb's crocodile tear-laden "cautionary tale", her constant rejection of Men for congenital features (among a great, great many things), such as lack of the height she wanted and so on, really got me to thinking-you know, Women do not hesitate to call a Man a Misogynist-usually because he disagrees with her-and some Men have tried to "answer" back by charging some Women with Misandry.

But it doesn't work, in my view. Why? Because the word is too esoteric, and besides, it smacks of a kind of loserdom; they call you a Misogynist, you call them a Misandrist? Nah.

But as I was out talking a walk to cool off after reading Gottlieb's mad ravings, something else occurred to me; Bigotry. The intense dislike of another, just because of how they look. In fact, Gottlieb's book, stands as an A1 case study in perhaps thee most pernicious form of discrimination around, and that's the kind that Women of her ilk visit on Men all the time. In fact, now that I think about it, I have been discriminated against MORE by Women-and in this case, Black Women-than I EVER have by job employers, banks, landlords and the like. In other words, being an "unacceptable Male" has been the cause of my being discriminated against, by BLACK WOMEN, than my being discriminated against, simply because I'm Black.

Therefore, it is wholly appropriate, and I call on all my Brothers-and Sisters of Good Will-to begin to call such people like Gottlieb for what they are:

Woman, thou name art Bigot. And Hypocrite. And just plain ole Cwazie.

And like Archie Bunker, we'll laugh AT you, too.

Now adjourn your pathetic arses…

The Obsidian

With Regard To Jamila, & Any Other Ladies In The Forum...

Obsidian · 20 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Just wanted to put it out there, in case anyone's wondering or confused.

Recently, Chic Noir suggested, jokingly or otherwise, that Jamila "give me a chance" and then used language that was physically suggestive. I took the comment in stride and said that I'm good where I am with my lady. Others have suggested that Jamila fancies me; further, it has been brought to my attention, that perhaps the message hasn't sunken in. I fault myself for not making things crystal clear.

I will do so, right now.

On the off chance that Jamila, or any other Woman reading this happens to take a liking to me, while I am flattered, I must respectfully decline. That's because I am with a fantastic Woman, who meets all of my needs and makes me very happy. I love her dearly. Brown Sugah is the Love of my life.

Moreover I do not think it appropriate to engage in romantic situations with people from this or any other blog. I consider it a kind of violation of my own personal Code. I haven't done such a thing in the past, and I surely don't intend to start now.

For whom this may apply, Jamila or otherwise, I hope this post clarifies my position on the matter.

Thanks.

The Obsidian

Valentine's Day Mascara: A Response To Roissy

Obsidian · 21 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I'd been meaning to respond to something the Crimson Gamester wrote recently, what he calls his "Valentine's Day Mascara" post. In a nutshell, it is a quick how-to on what is known in Game circles as "harem management", aka "MLTRs", or Multiple Longterm Relationships. After giving a brief overview of the current, and admittedly sparse, literature on the topic, as well as his rationale for why Men in general, and him in particular, desires and must pursue Sexual Variety Über Alles, he advises his readers to LIE, er, *evade*, in order to achieve their goal of living like King-or, as he puts it, Pimp-for a day.

Readers here know of my view of Roissy-he is a brilliant and talented writer, with a keen understanding of Human Natue, particularly of the Female sort. Moreover, his understanding of Game and Human sociosexual relations, is indeed something that, despite his otherwise questionable views regarding Women, Race & Class, repays close study. Nearly everyone who is intellectually honest, regardless as to how personally repulsed they may be by his professed views, agrees with what I've said here.

And yes, what he says is indeed true-a Man can have multiple Women-very good looking ones at the same time, I might add-by lying, er, evading about the truth. We've all seen this happen at one point or another in our lives to the people we know. Or it's happened to us. Or we've done it.

Nor do I have a problem with his basic premise, which is largely correct, that Men, on balance, desire sexual variety, the hotter the Women the better. No argument there, and lt me take it a step further-*it is no crime for a Man to want this*.

What I DO have a huge problem with, that makes me feel some kind of way, is how a Man, in this case Roissy, not only goes about meeting his needs for variegated booty, but that he *advocates for others to follow suit*. In my view, what he's doing-not seeking multiple sex partners, mind you-but lying, uh *evading* to them, each under the false pretense that he would be seeing them exclusively, is what gets my ire. It does for several reasons.

For one, it goes against everything the Game is all about. While I credit Roissy with my introduction to Game insofar as its current configuration is concerned-one where White guys codified it into a tight, coherent "algorithm" as Mystery would put it-Game has always been known in the Black community. And while even there it's more original teachings and meanings have been corrupted due to "telephone game disease" down through the decades, those who are either old enough to have seen the Oldheads themselves throw down, or were fortunate enough to learn from them before they passed on to the big Player's Ball in the sky, understood that true Players *never* have to lie about what they do or with whom. In fact, a for real for real Player tells a Woman upfront where she will fit in his scheme of things, and that it will be HER loss if she cannot see the clear benefits of being in such a sought after Man's orbit.

I know of what I speak, because I've done it-and no, the Women with whom I did it with weren't middle aged Hippies with greasy hair either, LOL. In fact, I clearly and distinctly-as if it were yesterday (this was back in the latter 90s-early 2000s) recall having two young ladies at once, and they both not only knew each other, but I'd often have on over and when the other would call, I would have the one with me answer the phone. No drama. No catfights. No complaints either-in fact, we all attended a wedding together, one on either side of me at the reception table. And yup, at any time, they were free to leave and/or pursue other options. They chose to remain with me, and did so for about a year-three times longer than the four-month estimate Roissy gives in his missive.

Nor am I alone by any means-ask any Brotha or Sista in the hood, and they'll tell you of other Men who have done as I have. To be sure, there are plenty of Black Men who go he Roissy evading route, if not the more cruder lying one; but it is not at all unusual to find Black Men who comfortably-and openly-conduct MLTRs all. The. Time.

Of course, in order to do this, you need among other things, really tight Game, as well as keen Target selection, for the simple truth is that all Women ain't built for MLTRs. And yes, and here's the trick, you must be willing for the

ladies in your stable to exercise their options out on the open market-and that's another thing Roissy said that I take issue with:

Game, be it on the streets or in the bootcamps-at least the ones I've been privy to-stresses a *Woman's right to choose*. She's free to be with whomever she pleases. For me, I would have it no other way, for a true Player understands that there's no such thing as a finite number of Hot Babes-they are everywhere, at all times. Guys who do like Roissy promotes, lying, er, evading, that's coming from a Scarcity Mentality, and yea, fear too. If you're a true Alpha Dawg, you have nothing to fear-for one thing, you are so unique that a Woman would think twice before going anywhere else, for the simple reason that you're very, very hard to replace; and two, she gets turned on knowing other Women want you, and your virility is strong enough to deeply satisfy both her AND several other Women.

See, that's another trick that Roissy didn't speak on: in order to pull off a Harem successfully, you gotta BRING IT in the sack-with ALL of em, ALL the time. You gotta make the gals in your cipher hit those Mariah notes, every single time. Because when you do, you separate yourself from the vast majority of pretenders and contenders, who want the extra Poon but don't really know what to do with it when hey get it. Again, I would know. I've done it. Without incident.

Then, there's the moral side of this issue here, which for Roissy is a non-issue, given his amoral view of Game, where the ends justify the means. But for Men like myself-a Gentleman who lives by a Code-his matter of fact rationalizations here are quite problematic. Why?

Well, a number of reasons. One is because no Man reading this would stand for one minute such treachery on the part of a Woman, in fact Roissy's pages his site gives witness to this very fact. Moreover, unlike most Men, Women emotionally bond everytime they have sex with a Man, *especially when she climaxes*. If and when things go south-as they often do in such arrangements per the Roissy method-these Women are now in a very real way, damaged goods. They cannot help but to carry those negative experiences with them-right into the arms of an unsuspecting guy, who now has to do the emotional equivalent of HAZMAT cleanup. If a Woman knows, from the giddyup, that she's part of a harem, the onus is on her and her alone as to what she will do from there. She wasn't lied-pardon me-evaded to, that she and her Man were exclusive when in truth not only wasn't that true, but that was never the intention as far as the guy goes in the first place. In any event, what Roissy's encouraging here, isn't just bad for Women and morally wrong for himself and the Men who would heed the call, but it harms other Men too, who will invariably be in the on-deck circle after he's crashed & burned his way through the ladies. Its a lose-lose situation all the way around, except for him. But when you're an amoralist, such a consideration is at best, a side issue.

There's a reason why Harems are, have always been, and always will be, rare: because most Men ain't built like that to pull it off, *even when they lie about it*. The very fact that lying is advocated, proves the point.

One would think that given recent events in the Roissysphere, that he would do a serious rethink of his "mission"-but if the post I'm addressing right now is any indication, perhaps not. He has the right to his views, in fact I've defended his right recently; but given that his voice is an important one in the national dialogue now, that thousands, if not tens of thousands of young Men listen to him, and that he's had very close brushes with elements who want to see him utterly disgraced, one would think that if for simple reasons of self-preservation and pragmatism, he would be a bit more circumspect.

Hmm.

The Obsidian

The Great Game Debate: Denise Romano vs. Black&German

Obsidian · 22 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I have said recently that I believe firmly in the notion that “Clarity is better than Agreement”. That notion seems especially apt when it comes to discussions surrounding and concerning, Game.

So, I thought it would be a very useful exercise to present to the forum, two widely divergent views on the matter, by two Women who have written I think in quite clear terms on heir understanding of Game, and their positions on it; Denise Romano, who needs no introduction here, and “Black & German”, a blogger and stay at home mom.

Now, here’s how I would like to structure this discussion:

1. We will NOT allow ANY off-topic posts. They will be swiftly removed if they appear in this thread. This discussion is to highlight the differences between the two positions on Game. Both authors are more than welcome to clarify their views if they wish.

2. We will tease out the more salient and obscure points in the arguments both Women are making. I invite all those who wish to participate to this also.

3. As you read each Woman’s position on the matter, please ask yourself, what is the ultimate point they are making? Is what they’re advocating, on either side, tenable? What would our society look like if what either side advocated, actually happened? Are each Woman’s argument well presented and thought out? If so/not, why?

Now, I would like everyone to please refrain from posting until I have presented in full, each Woman’s position on the matter of Game, which will come in the next two posts in the comment thread. First, we will present for the “Con” position of Game, by Denise Romano. The following comes from her most recent post on the matter, which will appear in the next post; afterwards, will appear Black & German’s “Pro” Game argument.

The Obsidian

Expanding The Game Lexicon...

Obsidian · 23 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Readers of Game materials, which includes websites, ebooks and the like, are very well acquainted with the unique style of “shop talk” that occurs among PUAs and Gamesmen. It often entails either odd-sounding terms and/or acronyms that come off as esoteric to the uninitiated, though in more recent years, terms like “peacocking” “wingman” “player” and even “PUA” and “Game” itself have all become part of the national lexicon of American speak, the Lingua Franca of our times. This speaks, of course, to the success of its purveyors to make an impact on the American nightlife scene, which has in turn spilled over into everyday American life. If there was any doubt before, there can be none now-Game, and much of its nomenclature, has become a household name.

However, while there are certain key principles hat undergird Game itself, Game is not, has not, nor will ever be “static”-it morphs and adapts as we Humans do. Therefore, the terms and phrases in use in the community can and do change from time to time, some cases being merely a swapout of an older term for another, and others, a rather new term altogether. More experienced practitioners of Game tend to be very well versed with the myriad of terms, phrases and acronyms that makeup the artform, and in some cases, they may even contribute to it.

Hence today’s post, a kind of sounding board for the various forms of “Gamespeak” if you will. Please use this thread to add to the Game Lexicon, giving the term, phrase or acronym, where it came from, and what it means. Or, if you have questions about a particular “Game word”, please feel free to ask. Also, this thread can be used to include Game terminology already in use.

Here’s some more recent and/or obscure terms of Gamespeak that merits closer examination, definition and clarity:

Rationalization Hamster

Wile E. Coyote Moment

Pump & Dump

Main Jawn

Side Jawn

Jumpoff

Thundercat(s)

Gamesman/men

Over the course of the thread, we will examine the origin, definition and examples of these terms in use, as well as any other Game terms you may be interested in knowing more about.

OK, let’s dig in!

The Obsidian

Interview With Lori Gottlieb's Ex-Boyfriend From Jezebel.Com

Obsidian · 24 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

As if the Theatre Of The Absurd couldn't get worse, I discover this little gem this morning as I'm getting ready to head out the day this morning. This is just too good to pass up. I may or may not comment further; I'm still agog.

Wow.

SMH…

http://jezebel.com/5467630/email-interview-with-lori-gottliebs-ex-tim

Email Interview With Lori Gottlieb's Ex, "Tim"

The following is the email interview we conducted with Lori Gottlieb 's ex "Tim," condensed slightly and with our questions in bold.

Can you describe how you got in contact and how the relationship started?

Other than the "Ralph and Alice" conceit [Gottlieb says the two referred to each other by the names of Honeymooners characters], which she never expressed to me, she gets a lot of that right. I sent her fan mail based on her stuff in Slate and Salon , which was intelligent and funny stuff, though it looks a lot different now with perspective. (For example, she pretty much stated the thesis of Marry Him in something she did for Slate in 1998 where she compares searching for a mate with searching for a parking spot: do you jump in the first space you find, or do you circle the lot endlessly trying to find a spot near your destination? And might you lose a good-enough space by looking so hard for the best space?) I had no romantic expectations; I was just a frustrated writer in a lawyer's career who sent emails to lots of writers whose stuff I liked.

But she pushed to speak on the phone, and to meet. We had a dinner at an Italian restaurant (where I most certainly did not speak about my penis or give her a rose), and I didn't think anything of it. I was quite confident that she viewed me as out of her league (especially when the valet pulled up with my Chevy Malibu and she expressed surprise because she didn't know anyone who drove an American car); too, my wife had just left me three months earlier and I wasn't going to be asking anyone out just yet. So we muddle along platonically for a couple of months; she even gives me a speech where she explains all the reasons she couldn't possibly go out with me romantically, and I shrug my shoulders. Yeah, it would be cool to date someone with her resume and sense of humor, and she's Jewish to boot, but not too Jewish, and she's physically attractive, but I had no expectations that it was going anywhere.

But eventually I get the sense that she's protesting too much; she wants to see me several times a week, she's calling me a lot while I'm at work, she's emailing me all the time. This gets confirmed in February when I go off on a weekend trip with a woman I knew from my hometown, and Lori completely freaks out because she calls my apartment on a Saturday night and my roommate won't tell her where I am. (This is 1999, and I don't own a cell-phone yet.) [...]

[The next week,] We get to talking on her couch, and I kiss her. She starts to go through her list of reasons why she can't date me, and, very unusual for me, I kiss her a second time. But I'd guessed right, she kisses back, and she's surprised that I know how to kiss and can handle foreplay, and we end up in bed. (In bed. We never slept on the floor.)

Was Gottlieb openly judgmental about your weight?

And then some. It was part of the criticism sessions we'd have about once a week where she would tell me everything that was wrong with me. It wasn't enough that I was going to a gym, I had to go see a particular personal trainer, a particular therapist. My nutritionist put me on a 1600-calorie/day plan, and Lori was second-guessing that. I'd put a tiny squirt of mustard on something, and Lori would ask whether that was part of the diet, and I'm like,

“Chill, it’s not even five calories.” And this is all while she’s finishing up her memoir about her path back from childhood anorexia.

Oh—and she’d weigh me every morning that I slept over, and ask about it on other days. Yeah, I don’t know why I put up with that either.

What was good about the relationship?

Well, the good news was I went from 265 to 235 pounds in a short period of time. It was like having a 24-hour personal trainer who also slept with you for the cost of a handful of sushi dinners a week where we always ordered the exact same thing.

And, to be fair, I was socially inept, almost autistically inept, and her bluntness about it did make me a lot less nerdy as I learned rules about social interaction and how to answer questions like “Where are you from?” and “What are you working on these days?” without going into RainMan-length monologues.

I was really down about my divorce, which had stranded me in a strange city where I didn’t know anyone and left me with a lot of debt from alimony and paying my lawyers and my wife’s. So I got a self-esteem boost at a time when I needed one. And she got someone whose intellect she respected but regularly validated her with praise and flowers and let her get her uncompromising way all of the time.

It took a while, but I eventually came to realize how unhealthy all this was [...]

Did you get a general sense of Gottlieb’s attitude to dating? Was she looking for marriage, family?

I got the sense that she was looking for marriage and kids, but she kept starting conversations with me explaining all the reasons why I couldn’t be the father of her children or why we could never be together forever. So it was never really clear to me what her motivations were. My best guess is that I reminded her of her smart and successful father, and she was trying to resolve some issue there. My second-best guess is that she lives her entire life as if on a stage, and she viewed dating me as a ready source of dramatic comedy or comedic drama.
She talks a lot in her book about mistakes she made in her dating life. Do you feel that when you were together she had a “dating checklist?” Or that she wanted men she was with to look or act a certain way?

Absolutely. The one time we went out for ice cream, she told me it was a good thing I didn’t order vanilla, or she’d lose a lot of respect for me. [...] Presumably, in conjunction with the American car, it would’ve been a dealbreaker.

My ex-wife liked facial hair, so I had a beard that I shaved the week before I met Lori, and she mentioned that everything would’ve been different if I hadn’t shaved.

Everything was a test. One afternoon, she calls me at work and tells me I have to come over immediately to kill a spider. I’m like “You realize Diane Keaton already did this in Annie Hall, right?” No, it was evidence of whether I really cared about her, would I stay at work and finish the assignment the senior partner wanted on his desk in two hours, or would I drive to Brentwood and kill the spider for her. So, yeah, that spider made me have to switch law firms and lose several years before I could become partner. Most expensive spider in the world. My fault for giving into the emotional blackmail, but, hey, I’m a naive romantic.

From your point of view, how and why did the relationship end?

It was doomed when I started asserting myself, which meant that our arguments came more often and involved more screaming. Because it was never enough to capitulate and let Lori have her own way, we then had to have a meta-argument where I confessed the errors in reason and logic that prevented me from seeing things her way in the first place. And for some reason, I had the nature that could compromise on the argument, but had no patience for the meta-argument, and I would start a meta-meta-argument, which would just make tensions worse. I stormed out of her place a lot. (She never came to my place, because she didn’t go “east of LaCienega.” I guess that’s what the kids are calling it these days.) She would say she loved me, and sign all her emails with that sentiment, but would at least weekly put me through these emotionally battering monologues about how my weight and other

failings were preventing us from being really serious.

I had no outlet for my resentment, so I started “cheating” on her—first with food, then with an entirely inappropriate fling with an 18-year-old who was rotating her social life around three or four LA lawyers at the same time and gave me 10% of her time. Only time I ever cheated on a girlfriend before or since, and I realized it wasn’t in my nature.

So I tried to break up with Lori, and out came the drama [...] Yes, she’d been horrible to me, she admitted, but she’d make it up to me later once everything calmed down. She needed me, she loved me, how could I leave her? She got her way again.

Nothing really improved in the relationship; I’m still getting regular lectures; and she chooses to go to Stanford instead of UCLA, where she could’ve gotten in-state tuition and stayed in the same city, but is paying a lot extra to be able to say she went to Stanford. So I see the writing on the wall: no way a first-year med student is going to have time for a long-distance relationship with someone she’s regularly lecturing on his inadequacies. No, no, she says, don’t break up with me, I love you, long distance is fine.

Against my better judgment, I believe her. I take time off of work to drive her from LA to the Bay Area to help her find an affordable place to live near campus (but she wants a white neighborhood) and then a second drive up to handle her move. She skips an opportunity to come to LA before classes to give me moral support at the hearing where my divorce is finalized. And, then, of course, breaks up with me the day before classes start.

And drops out of med school a year later, though not before writing a piece for Time [link added] about how her non-traditional background was going to make her a better doctor than her classmates. Have you read “Fat Like Him” in its entirety? If so, what was your reaction?

Yes.

I learned of it by accident: my favorite ex-girlfriend (a Jezebel commenter, natch) was writing book reviews for a website, so I read her reviews, and noticed another book review in the same article criticizing an “appalling” “self-congratulatory tale of having actually dated a fat guy.” And I immediately associated “self-congratulatory” with Lori Gottlieb. I checked with the reviewer, and she confirmed that it was Gottlieb who wrote the story, but she changed [nickname redacted] into “Tim.” The reviewer suggested that I probably don’t want to read it.

So, she broke her promise that she wasn’t going to write about me. Not a big surprise, I guess, even if it’s something out of a Jennifer Weiner novel.

I email Lori and ask her for a copy. She tries to create a guilt trip: how dare I bother her with this when she’s suffering medical problems [...] that keep her from spending more than an hour a day on-line. When I phone her, she says I need to read it first.

So I read it, and try to make a joke out of it, sending this email the day I read the short story:

Hope [you're] feeling better.

I figured you weren’t going down on me because of your general squeamishness about bodily fluids or some calorie concern or the other. But I read that you were giving Tim regular blow jobs, and the bozo weighed at least 50 to 80 pounds more than me and didn’t even fit in your bed. Imagine how grumpy I am.

No response.

But I was offended; this is a non-fiction book, and she’s making up stuff to fit an arc or for a joke or to make her look better. So Tim is 300 pounds, and gains 50 in the month before the break-up, while I went from 270 to 235 to 245; Tim was a member of Overeaters Anonymous and I wasn’t; Tim has a variety of disgusting physical features beyond his obesity; Tim obsesses about whether he can see his penis; Tim plaintively asks Lori to reciprocate his love, when in real life Lori used the L-word first; and the multiple times Lori begged me to stay with her and her broken promises are left out, of course. There were ten months we were emailing, and seven we were dating; Tim’s

only in the picture for five months.

I complain about this to her, and she's completely unapologetic: it's "creative non-fiction" so it's okay to make up stuff. If only James Frey thought to tell Oprah that!

The bit about the partner at my law firm hitting on Lori in front of me happened; so did the bit about Lori's friends surprising us in the middle of sex so they could get around her attempts to hide me from them (though, to her credit, in real life, Lori acknowledged who I was; there certainly wasn't pizza involved). I can objectively recognize those as funny stories. I've read Philip Roth novels. I would have nothing against a autobiographical short story that's labeled as such, even if the main character is a fictional person with the same name as Lori.

But even with all the fictional ducks lined up in a row to make herself look better, she comes off as vile and self-unaware in that story. So she's hurt herself more than she hurt me.

So, yeah, I'm annoyed that she broke multiple promises to me, then makes up stuff about me to self-aggrandize herself, then is unapologetic about it or failing to give me a heads-up. And I'm also annoyed that even now she's ashamed of me. When close friends of mine end up on writing projects with Lori, and I ask them to say hello to her for me, she pretends she's never heard of me. I've heard of name-dropping, but that's name-lifting. Not sure what she accomplishes by that, all my friends come back to me and quizzically ask "What's up with her?" And I guess I'm angry enough to enjoy the Jezebel threads and volunteer my personal experience.

But this is what she does with her writing to everyone in her life: her parents; her classmates from two different schools; her co-workers at two different jobs; her lovers; her son, Baby Book Deal Gottlieb. She's eventually going to run out of bridges to burn.

What's your reaction to Marry Him and Gottlieb's general message that women should settle for "Mr. Good Enough"?

There was certainly some schadenfreude with the original article. My fiancee would snuggle up to me and said "I'm glad she didn't settle for you."

Of course, four months later, I went on a business trip, and my fiancee suddenly decided that I was too physically unattractive for her, and moved out and ended a three-year relationship without any warning or even a face-to-face conversation, so perhaps the last laugh is on me.

The thing is, Lori knew all about the satisficing strategy and was writing about it when she was 30, so the idea that it's this new epiphany in her 40s is just bullshit.

Every book or article Lori writes has nothing to do with the subject of the book: they're all about making Lori look more attractive. She's the precocious-but-troubled eleven-year-old grown up into a real size 0 who partakes of milkshakes; she's the Internet executive who saw through the bubble before it burst; she's the wise and witty dispenser of relationship advice. She still has the anoxeric's desire for control, and it's about controlling her image.

And this book is no different: it puts forward the persona of Lori Gottlieb as a famous anti-feminist writer of best-selling books and controversial Atlantic essays, which is a much more attractive persona than the 40-something single mother who could never commit to any of her boyfriends. And she'll tell her husband-to-be that she thought she had to settle, but is glad she didn't have to after all. And then that book will be Lori's version of Elizabeth Gilbert's "Committed." Then there will be a book about her soccer-momhood, and how she does it better than the other moms or her own mother. Maybe even a book like Sandra Tsing Loh's about leaving her husband for a more exciting guy after that. Not necessarily because there's something wrong with her husband, but because it would make a much better movie deal if there was conflict and an arc.

Anything else in FLH you'd like to clarify or set straight?

I didn't go to an Ivy League school or graduate first in my class. I found it funny she had to inflate my resume to make her look better in the short story.

Send an email to Anna North, the author of this post, at annanorth@jezebel.com . The Obsidian

How Black America Predicts White America's Future

Obsidian · 25 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Ms. Susan Walsh, of Hooking Up Smart.com, sent me an article from today's Washington Post, yet another in the umpteen pieces they've ran, about how Single Black Women should consider dating and more importantly, marrying outside their race, most notably White Men. Below is my email response to Ms. Walsh, and I thank her and all my readers for their emails. Please by all means, keep em coming!

What we all must understand is that these kinds of pieces are the Black Female equivalent to Lori Gottlieb's "Marry Him!", when you really get down to it. And, like Gottlieb's piece, all it does is piss Men-both Black AND White-off. That's because, as usual, most Women-there are always exceptions, but alas, they tend not to get the ink-have an inability to see all sides of the chessboard. Black Women, like their White sisters, always keep making the same assumptions, that they can determine when and under what circumstances they can marry or even date. Well, nothing more could be further from the truth. Unless Men step up, NOTHING HAPPENS. Hence the reason why Gottlieb's in he pickle she finds herself. Especially now that he ex Tim's had the chance to be heard.

Anyway, here's my email response. Oh, and definitely do expect more and more such pieces coming from the nation's elite Legacy Media; here's the piece Ms. Walsh was talking about:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/24/AR2010022405727.html?hpid=topnews

Obsidian Responds
Hi Ms. Walsh & Good Morning,
Pfft. Please don't waste your time w/junk like that, LOL. Not that I have any problem whatsoever with whomever anyone wants to be with-I
don't-it's just that, for all the sound and fury, Sistas just aint gonna lead a mass exodus elsewhere. Think about it, they don't even hookup with Brothas on the continent (Africa) like that, LOL. Bottomline is, Black Women desire, first and foremost, Black Men for mates.

Period.

Now, with that said, lemme lay this on ya:

Since your being exposed to the Matrix-the real deal not only on Human sociosexual dynamics, but how all of this is linked to our larger society in so many ways-you can now see how what The Fifth Horseman, Roissy, Ferdinand Bardamu and many others is actually coming to pass, right before your eyes. Black America has always been a kind of cultural bellwether for the rest of the country. As we go, so goes the nation as a whole.

Contrary to popular opinion, prior to 1965, Black marital rates were at least 60%, and prior to that point it was even higher than that-coming right out from under Slavery, the first thing Black folk did was get married. In fact, during the early 1900s-through the Great Depression-when Jim Crow was particularly virulent-Black marital rates were nearly 90%. An all time high for Black America that has never been achieved again.

Between 1965 and 2005, Black marital rates plummeted to where it is today, barely 40%-and falling. That's why I and others laugh in Jamila's face with her "plan". And she considers herself a "smart" Black Woman? Please.:)

So, what happened? The Great Society happened. When Black Women no longer *needed* Black Men to survive, ie, get married…they simply didn't get married anymore. The "I don't need a Man" mantra that's very commonplace in Black America-remember we've deal with LaToya Gottliebs for decades-grew out of that era. And to be sure, there were other factors that played into the mix, like closing of inner city jobs, and the Crack Wars that led to millions of Black to either die or spend long stretches in the joint-nevertheless, the huge Welfare state that was created in the mid 60s, did a kind of damage to Black America that Jim Crow at its worst couldn't.

Now we're beginning to see the very same happening to White America: think about it, we've got the Mancession, with no end in sight; millions of White Women unable to find mates. And in many ways, White Women no longer

need White Men. Sound familiar?

So, here's how its all going to go down, in the coming decade:

1. The Mancession will be more or less permanent-simply put, and you know this, given your economics training, we have a Male Surplus. Given our current economic and capitalistic configuration, we can expect the offifical unemployment rate to remain in the high single digits, if not higher than that, for the bulk of this decade, the majority of that number being Men. This alone will have a huge impact on the dating and mating scene, because Women, as you even seen on your blog, simply aren't as flexible as are Men. Even when they earn more, they simply will not ante up for dates, much less support, a lesser earning Man or one who doesn't earn anything at all.

2. Going Ghost-you've already heard that term and what it means. That is the real "exodus" you and other Women need to be concerned about, not all the squawking of a few uppity Sistas talking some Keith Sweat stuff ("I'm gonna, I'm gonna) about marrying out. Just like Lori Gottlieb, as a JAP, ain't marrying out (and is a huge part of her problem, by the way). Nor are Black Women likely to use fertility clinics, unless they're Lesbians, but we'll get to that in a moment. The point is, with the Mancession being pretty much permanent, and Feminist ideology also being pretty much permanent, what we can expect to see happen is more and more Men-millions-simply "disappear" from pretty much all facets of American social life. Again, Black America is an excellent case in point. In Inner City America, one quickly notices that there is one group who is largely absent-Black Men in their 30s and 40s-arguably the most productive years of a Man's life. Instead, what one tends to see are young Black boys, and young adult aged Black Men, in their late teens through the 20s. Then, you'll see a goodly number of senior citizen aged Black Men. But those Men in the middle-ghost. Now in this case, the reasons have more to do with prison and early death, but still, keep in mind that the Black Male unemployment rate is easily twice that of the White Male one, *even when you control for education, including unviersity level, and criminal background*. White Men with lesser edu-creds AND a criminal record can and often do get better paying jobs than Black Men who have greater edu-creds and a lesser to no criminal record. There's been all kinds of studies on this point that are easily found online. Anyway, the point is, that the "going ghost" thing has been in evidence in Black America for decades; now, it's White America's turn.

3. Introduction of Sex-Tech. Although there are some who wanna clown the idea of Sexbots, and don't get me wrong, no way in hell I'm using one LOL-the point is, that sex tech is about to really get wicked. That's because, the real deal that's about to drop is the 3DVR Porn that's right around the corner. Remember Avatar? Now, just imagine that kind of experience, at home, and with tactile sensing software added, just along Porn lines. The tech is already in the pipeline, and Porn is one of the biggest enterprises going in the country, if not world. When it drops-and I say it goes down mid decade, roughly five years from now or less-we can expect that potential 80% of Men to be cut in half. Guys will be able to "jack in and jack off" to a Matrix-like experience of Porn. Club and lounge life will pretty much dry up, for all but the dive bars on the low end, and those that cater to the elites. Not that Dating Life wasn't already on life support, but when "Avatar Porn" arrives, the Dating scene will be, for all intents and purposes, dead. The tech will be cheaper to bring to market, quickly iron the kinks out, and able to be used in the privacy of your own home, with a HUGE profit margin. Guys are already dropping out with current day Internet Porn and video gaming as it is; "Matrix Porn" will be the Dating Killer. Bet on it.

4. Therefore, we can expect one of several scenarios to happen, with varying degrees, to America's Women over the next decade to decade and a half: 1-Defacto Harems; 2-Early, and largely permanent Spinsterhood; 3-Situational Lesbianism; 4-Single Mommyhood as an American norm. Marital rates, even among the elites and rural enclaves, will begin/continue to decline, to finally rest on the current Black marital rate, roughly 40% nationwide. And in Black America, that number will continue to erode to about 10-15%, if that. Fertility clinics will be a booming business, at least as long as the Donor Daddies don't have to pay for their offspring, which I have a sneaking suspicion, as we move through the decade, moves will bemade to track them down and slap em with child support fees. If and when that happens, kiss the Test Tube Baby business goodbye. De Facto harem making will skyrocket among all social groupings, but, as it always does, it will be among the elites where changes in law, driven by Feminist lobbies, will attempt to make the Mistress equal in legal standing to the Wife, thereby driving yet

another nail in the coffin that is Marriage. Right now as we speak, there's laws on the books in NJ for Palimony, several cases have been heard in court over this, and there's moves afoot to have the same thing out in Cali, too. Then there's the cases of Tiger Woods and John Edwards, that will drive this. So again, Women like Gottlieb and Jamila are out of their freaking minds if they think being a Wife in 21st century America carried the same cache it did 50 years ago, or even 25 years ago. Don't be fooled, it doesn't.

Situational Lesbianism will see an uptick, in direct response to all of these events, expect to hear and see more about this over the coming decade, you heard it here. Women, having a sexuality that's more fluid than Men on balance, will seek to "try this" and for a time, it'll be the next big fad-but it won't last. Quiet as its kept, domestic spats are much more common among lesbian couples, which makes a lot of sense once one thinks about it. And, let's face it-even bi-chicks love themselves some of the Magic Stick. So, don't expect a huge presence on this front, though the "Woman bites Dog" novelty of it will get a goodly bit of ink.

Expect Women to publish more Gottlieb type books, blogs and articles, basically attempting to shame Men, even those they didn't want originally, to marry and or otherwise cohabitate with them. Please notice the Male reaction to Gottlieb's book. The recent NYT piece about UNC-Chapel Hill and in particular Ms. Jayne Dallas' remarks. And so on. If anything, Women publishing these kinds of pieces only make things worse, not better, because it not only pisses Men enmasse off, but they pack up their ball and go home-never to return.

Once the shaming tactics prove to be ineffective, the next thing Women enmasse will attempt to do, is press all forms of gov't for more taxation and regulations, to make up for the Man shortage. This too will fail, for the simple reason that all municipalities, going all the way up to the Fed level, is shrinking, due in large part to the ongoing and more or less permanent Mancession. Even relatively higher earning Women will soon be heard to be grumbling about their taxes being too high, but they either can't bring themselves to call a spade a spade, or they'll cave into warped Feminist ideology to keep the whole thing going as long as possible. But of course, it is unsustainable. A full spectrum systemic collapse, is inevitable.

Failing a complete and total 180 of the way business is being done on this front right now-led by Women themselves-we can be certain to see the kind of dystopian reality in ten years, give or take a few on either side. And, because we've seen that Women aren't particularly too flexible or outside the box thinkers, or can see coming trends or see the connection between cause and effect very well in aggregate, we can expect what I'm talking about to be the coin of the realm for much of the first half of the 21st century. It'll take a goodly bit of pain for most Women before anything will change.

Almost everything that Women believed vis a vie the Feminist Lobby, will have been proven to be a Big Lie. But of course, by then, it will have been too late, for the current and succeedant cohorts of Women, those in their 20s through 40s. Those who are at present in their pre-teen years can be spared, if we act now, within the next ten years. Otherwise, if nothing changes for the better come say, 2025 or so, yet another generation of Women will meet the same fate.

For Black Women, we can expect to see all of this really being pronounced, as fewer eligible Black Men to go around really drives their value through the roof. And, as Women of all races, get closer to the age of 30, we'll see more and more of what goes on right now in Old Folks' Homes, where Women who live an average of seven years longer than do Men, either fight over the few Men left, or they willingly become part of the Old Coot's harem, LOL. I've seen this happen firsthand, because I had family members who used to work in said environments. That, my friend, is the future, just going backward in ages till about say, 30 or so.

Holla back

O.
The Obsidian

An Open Letter To My Brothas About Life – & Game

Obsidian · 27 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Alright-I think I've leaned on Sistas, and by extension Women in general enough, and rightly so, for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad once famously said, that a Nation can rise no higher, than its Woman. When you really sitdown to think about it, it's a pretty profound statement, indeed.

But now it's the Brothas turn, and this is something I've been giving some thought to for a long time. So, let's get right to it:

The first thing we gotta address here, is the well known reputation for Black Men to be a bit better with the ladies when compared to White Men. This is true in the most broadest terms, for a number of reasons-for one, Black Men tend to be better dressers than White Men; and two, Black Men tend to have more "swag" than White Men, all things being equal.

But what we also have to keep in mind, is that the Black community really has undergone a deep and profound change over the past two generations or so. When at one time Brothas sought to look as clean as possible, now a "grimey" look is the "in" thing. Where Brothas took pride in knowledge for its own sake, whether they went on to school or not, now many Brothas are virulently anti-intellectual. And when there was a time when a Code of the Streets was a very real thing-even amongst hardened criminals, thieves, con-men and gang-bangers-today, the streets are about as close to Anarchy as it can get.

Yet, the terms "pimp", "player" and "game" are slung around like candy, played around with in fast and loose fashion, and the boys who utter such phrases are anything but. If the stakes weren't so high, it would all be a big fat joke-and make no mistake-some people ARE indeed laughing at these guys.

So today, I'm gonna try to address a few things at the Brothas in the hopes that it will reach at least one of them, and turn things around.

So let's start with the mindset, which a lot of Brothas in my experience and observation, is all wrong. First off, your Sistas ain't your enemy, and it's a weak Man who takes out his frustrations with the world on her and them as a whole. This plays itself out in many ways, from vicious arguments and out and out fights, to the ways in Brothas treat Sistas-which, and I take no pride in saying this-is often like sh*t. One of the reasons why many Sistas have the attitudes that they do, is because they've been so thoroughly dogged out by Brothas, in a whole host of ways. That's something that's gotta stop, because if we don't, Black America is surely doomed.

Moreover, many of you have moms, sisters, grandmoms, aunties, cousins, etc-how would you like it if some fake the funk "player" dogged your peeps out like that? Answer-you wouldn't, you'd be ready to tool up, at the very least knuckle up. So, it ain't killing you to treat the Sistas with a basic minimum of respect and dignity, yea, even if she comes off like a Ho or a Chickenhead. A big part of life is in understanding that it ain't about what happens to you, as much as it as to how you respond.

There are some Brothas who consider themselves metaphysically aware; I personally question that, given their actions in the light of all that. For one thing, your outer appearance, demeanor, actions and who you align yourself with, is a direct commentary on and barometer of, your own mental and emotional, nay even spiritual state. If you looking like a grease monkey all the time, even though you don't work around or with cars for a living, hanging with ne'er do wells and acting like a hooligan (and speaking worse), then what does that say about you? Yea, I'm gonna say it-people make value judgments about you, based on how you present yourself, who you roll with, etc. No, it ain't fair, but then what in life is? Refusing to adhere to this fact of life, doesn't mark you as a Man, but as a boy.

So, when you're hanging on the corner anywhere between five and twenty deep with your homies, and that fine Sistas tries to walk by and one of y'all tries your hand at "Holla Back Game", understand why you gets NOTHING.

No Woman, regardless of color, is going to respond to that. You and your friends look like criminals, you speak in semi-coherent grunts, and you wait till she's damn near out of earshot before you get up the gumption to say something. The whole spectacle screams in neon-lights: LOSER. And she's right to keep it moving.

Brothas, your whole lay needs to be re-evaluated. Take off those hoodrat gears, and that includes the boots, get a haircut, wash your face, brush your teeth, get some smell goods, get rid of those no good friends and get a life.

See, what y'all don't get is, that in Nature, MALES display, and FEMALES choose. So, ask yourself: why should that Dime you just saw walking by, stop to give YOU the time of day? On the basis of…what? Your looks? The depth of your conversation? Your confidence?

Come on.

See, that's another huge problem. A lot of you Brothas *think* you know it all, when in truth, you don't know crap. Then you get mad when someone points that out to you. But we're in the 21st century now, Obama is President, and no one's trying to hand your hand anymore, and that includes many Sistas. Sink, or swim. Your choice.

But lucky you, one of the great things is that it's not as hard as it may seem. Most Sistas still love us, despite all our many failings. They just want us to step it up a bit, and I don't think that's too much to ask for-after all, you're asking her to grant you access inside her body, right?

So, here's how you can step up your own Game just a bit:

1. Take a brutally honest assessment of your life. By that I means, not just your look, but also the people in it. Ask yourself, for real, if they're helping you or hindering you, toward meeting your goals. If they are, great, conversation over. But they ain't, then you need to make a change-a big one. Truth be told, one main reason why a lot of guys fail at this thing, is because they ain't got as much heart as they think, because to do what I'm asking here takes BALLS.

2. Your inner circle can make or break you-especially with Women. This is because Women are much more socially aware and involved than Men are, and can and will make assessments about you based on this. Abraham Lincoln said it best-better to be alone, than to keep bad company. While it may be edgy to be down with ne'er do wells when you're a youngbuck, it gets real old when you're somewhere north of 30. Also, what are your homies like with the Women in their lives? If they're doing stuff that's outta pocket, people can and will assume that you're the same way, whether that's true or not. A Wise Man is very, very careful as to who he lets in his inner circle, and if he cannot find Men who are up to par, then he makes like an eagle and flies alone until he can meet other eagles. When's the last time you saw an eagle kickin' it with the pigeons?

3. Always be learning. This is huge for Black Men for a whole host of reasons, and especially so when it comes to Sistas. I can say, without a doubt, that Women LOVE an intelligent Man. Nor does he have to go to university to be intelligent. Women use such things as a rough proxy to inform them if the Man they're considering is indeed on the level-and rightly so. Because Women have a heck of a lot more to lose in a relationship than a Man does. Here we come to another important truth-a
Man who truly understands Game has more respect and empathy FOR Women, than less. You need to be reading something more than the sports page in the daily tabloid newspaper. My lady calls me a "C-SPAN junkie" because I watch it so much, LOL. And there's nothing keeping you from the bookstore or library either. Google's free. So is Wikipedia. And PBS. And History Channel. And TLC. And so on. There are many ways you can educate yourself, many Black Men before you did it, at a time when being an "uppity Negro" can and often did mean DEATH. There's simply no excuse for being ignorant an in Information Age. And there's definitely something pathological to be proud of it. If you haven't read at least one book a month, you need to be ashamed of yourself. A Man who takes the time to develop his mind is a sign not only of intelligence but also a sign of industriousness, something that is very appealing to Women.

4. Learn to speak and write well. How many words can you type, correctly, in a minute? Can you type at all? If your

vocabulary consists largely of words like “shorty” and “ma”, you need to spend some time with a dictionary. Some deal with swear words. Men use them as the default language because they can’t find the right words to express himself. Being an effective communicator has many uses, not just picking up that hot Dime you saw at the mall or in the club. It can open many doors for you, get you out of lots of jams, cool tensions, and sway people to your side when you want to get things done. Brothas need to break the cycle of willing ignorance and anti-intellectualism that is not only alienating them from the Women in their lives, but are also making them irrelevant in the Information Age. When you approach a Woman, it has to be in a way that is respectful, coherent, and separates you from the umpteen other Men she’s seen in a day. By and large, Women don’t like being called shorty, ma, mami, or being told that “damn girl, you got big legs/breasts/butt/etc”, and so on. These are NOT legitimate conversation openers, nor is it cool to let the Woman pass you, get ten yards out and *then* you start your spiel. If you don’t have the heart to post up, make eye contact and kick it, you don’t deserve her.

5. Develop attraction-and the primary place to start that is in the way you dress. Black Men invented the Art of Peacocking, and its something we need to get back in my view. Now, every style ain’t for every Man, but I will say this-if you keep doing what you always have, you’ll keep getting what you always got. Try something new. If you look in your closet and it doesn’t contain ONE suit in it, then you need to make a change. If at the bottom of your closet all that’s there are Timberland boots and sneaks, you need to make a change. If your hat rack is stocked with nothing but throwback fitted flatbills and sullies, you need to make a change. Experiment. Hang out at some of the Men’s stores in the hood. Most all of the Hip Hop designers now make suits, check em out. And if you still decide that Street is your style, then be NEAT about it. That means, keep your Tims in good shape, no dirty jeans, fresh cut, shave etc. A sloppy Man in appearance is a sloppy Man in mind and action, too. It’s no accident that the Men who are at the top of their game are those who look the part. Precision ain’t an accident son.

6. Be a combination of things-we Men by and large, have a very shortlist of “must haves” for Women. Not so for most Women, their lists can a mile long, LOL. But the point is, that they have a wider pallet of needs than we do, and when it comes to us Brothas, that’s actually something that works in our favor. Being something of a Renaissance Man comes more easily and naturally to us than most White guys, and even many Hispanic guys, due to our unique blend of inherent traits and long, history in this country. We can be that perfect blend of Street, Gangster, Gentleman, Scholar. All of these archetypes represent something very important to Women, and accounts for much of why we tend to have an easier go of it when it comes to dating and even marrying across the races moreso than the Men of other races. So, since you already got a leg up in the game, why not maximize your market position?

7. Be a Man of your Word-this hugely important, and something I don’t think many of you really understand. For example, many of you cats love the flick Scarface, but seem to have forgotten the part where Tony Mantegna, played by Al Pacino, says the following: “all I got in this world is my word and my balls, and I don’t break em for nobody”. I was always taught that a Man’s word was his calling card, and can make the difference between him being a success or failure in life. Not just with Women, but Life period. A Woman definitely loves a Man who’s as good as his word, please do not get that twisted. When you tell a Woman you’re going to do something, stick to it.

8. Aim High-in all you do, you need to aim for the stars, homey. Remember what Mr. Muhammad said-a nation can rise no higher than its Woman. If all you tapping are Chickenheads and Hoochie Mamas, then you have really have no room to complain when they act in ways that are consistent with their behavior, now can you? Remember this, all of you: never date below your pay grade. Studies have been done that show and prove that a high quality Woman can add years to a Man’s life; if that’s so, then what happens when you keep company with lesser quality Women? Hmm?

9. Have a Killer Work Ethic-having all the talent in the world means nothing if you don’t work it; in fact, history records and bears witness to many examples of so-so talented Men who worked their asses off, while Men who had mad talent went nowhere in life. With Women, you can be successful on sheer hustle alone. And that’s true in Life, too. Persistence is a desirable trait in a Man, many Women long for it. Now of course, talent and work ethic is a powerful combination, but if I could only choose one, I’d take the latter over the former coming and going. In fact,

the harder you work, at anything, the more opportunities you create for yourself. You wanna how I spell luck? W-O-R-K. All of the Great Men of this world were so because nobody gave them anything-they earned it. See for yourself. In fact, they are Great because they out hustled everyone else in the field, not in spite of it. Micheal Jordan, John Paul the Great, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Tiger Woods, Jay-Z, Barack Obama, Abe Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Style, and many, many more examples, of Men who owe their success in life more to the number of hours they put into their craft than any natural born talent. Work needs to be seen as your friend. When others are turning over in bed, you need to be working on something that advances yourself in some way toward a goal. Personally, what Big Daddy Kane once said is my motto: “I work like a slave to become the Master”.

10. Heroes-Who Are Yours? Every Man needs someone to look up to for examples and for inspiration. Many of the Men mentioned above are mine, and each represents something that I want to be. If you don’t have any, take my list until you make one of your own. Templates are very helpful in the Process of Becoming. As Guru of Gangstarr said, if you don’t know where your going, you’re lost.

Use these simple rules, my Brothas. The weight of Black America rests on your shoulders and depends on you stepping up to the plate.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

And Yet MORE Evidence That Times Are A'Changin'...

Obsidian · 27 February 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Well, the word is out, as the following MSM article clearly illustrates below, this time in the Wall Street Journal. As you read along, please note a commonly clung to trope utterly destroyed, that Men care about and desire marriage moreso than Women do-tis just not so.

Here's the link:
http://mobile2.wsj.com/device/article.php?CALL_URL=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704751304575079281941642528.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion Opinion February 26, 2010

And, by all means, feel free to holla back!

O.

Destination: Marriage. Route: Anybody's Guess.

Hannah Seligson defends herself and other young women from charges, in books such as "Marry Him" and "Committed," that they are too picky or afraid of commitment to find husbands.
By Hannah Seligson

The onslaught of megaselling relationship books like Elizabeth Gilbert's "Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace With Marriage," which sits at No. 9 on the New York Times nonfiction bestseller list for the week of Feb 19, and Lori Gottlieb's "Marry Him: The Case for Settling for Mr. Good Enough," which is at No. 18, might lead you to believe that female commitment-phobes and uberpicky daters are the modern obstacles to relationships and marriage.

Yet a 2007 poll by Meredith, a research and marketing company, found that 73% of women born between 1977 and 1989 place a high priority on marriage. That sounds right to me. It's an attitude that surfaced again and again in the interviews I conducted with young women for a book project on the long-term unmarried relationship. Unlike our boomer and hippie mothers who broke the rules of the '50s, my generation is marriage-minded. But society's messages to young women are so mixed that the path to that goal has been obscured and, at times, blocked. Those of us in our 20s and 30s know that dating—and getting into a relationship that leads to marriage—is at turns ambiguous, arduous, perplexing and often heartbreaking.

So why are "Marry Him" and "Committed" flying off the shelves? Because they do what all popular books on the subject have done over the years, decades and even centuries: They lay out rules, treating love, romance and relationships as if they are quantifiable and controllable. To be a young, single woman looking to settle down today is to be in the Wild West of dating history. Daters are ravenous for advice to order the chaos, even if it comes from a book, like "Marry Him," that berates them or, like "Committed," claims that marriage is a terrible institution for women (though the author gets hitched by her memoir's end).

"People are desperately looking for order out there because they want to be in committed relationships," says Jessica Massa, 26, who is developing WTFIsUpWithMyLoveLife.com, an interactive forum to help young people make sense of their relationships or absence thereof. "But the lack of signposts and guidance is making it very hard to get to the point where you end up in one."

You live together, but only until one of you gets a great job offer in London. You go out to dinner and a movie, but aren't even sure if it was an actual date. There is no longer that social urgency that pushes couples to the next stage.

The more pressing dating issue for young women today is not that they are skeptical about marriage or too choosy, but that their potential spouses are in less of a hurry to tie the knot than they are. A 2005 poll, "Coming of Age in America," which surveyed 18- to 24-year-olds, found that women had the edge on eagerness: 55% said they would like to be married in the next five years, compared with only 42% of men.

Adam Rich, 29, editor of Thrillist, a daily email blast targeting young men, says all this ambiguity is obscuring the

traditional march to marriage and giving guys more leeway when it comes to casual dating. “This whole set of cliché indicators—call a girl to ask her out for drinks, then later a dinner date—are becoming less the dating norm. What if he Facebook messages her to meet at a wine bar where they share small plates? Where does that put them on the roadmap to the altar?”

Beth Bailey, the author of “From Front Porch to Back Seat: Courtship in Twentieth-Century America,” thinks this might be an unprecedented time in the history of dating and courtship. “The lack of rules and structure in dating means it’s become more difficult than it’s ever been to get to the place where marriage seems like the obvious next step,” she says.

Ms. Massa says that the many books on relationships that she has read “don’t give me the lay of the land.” Notes Mr. Rich: “If marriage is the destination, it’s now increasingly unclear how one should put one foot in front of the other.”

Just don’t fault my generation for a lack of trying. Fault Ms. Gilbert, Ms. Gottlieb and their ilk—those who project their own neuroses on to the rest of us.

Ms. Seligson is the author of “A Little Bit Married: How to Know When It’s Time to Walk Down the Aisle or Out the Door” (Da Capo Press).

The Obsidian

ForbesWoman Writer Tells Guys: Grow Up, Ladies: Move On

Obsidian · 1 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

In our ongoing survey of how the Misandry Bubble continues to play itself out accross the land, here is yet ANOTHER article appearing in a mainstream media outlet, this time in Forbes magazine online. The piece, written by ForbesWoman reporter Jenne Goudreau, is little more than a rant attempting to “shame” guys into “growing up”. As you will recall my, The Fifth Horseman, Ferdinand Bardamu and many others’ prognostications in the Manosphere, we all said that this would be the “first response” to the virtual Going Ghost Manstrike/Marriage Strike. We all predicted, proudly, that it would fail.

I’ll save my reaction to the article for the comments, and I invite you to chime in as well. The countdown to the Misandry Bubble bursting bigtime – is ON…

The Obsidian

Marriage, The Last Frontier
Jenna Goudreau, 02.26.10, 05:00 PM EST
If I were to write a relationship how-to for the 21st century, it would be titled ”Guys: Grow Up, Ladies: Move On.”

http://www.forbes.com/2010/02/26/single-women-marriage-child-man-forbes-woman-time-self-help-books_2.html

After reading Hannah Seligson’s book A Little Bit Married–designed to invoke an internal freak-out that goes something like this: Why am I not married? Will I ever be married? Will I be forced to wait so long that my eggs dry up, my boobs reach my belly button and every eligible bachelor deems me unworthy of love?–I decided that marriage is the last frontier of the women’s movement.

Seligson writes about a phenomenon of young, college-educated, cohabitating urbanites dragging their feet to get married. Well, mostly it’s the men dragging their feet because the women are assumed to be crossing off the days on the calendar, waiting for them to pop the question.

In part that’s because this new generation features the “child-man,” Seligson offers, who doesn’t feel like adulthood comes until age 35. He lives with a woman for the regular sex and side benefits of emotional nurturing and a free live-in maid. Marriage is not yet on his mind because marriage represents financial stability, an end to partying and generally becoming old (apparently love and commitment are not deemed worthy criteria).

On this point I think she’s right. A young urbanite myself, I know many of these man-children, who I find both amusing and frightening, and begrudgingly call friends. I do not, however, date them with the anticipation of marriage. Are we women so silly and trusting as Seligson suggests?

There’s obviously a double standard at play here. In the year 2010, when women now earn 60% of college degrees, is it really still presumed that women’s primary goal is marriage and family? Are we sinking so low as to reinforce the idea that if marriage hasn’t happened before a woman reaches 30 she’s most likely doomed and should run stomping and shrieking to her boyfriend, demanding a ring?

Frankly I find it insulting to believe a modern woman would want to spend the next several decades with her Peter Pan man who still has Mommy doing his laundry.

If I were to write a relationship how-to for the 21st century, it would be titled Guys: Grow Up, Ladies: Move On.

The career accomplishments of women today have me cheering on the sidelines. Women are half of the workforce; they fill 51% of management and professional positions; in two-thirds of American families, moms are the primary or co-breadwinners; and there are more than 10 million U.S. businesses owned by women, generating sales of $1.9 trillion as of 2008.

And yet how can women really be taken seriously when we are continually reduced to pining wives-in-training?

Popular culture plays a big hand here, spinning out “chick flicks” and “chick lit,” the focus of which is almost always romantic relationships.

Mega-popular television series and now big-screen sensation Sex and the City made us all feel really empowered–until we realized the well-educated, career-minded and seemingly liberated female characters were singularly obsessed with men. In the end, most of the women married, as if they had finally reached their life’s goal or completed their un-whole selves.

Seligson, while she makes a half-hearted attempt to speak to both young women and men, feeds directly into this stereotype. As a society we have some changes to make. If we continue leading conversations that assume single women are either failures or busy looking for Mr. Right, we’re selling them short.

If we continue writing guides on how to get your guy to propose or in-depth analysis on why he hasn’t, we’re not teaching our young women to focus on the quality (and equality) of their relationships. Rather we are forcing them to quantify their value based on something out of their control: men.

When I was a fresh, wide-eyed college grad, daydreaming of where my life would lead from that eager age of 22, I was told by a family member that I finally had time to settle down, marry my then-boyfriend of two years and begin the rest of my life.

That wasn’t what I had in mind. I wanted to begin my career, see the world, find out what I was made of; I did not want to jump into marriage to fulfill myself. But these are the pressures young women still face every day. And this book is just another iteration.

Jenna Goudreau is a staff reporter for ForbesWoman.

The HBD Crowd Is Intellectually Dishonest About White Crime

Obsidian · 2 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Those familiar with the HBDosphere-that constellation of websites and blogs that peddle in notions of inherent and *intractable* hereditary differences in intelligence across racial groups, will know well their keen focus and interest in Black Crime. In their view, a big reason why Blacks commit more crimes is simple-they're dumber. This is a group of purportedly sharp guys, but I guess they never learned the maxim that brevity is the soul of wit.

At any rate, the HBDers glorify IQ, having a strong triple digit number I mean, and pretty much excoriates those who don't quite measure up-especially those who aren't White. As far as they're concerned, such people aren't worth the bother of educating, "saving", or in any other way dealing with them other than in the strictest authoritarian terms-all for their own good, of course.

Well, the past few weeks or so has shown us that the HBDers "concern" for psychometrics and the like is really only a thin patina of pseudo-science for their racialism, if not out and out racism: the horrific acts of violence committed by Joe Stark and Amy Bishop, as well as the mass LOOTING that took place in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Chile, were all met either with *silence* or, by patently dishonest spinning by the HBDosphere. For example, Half Sigma has half a dozen posts on Bishop, *but none of them address the very real problems associated with high IQ* (it also bears mentioning that Half Sigma loathes Sarah Palin, in large part because her IQ is too low). OneSTDV has on his blog a link to another blog, Lucianne.com, which has as its top post a link to a WaPo article comparing the Chile and Haiti earthquakes. The ensuing comment thread on Lucianne.com is basically the same HBD boilerplate, *but none of the commenters notes the fact that LOOTING brokeout immediately after the earthquake hit in Chile, captured live on CNN, Fox News, etc* (yet, for DAYS, if not WEEKS in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti, and despite all the ginning up fears of such, much to the chagrin of many, there were no mass riots-certainly nothing on the scale of what the world saw happened in Chile. In fact, it makes what went down in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina look tame by comparison). As of this morning, Steve Sailer's said nothing about Stark, Bishop or Chile. But he HAS talked, at length, about Black & Brown Crime, and, as recently as last month, about how Haiti would be most helped, by massive shipments of birth control.

When Whites commit acts of violence, there is always a reason, an excuse, a caveat; something egregious happened systemically, that needs to be addressed. Bishop had a long history of mental instability, had killed her own brother, held a car dealer at gunpoint and threatened her academic peers before, but she was given a pass, not just because she was a Woman and White, but because she was of the appropriate cognitive stock; "we'll work it out".

Stark, a software engineer/businessman, took extreme issue with his government, to the point that he not only killed himself, but attempted to kill his own wife and daughter by burning the house to the ground before taking flight in his small private plane into the local IRS building ala Sep 11. Last time I heard, software engineers were pretty sharp IQwise.

Chile's national IQ is about 93, in comparison to Haiti, at a lowly 67-yet the live feed shown around the world, of well fed Women and well dressed Men carrying out armfuls of items from stores, Kool-Aid smiles a mile wide; meanwhile, the worst stricken by the disaster in Gonaives broke out into song and peacefully marched.

Compare and contrast.

I could go on, but by now the point is made, and in crystal clear fashion. When it comes to White Crime, especially those committed by the Cognitive Elite, the HBDers can and will give them a pass, if not turn a blind eye altogether. It is for this reason that they are worse than mere racists; they are fundamental intellectually dishonest, too.

Which explains why they can't be taken seriously, by anyone.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

A Voice Of Reason?-Responding To The Scuttlebut Over At Jamila's Kinda-Sorta "New" Blog

Obsidian · 3 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

It's a good thing to know that your work has inspired others, and it seems that the past few weeks has inspired Our Lady Jamila to give blogging yet another try. Although it seems to be getting off to a bit of slow start, she's logged some interesting posts, and has fielded a number of somewhat interesting comments as a result.

However, as it often happens in the blogosphere, ideas, often espoused by those who fancy themselves intellectual heavyweights, take a backseat to discussing/attacking/belittling personalities, and Jamila's humable blogging effort is no exception. Since its inception on Feb 20, her blog has seen the following comments written about your humble servant; direct quotes from the Lady herself apper below, with attendant links for context; my response follows:

"2.Thanks for stopping by Om Shanti! I'll be adding plenty of posts soon.

I had not planned on starting my own blog up again this soon but as you already know it was getting a bit ridiculous over there at Obsidians. I was trying to be a voice of reason but clearly too much reason was not welcome."

OBS: Yes, you were *trying*. Operative, keyword here. And the fact that you have attracted nothing but The White Knight and Bag Lady in bad disguise just goes to show just how "reasonable" you latest try at blogging really is.

"6.Obsidian is just trying to get as many blog hits as he can and he thinks I'm a surefire way to do it. Every other post my name is in the title. What the heck?

I can't stand passive-aggressiveness and his recent posts have been extremely passive-aggressive. When I directly confronted him about it he erased my post about but chose to leave up his reply, which I saw as being dishonest."

http://www.jamilaakil.com/?p=9#comments

OBS: Again, WRONG. I was quite clear in how and why I run my house. Again – you don't get to determine these things. I do. The. End. Oh, and by the way – if you think I need you to generate blog hits, you're a lot more delusional than I'd originally thought.

"20.B&G usually is on point, but yeah I thought that comment was off too.
She seems to buy into the notion that women can change the "bad boys". Ha, right. And of course Obsidian cosigned it just because it was something that took women to task, no matter how rediculous it was.

And now I'm cosigning you. I understand that he's a black man and he'll be a bit sensitive to anything negative directed at black men, but he leans a bit too far in the direction of absolving black men of their fault in anything."

OBS: WRONG. Please see my most recent post, as well as posts like Brothas Gonna Work It Out-Alone and Are You A Slob?. You were saying?

"I don't know how deery keeps finding the motivation to shred his arguments, especially when he deletes her most effective ones (as he did to me)."

OBS: Deery has been dispatched time and again, this has been documented. Even you had to cosign about the whole Axe thing.

He's been deleting my comments too, hence why I'm not really trying to go over there and spend time giving thoughful responses anymore. Putting name in every other post and then deleting my comments is petty and makes the whole endeavor not worth much of my time."

OBS: A legend in your own mind, to be sure. But alas, I'm the HNIC here, not you, and I get to decide, when you're out of pocket.

"He also just seems to be really bitter toward women in general. And that's from a guy who considers feminism a

major societal ill.

That to me is a major distinction between men it the game community. There are those that seem to really like women, touching them, kissing them, figuring them out and then there is the second group who seems to see getting women into bed as a way to degrade them/punish them for whatever women in general, or a particular woman has done."

http://www.jamilaakil.com/?p=53#comments

OBS: Hmm. Why then, if I indeed am bitter toward Women and the rest of it, that at least half, if not moreso, of my regular commenters (which often includes Jamila herself) are made up of WOMEN?

"8.Om Shanti,

Obsidian is not sexy because I believe that on an intellectual level I would dominate him. Roissy is sexy (I've seen pics), but he is so Machiavellian as to make you think that underneath the seductive good looks and words lies a real sociopath. Planet Grok is sexy, I don't know what he looks like but I enjoy his writing style (this is an "inside" joke of ours)."

http://www.jamilaakil.com/?p=121#comments

OBS: Really now? OK, let's count the ways Our Lady Jamila has "intellectually dominated" The Obsidian, shall we?

1. She was WRONG about the average dress size of the American Women, circa 2010

2. She was WRONG about White Men desiring plus-sized Black Women or Women of any color for that matter

3. And she's WRONG about how I look. 5′8″ and 160lbs is hardly a "rotund" guy, LOL. And all this is just for starters. Pick the topic, I will run rings around the young lass.

Jamila, come out, come out, wherever you are…

The Obsidian

Women Engage In Double Standards (Much) More Then Men Do

Obsidian · 4 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday's discussion, along with other things obtaining in the news, has inspired me to write this post, about just how much Women engage in doubles standards all. The. Time.

This is an important topic, since it won't be long, if you're a guy, before you hear some lady bemoan stuff like "the sexual double standard" or "the income gap", a form of a double standard, and so on. And to be sure, both of these issues gets mad facetime and ink. Much, much less is said though, about the very real double standards in reverse, let alone Presidential attention. But fear not, for I have come to shed the searing Light of Truth on these and other pressing matters of the day, for once you know the Truth, it shall set you free.

So let's dive right in:

Female Double Standard #1: Women Objectify Men MORE Than Men Objectify Women-this is a fact, easily proofed by the most casual of observations. How? Simple: height. Women make no bones about not wanting to date a Man their own or shorter height. Take a quick spin around the Internet, there you will see Women being quite flippant, and others downright adamant, about rejecting out of hand a Man's lack of vertical cred. Of course, many of these very same Women will call any Man who judges a Woman's objective beauty scale to be "objectifying" and the like, and notice, have you ever heard Men enmasse deny this? Even more to the point, isn't it true that Men settle much quicker than do Women, all things being equal? Then there's the reaction of many of these ladies when they're called out on the carpet for their blatant objectification of the Male form and rank discrimination based on physical factors one has no control over, *even when you freely acknowledge their right to choose whomever they want to be with*-they'll attempt to shame you by calling you names and the like. Yet these are the very same people who have no problem labelling others as racist, homophobe, facist, etc, et al. Pot, meet Kettle much? Of course, a Woman's desire for a taller Man harks back to our Evolutionary past, when choosing a Man based on his physical size was a reasonable thing to do; afterall, somebody had to do the heavy lifting and if necessary, killing of potential enemies. But in an age where even a kid can pull the trigger of an AK47, and when much smaller wives kill their hubbies all the time, such a fixation is really kind of silly. Yet Women will vehemently defend their right to be basically, a bigot, and will engage in rank hypocrisy at the same time. The reason why I say that, you see, is because often these very same Women will poo poo Evolutionary Psychology as being inherently misogynistic. But as we can see here, they have no problem actually embracing with a big ole bear hug, EP when it suits them.

Hmm.

For more on this, please see anything in the current press about Lori Gottlieb, also my recent post on her and her book "Marry Him!".

Female Double Standard #2: Women Are Snobs Much More Than Are Men, AND, Don't Really Believe In Merit Either-We are often berated about this sort of thing by Women enmasse, yet many of these very same Women have no problem looking down their noses at "lesser" Men for not coming from the "right" pedigree, or not having gone to the "right" school (or school at all), not being in the "right" social circles, and so on. As author and avowed lesbian Norah Vincent chronicles in her must-read book, Self Made Man, Men are much more inclusive than Women are, especially when it comes to merit-if you can do the job, you're in. Moreover, Men are more apt to create a system that's more "flat", that is to say, that is more amenable to Men or Women being able to move from one social class to another, based again on merit or at the very least, effort. Not so for Women, and this can be most vividly seen wrt Game-you wanna know the real reason why so many Women flail so wildly about on this issue? Because Game gives Men the tools to move up through the social hierarchy, that was once reserved only for the "natural Alphas" Women always desired; how dare those poor schlubs steap out of their "place!". It rankles many Women deeply, in ways they themselves may only be dimly aware.

For more on this point, please see my post, Why Game Elicits So Much Hate.

Female Double Standard #3: “Reproductive Rights” Is About WOMEN, Not Men-And Women Want To Keep It That Way-with quite a few news items appearing before us involving this thorny issue-for example, the recent Pro-Life promotion efforts in the Black community, or the Woman who live Tweeted her abortion, or the Healthcare Bill that’s tied up with abortion-none of them addresses the very basic and simple premise: that it only deals with one half of the population. “Reproductive Rights” is taken to mean something that only Women can have. Men have no reproductive rights that any court is bound to respect.

This becomes deeply problematic because Women have successfully put forward the notion that dads are optional now. Indeed, many Women are becoming single mommys *by choice*, and not just among the Lori Gottlieb set. Have we forgotten the “pregnancy pact” girls in New England a few years back? As the book Promises I Can Keep clearly shows, poor Women want to be moms and are prepared to go it alone if need be. Of course, there is no Male equivalent to such a book, even when I asked its authors whether they had interviewed the baby daddies. They hemmed and hawed and finally had to admit, no, they didn’t. Hmm.

At any rate, the issue is clear: if a Woman has the right to determine when, and under what circumstances she is to become a parent, it is only right and just to say that the same should apply to Men. But, a quick perusal of some of the much staunch advocates for “Choice” on the Internet, will have no compunctions vociferously denying a Man’s right to choose, too. Here again, Women want the double standard to be removed when it impacts them negatively, but have no problems with it when it doesn’t. Like I said, hmm.

And don’t even get me started on Mandatory Paternity Testing…

Female Double Standard #4: Women Have No Desire To Financially Support A Man For ANY Reason-Here we get to the good part. While Women enmasse are all for overturning archaic notions of gender and the like, when the rubber hits the road, they not only balk but are vehement in their refusal to Man Up. Case in point? Paying for dates. Regardless of the fact that Women now make up a clear majority of the American workforce and are more educated and higher earning than many Men, to say nothing of the effects of the Mancession, Women can still be heard trying to shame Men into paying for dates, or paying more for dates, or saying “I’m not gonna support a lout” and so on. Yet, when has *any* Man said such a thing, historically speaking? It was expected that not only was the Man to pay for the date(s), but he was also to support the wife *for life*. We all either saw firsthand, or have heard of the guy who, on payday, hands his check over to his betrothed. Well, Today’s Women say “screw that!”-they’re having none of it. They want the goodies of earning a higher income, but none of the responsibilities that come with such a high honor.

But wait Obsidian, I’m not like that, some of you ladies reading along may say. And indeed, some of you aren’t like that, my own personal life, present and at some points in the past, attests to this. And for this you are to be commended. Nevertheless, you know as well as I do, that there are easily twice or thrice as many Women out there, who take the view I outlined above, with no problem whatsoever engaging in double standards.

Research Question for the Fellas; listen closely, and please respond:

1. Of the past 10 Women you’ve dated or otherwise were romantically involved with, how many offered to pay for the *1st date*, without you prompting them to do so?

2. How many of them paid or offered to pay, for *any dates* during the life of your courtship?

3. When’s the last time a Woman called you up and asked you out on a night on the town-on her dime?

4. When’s the last time a Woman bought you a drink?

The responses, should be most interesting to read.

The bottomline here is that Men enmasse, never seemed to have that much of a problem paying for dates and supporting their Women when it called for them to do so; afterall, until relatively recently, Women weren’t as fully self-supporting in that regard. But now that the tables have turned, Women have made it quite clear that not only do they have any desire to return the favor, but they also don’t have any problem denigrating any Man who fails to

measure up.

Yet another case of the Female Double Standard.

My job is done here.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Regressing To The Mean

Obsidian · 5 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

So why do people have children? One motive, certainly, is to prove to yourself and the world what a fine parent you can be. This endeavor begins with the belief that your child will carry the best of your genes. Most adults are quite pleased with the kind of people they are, even if they feel their qualities are not fully appreciated by the wider world. Hence the hope that passing on your traits and aptitudes will produce a superior child, and you will be able to share in the acclaim he or she receives.

After conception and birth, parents are expected to transform a howling infant into a motivated adolescent and an accomplished college applicant. Most also want their children to make more of their lives than themselves. Thus much of parenthood involves devising a game plan to ensure that one's child will surpass his or her schoolmates. This includes spending large sums of money on lessons and activities associated with winning, ranging from music and sports, computing and martial arts, along with efforts to get the child into advanced placement classes and programs for pupils identified as gifted. Indeed, the main reason for migrations to the suburbs is to send children to schools that will serve as springboards to recognized colleges and a higher social status.

In a word, parenthood has become a competition. If some children are deemed winners, others are seen as losers, even if that term is seldom uttered aloud. For example, a dozen elite colleges listed in the next chapter had only 15, 577 freshman places in 2000, not nearly enough for all the parents who want to say that their Jennifer is at Duke and Jason is at Stanford. The public sector is almost as selective. In California, Berkeley rejected 21,599 of its 30,042 applicants, while UCLA turned down 25,385 out of 35,681. In North Carolina, its flagship campus at Chapel Hill mailed 6,178 admission letters and 10,635 expressing regrets. Investments in private schooling or well-off suburban systems can't be said to have paid off if one's offspring end up at lower-tier colleges who's names aren't quite as impressive.

Part of the problem is that demand exceeds supply by a wide margin. The United States now has a larger upper-middle class than ever in its history. In 2000, the Internal Revenus Service received returns that reported incomes of at least #100,000 from 10,856,126 households. While not all had college-age children, some did and they were among the losing competitors for Dartmouth and Berkeley and Chapel Hill.

So what happens when children do not succeed? When asked what a son or daughter is doing-and people do ask-here is what some not wholly fictional parents may find themselves saying:

He's a carpenter up in Vermont, and he's really happy and he says he's truly found himself.

It's a small liberal arts college in Indiana, which has excellent internship programs.

She's building a good life for herself and the girls, now that her ex is out of the house.

One cannot miss the tone: plaintive, defensive, embarrassed. By middle-class American measures, these children are-not to mince words-failures. And the fault must lie with the parents, whether through inadequate genes or insufficient encouragement. "Where did they go wrong?" they feel others asking-and they may be asking themselves the same question. So they work on how they'll respond, as others hold forth on their neurosurgeon sons and investment banker daughters.

What is being described here is the side of social mobility that is seldom discussed. For most escalators that move upward, there will be another one going down. Even in prosperous periods, when the majority of society is doing well, there will be children who sink below the status they enjoyed while growing up. After all, even the best-placed parents cannot guarantee that their energy and intellect will be passed on. A suburban education may get a child into Princeton, but after that she'll be on her own. Many Ivied graduates end up with middling jobs, and then find themselves replaced by more talented men and women from less auspicious origins. This process has been called "regression to the mean", wherein offspring of successful parents turn out to be quite average in character and

accomplishment. This can happen even in favored families; indeed, that's where it usually occurs.

- Andrew Hacker, Mismatch, pp. 74-75

I thought to try a little experiment here at The Obsidian Files, a combination of Book Club and Open Mic Night if you will. Over the course of the next few weeks, I thought to, each Friday, take a book off the shelf, find a provocative passage, quote it, and simply hand off to you, my esteemed readers, to do with it what you will, with minimal commentary by myself. I figure its a good way to kickoff the weekend, and depending on how things turn out, it may become a permanent feature of the forum.

The above passage touches on many points and raises many questions. Feel free to address them as you will.

Let er rip!

The Obsidian

Lady Raine & Denise Romano Are Rank Hypocrites When It Comes To "Equality"

Obsidian · 6 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Several days ago I posted up four clear and present ways Today's Women are rank hypocrites when they bring up the "double standard"; I argued, quite convincingly I might add, that Women are often the biggest purveyors of double standards – not only do they engage in them, at will, but they will also defend and justify them, on a wide and ever-changing basis of rationales.

My inspiration for writing such a post were several, one of them coming from my running "battle" with "anti-Game" bloggers Lady Raine and Denise Romano. I posted my piece over on Lady Raine's blog, and only got, in LR's case, a rambling "defence" of her refusal to pay for dates on the basis that all Men are PUAs and/or MRAs now and so she must "protect" herself, and a niggardly response, at best, from Ms. Romano, MA, EdM; she only said that "in principle" she has paid for dates, but wouldn't be more specific than that. Another common poster on the site, "Maria", also, when pressed to the wall, had to admit that Women do indeed engage in double standards as much as do Men, but that the kinds of double standards that impact Women were much worse – that would be nice to know if my query had to do with which double standards were indeed worse – but it wasn't. It was simply making the case, using sitations that everyone who has eyes and has lived for any length of time on this Earth, could clearly see, that not only do Women engage in double standards *all the time*, but they also justify their doing so when called on the carpet.

Period.

The utter lack of straightforward answering of my questions, to say nothing of my post on the part of Lady Raine and Denise Romano, if not their deliberate ignoring the questions or giving milktoast answers, only goes to further weaken their very own moral authority and credibility, when it comes to their Anti-Game Crusade.

Why?

Let's find out…

Now, Lady Raine is known for her boisterous "I don't need no Man!" ways; we are constantly assailed with the nature of her job, how much she makes, what she can afford on her own, and so forth. She also regales us with how she can and will punch a guy out if he don't come correct in a bar or some other meeting place. Yet this same modern day Annie Oakley does a complete 180 when it comes to her actually putting her money where her big mouth is. When asked about Point Number Four in my recent post, she launches off into all manner of rationalizations and justifications as to why not only won't she pay for ANY dates for ANY reason, but then attempts to argue that she has to protect herself from merely only being used for sex. Which is strange coming from someone who's stock and trade is in telling anyone within earshot just how sexually liberated she is, and all the rest of it. First off, she lives in a part of the country where the Mancession has taken the greatest toll – even the Atlantic recently covered this in a very detailed and excellent article on the economy, and I urge everyone to check it out. Yet this doesn't matter to Lady Raine; "tough" she may say to the thousands of Men in her area who, through no fault of their own, couldn't afford to "court" her even if they wanted to. Second, for her "sexual defence" – if Lady Raine was really serious, she'd control the whole interaction from the get go – by paying for the evening, she gets to determine when, if ever, sex will happen. There's absolutely no ambiguity here, right? Afterall, he, or she, who pays the piper, calls the tune – and no Man can really complain if, after being treated out on a night on the town, he doesn't get anything, because the sponsor of the evening, the Woman, has decided that either he ain't the one, or that she isn't ready to go down that road yet. But nope, Lady Raine ain't really interested in doing any of that, because then it really require her to, like I said, put her money where her mouth is.

And for her part, Denise Romano, for all her bluster about power exchanges and control issues, equality and so forth, suddenly seems quite demure when asked straight up if she actually walks the walk. I asked Ms. Romano on

several occasions over the pasrt few days, what she thought of the four points I laid out in my post; I asked her if SHE had dated any Men who were shorter than herself; whether she had dated any Men who had less formal education than herself; whether she agreed in the basic premise that Men also had a right to reproductive freedom; and exactly how many dates did she pay for, outright. To date, on these points – nothing. And this, coming from a Woman who's internet postings are volumnous when it comes to how she feels about Game! What a rank hypocrite.

Like I said, if you're a guy and are reading this, please go back to my original post and hand it out to the Women you know, grab up some popcorn and enjoy the show; you'll bowl yourself over with laughter watching these poor ladies' Rationalization Hamsters dang near pass out from running so hard! LOL

The Obsidian

PS: Yet ANOTHER example of clear Female Double Standards: when an older guy expresses interest in a younger Woman, he's creepy and a loser; when an older Woman expresses interest in a younger guy, she's sexually liberated and exercising her "choice". When Women want a NSA sex life, again, she's exercising her "choice", but when a Man wants the same, he's a loser and a creep. Hypocrites, I tell you; Hypocrites!

Music Videos & Black(?) Women

Obsidian · 7 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Last night I got the chance to observe one heck of a social experiment-me and the other half spent the evening watching VH1's "VH1 Soul" program, a presentation of music videos in the Soul, Neo-Soul, R&B, Hip Hop and Reggae/Dancehall genres. It was a very nice mix of older/classic songs w/newer hits.

What struck me after roughly a half hour of viewing, was that nearly all the videos had something in common-Anthony Hamilton's "Ain't Nobody Worryin'" was a notable exception-

ALL of the videos featured very lightskinned, long flaxen haired, and "White Woman thin" Women.

It cut across genres and periods-Jodeci, Blackstreet, Eric Benet, Bilal, Trey Songz, Fabulous, R. Kelly, Buju Banton, Beenie Man & Akon, Shabba Ranks, Shaggy, Guru, Usher, Jadakiss-they all had, as their video's "love interests" Women who looked a heck of a lot closer to Beyonce', Mariah Carey, than Angie Stone or Missy Elliot.

Of course, this topic is nothing new, not only to the Black community, but to the American community at large-in the American pecking order of beauty and desirability, Black Women-and by that its implicitly and sometimes explicitly meant Black Women like Stone and Elliot-tend to come, if not in dead last place, not that far from it. Even *these* ladies' videos had the "Beyonce' Girl" in them, if not several.

Those of us who understand Game know well, that in Nature, Males display and *Females choose*. For most guys, most of the time, this is how it works, and they have little, if any, say in the matter. And this can and often does go for guys who, one would think, *would have some say, given their relative status*.

So, these music videos are quite instructive, for a number of reasons, but perhaps the most important, is because they provide a window onto the *choice of Black Men when they have the ability to choose*. And by and large, if these videos are any indication at all, the verdict is in as to what kinds of Women they deem as hot…and which ones they deem as not.

I guess in personal terms, that makes me that much more an outlier. Though I've never been attracted to Missy Elliot in the least, I've always had a thing for Angie Stone, and when watching the video she did w/Guru, felt that she was the most attractive Women in the whole thing, the "plot" of which was centered around a rent party. Jennifer Hudson and Jill Scott come in as strong faves for me too, but then I love Black Women as they actually are seen on the block, on Sunday Morning, on the bus or train-w/big booty, big lips, nappy hair, and that kind of "soul" that-no disrespect to my Sisters from Other Mothers-you just don't get from White, or Asian, or heck, many Hispanic Women.

Still, last night's video viewing proves a powerful point when one considers the meta-message, if you will-and explains a heck of a lot of what we see.

Comments?

The Obsidian

Is There A Such Thing As “Girl Game”?

Obsidian · 8 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

As some have predicted, one of the “next steps” in Game is its “Girl” variant – that some current or future Game Guru, is going to come up with a variation on a theme for the ladies. If nothing else, it’s a heck of a marketing scheme, and if the Female-dominated Self-Help industry is any indication, some guys – and gals – are about to get filthy rich.

In our age of His & Hers Everything, it only makes sense that “Girl Game” is at the very least, given the old college try – but whether it actually works, remains to be seen. I say, for a whole host of reasons, that there can be no such animal – but time will tell.

At any rate, and in the meantime, please take the following article on this day, Mar 7 2010, as yet ANOTHER piece of proof, that the Misandry Bubble is so distended that its bursting can’t help but happen any…day…now…

POP!

Holla back

The Obsidian

Girl Game
A world-famous pickup artist tried to teach single women to attract decent guys in S.F. It was harder than he thought.
Share

By Ashley Harrell
Published on March 01, 2010 at 4:05pmIn December 2007, Aynne Valencia was playing with a dreidel at a holiday party in SOMA. Then 35, she had been single for more than two years and was hoping to meet somebody worthwhile. So when a man wearing a Santa hat and resembling John Lennon approached, she was excited.

“We started talking about dreidels, and he knew what all the symbols meant,” says Valencia, a graphic design director. “I thought he was so cute and so smart.”

Although the man smelled a little funny, the two spent the whole night talking. Eventually, she stole his Santa hat and put it on her own head, and they started making out. The next morning, the Santa hat rested on her bedroom floor.

For the next two weeks, it seemed the guy always wanted to sleep over at Valencia’s place in Hayes Valley, which she initially didn’t think was unusual. But as time passed, she started to suspect that her new love interest was intentionally keeping her out of his home.

It turned out he didn’t have one. She was dating a homeless man.

He didn’t sleep on the street or think he was a bird or anything, she explains. He would crash at the youth hostel where he worked part-time if a bed was available. Other times he would sleep on random people’s couches. It reminded Valencia of the lyrics of the well-known Smiths song: “Driving in your car/I never, never want to go home/Because I haven’t got one/Anymore.”

The hobo boyfriend thing certainly wasn’t ideal for Valencia, but she liked the guy. He had a careless authenticity she admired, and she was willing to give it a shot.

“I continued to see him a couple more times,” she says. “Then he dumped me.”

Although Valencia has yet to meet anyone else who has been seduced and then dumped by a homeless man, the whole ordeal strikes her as “very San Francisco.”

What she means is that being a single, straight woman in this city can be an exercise in frustration and humiliation. All around the city, successful single women complain about not being able to find quality partners.

Although there's no hard data to prove it, anecdotal evidence abounds.

One possible explanation is that in San Francisco, men who aren't gay, married, or damaged by a previous owner are decidedly cagey when it comes to dating and relationships. "Men are more timid here to ask women out," says Emily Morse, a local radio show host who regularly discusses sex and relationships. "They also seem to think dating just isn't cool."

Since being dumped by the homeless guy, Valencia's dating life hasn't seen much improvement. Until recently, she had been keeping a stable of what she calls "Velveeta boyfriends" — guys she can hang around with, have dinner with, and even go on vacations with, but for one reason or another, they're just friends. Not the real thing. She is willing to try almost anything to change her luck.

Enter Jeremy Bonney, aka Soul. He's not a potential boyfriend, but a wily, 26-year-old British-Indian man who has made a career as a PUA (the commonly known abbreviation for a pickup artist), helping men to meet and date women. He was recently named the number eight PUA in the world by online magazine TSB, and had flown to San Francisco the week before Valentine's Day to coach a men's workshop titled "Day Game." It's what it sounds like: a set of strategies to help men pick up women in a daytime setting. After developing those strategies by trial and error and teaching them for two years, Soul says he could basically run the workshop in his sleep. Now he's ready to try something more challenging that could expand his client base to include the other 50 percent of humanity: "Girl Game."

Soul doesn't exactly have a curriculum developed, but he agreed to take Valencia and four other women out on a recent Wednesday for an experimental workshop. There would, of course, be challenges.

It was dubious that the tactics used by PUAs, many of which rely on aggressive pursuit, would simply transcend gender roles. That meant Soul would have to formulate different techniques for hitting on men, something with which he had no personal experience. Going in, he also had no idea what it was like to be a single woman in San Francisco.

An e-mail from Jennifer Pattee arrived just minutes after the tweet went out. The blond, 38-year-old boot camp instructor isn't about to settle for just anybody. Based on how she says men often react to her when she travels elsewhere, she believes that at least part of the problem lies with San Francisco.

If Pattee still hasn't found a boyfriend by the end of this year, she intends to go on what she calls a "man tour" of the world, visiting all the places she knows lots of attractive men reside. "The fishing villages of Norway. Colorado. Alaska. Done and done," she says. "Whatever it takes."

Valencia has also had better luck in cities like Paris and Chicago, where she says men are forward about what they want. "They'll buy you drinks and talk to you," she says. "They act like they're interested, and it's so refreshing."

In San Francisco, though, women have to deal with a lot of ambiguity. "We don't even know what it is," Valencia said of some men she has encountered around the city. "Is it gay? Is it straight? Is it a friend? Is it a foe? Is it looking for a job? Is it looking for a place to crash?"

Another contributing factor to the dating doldrums: "There's no pressure to grow up here," she says. "The way I act now is pretty much the same way I acted when I was 24. It's culturally reinforced here. Nobody cares that you're in your late 30s and have roommates."

There are certainly plenty of single residents between the ages of 20 and 40. Based on San Francisco's population of single people, Forbes magazine named it the second-best city in which to be single, behind Atlanta. That may be true for guys, but it's seemingly not the case for straight women.

"Cities like San Francisco where the gay population is twice the national average may pose a challenge for single

women looking for mates, even though the data suggests otherwise," says urban studies theorist Richard Florida, who created a map of single populations in cities across the country.

To find out whether the population of gay men and women would skew the numbers as Florida theorizes, SF Weekly took a look at the most recent census numbers. As of 2008, San Francisco had a total population of 808,976, including 93,820 single men and 83,840 single women aged 20 to 40.

Based on the best estimates by the Department of Public Health, there are around 65,000 gay men and about 27,000 lesbians living in San Francisco. Assuming that many of them are single (remember Proposition 8?), we calculated that 36 percent of single men in this city are gay and 18 percent of single women are lesbians.

After factoring in that information, there are 60,045 single heterosexual men and 68,749 single heterosexual women in the age range we examined. That would mean that in San Francisco, it's easier for men to play the field, while women have to compete harder and make compromises more frequently in their relationships with men.

Amy Brinkman, the S.F. franchise owner of the high-end match-up service It's Just Lunch, says she's heard from many female clients over the years that there aren't enough available hot men in the city. She doesn't buy that — she has plenty of male clients she considers desirable. But as someone who has lived in New York City, she has noticed that in San Francisco, men are not very bold in approaching women.

"Here, there are all these group get-togethers," she says. "Men prefer to see women a few times before asking them out." And, as in any other city full of young, ambitious people, San Franciscans seem less interested in settling down than in exploring their options. Of course, that can apply to the women as well.

Narrowing down the applicant pool for the pickup artist experiment would have been a difficult task — dozens of women replied to our tweet — but many quickly dropped out after they learned their photographs and names would be included in this story. Only the boldest women were willing to take part. They all had their reasons.

The Tipsy Pig crackled with activity on a recent Wednesday evening as an unlikely group of nine made its way to the outside patio of the Marina bar, where the relative quiet would allow them to learn the art of "sarging" men. (Sarging is the PUA term for approaching attractive strangers and running game on them.)

Pattee and Valencia were joined by three other women — Laura Stevenson, a 23-year-old barista; Janene Lin, a 25-year-old who works in advertising; and Anna Walters, a 23-year-old administrative assistant at a marketing firm.

Within minutes, the women had identified commonalities and bonded, making it somewhat difficult to quell various side conversations. But eventually Soul found an opening to introduce himself and his PUA sidekicks: Jesse "Starlight" Krieger, a store owner from the East Bay, and Aaron "Whim" Panasbodi, an Australian entrepreneur living in San Francisco.

Then came the disclaimer. "This is sort of breaking new ground for us," Soul said. "We can't promise a hugely structured syllabus, and we won't necessarily be complete with everything we say … but we do have some notes for you."

"I've never had as much trouble finding people to date as I have here," a woman wrote. It was the first response to an SF Weekly tweet calling for women fed up with the dating scene in San Francisco and willing to subject themselves to a pickup artist's workshop. "I moved to the city after a nasty breakup, expecting to casually date people," she continued. "I couldn't even get laid at first."

He then touched on many of the same points he does with his male students. Too many people believe love should be left to the fates, he said, which is "a bullshit notion." He believes that naturally shy people — like himself — can be taught certain skills to manipulate the odds of success in their love lives. "Why should it be any different than finding a job?" he asked.

Lin was nodding. Having been in relationships all her adult life with men from her circle of friends who had pursued her, she wanted to try being the chooser rather than the chosen. She felt inexperienced at meeting strangers, having never sat at a bar, looked around, and said, “I want him.”

Sometimes, that can be an elusive experience for a woman, Pattee pointed out. “I’m kind of looking around this bar, and there’s nobody I’d want to bone with,” she said. “Or flirt with. Or get with. … Maybe I’m being too critical.”

Valencia, who is active in the local art and design scenes, said she often meets men in whom she could be interested, but has trouble filtering them. “I get myself in the dirtbag ho cycle,” she said, a joking reference to promiscuous men. When she isn’t wasting her time with those, she’s playing mom to guys who are “superneedy and in my face” or just “fucked up.”

“If I wanted to be on Jerry Springer, I would have gone on Jerry Springer,” she said. “I don’t need your circus.”

Stevenson’s story is a bit different. She’s from a small town near Seattle, and until she moved to San Francisco, she always knew everything about the people she was dating. Here, that’s not the case, so sometimes after seeing a guy for a week or two, she realizes he irritates her. Other times, a man she likes will suddenly, inexplicably opt out. (Valencia refers to this as “fragging,” as in, “I was totally ready to frag him but he fragged me first.”)

Walters, as it happens, recently fragged a PUA dating coach. He picked her up at a wine bar several weeks ago, and it wasn’t until they were on their first date that he mentioned his job. After she declined a second date, she found details of their interaction posted on the Internet. Still, she’s intrigued by how pickup artistry works, and has even read Neil Straus’ 2005 book, The Game (essentially a bible for PUAs). “I’m not going to knock it,” she said. “There’s nothing wrong with using strategy to get to know someone you want to get to know. I’d just like to understand it a bit more and be on the in instead of the outside.”

That was Soul’s cue to explain his plan for the women. The thrust of his advice was that they should forgo aggression, and instead create a “window of opportunity” for men to initiate a connection. This can be as simple as using eye contact, body language, or, if absolutely necessary, starting a “functional” conversation. For instance, “How was your week?”

The women were sort of miffed by this. Weren’t they here to learn how to approach men? Why couldn’t they show off their intelligence or sense of humor right away?

Soul changed gears, and asked the women how they usually initiated interactions. “You eye-fuck them,” Walters offered, and Soul asked her to describe how this works.

“You look intensely at them and try to catch their eye across the bar,” she said. “If they respond, you kinda go in.”

Soul approved. “Okay, eye-fuck Aaron,” he said.

“I don’t think that’s happening,” Walters said, and the circle of women roared.

Soul moved on to another way of opening a window of opportunity. Just standing near a guy can work, he said. Although he doesn’t get hit on a lot, he admitted, when it does happen the woman has usually started some kind of “functional” conversation. “This isn’t necessarily a woman I saw and said, ‘I want that woman,’” he said. “But maybe she’s pretty cute, and she’s showed some interest. For a man, attraction does begin with physicality. But it doesn’t end there.”

He encouraged us to try out some functional lines. “Do you have the time?” Or, “Hey, are you French?” (This is good, Soul says, because a man can jump and say, “Ah, oui!”)

The women were starting to catch on. And make jokes.

“How about, ‘Do you have jumper cables?’” Pattee offered. “Can I have $10?” Stevenson deadpanned.

Bored with their material, the women demanded to know what lines Soul, Starlight, and Whim use. Tell the fun ones, they demanded.

After a brief hesitation, Whim admitted that when he's really feeling whimsical, he'll sometimes walk up and say, "I like salad." Pause. "With croutons." Pause. "But no anchovies." He doesn't recommend this for anything other than self-amusement.

A better one, he said, is to approach and say, "I have a rule where I have to flirt with the most attractive woman in the bar." He pauses for effect. "Can you introduce me to her?" (In PUA language, this is referred to as a "neg," or a subtle and playful stab meant to suggest to a woman that a man may not be interested.)

"Can we neg men?" I asked.

"No," he said.

Walters wanted to know whether she could use the line she had just come up with: "Hey, I'm being coached on how to pick up guys. How am I doing?"

"That's gonna make the guy really nervous," Whim said.

"Is it making you nervous?" she asked.

"He's a professional," Soul interjected.

Walters had in fact begun to notice that Whim's game expertise and Australian accent were kind of sexy. For now, though, she wanted to practice her lines. She jumped up, took off her coat, and pulled me with her on a wingwoman mission, targeting three guys in the back of the bar patio.

The men's conversation about finance trailed off as they peered up quizzically at Walters and me. "Tainted Love" came on the jukebox, which seemed totally appropriate, and she presented our line from Soul. "We were on our way out, but you guys look … interesting," she said. "We just wanted to come say hello and introduce ourselves."

Though a bit weirded out, the guys offered us seats, and even asked if we'd like beers.

That was easy.

The conversation meandered from North Face apparel to Mad Men to the Carolina-Duke basketball game, and finally the men asked us what we were doing that night. We said we were part of, um, a seminar. "We're learning how to pick up men," Walters announced, seizing her opportunity. "How are we doing?"

Looking a little taken aback, the men said we'd done well, and that it was refreshing to have women come to them. But they weren't entirely impressed. "You focused a lot of your attention on him," one said, indicating his friend. "It was a little aggressive." Another awarded us a B-plus.

We left the Tipsy Pig without getting any numbers.

Starting with the publication of The Game, the seduction community grew into a full-blown pop-culture movement. PUA all-stars like "Mystery" (Erik Von Markovik), who starred in his own VH1 reality series, The Pick-Up Artist, started to attract a huge online following.

Gurus like Mystery and even rising stars like Soul routinely get recognized on the street (during the men's workshop in San Francisco, a random guy approached Soul and insisted on getting a picture taken next to him). Soul has built his reputation to the point where desperate, adoring men will fly across the world to attend his $1,500, eight-hour seminars.

Self-proclaimed female pickup artists or FPUAs, on the other hand, have largely operated under the radar. A few give advice online and offer tips on how to pick up men, but there is no FPUA community. In fact, many of the Web sites and forums dedicated to women picking up men, including Womenslair.Herforum and Natural Seductress, are seemingly inactive. The idea just doesn't stick.

The reasons for this may seem obvious. First — as the PUA coaches seem to have recognized — society tends to

frown on aggressively forward behavior in women, and men are often turned off by it. For that reason alone, the average woman might not be inclined to sign up for a course on how to meet men, no matter how much dating trouble she may be having.

Of course, we weren't thinking about any of this on our way to the Hemlock Tavern, a Tenderloin bar and rock venue that seems perpetually filled with available men. The women agreed that after practicing on the "low-hanging fruit" at the Tipsy Pig, the Hemlock — a classic San Francisco hipster pick-up joint — should become stop two in our experiment.

As we entered the dark club, pretty much quadrupling the number of females inside, a few heads turned briefly in our direction. Stevenson went straight for the bar, where the male bartender chatted her up. The others broke into pairs and scouted out the scene: one attractive man surrounded by nearly all the other women in the bar. A few more men with mustaches stood around, looking aloof. And, finally, there were two men off in the corner. They were hot.

Soul beckoned to Stevenson and Pattee and prepped them on how to approach. They should be casual. Smile a lot. Flip hair if necessary.

They slowly made their way toward the men, stopping every few steps to whisper something about strategy. They didn't want to blow this opportunity. But when the women got within about five feet of the men, they abruptly turned and hustled back to the group.

"Gay," Pattee explained.

"How do you know?" Soul asked.

"We just know," Stevenson said. In fact, the men were practically sitting in each other's laps.

It was Lin's turn. She was ready to do something she never had before: approach men at a bar, and hit on them.

There was resolve in her graceful step as she approached not one, but three men sitting in a semicircle, and introduced herself with a big smile. The men immediately swallowed her up and placed her on a stool. She held their attention for the next 20 minutes, and each took her phone number. Although she was impressed that one was a professional videogame designer, she said they weren't really her type.
The other women were mulling around the bar, marveling over how a novice had held down three men at once. There weren't really many options for them. A shaggy-haired creep here. A seemingly foreign guy there.

Finally, Walters and her roommate, who had come as backup, decided that the attractive men at the back, gay or not, were the most worthy of an approach. They walked up, introduced themselves, and had a friendly 10-minute conversation about the wonder that is Tila Tequila. At one point, Starlight wandered up to see for himself whether these guys were gay. He still wasn't convinced.

"He's jammin' the clam," Stevenson joked, using the female version of "cockblock."

Upon his return, Starlight conceded. "It definitely would have worked if they were straight," he said brightly.

Maybe it was because we were out on a Wednesday. Maybe we had chosen the wrong bar. But that particular scenario — having just a couple of attractive men to fight over, finding out they're gay, then hitting on them anyway — seemed a perfect representation of what it's like for a single woman in San Francisco.

Standing by herself, Valencia didn't feel much like sarging any men. It's just not something she does. She didn't believe that any of the methods Soul and his sidekicks were explaining were relevant to her or the kind of men she was normally interested in.

"I don't think they're very helpful," she said. "I think they could use us coaching them. … These guys are what, 23?" She was doubtful that someone with so little life experience could explain much to a woman about how to handle a man. She had been married before. "It sucked, you know," she said. "It was just the wrong guy."

Valencia said her mother has a theory about men. “A good guy is like a good bra,” she used to say. “He should uplift and make you look beautiful. He should fit really well. He should flatter you and never poke you in the wrong place or make you uncomfortable.”

Hearing this, Stevenson took out a pad and pen, and for the first and only time that evening, she wrote down the advice.

Whatever the women thought of Soul, by the end of the night he had come to understand San Francisco from their perspective. “There weren’t that many good-looking or interesting dudes,” he said.

For their part, some of the women didn’t make things easy on him, either. They weren’t as receptive to instruction as he would have liked, but he said he could understand why. They hadn’t paid $1,500 or flown across the world for his class like the men who typically soak up Soul’s wisdom in reverent silence. The women, on the other hand, seemed to take pleasure in contradicting him.

Soul also noticed that women have different areas of need. They are naturally more social, he says, and they know how to have conversations. He recognizes now that with women, the focus should be on selecting, filtering, and “learning to get the coolest guy in the room.”

“Also, women need a bit more coaching on the date management,” he said. That could require weekly or monthly meet-ups for a dissection of dating possibilities, rather than just a single session on approaches. He admitted that an experienced woman would probably make an ideal coach of such a class, and that he would be on the lookout for talent.

All that said, the night’s coaching session did involve some degree of success. After leaving the Hemlock, the group wandered into Rye, a candlelit, upscale lounge where plenty of men were drinking and cavorting. Within minutes, it seemed every woman had used a functional line to score a talking partner.

Lin, aglow with the knowledge that she had hit on men for the first time, confidently spoke with several more. Pattee later e-mailed the group to say that she had successfully sarged two guys, one of whom asked to hang out again.

There were also promising scenarios that ended with disappointment. Stevenson met a man at Rye, and they ended up talking for the rest of the night. He took her number, but never called.

The coaches eventually forced Valencia to approach a long-haired man she was drawn to. She said hello, and quickly decided he wasn’t her type. “He didn’t have to say much,” she explained. On a bit of a roll, she then introduced herself to another guy, whom she spoke with for a good half-hour. He asked for her number and e-mail address, and even wrote her a few days later, but she said the e-mail felt noncommittal and nonactionable. She got the feeling he might be looking for a work connection.

“Here in San Francisco, people are so unclear about what they want,” she says. “I never got back to him.”

The results from the informal experiment were almost perfectly aligned with what single women say about San Francisco. In some cases, the women had no real interest. In others, the men failed to follow up, or did so in unacceptable ways. “Failure to launch” is what Valencia calls it. There was, however, one gratifying exception:

For the entire evening, Walters had refused to abandon her natural aggression, and contrary to everything the coaches tried to instill, in the end she became the night’s greatest success.

Jason Levesque
Frank Gaglione
Jennifer Pattee, Anna Walters, Laura Stevenson, and Aynne Valencia get some advice from pickup artist Jeremy “Soul” Bonney.
Subject(s):

Ashley Harrell on a world-famous pickup artist who tried to teach single women to attract decent guys in S.F.Upon entering Rye, she scanned the room and quickly decided that the most attractive man there, by far, was coach Whim. She stood close to him by the side wall, and made easy conversation about the night's events, how each woman fared, and pickup strategies in general.

"So, how am I doing?" she asked, defying her instructions one last time. Whim smiled, and they left the bar holding hands.

http://www.sfweekly.com/2010-03-03/news/girl-game/1

OneSTDV Throws Down The Gauntlet

Obsidian · 9 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Evidently while I was turning over last night, our erstwhile HBD Warrior, OneSTDV was up and in a fit of intense literary focus; he says the following about moi:

“Obsidian: Once and For All

Anyone who reads the comments section of this or any related blog is familiar with the most prolific Internet commenter alive, Obsidian. Obsidian considers himself a one-man wrecking crew against the supposedly pernicious racists of HBD and other race-conscious whites. In a strategy befitting this wily individual, Obsidian asks the same vacuous questions ad nauseam, then ignores subsequent answers, dismisses any reasonable rejoinders, and trolls every single HBD site with his “thoughts”. We get it: high intelligence whites are nerds and dangerous, black crime is inconsequential, HBD is furtive racism, we never give policy suggestions (it’s not that complicated), and “getting laid” is the preeminent value.

This blog’s readers have suggested I give Obsidian a forum to present his ideas. I ask that Obsidian provide (about 7-10) SUCCINCT questions in this post’s comment section. The blog’s commenters will then respond in full to each question. I will post Obsidian original questions, along with the best answers and possibly some of my additions. Obsidian is barred from posting in this comment thread after his initial comment.

After this, I will consider banning Obsidian for good if he continues to troll the comment section with off-topic blustering and dissimulation. So go ahead buddy, the floor is yours.

Posted by OneSTDV at 9:00 PM”

Well, I guess the old saying *is* true-that the pen-or in this case, the smartphone-is truly mightier, than the sword. And of course, who can turn a hyperbolic phrase better than Mr. OneSTDV? LOL.

What’s interesting-and ironic-about this whole thing, is that ONE Black guy can get these dudes all whipped up into a froth. How DARE he question us! Well fellas, YOU wanted HBD to “go mainstream”. I think its fair to say, that if a Brotha from the hood knows what the acronym “HBD” means, you’ve accomplished your goal. Congrats!

Of course the problem becomes, that once HBD goes beyond its comfortable confines of insider baseball speak and out into the wider world, folks are indeed gonna ask questions, starting with the very basic one: if HBD rests on immutable, hereditary racial differences, particularly those concerning intelligence-and if Blacks are the losers of that lottery-then doesn’t it almost invariably lead to racism, however well founded the science on the matter may be?

Of course, for OneSTDV and the HBDers, the answer is no-all we’re doing is presenting the cold, hard truth. Alright then-now what? For HBDers, the answer, though not codified as such, appears clear enough-Affirmative Action-and let’s be clear here-ONLY those kinds that specifically targets Blacks (Legacy admits, Women, etc, don’t count), is to end. Fullstop. Simply put, it is not our concern if Blacks can’t cut it. They’ve had their chance, and if being floor sweepers is their lot in life, them’s the breaks.

Next, their antisocial behaviors need to be addressed. Among these is out of control breeding. The government needs to bring sterilization programs targeted specifically at African Americans (and Hispanics) to lower their birthrate. (Of course, the fact that Smart White folks don’t have a lot of babies isn’t something they spend a heck of a lot of time thinking about and discussing, hmmm). The US Constitution here doesn’t really apply, because Hispanics aren’t citizens anyway, and it was never intended to apply to those of African descent. Additionally, prison sentences need to be lengthened even more, and de facto segregation brought back into the public square for those not locked up, for the good of the greater White society.

At this point, OneSTDV and others of his ilk will rail against what I’m saying as “trolling”, but I beg to differ-just

take a keen look at the overall tone not just of his blog, but the whole of the socalled HBDsphere-Sailer, Half Sigma, Audacious Epigone, Inductivist, Planet Grok, and more. These Men, and the HBD community are largely made up of (White) Males-are quite clear on where they stand, they just don't want to put it down on wax, so to speak. I suppose its a test of your white matter if you can connect the dots.

For the HBD crowd, their "bible" is a book called The Bell Curve, which was first published in 1994 and has since sold more than half a million copies. OneSTDV himself has referred to the work on quite a number of occasions.

What I find ironic about all this though, is that while OneSTDV talks a great deal about a merit-based society (and therefore, Affirmative Action directly violates such a bedrock principle of American Democracy), the publisher of The Bell Curve-Adam Bellow-would openly disagree with OneSTDV. Bellow, son of famed writer Saul Bellow, not only published The Bell Curve and several other highly controversial works, but is also the author of the book In Praise of Nepotism, and in it thoroughly debunks the idea that pure merit alone is the only thing that matters, or ever did. All of this makes perfect sense-The Bell Curve clearly makes the case for Hereditarianism, and so does Bellow in his own book.

Even more to the point, one of their most highly touted Black Conservatives-the esteemed economist (esteemed, that is, to White Conservatives) Thomas Sowell, disagreed with the basic premise of The Bell Curve. Look up the Wikipedia entry on the book, and you'll see what Sowell has to say about it. Of course, Sowell continues to be a Black Conservative in good standing with his White peerage, and this includes the HBD set. Maybe it really is a big tent afterall.

I guess the thing for me about all this, once you boil it all down, is the overall tone and presentation of the HBD sector of the Internet-while these proponents attempt to cloak themselves in science and dispassionate facts, there is a very palpable undercurrent of anger and resentment-what some in the media have called the Angry White Male. And I think there's a great deal of truth there, as recent news events have clearly shown us. Middle management type White guys, are really catching it these days, but not in the ways they would like to think. Its easier to whip up on Black and Brown folk, than Amy or Loren who may be their sisters, or the gals they'd like to get with. And its easier than actually grappling with the fact that it was largely White Males who nearly brought the global economy to its knees, and is either directly or indirectly responsible for the sorry state the Angry White Male is in, right now.

At any rate, I've written quite a bit about HBD here in this forum, and I suppose I'll draw on that for the "questions" OneSTDV requests of me. But whatever happens-and that includes his putative ban of me, he needs to understand this:

You all wanted HBD to brought into the public square to be openly debated. My very presence in that conversation, means that you have succeeded.

Now you have to actually defend that which you have presented. And merely shutting down voices you don't like, does nothing to help your cause. In fact, it actually harms it, a lot more than you will ever know.

Comment and reply from all sides of the debate, welcome.

The Obsidian

Women MORE Interested in Marriage, Relationship and "Self-Help" Stuff, Than Men...

Obsidian · 11 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This really goes without saying at this point, but, as we can see, we still have a few ideological stragglers in our midst, LOL. Below is an article from ForbesWoman, and it pretty much lays everything out and why. I've also included the top six listed self-help books Women are reading these days. As always, comment and reply, invited!

The Obsidian

Self-Help Books: Why Women Can't Stop Reading Them…
Kiri Blakeley, 06.10.09, 03:50 PM EDT
… and men just aren't that into their advice.

In 2007, as her 16-year marriage began to dissolve, Brooklyn, N.Y.-based writer Christina Frank turned to self-help books. At first, she devoured books on marriage savers, such as The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work by John Gottman and Nan Silver. But as it became clear that salvaging the relationship was not in the cards, she turned to coping books, such as When Things Fall Apart by Pema Chodron.

"When I realized that the separation was inevitable, these books really helped me navigate everything," she says. Frank was hardly an avid consumer of the genre: Previously, she'd only read the occasional parenting advice book.

However, as she writes in her blog chronicling the separation, just as there are no atheists in foxholes, there's no snarking on self-help books when one's life is in turmoil. "Some of the books were kind of ridiculous, but when everything falls apart, you turn to the things you might have laughed at before," she says.

It's easy to see why the self-help genre, especially the relationship category, might inspire some snickers–or cringes. The titles alone are enough to embarrass: Women Who Love Too Much; Men Like Women Who Like Themselves; Smart Women, Foolish Choices; Men Who Hate Women and the Women Who Love Them;He's Just Not That Into You. But 13.5 million of these types of self-help books were sold last year, a 22% increase from the year before, according to Nielsen BookScan. And in 2008, women purchased 74% of books sold in the relationship and family category, according to book consumer trends tracker R.R. Bowker.

What gives? Underneath the powerful confident career woman is there really just a desperate neurotic who hopelessly chases, is married to or is separating from a jerky guy?

Not quite, says BJ Gallagher, a Los Angeles author and genders studies expert. "Part of this phenomenon lies in self-esteem issues," she says. "When a woman has a problem, she immediately blames herself."

Publishers (as well as advertisers) know this. Hence titles that subtly (or not so subtly) cast blame while offering a solution. Men, however–if they can even admit they have a personal problem–don't tend to look to others for solutions: "A man thinks he should be able to solve problems on his own," says Gallagher. "Unless it's how to fix the car, repair the house, use a computer or make more money."

That's not a secret in publishing circles. When Gallagher was researching her latest self-help book, Why Don't I Do The Things I Know Are Good For Me?, men told her that they too didn't eat healthy enough, save enough money or pursue the right relationships, so she wanted her book to be for women and men. But literary agents and editors didn't want to hear it. "This is a business," says Gallagher. "They knew that men weren't going to lay down money for a book like that."

Men, usually one-half of a relationship, just aren't that into them. Or, at least, are just not that into reading about them. "Men would be more into a book about how to score a chick than how to emotionally bond," says Kimberly Dawn Neumann, author of two relationship books, including The Real Reasons Men Commit. "They do want

relationships, but they don't go at it in an emotional way. They're more likely to think, I'll get the chick first, then leave it up to the fates."

Some of this can be blamed on evolution. While prehistoric men were out hunting, the women were being engineered to focus on social ties for survival. Therefore, a book that can give women a competitive social edge, such as bagging the right guy, understanding her teen, sharpening her gossiping skills or learning to differentiate between friend and frenemy, would be eagerly sought out by them, says executive coach Olivia Fox Cabane, whose focus is applying behavioral science to business.

Of course, there's an entire subset of the relationship genre dedicated to the ultimate social tie: Marriage. Women may be delaying tying the knot more than ever before, but books like Why Hasn't He Proposed? continue to clog the book aisles. "Society is set up for women to be passive," says Jonathan Alpert, a Manhattan psychotherapist who pens a relationship column for Metro newspapers. "It's the men that traditionally propose marriage. Imagine if it was the woman who proposed, you'd see a whole slew of books like How to Get Your Lady to Pop the Question." (We won't hold our breath on that one.)

However, the times are a-changing, says relationship expert Scott Kudia, author of If This Is Love, Why Am I Unhappy? Kudia admits that men make up only about 5% of the audiences at his relationship seminars (and most of those guys were dragged there by women), but it is getting better. "Dr. Phil has been on TV for a decade now," he says. "Once self improvement becomes mainstream, men feel better being a part of it."

But what about the 95% of guys who would rather, oh, have a root canal than sit down and read a relationship book? Kudia suggests offering an incentive: "Tell him if he reads the book and discusses it with you, you'll buy him a trip to Vegas or dress up like Little Bo Peep." Brooklyn blogger Frank writes that she occasionally left save-your-marriage books on her husband's bedside table, but to no avail. "He said he'd get to it just as soon as he was done with Remembrance of Things Past."

Then there's always the exception to the rule. John Gray, probably the best-selling relationship author of all time, says at least as many men as women read his 1992 relationship classic, Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus, which sold 30 million copies. "I've taken a lot of heat for writing a book that says good things about men," he says. "Men also want to understand women, and I explain women and men to each other in a positive way, without coming across as dismissive or critical of men."

Still, Gray admits his self-help empire, which includes 16 Mars and Venus books, CDs, seminars, an online dating site and magazine, as well as a line of nutrition supplements, wouldn't exist without women: "They are the biggest supporters I have."

In Pictures: Six Self-Help Books Women Love and (Most) Men Won't Read

Why Don't I Do The Things I Know Are Good For Me?
BJ Gallagher (Berkley/Penguin, 2009)

Premise: Women know the things they should do for themselves–eat right, exercise, save money, look out for their own best interests. But they don't always do them. Here's why and how they can start.

The Real Reasons Men Commit
Joel D. Block and Kimberly Dawn Neumann (Adams Media, 2008)

Premise: Men are "vulneraphobes" who are not comfortable with being vulnerable in relationships. Here's how to overcome that and get them to commit.

Why Hasn't He Proposed?
Matt Titus and Tamsen Fadal (McGraw Hill, 2009)

Premise: Men are bad boys and players who would rather shoot their foot off than get married. Read this book and change that.

If This Is Love, Why Am I Unhappy?
Scott Kudia (Infinity, 2006)

Premise: Women get irate when Prince Charming doesn't pick up his underwear, leaves the toilet seat up, or has bad breath. Change those unrealistic expectations you have of the big lug.

Why Mars and Venus Collide
John Gray (HarperCollins, 2008)

Premise: Men are from Mars, women are from… you know the drill. Gray updates his 1992 classic Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus, which theorizes that men and women are (metaphorically) from different planets

He's Just Not That Into You
Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo (Simon Spotlight Entertainment, 2004)

Premise: When a guy doesn't call, court you or ask you to marry him, it's because, well, he's just not that into you. No, really, he's not.

http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/10/self-help-books-relationships-forbes-woman-time-marriage.html

A Test Of Your Game

Obsidian · 17 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I usually don't post more than once a day, but this is so good I couldn't resist; besides, I've been meaning to start up my own version of "A Test Of Your Game" for awhile now anyway; since Spring is almost here, and since the following scenario just begs to be properly analyzed, I said, what the heck.

Please follow the link below, read the post and come back with your analysis of exactly where this youngbuck went hopelessly wrong. Just quickly scanning Ms. Jamila's post I could tick off about four things right away, but let's see who else saw what I saw.

Let er rip…

http://www.jamilaakil.com/2010/03/i-think-youre-too-young-for-me/

And hurry up!

My analysis and grading of post comments follows on the morrow The Obsidian

The Divas Doth Protest Too Much

Obsidian · 17 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

If you're in the NYC metro area, you might have heard about the big brouhaha over a recently painted mural over on Times Square. More than 90 feet long, the mural depicts African American and Latina Women in various poses.

The mural itself was painted by a Latina artist from Puerto Rico and lives in the Bed-Sty section of Brooklyn. She's come under fire from some Black and Hispanic communities up in NYC for making a mural that demeans Women and the rest of it.

Then I get word of an outfit of professional Black & Latina Women called "Phenomenal Women Inc." basically waging a media campaign against the powers that be who bankroller the mural in the first place. Now, I've seen pics of the mural itself, and while I can see their point, I'm sorry but somehow I really don't see this as something to raise much of a ruckus about-but I DO have something to say about these "Baps". I'll let er rip after you get a chance to see the mural for yourself:

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http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_CwSYMd9KuCE/S5MD5NCDoMI/AAAAAAAAG94/fFhWb4me7qE/s400/DSC_5677.JPG
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OK.

You may recall my recent posting up of an all-White step team who won a nationwide step competition? I didn't say much about the issue at the time, mainly because I really wanted to hear what you all had to say about it instead. This time though, I gots to vent my spleen…

You know, the thing that really burned me up about the White step team incident, wasn't that they won, but that the haters were mad 'cause they got beat at their own game-worse, they're so pretentious that it all would be a big joke if the stakes weren't so high. The Black Greeks claim to be about "the community" but after a century of being in existence the only time in recent memory they can make the headlines is when an all-White squad shows them up at a contest the Black Greeks organized to begin with. Sure, their supposed noble aims are outlined in their charters, and that's exactly what I'm zero-ing in on here-exactly what do they have to show for all their claims of "community involvement"? From where I sit, not a lot, unless one wants to count corporate sponsored step shows-which get won by White teams, I might add.

Meanwhile, all the familiar and longstanding problems besetting Black America continues, unabated; HIV/AIDS, among other STDs, are still astronomically high. So are highschool dropout rates, Black Male unemployment rates, homicide rates, incarceration rates, illiteracy rates, homelessness rates, infant mortality rates (btw, Bronx has one of the highest infant mortality rates IN THE COUNTRY-where are the "Phenomenal Women" on that???), etc, et al.

in Baltimore, the school where Thurgood Marshall attended is now on the brink of being closed down, just like what happened to half of all schools in Kansas City last week-where's the "Phenomenal Women", the socalled "Divine Nine" on that?

Why, they're really making moves addressing White step teams and racy murals, of course.

Meanwhile Black and Hispanic America dies slowly on the vine, and a big part of that reason is because outfits like the two mentioned above not only major in the minors, but also because they're all too quick to wanna ape their White betters. There, I said it. I mean, let's not mince words here-the Black Greeks and "professional" outfits like the one this post is about want to be Muckety Mucks in their own right, but can't get on in White America for real-so they make their own cliques and basically do the exact same thing they see Ms. Ann and Mr. Charlie do. Only in Black-and now it seems-Latinface.

If the "Phenomenal Women" really want to make an impact on Times Square without so much as firing a metaphorical shot, all's they gots to do is DON'T GO THERE. Do spend money there. In short, do all they can to simply avoid the place. Simple. Problem. Solved.

That's what I do when I have reason to believe groups or businesses or corporations are dissing me and mine-I simply take my business elsewhere. For good. When Eddie Bauer gave those two Brothas a workout in one of their stores in suburban Maryland a decade ago, I decided Eddie Bauer couldn't get my money anymore-and this is coming from someone who actually liked Eddie Bauer apparel a lot. But I did it. And I never looked back. I didn't ring up the Reverands Jackson and Sharpton. Didn't flail about trying to organize a boycott. I just simply stopped buying Eddie Bauer shit. The end.

And as for the group/association thing, of which their exists a gazillion umpteen of em I Black USA, I belonged to one that had within its ranks Men from all walks of life and ages. We put up the money to run our own candidate for local elected office; we lost, but it felt good to know that I could make a difference in the local politics of where I lived. We adopted a few public schools and volunteered to mentor the young boys. One of them is a national chess team legend. We put out our own local journal magazine, airing issues and putting a spotlight on problems we thought needed to be addressed, and for a good five years it was highly profitable. And we organized our own town watches, which aided the police in reducing crime. For my money, that beats just about anything the Divine Nine or the Phenomenal Women are doing.

Look. I hear these gals on the symbolism thing, and for what its worth, I do think a bit of balance could have been depicted in the artwork-theres nothing wrong with showing a few Sistas and Latinas carrying briefcases, too-but the plain truth of it is we've got some seriously big fish to fry in both communities, to be wasting so much time and energy on something that, at the end of the day, really won't help do much to turn the things I wrote about above around. If these Women really want to be Phenomenal, they can start by actually taking some of the Sistas and Latinas in the hood under their wing and do some longterm one on one mentoring, starting with the basics, like relationships, childrearing, deportment and so on, all the way through seeing them through job training or schooling. This is something all of them can do, doesn't cost a lot if anything at all, and doesn't require getting a grant, waging a media campaign or organizing a boycott. If things are gonna get any better for Black and Brown folks, its Talented Tenth is gonna have to do a lot better than making mountains out of moehills.

Actually showing their faces in the hood is a good start.

Now adjourn your uppity asses…

The Obsidian

Open Mic Friday: Who`s Your Daddy Edition

Obsidian · 19 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Much has been written about the state of the American Family in as many decades, and perhaps none gets more attention than the Black American Family. Kay Hymowitz, a Manhattan Institute fellow, wrote first an article, and then a book, called Marriage and Caste in America. Although she doesn`t stray too far off the Conservative reservation in terms of the usual policy wonkspeak surrounding these issues, one paragraph of her article does raise an eyebrow:

(quote)The conventional answer to the puzzle is this: in an economy marked by manufacturing decline, especially in cities, too many of the potential husbands for low-income women are either flipping burgers, unemployed, or in jail—in other words, poor marriage material. But three facts raise doubts about this theory.

One, it's not just unemployed men or McDonald's cooks who have become marriage-avoidant; working-class men with decent jobs are also shying from the altar. Two, cohabitation among low-income couples has been increasing; about 40 percent of all out-of-wedlock babies today are born to cohabiting parents. Why would there be a dearth of marriageable men, when there appear to be plenty of cohabitable fathers? And three, marriage improves the economic situation of low-income women, even if their husbands are only deliverymen or janitors. In a large and highly regarded study, the Urban Institute's Robert Lerman concluded that married, low-income, low-educated women enjoyed significantly higher living standards than comparable single mothers. Joe Sixpack may not be Mr. Darcy, but financially, at any rate, he's a lot better than no husband at all.

Still, whatever the arguments against it, the no-marriageable-men theory is entrenched in policy circles and in the academy and is unlikely to go anywhere soon…(end of quote)

You can see the full article here: http://www.city-journal.org/html/16_1_marriage_gap.html

Ms. Hymowitz then veers off onto some other ish, but she raises a very, very powerful question: why don`t all these eggheads ever ask about the Men and Daddies in these situations – afterall, they do matter.

Why is so much of these kind of conversations so lopsided, tiltled toward Women, Mothers, Children, but never any attention is paid to the Men and Fathers here. Why are these Men avoiding Marriage.

I`ve found that a big problem people encounter in Life is they allow their assumptions to make ASSES out of them. All through these `family values` articles and books seem to make the same tired assumptions, starting and ending the conversation with the Women and Moms. And it stops there.

I say there`s another side of the story. And I also say that one reason why it ain`t getting major airtime is because it isn`t what the Chattering Classes wants to hear.

But, what do you say.

Comment and reply, invited.

The Obsidian

Dangerous Assumptions & Why We Cling To Them

Obsidian · 22 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I'm often asked, Obsidian, why do you keep asking the same questions over and over again?

That's a very good question. And the answer is, after giving the whole ball of wax some thought, is this:

Because people don't actually answer the question being asked; they answer the question THEY WANT TO BE ASKED.

In other words, people respond to things based on their assumptions; and when their assumptions don't jibe w/the objective facts, they'll twist the question(s) to suit their already preconceived notions.

I really don't have a problem with that in and of itself. Hey, we're all Human Beings, and a big part of being Human is being contradictory, irrational, emotive and illogical. I completely get that. I have a great deal of empathy for that. Afterall, I'm Human too, at least last time I checked.

What bothers me though, is the way in which so many people attempt to defend their wholly subjective views of the world. This blogging effort, like so many other things I've done in my life, has been a big learning experience to me, in just how and why people think and act as they do. And while they often will try to appeal to authority-Science, for example-in truth, all they're doing is attempting to find some outside source, one larger than themselves and those they're "fighting", that agrees with or supports their argument.

That's where things get dangerous, for a whole host of reasons, but just to state one, its because disciplines like Science was originally intended to merely establish, through controlled testing environments and the like, the left and right of things. But as we know, Science has been and will continue to be used for biased political ends, on all sides of the spectrum.

So, why don't people simply say look, I just *feel* this way or that way about something, OK? It has no rational basis, its not logical in the least, I just feel some kind of way about XYZ.

Well, that's because we live in a time where Science itself is kind of seen as a religion if you will; and merely shooting from the hip, particularly on issues such as Race, connotes imagers of hooded Klansmen, themselves barely literate backwoods country hicks who scapegoat Blacks and Jews as a way to assuage the failures of their own lives. Having a more higherbrow tone to one's statements, gives them the air of sounding more considered, measured, *intelligent*.

Besides, if we simply admit that we have a personal view about something, it is easily dismissed; that's YOUR problem, YOU brought that on yourself, and so on. However, if we can link our personal gripes to larger causes, then, its something bigger than all of us! A pernicious force that must be dealt with, and so on.

Personally, I find it both amusing and disheartening to see so much mental and emotional energy being utterly wasted in the name of defending oneself, their views and so on, against real and more often than not, *perceived* enemies; if such people could merely admit that they have a right to their personal, emotive and wholly subjective feelings and views, so much energy could be freed up to pursue other meaningful things in their lives.

A few examples comes to mind of what I mean here.

Everyone by now knows who Lady Raine is. Over the weekend, I had a series of very interesting exchanges with her that perfectly illustrates my points made above. Lady Raine's entire being is one that is defensive in extremis, and this is due to her many insecurities, among them being taken advantage of romantically and sexually by a Man who was abusive and had a drinking problem. This led to her being a single mother on her own, and every chance she gets she is keen to tell the world how she does this and that for her son, she don't need no Man, etc, et al. For all her protestations against Black folks, she sounds very close to a certain type of Sista to me, LOL.

Then, her “crusade” against Game and more to the point Roissy, is both a sad yet fascinating sight to behold. She freely admits to not having read one single book on the topic, not ever having talked to one guy who attended any bootcamp events, of course she’s never attended any, and so on-yet she feels perfectly competent to attack, wholesale, the Game and PUAsphere. I mean, even a rank beginner in Logic 101 could eviscerate her arguments-but there she is, going on and on, aided and abetted by other ladies.

But the truth is, she was and still is very hurt by what went down w/her baby daddy, and was hurt by Roissy’s actions, none of whom I am aware of, defended. And, I think she would have gotten a heck of a lot more sympathy-she certainly would have gotten it from me-if she simply said that, instead of putting up this Great Wall of China front, and tilting at so many windmills. Its truly, truly sad.

OneSTDV needs no introduction here, but he presents a textbook example of what I mean. His entire online being is devoted to basically excoriating Black folk and White Liberals, the bane to his existence. His very screen name, refers to the difference between Black and White IQs, Blacks being lower than that of Whites of course. Hardly a day will pass when he’s not going at one group or the other, and the conclusion one must come to after reading this is that one or both groups are the reason why his life has been made so difficult.

But instead of merely owning up to the fact that maybe he simply wasn’t good enough to get into Princeton, and that-not Darkies taking his rightful place from vis a vie Affirmative Action-explains why he isn’t there today, he instead continues his HBD-informed tirade against White Liberals and Black people in the main. Which is sad, since even other HBD types, like Planet Grok, have pointed out that focusing so much on Blacks and Affirmative Action is really kind of counter productive if one wants to make real headway on the HBD front. Moreover, those who want to go into Big Law, Neuro-Medicine, or the STEM fields, have little to fear from Pookie and Ray Ray taking their jobs or college spaces. In truth, the only Whites who are really taking the brunt of Affirmative Action are the kinds of Whites guys like OneSTDV don’t think that highly of either-the White Proles like mailmen, firefighters, cops and so on. So, why does he continue to go on and on about his “scientific” stuff?

Because it explains his plight. That’s why.

Deery is yet another example of what I call entertaining Dangerous Assumptions. Ever notice how, when we’re discussing one issue, she’ll suddenly bring up a topic that has nothing to do with the current discussion? I’ve noticed her do this a number of times, and I think the reason why she does this is because the current discussion at the time contains within it implications that are too uncomfortable for her to deal with, and rather than simply saying look, this just the way I feel about thus and so, and leaving it at that, she has to bring Tobey into it-that’s the name I’ve given to her Rationalization Hamster-and attempt to rearrange the deck chairs on the Titanic, so to speak. We saw this as recently as last week, when I took socalled Black Elites to task for majoring in the minors on social issues. What was fascinating to me was that out of more than 50 comments and a number of them being made by highly college educated Black folks who openly disagreed with Deery’s position, she clung tenaciously to her views. That’s OK, but when she couldn’t even acknowledge what everyone else was saying, that’s when I had to end it. I even went so far as to saying to her, look, given what I know about your personal history and so forth, I can dig it, that wasn’t good enough. I mean, Wow.

There are many other examples I can cite, but the above should illustrate what I mean. Nor do I want to give the impression that I am somehow above the fray-I’m not. What I try to do though, is realize that my personal views must remain separate from the issues at hand when discussing something, and to have the maturity to know when something hits a bit too close to home for me to either recuse myself, or to simply lay my cards on the table, as irrational and logically inconsistent they may be. That way, if nothing else, no one can say that I’m BSing them-

Or engaging in a host of Dangerous Assumptions.

That’s it. Holla back

The Obsidian

“Education” Doesn’t Payoff For Black Male Employment

Obsidian · 24 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

With the socalled “Mancession” continuing apace, I thought I would dedicate a post to the Black side of the issue, since Black Men have always been unemployed or under-employed at a higher rate than White Men overall, other than Chattel Slavery, of course.

Depending on who you read and believe, Black Males have an unemployment rate easily twice that of White Males-and that was *before* the current Mancession. One can speculate what said rates for Black Men must be now.

In the Obama Era though, the shopworn causes, themes and issues simply won’t do anymore, like discrimination, racism, lack of education/skills, lack of work ethic, “chips on shoulders” and so on-afterall, Obama made it, so that means that any Black Man who works hard, adopts White demeanor, and studies hard, will make it too!

Right?

Uh, well, to be brutally blunt…no.

In his book Two Nations, Queens College Prof. Andrew Hacker examines these and other claims. He focuses in on the premise that “education” really does pay off for Black Men. You can look it up for yourself (Deery) if you haven’t read the book already, but just to give you a taste, Hacker’s findings after perusing the data-admittedly roughly a decade old-is that the ONLY people “educated” Black Men do better than, is “uneducated” Black Men-they DON’T do any better than White Men, White Women, or for that matter, even Black Women. Oh, and by the way, Black Women tend to fare a bit better than White Women along these lines. One can speculate as to why that is.

So, Hacker’s findings pretty much support something I wrote a little while back about Black Males and Education, that many of them are actually smart enough to know that it will have little direct impact for the better in their lives. Indeed, Hacker’s findings show that “educated” Black Males still have an unemployment rate *twice* that of White Males.

We all know what the HBDers among us will say, right? Either totally unqualified Black guys are getting the cushy jobs, or, failing that since Hacker’s findings shoot that bird right outta the sky, that Black guys were basically socially promoted all the way through undergrad and grad school. OK, but so what, if the findings show that they still wind up unemployed anyway? Well, the HBDers will say, that’s because when they hit the realworld, they couldn’t hack it due to their being pushed through the system, etc, et al.

Affirmative Action strikes again. You gotta give the HBDers one thing-at least they’re consistent.

I love examining the deeply held assumptions a lot of people so tenaciously cling to, because very often, said assumptions aren’t grounded in fact but instead serve a very important, deep and emotional need for those who hold on to them. Which is fine, but the problem is that these same people want so desperately to be seen and respected as thinking, considered folks, who are only relaying the “facts”. LOL. See my last post for more on that point.

Anyway, the deal is, that Black Men continue to be the last hired and first fired, and “acting right” (read, White), not having a “chip on your shoulder”, being “educated” and the like, doesn’t have a damned thing to do with it. Like I said, other than Chattel Slavery itself, when there was a 100% “employment” rate among Black Men, there has NEVER been a time when Black Male employment rates were at or even near parity with White Males.

The reasons for why that is, especially when you factor in what Prof. Hacker says in Two Nations, really should be obvious by now.

Anyway, I just wanted to skewer this notion that “education” is the path to success-it may be, but when it comes to Black Men, it is at best, a shaky premise that doesn’t hold a heck of a lot of water when submitted to the acid test.

I'm just sayin.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Solving The Riddle Of The Un/Underemployed Black Male

Obsidian · 25 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday I introduced quite a ticklish question and premise to the forum, that of the curious riddle of Black Male un and/or underemployment in the United States historically. I made the case-based on the book Two Nations, by Andrew Hacker-that contrary to the mantra that “education” is the key to success, that when it came to Black Men in aggregate, such a notion was at best tenuous-unless you mean it to mean that an “educated” Black Man can make more money than an “uneducated” one. On this singular note, there is little to dispute. Beyond that however, the stats clearly show, that “education” has not proven to move Black Men to be on par with White Men, White Women or even Black Women in terms of comparable incomes. Indeed, if anything, Black Women have done very well in this regard, often on a par with and sometimes even exceeding White Women.

Moreover, it has been shown that “educated” Black Men are still either un or underemployed at a rate of 2 to 1 to their White counterparts. Indeed, even a *lesser* formally educated White Man-who may even have a criminal record-can still be more gainfully employed than an “Educated” Brotha with no such criminal history.

We’ve noted that the only time in American history where there was virtually 100% “employment” for Black Men, was Chattel Slavery. Moreover, American history records that in times of national crisis-and by that is meant when the country was at war, in this case, meaning specifically WW1, WW2, and Korea-the “employment” rate-by which is meant, the draft-of Black Men went up substantially. Other than that though, and again American history bears this out, Black Male employment rates, to say nothing of earning power, has continually lagged behind other groups, particularly White Men.

I have asked my readers WHY they think this is-and I’ve been careful to restrict the discussion to Hacker’s book. I’ve done this for a very specific purpose, actually several. One was because I want to challenge some deeply embedded Dangerous Assumptions far too many of us cling to in our time. Assumptions that have at best, tangential relevance to the issues at hand, if not out and out fallacious when examined critically. Another reason why I have structured the discussion in the way I have is because I wanted to know just how much people have read and studied-when it comes to racial issues, Two Nations is not only a critically acclaimed work, its also a fairly old one, having first been published in the mid 1990s, and updated in the immediate aftermath of the hotly contested Bush/Gore Presidential elections of 2000. I liken the book to The Bell Curve insofar as its cultural importance and impact-whether you agree o disagree with the authors, the point is that these books have done much to inform our understanding of these issues in our time.

Sadly, I was not surprised to see that some of the most vociferous commenters-those who have far and away MORE formal “education” and a higher job profile than myself-had not in fact read the book. Some had not even heard of it. Others attempted to act as if it didn’t matter, because they had information which explained what we were examining, even when said “info” either spoke exactly to what Hacker was talking about-they’d have known that if they had actually read the book to begin with-or, had little if anything to do with the actual topic. So, we see just how deeply entrenched Dangerous Assumptions can truly be.

Hmm.

So, with all that said, I am now going to reveal exactly WHY, Black Men-even and particularly those who are “educated”-still lag behind other groups in terms of employment:

You ready?

Its because Black Men don’t have the patronage networks that actually makes things happen.

That’s why.

Recently, I relayed the story of how I tested for the Philadelphia Fire Department, many years ago. Despite my very high test score, I wasn’t accepted into the academy. Why?

Because I didn't know the right people in order to make things happen. That's why.

Many people like to think, that "merit", or the lack thereof, is the deciding factor in whether people get hired or not, get into school or not, get promoted or not, and so on. My own personal observation has borne this out down through the years.

Black Men, taken as a group, simply don't know the right people in order to make things happen. They don't have the social networks that can help them navigate the buffers *designed to keep folks out* of jobs and the like. In a nutshell, this is the reason why Black Men on a whole, regardless of their rate of "assimilation" continues to fare worse than other groups-even Black Women.

Which brings up another very powerful dynamic-and shoots down a lot of other theories, to use the term loosely. Black Women come from the same place as Black Men, yet no one can argue that "education" has paidoff, literally and otherwise for them. Why?

Well, there are several reasons. One is Affirmative Action-as a few others have already alluded to, when companies and agencies are pressured to meet quotas, hiring a Black Woman essentially kills two birds with one stone. While there has been much handwringing on the part of Angry White Males over Affirmative Action, very little is said about WHO actually benefits from it the most. Depending on the studies one reads, White Women have benefitted the most overall, from AA. But it is undeniable to dismiss this very crucial factor for Black Women as well. Nor am I attaching a value judgment one way or another-just applying a commonsensical, Parsimonious observation and analysis to the matter.

But there's another reason, too. As Hacker observes in his book Two Nations, it is not at all unusual to see Black and White Women eating lunch together and engaging in related activities on the job. Nor should this be seen as surprising, as we who study Game for example, know well that the Female is always more highly socially attuned, than the Male, all other things being equal. Women intuitively understand the importance of social networks, and, as Hacker has noted in his other book Mismatch, are more amenable to do the things those in power want, which also explains why Black Women fare better in school than Black Men. Roissy recently wrote about the "fake" natures of Women and Gay Men, and he's largely correct. We've all seen this-Women are quick to affect the "correct" posture when the need arises. Men-and particularly for our discussion Black Men-not so much.

Here comes another very, very important aspect of the discussion that cannot be overlooked. Hacker notes that it is much less likely to see Black and White Men going out to lunch together-they'll either go alone, or at best, they'll go in racially homogenous groups-all the White guys will eat together, and all the Black guys will eat together, and so on. Rarely do you find Black and White guys socializing much on the gig in a manner comparable to Black and White Women. This is important because these, what some would call "soft skills" matter a great deal when it comes to the job market. One that, while changing ever so slowly, is still one that is controlled in the main, by White Men. They still decide who gets hired and fired, for the most part-and the higher one ascends in society, particularly the private sector, the more likely one will see this borne out.

This explains in part why the University of Chicago "Black Name Resume" study was so very instructive. Actually, they should have taken it a step further, to breakout the Black sounding MALE names, from the Black sounding Female ones. I have no way of proving this, but my gut tells me that the Black sounding Male named resumes got a lower rate of callbacks than the Black sounding Female named resumes. If I'm right, it only validates all that I'm saying here.

Of course, Race plays a role. To attempt to suggest otherwise, is to deny the reality of American history and life. However, there is an important distinction to be made here.

Moves have been made to eliminate discriminatory, or to put it more bluntly, racist actions when it comes to hiring and the like, and one must say, that these moves have been broadly effective. Yet, they cannot account for what we are discussing here, because they cannot address the simple fact that there is a *racial* dimension at work here as well. By racial, I mean that there are subtle psychological differences at play and at work that have to do with why,

for example, Black Women can ascend faster and farther than Black Men in the open job market. For one thing, the old saw, at least in the Black community, about Black Women being seen as less “threatening” than Black Men has a tremendous amount of truth to it-Black Men have always been seen as more “manly” than other types of Men, hence the huge concern White Men have with “assimilation” when this topic comes up. Moreover, studies have shown that people-Men and Women alike-respond more favorable to feminine sounding voices and the like, over more masculine sounding ones. We Black folk know well the idea of “code switching”, and if we’re honest, also know well, that Sistas know how to “turn it on” when they have to. Well, Black Men-even those who have matriculated-aren’t as apt to do this-and here I must make a very, very important distinction. I’m not talking about speech patterns, so much as I am *voice inflection*-basically taking the “bass” out of one’s voice, so as to not “sound” “too” Black, and in this case, masculine. When objectively assessed, none of this really makes sense-just like the “proxy for IQ” stuff that college degrees really represent, doesn’t make much sense when put out in the light of day-but so much of what we do, flies under our conscious radar. These and other “little” things, accounts for why we see what we see and have seen, on the job front for Black Men, since Reconstruction.

I’ve seen this dynamic at work right here in the blogosphere-and so have you. White guys like Planet Grok, take extreme issue with me, yet rollout the red carpet for other blogging voices like Jamila. And while he and others will protest that my premise is ridiculous, when you really sitdown and think about it from the perspective of this discussion, it really isn’t as far fetched as it may sound. Simply put, if Women are as a rule more socially attuned and by extension more consensus oriented, Men are inherently more competitive. Which is another reason why Black Men have a tougher time getting work and/or pay comparable to White Men out on the open job market-because they’re seen as competitors in a way that Black Women simply are not.

Again, this is why so much emphasis is laid on “assimilation” on the part of White Men when they opine on topics like these. Of course, African Americans are thoroughly “assimilated”-we speak English, are largely Christian, wear American clothes, have American names, and so on. But that’s not what White Men-and remember, they still control the patronage networks that makes things happen-are talking about when they say the word “assimilation”. What they mean is, when it comes to Black Men, “don’t be a competitor”. Which means, among other things, taking the bass outta your voice.

Look at Barack Obama for example-despite his getting virtually 100% of the Black Vote-even Black Conservatives like Colin Powell and Armstrong Williams openly supported him-still, he has to be very, very careful not to appear, sound or act “too Black”by which is meant for this discussion, “Black Male”. Notice his speech patterns, and voice inflection-only rarely, does he allow it to go into “Black Male Mode”, if you will. His entire candidacy and to date, Presidency, has been built on this very notion, of not appearing, sounding or acting too “Black Male”, because Whites-particularly White Males-are extremely sensitive to such things, and could threaten to derail his political objectives. This explains why, despite the overwhelming support Obama received from African Americans enmasse, and the devastating Black Male un and underemployment rates before and during the Great Mancession, he cannot and will not directly address this issue because it will upset White Males too much. Think about this for a moment. It is some powerful stuff.

Of course, in the White Collar professions, such nakedly raw truths cannot be directly implemented or addressed, for a major feature of being solidly Middle Class and above is to be oblique, implied, inferred. Things are more difficult to suss out, which is precisely the point.

In the Blue Collar world-and this includes the police and fire departments, though-such themes and issues are vivid in their starkness. White Men in such backgrounds historically and to a large extent today have no compunctions about making it clear and known that they regard such patronage networks for them and theirs-Black Men gotta get in where they fit in, if they fit in at all. This explains why, in Philly for example, the major Trade Unions remain largely White, even when the city is numerically majority Black and is currently under its third Black Mayor, the second such mayor in a row.

A frequent commenter to this forum, Reader, asked me a very good question: I had taught at university and had

been employed in a number of other jobs. How did my personal experience jibe with what I was saying yesterday and today?

Simple: all of those jobs I got for one reason and one reason alone:

Because someone who was in a position to make things happen, happened to be Black-and more importantly for this discussion, Male. And that, as much as I may feel ambivalent about the matter, is the pink elephant in the middle of the room when writ large over Black America.

One final point before I turn it loose.

There has been much made of the Rise of the Black Middle Class, exemplified in the media by the 1980s hit tv sitcom The Cosby Show. Today, there are actually more Black middle classes than there are working and underclasses, in fact. Yet, Black Male employment rates lag behind. We now know why this is true in broader, “Whiter” America. But why is this true, despite the explosion of the Black middle class?

The reason is because of the way said class is structured. In the main, the Black middle class rests on careers and positions in the public sector or quasi-public sector jobs. Moreover, most of those in the Black middle class, are middle management, or “VPs in Name Only”, because they’re really not in a position to hire and fire, to sign/write checks and so on. The proof of this is easily seen again, in comparing them to their White counterparts, not only in the professions but also in the Trades:

We all know and know well, White Men who weren’t particularly bright, motivated or even qualified, who nevertheless got jobs, often very nice ones, because they knew someone who could put them on.

Period.

The dirty little secret here, is that the Black middle class are fundamentally unable to help Black Men enmasse, because one, of the very nature of their jobs (public sector) and two, because they aren’t the HNICs.

Of course, we won’t ever hear Marc Morial say that.

The Riddle of the Un and/or Underemployed Black Male-a riddle that has been around since Reconstruction, mind you-is now answered. It reveals just how the Realworld, really works. The reason why Black Men can’t get on isn’t due as much to racism, though a big part of the issues are indeed racial. And to be sure, Jim Crow and the like has prevented Black Men from developing the patronage networks that Jewish, Italian, Irish-even Hispanic and Asian Men-have developed over the past century. But when you really get down to it, the biggest reason why Black Men have lagged behind the employment curve of everyone else, is because it ain’t about what you know, but who.

On that note, Black Men, taken as group, are an island unto themselves.

Now adjourn your non-thinking outside the box asses…

The Obsidian

Open Mic Friday: "Assimilate This!" Edition

Obsidian · 26 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This past week we have been examining a number of things: Dangerous Assumptions; the question of whether "education" really does pay off for Black Men enmasse; and why Black Men have historically, taken as a group, lagged behind other groups insofar as employment and earned incomes go, for decades. The ensuing discussions surrounding these questions, have been for my part, quite illuminating, and I trust they were for you as well.

Although many points of interest were raised over the course of these discussions, one point seemed dominant over all the others-the notion that a major reason for Black Male un and/or underemployment was due directly to their failure and/or refusal, to "assimilate".

This is a very interesting point to me, because as I've noted in several posts this week, African Americans are in virtually every way "assimilated"-for the most part we are Christians, (and even Muslim groups like the NOI are "assimilated in terms of dress even demeanor, if by that is meant, being polite and the like are "White" traits), ate largely American cuisine, speak English (no African American I am aware of is even aware of, much less can speak, a more native African language), wear American clothes, fry/dye our hair so as to appear more White, have American names, and so on. Yet, these simple facts don't seem to matter to those-in the main White Men-who makes this argument. It is for this reason then, that one must consider that these guys are meaning something else, when they use the word "assimilate".

Yesterday, I talked about how for Black Women, "education" has proven to be an unquestionable success-not only would they make more money than if they hadn't gone on to school, but the evidence shows that they can even make more money that their White counterparts. A big part of this reason, it seems, has to do with their innate ability to perceive, and then cater to, the social dynamics at work on the workplace. Talk to any Sista so situated, and she will be only too eager to acknowledge this, often without any hint of cognitive dissonance or discomfort in the least.

Black Men on the other hand, and here we can include White and Men of other races/groups, either aren't as attuned, or aren't as interested, in such dynamics, and here in lies the point of contention. As we've noted before, though the times are a changing, White Men still matter-they still control enough of the patronage networks to literally reward or punish whoever approaches their gates. Black Women clearly aren't "punished" anywhere near the rate that Black Men are, and yesterday's post outlines why I think those reasons are.

So, in this thread, I have a question for all of you:

When it comes to BLACK MEN, exactly what do White Men mean, when they use the word "assimilate"?

Here's what I think they mean. Ready?

I think when White Men use the word "assimilate" wrt Black Men, what they really mean is that Black Men either aren't *deferential* to White Men, or, aren't deferential enough. Remember, Black Men have, are and will likely continue to be viewed in America, as the most "manly" of Men. And remember, if Women are hardwired to be intuitively aware of social dynamics, to seek consensus and to defer to the powers that be, Men are hardwired to see other Males-particularly those who are visibly different from them-as COMPETITORS. And when Women are involved, this dynamic only increases. Studies have shown this.

So, one major reason why Asian, East Indian, Hispanic, even Arab Men, don't have such a hard go of it, is because *they aren't viewed as the manly "threat" that African American Men are. Think about it.

Yea, well how do you explain the fact that Caribbean and continental African Blacks seem to get on with these same White Men, Obsidian? Shouldn't the "manly threat" thing be in evidence there, too?

My response to that would be, "that's a very good question". Especially since very few continental Africans have

any White blood in them, as the vast majority of African Americans, do, if anything one would expect more of a “manly threat” coming from them than American born Blacks. I don’t have an ironclad answer for this, but I can speculate:

1. All of these Blacks are coming from lands where Colonialism was rampant (here we can include both the Asians and East Indians, too), and perhaps there is something inherent in said process that creates a “less threatening” Black than what obtained here in the States.

2. A big part of American culture, is the idea that there is no Landed Gentry-all Men are created equal. Therefore, Black Men, especially after the end of the Civil War, Reconstruction and the death of Jim Crow, felt they no longer needed to “defer” to their White countrymen. In the aforementioned societies, rigid class hierarchies existed and to some extent, largely remain. This notion is somewhat alien to American life and thought.

I have some other ideas, but those two above should be enough to get the convo started.

Finally, with the idea of “lack of assimilation” in mind, I offer the following link:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tulsa_race_riot

This was the worst race riot ever in American history. Please explain to me how if Black Men then would have just “assimilated” a bit more, such a situation could have never happened.

Holla back

The Obsidian

The Riddle Of The Un/Underemployed Black Male: Conclusions(?)

Obsidian · 28 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

This past week we've been examining, among a great many things, the curious riddle of the un and/or underemployed Black Male. Much has been and will continue to be said about this topic, and I for one learned a tremendous great deal about a whole host of things.

But before I get to that, let's review:

1. Black Male un and underemployment has persisted throughout post-Reconstruction American history, in relation to White Men and later, in relation to other groups, including Black Women.

2. The oft-cited reasons for this fact-like still persistent racism, or counterproductive actions on the part of Black Men themselves-are at best, tangential to the matter once seen within a larger historical framework.

3. That "getting an education"-itself a somewhat nebulous and/or misleading phrase (what is actually meant is vocational job training, but those who aspire to the White Collar world don't like to use such a term associated with Blue Collar Proles), has not been shown to be the path to success *for Black Men in aggregate* that is widely believed or assumed. Based on Andrew Hacker's work Two Nations, what we can say w/o any fear of rebuttal is that a Brotha having degree pretty much ensures that he would make more money, on balance, than a Brotha without one. Beyond that though, the best we can say in response to the idea that "education is the key to success" is…"maybe".

4. Perhaps the single biggest "bombshell" though, at least from where I sit, is the simple fact that one, people like to associate with those who most remind them of themselves; and two, that much of life ain't about what you know, so much as who you know. On these two scores then, the evidence historically would suggest, that when it comes to the open job market in aggregate, Black Men are on an island unto themselves-they "stand out" more than the other Males in American life, and, they have the least social capital insofar as patronage networks are concerned. This latter point will be discussed later.

5. Racism, isn't the answer, though to be sure it can still play a role. But as thinkers and pundits such as John McWhorter have noted-rightly, I might add-racism in the form of Jim Crow and the like, no longer impedes Black Americans. This is undeniably true, yet Black Men lag behind, even when controlling for things like criminal history and educational attainment. What then accounts for all this? The answer, I think, isn't "racism" as much as it is "racialism"-the idea that race plays a role but not in the "Jim Crow" sort of ways. Hence the idea, even demand, on the part of many of the White Male commenters, that Black Males don't "assimilate" enough, even in the face of the most cursory evidence that down through American history, Black Males certainly can, have and will in all likelihood continue to "assimilate"-after all, this is the only country they've ever known. At any rate, it is very difficult to hang this problem around the neck of "racism" when it is easily documented that Black Women do quite well for themselves on this front.

Having reviewed the major salient points that have emerged from last week's discussions, the following is what I have learned:

For one, people are NOT "rational actors" as one popular school of Economic and Political thought would have us all believe. If anything, human beings are decidedly *irrational* and will cling to their beliefs, assumptions and notions about things even in the face of incontrovertible evidence to the contrary. Nor is this something that is the preserve of the uneducated, either-highly educated folk can and will fall prey to the exact same notions, often justifying them as part and parcel of their station in society.

Second, people are very uncomfortable confronting the plain fact that "merit" is more an abstract ideal at best, than a bedrock given that many wish it to be. It is but one of many factors taken into account as to who gets hired or not, who gets promoted or not, and so on. Often "merit" has very little to do with who winds up in jobs-familial, or

fraternal, or communal, or yes, even ethnic/racial ties can and often do trump such “merit-based” considerations. For my part, it was fascinating to watch the reactions of some to my “patronage networks” theory-quite a few of the White Men in particular, were adamant in their defense and upholding of the idea of “merit”-even in the face of the clear fact that incompetent White Men abound throughout the workforce, they always have and always will. Of course, the Black respondents didn’t take what I said as surprising at all-if anything, they had a rather resigned tone in their “voices” about it all, as they had a rather matter of fact recognition of life in America on that front. Nor should this too, be surprising. After all, even in early 21st century America, White Men, taken as a group, are still largely the “winners” of the system. And winners rarely will acknowledge, or even recognize, such things.

Thirdly, that the power of Psychology, if ever there was a “test case” to be made for the discipline, was on full display here at The Obsidian Files this week. A tremendous amount of information-not scientifically rigorous and anecdotally observed, to be sure-was gleaned. The White Males in attendance asserted things about Black Men that were quite interesting, from the notion that all Black Men were gun toting ne’er do wells, to the idea that in order for a Black Man to “make it” in corporate America, he must strip away all vestiges of his “Blackness” save his skin (and we all know that this can be done as well-to wit, one Michael Joseph Jackson). What was striking about me throughout reading the responses and comments, was just how “irrational” the content was. For example, Nova explained and described the Black Men on his job who were successful, and how they either had more than “Black interests”, and/or had no such “interests” at all. Question: exactly WHAT are “Black interests”? And in any event, what do they have to do *with actually doing the job*? Why should it matter, either way? I ask this because by all accounts, it doesn’t. Not if one considers the quickening pace of outsourcing in the past decade or so. First seen among the Blue Collar manufacturing fields, it has now “bled over” into the White Collar professions as well-business and legal paperwork are routinely handled in places like Ireland (the country, not the hotly contested Northern part) and call centers, software engineering and the like abounds in India. And of course, let’s not even get started on parts of China and elsewhere throughout the Pacific rim. All of this points to the fact that “cultural differences”-to the extent there are actual differences-have little if anything to do with actually performing the job tasks required. Yet, when it comes to Black Men it seems, an “extra” job requirement is added.

There are many more things that I can list that I’ve observed, but that would take the rest of the day and already this post has gotten a bit long in the tooth. So I’ll just try to summarize along the following lines:

To say that Black Men *cannot* succeed, is to court folly. Of course, they can-or, perhaps more precisely to the point, it might be better to say that depending on what one considers success, and of one is considering more individual cases, they can. Surely, Barack Obama’s successful campaign on the way to the Presidency, along with other notable examples-Nova cited Dick Parsons-is “proof” that it can be done.

However, I think such sterling examples-exceptions, if we really want to be honest, need to be seen as something of a kind of “fine print”-not that it can’t happen, just that there needs to be some careful explaining to Black Men in general as to just what he can expect, his odds of reasonably reaching his goals, and so on. Yes, he can make it. But there are real costs involved-costs that will be heavier than those paid by others. Moreover, there is no guarantee that his bid will prove successful, despite his own efforts or the conditions on the ground at the time. I think a great deal of assumptions, implicit and otherwise, abound in our time, and none of them do Black Men as a group any good.

To be honest, other than what seems to me to be the obvious, which is that Brothas really do need to focus a lot more on “the hook up” more than we do, I really don’t have any quick and easy answers. All I can say on this note is that Black Men have to carefully assess what they want to do, and what their chances are of reaching their goals. Of course, doing this requires to pour a goodly bit of water on to the American Dream, something that, even for African Americans, is disconcerting.

Hmm.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Angry White Male Week: The Kickoff

Obsidian · 29 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

In light of last week's discussions, I thought it would be a good idea to consider the flipside of the coin – what some have called "The Angry White Male". There's a good bit to be said about this topic and not-surprisingly, quite a bit already has been registered on that note. So, I will refer and/or present articles, opinion pieces and blog posts that have this, in one way or another, as a central theme.

Today we kick it off with a very interesting piece from Time magazine online, dated Mar 10, 2010. I think the author raises some very interesting points for discussion. I hope you agree.

Holla back

The Obsidian
The White Anxiety Crisis
By Gregory Rodriguez Thursday, Mar. 11, 2010

Two competing narratives dominate our debate about the ongoing ethnic and demographic transformation of America. The first holds that non-European immigrants — O.K., let's be honest, Mexicans — will rip apart the nation's social fabric. The second has it that the diversity of younger generations of Americans will inevitably lead to a more integrated, postracial era.

But both of these narratives are off the mark. With some minor differences, today's immigrants are assimilating into U.S. society in ways not terribly unlike those of millions before them. At the same time, it's likely that decades from now, Americans will still invest a lot of meaning in group distinctions.

The most profound changes in American race relations, however, will revolve around the other side of the equation: native-born white Americans. As much as Americans pride themselves on the notion that their national identity is premised on a set of ideals rather than a single race, ethnicity or religion, we all know that for most of our history, white supremacy was the law of the land. In every naturalization act from 1790 to 1952, Congress included language stating that the aspiring citizen should be a "white person." And not surprisingly, despite the extraordinary progress of the past 50 years, the sense of white proprietorship — "this is our country and our culture" — still has not been completely eradicated. Even though we now have an African-American President, we still tend to treat minorities as parts and whites as representatives of the whole. This, along with the luxury of rarely feeling obliged to think self-consciously about one's racial background, has been one of the perks of belonging to the demographic majority.

But according to the Census Bureau, by 2050 whites will be a minority group in the U.S. How the current majority reacts to its incipient minority status is the most crucial sociodemographic issue facing the country in the decade to come.

The most obvious impact will be political. If California's demographic transformation is any indication — Anglos dropped below 50% of the population there in 2000 — whites elsewhere may increasingly develop a stronger consciousness of their political interests as a group. In 1996, California's white voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition 209, a ballot initiative that sought to eliminate state-sponsored affirmative action, because many of those voters felt that the playing field had begun to tilt against them. That decade, California also passed two other ethnically charged ballot measures, against illegal immigration and bilingual education. It's difficult not to conclude that these initiatives were part of a white backlash against the state's ethnic transformation. However, the very demographic trend that inspired those ballot initiatives has ensured that there haven't been any racially charged propositions since. With so-called minorities outnumbering whites, mainstream politicians have been reluctant to endorse any initiative that would invite a backlash from nonwhites.

But California's ethno-political détente may not be in the cards for other regions of the country. Though whites will

become a minority in the national population, the vast majority of individual states will probably remain majority white. (This is because the most profound demographic change is happening in a handful of the most heavily populated states.) A strong white-minority political consciousness is most likely to arise in regions that are nowhere near actually becoming majority-minority. It is in these regions, where white-minority status is more phantom than reality, that politicians and demagogues can best employ the rhetoric of white ethno-nationalism.

This won't take the form of a chest-thumping brand of white supremacy. Instead, we are likely to see the rise of a more defensive, aggrieved sense of white victimhood that strains the social contract and undermines collectively shared notions of the common good.

Way back in 1991, Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. wrote the best-selling book The Disuniting of America, in which he argued that identity-based multiculturalism threatened the integrity of the nation. "The cult of ethnicity," he wrote, culminated in an "attack" on a shared American identity. He decried the "separatist impulses" of nonwhites, "or at least their self-appointed spokesmen." Nearly two decades later, one can hear evidence of white grievance in many corners of the country. And it's not coming just from fringe bloggers. In the spring of 2008, candidate Hillary Clinton appealed to "hardworking white Americans" to help her campaign against an ascendant Barack Obama. Last March, conservative commentator Glenn Beck suggested that the white man responsible for the worst workplace massacre in Alabama history was "pushed to the wall" because he felt "silenced" and "disenfranchised" by "political correctness."

The past decade has also seen a rise in the number of accusations of reverse discrimination and the emergence of high-profile court cases — like the one filed by firefighters in New Haven, Conn. — in which white men claim they were denied promotions because of their race.

Over the next decade, we're likely to see more antidiscrimination suits filed and growing anger over reverse discrimination. Not only will traditional affirmative action run into greater resistance, but there will be demands for whites to be included in affirmative action and even in government set-aside programs. In the face of growing demographic change, new groups will be dedicated to defending the interests and rights of European Americans. Candidates of both major parties will increasingly appeal to this sense of white grievance.

This means race will continue to be a defining feature of our politics, but the dynamic will be the precise opposite of what it was a generation ago, when angry nonwhite activists were a centrifugal force in America. Instead, with the election of Obama, blacks are polling as more optimistic than they were before. Having pretty much abandoned their counter-cultural stance, Latino activists are not fighting against U.S. power but are instead demanding that immigrants be allowed to become part of it. Meanwhile, even though they are still the majority and collectively maintain more access to wealth and political influence than other groups, whites are acting more and more like an aggrieved minority. Schlesinger would be turning in his grave.

Rodriguez is the author of Mongrels, Bastards, Orphans and Vagabonds: Mexican Immigration and the Future of Race in America

http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1971133_1971110_1971119-1,00.html

Angry White Male Week: “White Pride Is Uncool” & Affirmative Action

Obsidian · 31 March 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Continuing on with our survey of the “Angry White Male”, I thought offer this article by Steve Sailer. I takes up the question of “White Pride” within the larger context of Affirmative Action. As always, Sailer, a provocative and prolific writer and blogger, raises some powerful points for all sides to consider. Please share with me this interesting piece, and feel free to register your comments.

Holla back

White Pride Is Uncool

by Steve Sailer on May 20, 2009

Following up on Jared Taylor’s article , the Ricci reverse discrimination lawsuit now before the Supreme Court is not one of those “hard cases” about which law students are warned. There is nothing anomalous about the discrimination against the New Haven firemen who had their top scores in the 2003 civil service exam thrown out by the city because no blacks scored high enough to get promotions. Employment decisions being rigged to prevent “disparate impact” on “protected minorities” is just business as usual in America since the 1970s.

Instead, what’s unusual is that we’re even hearing about the victimization of these unprotected majorities.

I suspect that’s largely because Frank Ricci and his friends are firemen. Fire fighters show up more than any other profession in prominent reverse discrimination suits, perhaps because they enjoy civil service protection, unions, and, most of all, public admiration.

In a culture that increasingly holds blue-collar workers in contempt, firemen are the exception to the rule. They risk their lives for you, and they don’t give you speeding tickets. As the cops in Joseph Wambaugh’s LAPD novels are always telling each other: If you really wanted people to like you, you should have been a fireman.

It’s worth exploring some of the more subtle game theory reasons why there is so little public outcry against discrimination against white males other than fire fighters. Why is Ricci close to being the exception that proves the rule?

First, affirmative action targets marginal white males.

For example, although white guys who are already firemen have a fighting chance of staving off unfair treatment in promotions, white guys who just want to become firemen are discriminated against in hiring with impunity. For example, a couple of years ago, the Bush Administration sued the New York fire department, which lost 343 men on 9/11, for discrimination because its entrance exam had a one standard deviation gap in its passing rate between whites and blacks, the same cognitive racial gap seen more or les everywhere.

The message the Bush Administration’s lawsuit was implicitly sending the FDNY was: “Hire more minorities and fewer whites. We don’t care how you do it. Just do it.”
Cheating an already employed white fireman out of a promotion is dicey because he doesn’t go away. He’s still a fireman. So he hangs around, he complains, he organizes other white firemen to complain to their aldermen about why the politicians aren’t releasing the results, maybe he talks his sister-in-law’s cousin who is a file clerk in Personnel into Xeroxing the secret results of the test and leak it to him. And then he hires a lawyer.

In contrast, cheating some random white guy off the street out of his lifelong dream of being a fireman is a piece of cake: “Don’t call us, we’ll call you.” What can this marginal man do about his suspicions? Not much. He’s not connected.

Moreover, announcing that you are a victim of affirmative action is to admit you are marginal, that you would have

only barely made the cut anyway. How uncool is that?

Similarly, affirmative action, by definition, doesn't impact those who made the cut. Consider Harvard students. While some freshmen may enter Harvard sore that affirmative action might have cost high school friends admission to Harvard, soon they have lots of swell new friends, who, unsurprisingly, are all Harvard students , unlike those losers they used to hang around with in high school who didn't have what it takes to get into Harvard.

Hence, you don't see a lot of solidarity in opposing affirmative action.

Moreover, as you go up the pyramid of power, quotas becomes less prevalent, as the elite decide to finally draw the line so that affirmative action least inconveniences them.
Reflect upon the career of the First Lady. Michelle Obama attended Whitney Young H.S. , the most selective Chicago public high school, where blacks enjoyed a quota of 40 percent of admissions. Then she was off to Princeton and Harvard Law School. At each institution, she felt that white people were making fun of her because her test scores weren't all that great . Still, like a lot of mediocre black law students, she wound up with a high-paying job at a prestigious law firm.

The New York Times reported on UCLA law professor Richard Sander's study of affirmative action in legal hiring:

But most black associates were hired due to racial preferences. According to the New York Times , "Black students, who make up 1 to 2 percent of students with high grades (meaning a grade point average in the top half of the class) make up 8 percent of corporate law firm hires, Professor Sander found. 'Blacks are far more likely to be working at large firms than are other new lawyers with similar credentials,' he said."

Then, however, colorblind reality intruded. Mrs. Obama apparently didn't pass the rather easy Illinois bar exam on her first opportunity. Soon, she gave up her law license and took a less cognitively taxing job working for Mayor Daley as a political fixer.

Think about it from Mrs. Obama's point of view. She'd been scraping by on affirmative action for years, but quotas mostly evaporate when it comes to making partner. The law firm's partners can put up with employing subpar blacks as associates for a few years to stay out of trouble with the government, but they take the partnership hurdle seriously. The New York Times said: "But black lawyers, the study found, are about one-fourth as likely to make partner as white lawyers from the same entering class of associates."

So, why kill herself in the likely hopeless task of making partner when she can go into Chicago politics, where she'll be smarter than the average ward heeler? (As an example of the kind of mental firepower it takes to succeed in Cook County politics, former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich told a high school student named Mihan Lee, "I had an 18 on my ACT score. I'm told that's kind of in the middle, maybe just below. [It's around the 33rd percentile .] If I can be governor of Illinois, Mihan, you can be president of the United States.")

So, the elites are less plagued by inept colleagues promoted due to racial preferences than their underlings are. Why, then, get annoyed by something that won't much bother you personally?
Finally, the notion of white solidarity or white pride runs into the fundamental problem that whites mostly compete with each other for the best jobs. Competing with minorities is seen as evidence that you aren't very far up the ladder.

Consider the three Cs: Creativity, Competence, and Charisma.

On the whole, whites tend to perform fairly well in terms of creativity, competence, and charisma, and thus tend to end up in the coolest jobs. In contrast, blacks are strongest at charisma and weakest at competence, while East Asians are the opposite. Mexican-Americans tend to be low in charisma and creativity (the proportion of famous Americans who are of Mexican descent is minimal), while perhaps moderate in competence.

Screenwriting is an example of a job that demands some high quantities of each category. Scripting movies is not the highest paid, most influential, most fun, or most desirable job in the country, but it comes close enough on all those dimensions to attract a huge number of would-be entrants.

Who wind up the screenwriters of Hollywood films? Although minorities buy a large fraction of movie tickets each weekend, 94 percent of employed screenwriters in 2004 were white.

Screenwriting is one of those jobs where, for a variety of reasons, affirmative action doesn't much apply. (In a more rational world, the reverse would be true: we'd have racial quotas for screenwriters but not for fire captains. After all, whom do you rely upon to save your loved ones from flaming deaths? In a more sensible America, Frank Ricci would have his promotion but Akiva Goldsman would have gotten bumped off " Angels & Demons for a handicapped Hispanic lesbian.)

Likewise, over 90 percent of the staff at the major New York magazines are white. (Heck, only two of the nine staffers have Spanish surnames at the Pew Hispanic Center .)

So, you don't see a lot of Hollywood movies or glossy magazine articles about whites victimized by racial preferences. This just isn't a problem they have to deal with.

Thus, promoting white solidarity sounds almost as implausible to white people trying to claw their way to the top as promoting Vertebrate Pride would seem: Sure, us vertebrates are definitely the coolest subphylum, but it's kind of hard to get worked up over how all us vertebrates should stick together when the competition is just a bunch of invertebrates. The Obsidian

Tara Lynn-Hot Or Not, Hit Or No-Hit?

Obsidian · 1 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Just wanna pause from our usual deep thinking and conversation to simply post this link:

http://jezebel.com/5505614/french-elles-first-curvy-issue-introduces-us-to-tara-lynn-capes/gallery/

And ask the fellas in the round:

Hot, or not, hit or no-hit?

Needless to say, O like.

What say you?

Holla back

The Obsidian

A Test Of Your Game: The Curious Case Of Mr. Althone McGinnis

Obsidian · 5 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I want to thank all of my regulars for contributing fine posts to my last “test of your game” post, and which has now become an ongoing series, meant to assist Men in meeting their sexual and relationship goals, by giving fairminded yet earnest critiques of their Game and where they can improve. Hopefully, as this series grows and develops, we’ll hear back from some of these Men who have taken what we have shared here to heart and give us a Good Report!

The following comes from my good friend and colleague, Ms. Susan Walsh’s website, Hooking Up Smart. Though the forum was originally designed and intended to assist college aged Women navigate the current “hookup culture” successfully, Ms. Walsh has found that, since her forays into the Gamespehere over the past year that quite a few young Men are interested in what she has to say. Hence the subject of today’s post – a young Man named Althone McGinnis. What follows below is a lengthy, albeit heartfelt letter from this young Man, filled with quite a bit of pain and disillusionment with regard to his situation. I have already offered some advice in the form of previous posts I’ve written, but his is I think, a special case that calls for my regulars to get involved as well. You can read his letter and the context in which it was written at Ms. Walsh’s site here:
http://www.hookingupsmart.com/2010/04/02/hookinguprealities/the-combustible-mixture-of-sex-and-alcohol/

And now, without further adieu, Mr. McGinnis’ letter; commentary and helpful critique are most welcome.

Holla back

The Obsidian

“I’ve been lurking around here long enough. Time for a post. A very long post, but a post nonetheless. I have no homework and a whole lot of time anyhow. I think this post will be worth reading, but if you’re browsing and you have even mild ADD(or just a touch of impatience), skip this. I just wanna get my thoughts out there, and I want to explain them with as much clarity as possible.

Quick background: I’m 18, go to a small ivy(the smallest one…dead giveaway there I guess), and am very much a beta male. Prior to my arriving on campus, I had never danced with or kissed(much less screwed) a girl. Why? High school was a long sob story for me(too long for this blog) but the bottomline is that the issues I dealt with there pretty much retarded my social development. i was very withdrawn by necessity. My life was football and studying-nothing social came into the picture and I never attended a co-ed party. And hey, I got recruited to play ball at this Ivy, so I guess it sort of worked itself out, right?

I came to college determined to turn my social life around. I was sexually unsuccessful in high school, and I didn’t want college(its supposed to be the best time of our lives, right?) to be that way. So, when I came here I started drinking. I’d never drank before in my life, but I did so now with a fury. And you know what? I kinda liked it. Suddenly, I could actually approach girls and(GASP!) say things! It was a big step up for me this past fall, but I’ll admit my success rate still wasn’t very high(0%).

Like I said, I’m a natural beta. I grew up in a conservative upper-class jamaican culture. It was one where EVERYONE went to a great school(Oxford, Harvard, Cornell-you name it, I probably have a relative who went there and a couple more who work there), everyone became an educational administrator, doctor or lawyer, religion was highly influential(Jamaican roads are empty on Sundays) and relationships were highly traditional. My grandparents were married for 50 years until death literally did them part. I spent most of my early life living with them. They had what I wanted. when I was 8, on my way to Montego bay to fly back to the US and go to school, I told my Aunt flat out: I wanted to meet a great girl and marry when I was 22 and have the same relationship my grandparents did, with lots of kids. They thought it was cute, but this mentality screwed me for the environment I was about to fly into.

I do not understand this modern hook-up society. I have more in common with 50 year old men than my own

peers(not a bad thing entirely-this helps in interviews but screws me socially). There have been times when I've heard my peers speak and felt like a total alien among them, ignorant of many pop culture references. I have always tried to take girls on dates traditionally. I was the quintessential stereotype of "the nice guy"-reliable and gentlemanly, but boring and awkward. One girl who I made a particularly strong effort to get close to for my first 2 months here at college got so mad at how "clingy" and "eager to please" I was that she flat out told me on the phone one day that "There are thousands of other guys on campus I'd rather get to know" as opposed to dealing with me and that "I don't want you in my life anymore".
That was it. I didn't know why she got so angry, though a PUA theory espused by Roissy (Women Hate Betas) may explain it. I'll get to that later.

I was pretty depressed for a while(say a month or so). I started drinking a little more. That girl texted me occasionally out of the blue even after that, and I don't know why. When she told me what she did that one night I made zero effort to contact her again and basically never spoke to her again. Later, I found out that she had told her friends that I had stalked her before and after our final conversation(WTF?). That bugged me, but I'll get to that later.

I began to read game after this. I had been reading Roosh's blog and forum since the previous summer(and yes, I did it for the travel advice. I have very seriously considered expatriation as a partial solution to my issues-I think its an idea that could help a lot of guys like me), and I discovered Roissy and a host of others that winter. I went through a pretty angry stage. I had always had periods of frustration in high school, but it hit a new level here. I hated every thing having to do with my female peers. I hated that I couldn't seem to impress them no matter what I did. I hated the fact that girls who, to be very blunt, were not all that attractive(that girl who told me to go away that fall was a 5 on a good day) found it necessary to be spectacularly rude to me for just trying to be decent. I'm not a bad looking guy. I got an 8.9 on HotOrNot (ok, dubious source, but I've been objectively called a 7 or 7.5 in person). I was a runningback on a D-1 team. I was generally thought of well by my peers. Why was this so hard? All I wanted was a decent girl. Was I asking too much?

After the angry stage came the renewal stage. I understood game now. I now knew that bitterness wouldn't get me anywhere and that I needed to hide my frustration if I ever wanted to succeed. And I went out with a renewed vigor. And I lucked out (this coming part is relevant to the article).

I met a couple of girls at the football team's frat house one Friday. They were athletes to, so our paths crossed frequently enough. Anyway, we all get drunk and run off to another frat. Dancing and grinding ensues. I start to get particularly close to one. We make out(first kiss I've ever had). Things are going good. I'm on top of the world in the basement of a smelly fraternity, the legendary "Animal House" itself. Ironic.

She invites me upstairs, and here is where it gets problematic. I start to say stupid things(way too forward and aggressive-alcohol makes me excessively confident, I find) and even forget her name. Nevertheless, she proceeds to invite me to an empty room…alone. Somehow I manage to get to second base before she pulls back(PUA's like to call this "Last Minute Resistance"). She's standing there shirtless asking me why I think that she "just has sex with random people"? I'm too drunk to think intelligently-I just assumed she'd invited me to the room for escalation. She goes down stairs again, mills around for a while, and then her friend takes her away as she starts to show frustration. When I exited the frat house and tried to follow up with her and apologize for whatever I did wrong, they started to run. Quickly.

Over the next two to three weeks I find it difficult to get this girl out of my mind. I liked her. I did go out on other weekends, drink, and attempt to get with other girls("oneitis" is bad, right?) but I found my success very limited. The rejections piled up.

In my more sober moments, I attempted to contact the girl I'd hooked up with. My football coach had organized a team social activity and we were supposed to bring dates. I asked her, and she lied and said she was going with another teammate(he later told me that at that point he'd not asked or been asked by anyone). I asked her to the

Freshman dance, and she again said she had a date(which was true, actually). I tried on two separate occasions to dance with her when I saw her in a frat on other weekends.

On one of these occasions, she continued to pull away from me and into the arms of one of her platonic guy friends. It got to a point at which the guy(credit to him-he was half my size and I was very intoxicated and prone to do something really stupid) told me matter-of-factly “she doesn’t want to dance with you, dude” all while she rested in his arms looking back at me like i was some sort of horrific oppressor, a strange, scray outsider. That’s an image I’ll never forget right there. I’d always felt a bit like I was “on the outside” when it came to interacting with my peers, like they all just understood things about modern social society that I never would. Now the feeling had been embodied.

It wouldn’t be until 3-4 weeks after the hookup that I would find out what this girl’s problem was. A teammate of mine who was close to her friends said that she had told them after the incident that I had attempted to RAPE her. She said I locked the door and tossed her shirt away somewhere so she wouldn’t be able to get it.

Two problems-there was no handle on the door(found that out as I tried to open the door and felt nothing as we entered) and her shirt was right behind her(she put it back on very quickly when the LMR set in). But, no matter. The damage was done. I got worried for a bit until my friend assured me that her own friends had calmed her down and convinced her not to pursue the issue.

Keep in mind that I’m reading blogs HEAVILY this whole time. I went from Assanova to Roissy to Roosh to Feministing to Pandagon to Alpha-status to Ferdinand bardamu to here-I had been working to acquire as much knowledge as possible on the issues I was dealing with and looked at all sides. And I’d come across plenty of material on consent and alcohol. My friends told me it wasn’t a big deal, but I somehow didn’t feel that way. All that girl had to do was go to a school security officer and my reputation(and future) would be very much in jeopardy. I already had one girl calling me a stalker-now a rapist?

And then I figured it out. What i was dealing with was just the nature of the hook up culture. As Mystery and others have said, the basic formula of game is clear: Attraction + Comfort = Sex. I had built attraction(she had admitted that I was “hot”) but in my intoxication I failed to build comfort. Her discomfort got to a point at which she started to feel shamed for hooking up with me, and it is likely that she began looking for any potential way to exhume herself socially from the shame of it all.
Claiming rape made sense. It justified her discomfort completely and there was little risk to her in making the claim.

Had I found this out right after the failed hookup, I would have avoided her like the plague. As it is, I make no effort to go anywhere near her. I don’t need that insanity around me.
Of course, that begs the question: Why bother with this culture at all?

I’m a beta male. Its just how I was raised, there isn’t much I can do about it. I made an earnest attempt using alcohol to transition to a more “alpha” status, but the fact is that I’m not very good at this.
Women in this culture seem to use this against you. This is the basis of my theory Think about it: which group of men is more likely to be exposed to a false rape charge?
It couldn’t be the higher status alpha males, the elite 20 percenters. Sure, a scorned member of his harem may get the idea at some point to try and get back at him with a false charge. But most of the time, girls are working to be a part of his circle. They spend months, maybe years just trying to rope these guys in, and give themselves up freely in that process. The time they spend trying to get back at him is minuscule in comparison. These guys know just what to say and just how to turn these girls on so the girls are almost never uncomfortable with them, hence their continued striving to tame them.

But what about the other guys? We’re the problematic group. Many of us are reading game literature en-masse. Many of us are learning to some small extent what it takes to turn a girl on. A few of us have managed to trick girls who, after hanging out with us more extensively following(or even during) the hookup, realized what we really

were. We weren't what they really wanted. Deep down, we're guys with relatively low degrees of experience and we don't understand how to turn them on. We only know how to APPEAR to(with a little liquid courage). We, not the 20%, are the ones that girls will laugh at, tease, ignore and at times insult/mock behind our back. Roissy and others have postulated that women truly hate beta males. While he may or may not be 100% accurate, I don't doubt that there is a lot of truth to these words. Romantically, it appears that they find us(and our mannerisms) very, very distasteful in the aggregate.

They realize that they were nearly duped by this "beta", and the shame promptly sets in. They can't be seen to have accepted such an unsuitable male. They HATE that they let such a guy take advantage of them.
So they make one of two claims. Either "they were way too drunk" or "he forced himself on me".

The inexperienced beta male, in his attempts to reform himself, is far more likely to be exposed to this type of accusation because of who he is. He can't build comfort, and uncomfortable girls will work quickly to seek out a reasoning for their mistake. "Attempted rape" is a pretty convenient one in today's society, because not a whole lot of distinction is made between a guy whose intent is truly malicious(guys with date rape drugs and the like) and guys who just don't know what they're doing. That, and its tougher for a guy to defend himself against such a charge-the assumption is made that she is telling the truth.
Are there plenty of girls(like the one I met) who are crazy enough to put such a charge on a guy with no substantiation? I think so. I'm at arguably the best school in the country with some of the world's smartest kids and I still run into it. What are the chances it happens at one of the other thousands of colleges/universities daily?
This all happened in winter, and Spring term has begun. I've been thinking-why even bother going at it again? Why take the chance approaching more girls? If you're a guy who really and truly is behind in his game like I am(guys with my level of ineptitude are probably just a portion of the bottom 80% of guys, but a sizeable one nonetheless), is it really all that safe for you to try and change that in this culture? Even a guy with more aptitude than me9maybe he had a girlfriend in highschool or something) is at serious risk here if his game isn't tight enough.
If you make a mistake, it could all end for you. Your life is in the hands of these girls, and with them there isn't all that much room for error. Why take the chance? Why get rejected 99 times just for the one girl who might very well screw you over anyway?

Its a Saturday night here and I've already decided to stay in. I'm too young to expatriate(can't just go somewhere where my prospects will improve), I don't have a car on campus(limits mobility) and I don't have a lot of money(I can't even buy company the way lonely older men do). Maybe going ghost is the best option for guys like me after all?"

Are Feminists Ugly?

Obsidian · 6 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

That's a common-albeit not often openly asked question that goes on in many circles. And by "Feminist" let's try to specify-we're talking the loudest, most strident voices out there in the public square. The ones who rail against "Patriarchy", who have varying views of "sex positivity" and of course, their all-time favorite topic, rape.

In our time today, I think it fair to say that online venues such as Feministing, Jezebel, Feministe and the like, are the public face(s) of Feminism-and let's face it, looks matter. They. Just. Do. And, from what I've personally seen of the faces behind the voices found at the aforementioned venues, well, I'll just leave it at that.

Anyway, here's what Ms. Walsh of Hooking Up Smart had to say about the matter, taken from the conversation involving Mr. McGinnis:

"Interesting take on feminism there. You may be right. I tend to think of feminists as women who learned at puberty that they did not appeal to men, which is where the anger comes from. I'll agree that if the domineering males had fluttered around them, most of them would have been attracted. Obviously, all kinds of women relate to feminism – but I have noticed that a lot of the sex-positive feminists, especially those in the LGBT crowd, are not what I would call sexually appealing to men."

Some have argued that Feminism is one big sh*t test, a cover for deep insecurities that allows considerably less than comely Women to have their time in the sun. We do know from simple observation that "body image" and the like effects Women much more than it does Men.

So, what do you think? Are Feminists on average, just downright Plaine Janer, at best, than other Women-or worse?

Comments?

Holla back

The Obsidian

The Miracle Of St. Anna – The Other "Saving Private Ryan"

Obsidian · 8 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Although I've always loved movies I admit I don't watch as many as I should. I had heard of the Spike Lee joint "The Miracle of St. Anna" when it first came out, but I was too busy being a workhorse at the time to catch it during its run in theaters. Big mistake.

Last night, and just again a few minutes ago, I had the chance to watch what may be Lee's best film in recent years, perhaps ever. And I mean that. His story about war, life, death & faith, to say nothing of race, set against the backdrop of the Italian campaign during WW2, is a must see for anyone who wants a full understanding of those times and the "other side" of the Greatest Generation.

Lee's film, of course, harkens back to Steve Spielberg's epic "Saving Private Ryan", which bosted an all-star cast and was hailed as a cinematic masterpiece for its accurate, grisly depiction of war on the shores of Normandy. And no doubt, it was and is, a great film. Nevertheless, Lee's "St. Anna" goes where Speilberg's magnum opus doesn't-it explores the very real racial politics of the US war effort, the emotions all of this generates in its Black soldiers, and how this plays itself out the military campaign against the Nazis.
"St. Anna" focuses on a Band of Brothas from the US Army's 92nd Division-the Buffalo Soldiers-and their ill-fated attempt to take a town in Tuscany, Italy. Like many African Americans my age, it was a deeply moving experience, as we too had relatives who fought in the "Good War", and what Lee shows on screen are things we can relate to; I know I could, having been told about many of the very sam things myself by my relatives.

For example, there's a scene in a film when, before the fighting starts (a scene ever bit as evocative as "Ryan"'s famed Normandy battle sequence), the Germans attempt to dissuade the Buffalo Soldiers from fighting. They make the point that it is foolish to fight for a country that doesn't even recognize you basic human rights-something I know well.

Because my own dad-himself a vet of the Korean War-told me on several occasions, how the Koreans would drop leaflets saying the exact same thing. And as "St. Anna" shows, where Black soldiers had to with enemies within and without, or as my daddy would put it, how he "fought the Koreans in the daytime, and fought the crackers at night".

Another scene in the film is powerfully evocative for me as well. When still training to be deployed, this same Band of Brothas attempts to be served some ice cream at a local store. The shop owner, a stompdown racist, pulls a gun on them, while Nazi prisoners of war are sitting in a both, enjoying sundaes. Nor was this unusual-in addition to things like this, my grandfather, who was a DI in the USMC during WW2, often told me about how "Krauts" could ride in the front of the bus-and how he had to ride in the back-even in uniform.

There's more to the story, but I don't want to spoil it for those who have yet to see it, and believe me, you want to see it-not just because of the "flipside" of the usual WW2 narrative, but also because its a damned good story, too. Many have believed that Lee was snubbed for an Oscar for "Malcolm X" and "Do The Right Thing". I suspect his "Miracle of St. Anna" just might get buried in the Hollywood shuffle, too.

For the usual reasons.

The Obsidian

Open Mic Friday: The Black Feminist's Burden

Obsidian · 9 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Neophyte bloggerette Jamila makes some powerful points in response to the Feminist Commentariat's squawking over Bristol Palin's recently released PSA attempting to dissuade teenage girls from getting pregnant. The "Pause before you act" ad has been roundly savaged by the usual suspects, among them the popular website Feministing. Here's Jamila's take on the matter:

http://www.jamilaakil.com/2010/04/i-like-the-bristol-palin-pause-before-you-play-psa/

Although we've crossed swords a number of times in as many months, and I suspect we'll do so quite a bit more before it's all said and done, I have to say w/all due respect, that I think Jamila's right on this one. Regardless of what anyone may or may not think of *any* Palin, the simple fact of the matter is that if you're young and poor, getting pregnant and having a baby isn't the best thing for you, the odds are tremendously stacked against you. I just don't see how anyone with any modicum of reason can really argue with that.

But argue Jamila's "sisters" do, and quite vociferously at that-they rail against Bristol's *actually saying that she's privileged* (a big no-no if you're a true middle class type; Bristol's "making I plain" is a dead giveaway that she and her family are "nouveau riche") & that *she can afford to do things that poorer girls cant*. And of course, just being a Palin doesn't help things either in Feminista Country.

While we all know, rationally, that teenage moms pretty much run the gamut racially-but, our hindbrains being what they are, the very term has come to be associated with Black, just like the term poor has come to be associated with being Black. And seen in that context, it then raises some very interesting questions for proudly self-professed Feminists like Jamila, because, well, she's…Black.

The Black Feminist is an odd creature indeed-in many ways, they stand as the ultimate example of the triumphs of the Women's Movement-and in others, they are utterly disregarded, as the late Audre Lourde learned firsthand.

As we've learned recently here at The Obsidian Files, Black Women have gained quite well from access to education, employment and the benefits of Affirmative Action. Stats clearly shows that not only do they earn significantly more than their lesser educated sisters, but they can and often do surpass their White sisters as well.

Moreover, on the question of reproductive rights, Black Women avail themselves of abortions at a rate significantly higher than all other Women racially. And those Black Women who do choose to have children on their own, have been able to get ready access to assistance ranging from daycare to housing (as Jamila herself alludes to; see her blog) when they need it. Furthermore, they have benefitted tremendously from such laws as VAWA. On just about every objective measure, it is hard to say that Black Women, taken as a group, *haven't* benefitted in a big way, from Feminism.

Yet, the flipside is just as interesting. Quick, name a major Black leading voice among the Feminist Commentariat today. Okay, in the last decade. Alright, alright, in the last 20 years.

I'll wait.

Hmm.

While Feministing, Jezebel and Feministe certainly do pay a great deal of lip service to notions of racial sensitivity and the like, the simple fact that you probably wasn't able to think up any names that anyone else would instantly recognize in itself raises some powerful questions for Feminism itself, and for Black Feminists like Jamila more specifically. For the latter, they exist between a rock and a hard place, as I've noted above.

So, what are you thoughts and views of Black Feminism, if you will? Who are its biggest voices? What are their biggest issues and concerns? And why do they continue to have such a hard time getting facetime? Is Black Feminism, given all the undeniable gains Black Women have made, even relevant anymore?

Comments?

Holla back
The Obsidian

Why Liberals Are More Intelligent Than Conservatives

Obsidian · 12 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

In light of the recent Southern Republican Leadership Conference held down in New Orleans last week, and as well other events related to the American Right (which includes the Tea Party), I thought the following article by evolutionary psychologist Satoshi Kanazawaa would make for an interesting kickoff for this week here at The Obsidian Files. As I've noted recently to Ms. Jamila, and others, we human beings are alot more hidebound to hindbrain thinking than we're willing to admit. Evolutionary Psychology is one attempt to explain our behaviors in this way, and of course, is the undergirding philosophy of Game itself.

Checkout what Prof. Kanazawaa has to say, and feel free to chime in with your comments!

The Obsidian

Why Liberals Are More Intelligent Than Conservatives
Liberals think they're more intelligent than conservatives because they are
Published on March 21, 2010

Harriet Hayes: I don't even know what the sides are in the culture wars.

Matt Albie: Well, your side hates my side because you think we think you are stupid, and my side hates your side because we think you are stupid.

Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip, Nevada Day, Part I

It is difficult to define a whole school of political ideology precisely, but one may reasonably define liberalism (as opposed to conservatism) in the contemporary United States as the genuine concern for the welfare of genetically unrelated others and the willingness to contribute larger proportions of private resources for the welfare of such others. In the modern political and economic context, this willingness usually translates into paying higher proportions of individual incomes in taxes toward the government and its social welfare programs. Liberals usually support such social welfare programs and higher taxes to finance them, and conservatives usually oppose them.

Defined as such, liberalism is evolutionarily novel. Humans (like other species) are evolutionarily designed to be altruistic toward their genetic kin, their friends and allies, and members of their deme (a group of intermarrying individuals) or ethnic group. They are not designed to be altruistic toward an indefinite number of complete strangers whom they are not likely ever to meet or interact with. This is largely because our ancestors lived in a small band of 50-150 genetically related individuals, and large cities and nations with thousands and millions of people are themselves evolutionarily novel.

The examination of the 10-volume compendium The Encyclopedia of World Cultures, which describes all human cultures known to anthropology (more than 1,500) in great detail, as well as extensive primary ethnographies of traditional societies, reveals that liberalism as defined above is absent in these traditional cultures. While sharing of resources, especially food, is quite common and often mandatory among hunter-gatherer tribes, and while trade with neighboring tribes often takes place, there is no evidence that people in contemporary hunter-gatherer bands freely share resources with members of other tribes.

Because all members of a hunter-gatherer tribe are genetic kin or at the very least friends and allies for life, sharing resources among them does not qualify as an expression of liberalism as defined above. Given its absence in the contemporary hunter-gatherer tribes, which are often used as modern-day analogs of our ancestral life, it may be reasonable to infer that sharing of resources with total strangers that one has never met or is not likely ever to meet – that is, liberalism – was not part of our ancestral life. Liberalism may therefore be evolutionarily novel, and the Hypothesis would predict that more intelligent individuals are more likely than less intelligent individuals to espouse liberalism as a value.

Analyses of large representative samples, from both the United States and the United Kingdom, confirm this prediction. In both countries, more intelligent children are more likely to grow up to be liberals than less intelligent children. For example, among the American sample, those who identify themselves as “very liberal” in early adulthood have a mean childhood IQ of 106.4, whereas those who identify themselves as “very conservative” in early adulthood have a mean childhood IQ of 94.8.
Even though past studies show that women are more liberal than men, and blacks are more liberal than whites, the effect of childhood intelligence on adult political ideology is twice as large as the effect of either sex or race. So it appears that, as the Hypothesis predicts, more intelligent individuals are more likely to espouse the value of liberalism than less intelligent individuals, possibly because liberalism is evolutionarily novel and conservatism is evolutionarily familiar.

The primary means that citizens of capitalist democracies contribute their private resources for the welfare of the genetically unrelated others is paying taxes to the government for its social welfare programs. The fact that conservatives have been shown to give more money to charities than liberals is not inconsistent with the prediction from the Hypothesis; in fact, it supports the prediction. Individuals can normally choose and select the beneficiaries of their charity donations. For example, they can choose to give money to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti, because they want to help them, but not to give money to the victims of the earthquake in Chile, because they don’t want to help them. In contrast, citizens do not have any control over whom the money they pay in taxes benefit. They cannot individually choose to pay taxes to fund Medicare, because they want to help elderly white people, but not AFDC, because they don’t want to help poor black single mothers. This may precisely be why conservatives choose to give more money to individual charities of their choice while opposing higher taxes.

Incidentally, this finding substantiates one of the persistent complaints among conservatives. Conservatives often complain that liberals control the media or the show business or the academia or some other social institutions. The Hypothesis explains why conservatives are correct in their complaints. Liberals do control the media, or the show business, or the academia, among other institutions, because, apart from a few areas in life (such as business) where countervailing circumstances may prevail, liberals control all institutions. They control the institutions because liberals are on average more intelligent than conservatives and thus they are more likely to attain the highest status in any area of (evolutionarily novel) modern life.

If Liberals Are More Intelligent than Conservatives, Why Are Liberals So Stupid?

Obsidian · 13 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday I posted up an article by noted evolutionary psychologist and frequent contributor to PsychologyToday Professor Satoshi Kanazawaa, where he makes the case that Liberals are more intelligent than Conservatives and why. The responses took me aback, I must say, for reasons I`ve already noted in yesterday`s comment thread.

Today I want to offer another piece by the good doctor, this time asking: if Liberals are so much smarter than Conservatives, why are they so stupid? Again, Dr. Kanazawaa makes the case from an evolutionary perspective. Something tells me that this post will be treated in quite a different way from yeasterday's, heh heh.

One last thing before we begin: If you are interested in debating statistics, numbers, "the truth" etc et al, this is NOT the discussion for you. Please take your sliderules elsewhere. This, and coming discussions, will be about perceptions, emotions and feelings. These are what drives us the most, and marketers and politicos know this. So, with that one rule in mind – that we WILL discuss these matters within that framework – let er rip.

The Obsidian

If Liberals Are More Intelligent than Conservatives, Why Are Liberals So Stupid?
Who are "clever sillies"?
Published on March 28, 2010

While it is consistent with the prediction of the Hypothesis, the conclusion in my previous post that liberals are on average more intelligent than conservatives may not resonate with most people's daily observations and experiences. If they are more intelligent, why are liberals – especially those in Hollywood and academia – so much more likely than conservatives to say and do stupid things and hold incredulous beliefs and ideas that stretch credibility?

Bruce G. Charlton, Professor of Theoretical Medicine at the University of Buckingham and Editor in Chief of Medical Hypotheses, may have an explanation. In his editorial in the December 2009 issue of Medical Hypotheses, Charlton suggests that liberals and other intelligent people may be "clever sillies," who incorrectly apply abstract logical reasoning to social and interpersonal domains. As I explain in an earlier post, general intelligence – the ability to think and reason – likely evolved as a domain-specific evolved psychological mechanism to solve evolutionarily novel problems, whereas, for all evolutionarily familiar problems, there are other dedicated evolved psychological mechanisms. Everyone – intelligent or not – is evolutionarily equipped with the ability to solve such evolutionarily familiar problems in the social and interpersonal domains as mating, parenting, social exchange, and personal relationships, with the other evolved psychological mechanisms. Charlton suggests that the totality of all the other evolved psychological mechanisms (except for general intelligence) represents what we normally call "common sense." Everyone has common sense. Intelligent people, however, have a tendency to overapply their analytical and logical reasoning abilities derived from their general intelligence incorrectly to such evolutionarily familiar domains and as a result get things wrong. In other words, liberals and other intelligent people lack common sense, because their general intelligence overrides it. They think in situations where they are supposed to feel. In evolutionarily familiar domains such as interpersonal relationships, feeling usually leads to correct solutions whereas thinking does not.

I personally dislike Charlton's term "clever sillies" – I don't like the British usage of both words: "clever" and "silly." But otherwise I completely agree with his analysis substantively. As Charlton points out, common sense is eminently evolutionarily familiar. Our ancestors could not have survived a single day in their hostile environment full of predators and enemies if they did not possess functional common sense. That's why it has become integral part of evolved human nature in the form of evolved psychological mechanisms in the social and interpersonal domains. Because common sense is evolutionarily familiar and thus natural, the Hypothesis would predict that

more intelligent people may be less likely to resort to it. They may be more likely to resort to evolutionarily novel, non-common sensical, stupid ideas to solve problems in the evolutionarily familiar domains.

This, incidentally, is the reason I never use words like “smart” and “clever” as synonyms for “intelligent.” Similarly, I never use words like “dumb” and “stupid” as synonyms for “unintelligent.” “Intelligent” has a specific scientific meaning – possessing higher levels of general intelligence – whereas “smart” and “stupid” have more to do with common sense than intelligence. From my perspective, more intelligent people like liberals are more likely to be “stupid” (lacking common sense), whereas less intelligent people like conservatives are more likely to be “smart.”

Once again, Matt Stone and Trey Parker – the co-creators of South Park – get it perfectly. In the episode “Go God Go XII,” the Wise One (the elderly leader of atheist otters) says, with reference to Richard Dawkins:

“Perhaps the Great Dawkins wasn’t so wise. Oh, he was intelligent, but some of the most intelligent otters that I’ve ever known were completely lacking in common sense.”
I couldn’t have said it better my own damn self.

I Came *This Close* To Being Shot Last Night...

Obsidian · 14 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

…while waiting for my General Tso's Chicken at the Chinese Takeout joint.

I walk in, I see a slightly crazy Brotha in there, mumbling to himself & talking about how the Asians treat him and other Black folks so badly, caring about nothing but the money. He goes on a few minutes more, then sits down to my left and plugs his cell phone in the outlet to charge it up.

A minute later, So & So City's Finest rolls up, five, six squad cars deep, burst in the store, takes Crazy Brotha and slams him up against the wall. They're looking for drugs.

One of the gung-ho White cops turns to me, trying to grab on me. I say, I don't know this Man, I'm just here to get something to eat. He says I'm gonna check you out, I say no, you're not, and that's when he and about a dozen other cops put their hands on their burners. The lone Perfunctory Black Cop on the scene of course, does nothing; and images of Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell go through my head.

I relent.

Pinned down by a phalanx of Blue, they rifle through my pockets. They ask me questions, which I then refuse to answer-after all, if I'm being treated as a suspect, anything I say can and will be used against me, right?

They try hard to find something on me. When they don't, they have to let me go. My aviator shades can't hide the scowl of disgust on my face in looking at these dudes.

I've either lived or worked in most of the Eastern seaboard's cities: Baltimore, NYC, Newark/Jersey City, Washington DC, Detroit, Atlanta-and without fail, I have managed to be accosted by the Po-Po. Some call it "Driving While Black".

Since I don't own a whip, how about merely Breathing While Black?

Maybe somebody out there can help me with something.

We hear the HBD cats bitch and moan about "Black Crime". A lot. In fact, its hardly a day or a week that goes by before you'll hear somebody in those parts yet again, whining, bitching and moaning about it.

Yet, as I've said for like the umpteenth time, none of these dudes actually lives in areas where "Black Crime" is a concern. I, on the other hand, do. I know more about "Black Crime", up close and personal, than the bulk and mass of these jokers will over the course of two lifetimes.

Yet, you don't hear me whining and moaning about it.

What's up with that?

We live in a post-racial America, alright…

…and if you go for that one, I got some excellent bridgefront property just south of Manhattan at a great price for ya…

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

Open Mic Friday: I Bitchslap OneSTDV-Again

Obsidian · 16 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday fledgling HBD blogger OneSTDV posts a piece about prominent Conservative and Hereditarian (all fancy words for racialist, if not out and out racist) writer John Derbyshire, and his forays into the hallowed halls of academia. Apparently, The Derb was invited to participate on a panel discussion hosted by the Black Law Student Association at the University of Pennsylvania. You can read the whole thing here:

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/04/derbyshire-at-penn-law-and-intellectual.html

The following comes from the comment thread, my exchange w/OneSTDV. Please note how he ducks and dodges my points:

OBSIDIAN: OneSTDV,
While I agree that attempts to discredit Derbyshire because he lacks credentials in the field of genetics is at best a stretch since it is not at all unusual for intellectuals to opine on matters far outside their own “comfort zonme”, I do think his basic premise is suspect, for this simple reason:

To assume the hereditarian position is to fundamentally deny the ideals enshrined in the Constitution, which is not based on blood ties or legacies, but rather the inherent worth of each individual. We are not a society built upon national averages, but rather one based upon the primacy of the individual. What people find objectionable about you and the rest of the HOBD crowd is that it attempts to use “science” as a rationale to legally discriminate against large swaths of people, based on purported “scores” and other “metrics”. Even if said metrics and scores were true and accurate, in practice you would be losing the individual in the process.

Listen One, all this stuff has been tried before, and has miserably failed. Eugenics has been thoroughly discredited. Other forms of scientific racism, such as Phrenology, likewise have been tossed on the trash heap of history. The reason why guys like you can’t be taken seriously isn’t because of some vast leftwing conspiracy – as FemX has recently noted, some of the biggest “blank slatists” are blood-red Conservatives (Thomas Sowell, anyone?)- it’s because these ideas simply don’t work in the real world. Moreover, they speak to ideology than to dispassionate scientific inquiry.

Derbyshire consistently is pessimistic in his writing, offering no solutions; he is perfectly cool with entire swaths of human populations being left out of the mainstream of American life. This seems to be your view as well, though it’s never flatly stated as such, which is your passive-aggressive wont to do. Simply put, people are turned off by all that, One. Whicvh explains why for the most part, the ONLY folks interested in the spiel you, Derb and others are peddling, are guys…like…

You.

Hmm.

The Obsidian

4/15/2010 6:48 PM

ONESTDV: Yea, Obsidian consistently presents this inane strawman that has NEVER ONCE EVER APPEARED ON AN HBD SITE.

In fact, I’ve explicitly argued against this and I’ll repeat again: I support initiatives that find LEGITIMATE diamonds in the rough, whether that be in NAM or poor white neighborhoods. I agree that doing so is an utterly important part of the American experience. In fact, this was the initial impetus beyond standardized testing, a fact that Charles Murray points to quite often as he personally benefitted from it. But no, keep pushing your strawman despite direct conflict with my actual views:

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2009/08/is-belief-in-racial-iq-differences.html

Next strawman you present like that and I'm deleting your tripe.

4/15/2010 7:13 PM

OBSIDIAN: Then OneSTDV, why the need to push for race-based ANYTHING? I mean, Ward Connerly doesn't do that, and was quite successful in getting Affirmative Action curtailed in California. If he was able to do this by plebicite – something which the bulk and mass of the HBD community has yet to do on *any* level (please cite ONE public policy initiative that was presented to the American public and which was accepted and endorsed by said public – for example, has The Bell Curve been able to do this?) – what is your and the rest of your ilk's excuse? Connerly didn't make his case on "HBD", he made it on differing grounds.

Lemme say it again because it's apparent you didn't hear me the first time:

No one's interested in stuff like eugenics, noveau phrenology and the like, One. And that includes mainstream Conservatives, like Thomas Sowell. They. Just. Aren't. Ward Connerly has shown you the way to change things if you're really serious about being a serious player at the table. So long as you trade in the sort of stuff Derb tried to peddle at UPenn recently, you will continue to be seen as White Boys with Sour Grapes.

"Tripe" that…

The Obsidian

4/15/2010 7:21 PM

ONESTDV: "So long as you trade in the sort of stuff Derb tried to peddle at UPenn recently, you will continue to be seen as White Boys with Sour Grapes."

So why do you spend probably around 12 hours a day commenting on these types of websites? Surely you have more important people to go bother.

4/15/2010 9:07 PM

Back to Obsidian
Now, I've posted the link both to One's post and to the ensuing comments. What I've edited above are the direct exchanges between us. Did you notice how he evades my direct questioning of him, using people on HIS side of the fence as staunch members of the Right? Did you also notice how he tries to get out of the whole thing by attempting to discredit me, using complete non-sequiturs? Ad Hominem, anyone?

John Derbyshire is a Hereditarian. Adam Bellow, publisher of The Bell Curve and author of In Praise Of Nepotism, is a Hereditarian. OneSTDV, and damn near any other HBD blogger, are in essence, Hereditarians. Virtually ALL of them, just so happen to be Conservatives.

Yet, as I've noted to OneSTDV, and to which his poo-butt ass has yet to respond, there are indeed Conservatives in good standing with the Right who doesn't seem to share these views. Thomas Sowell has gone on record to this effect, arguing that culture plays a stronger role than genetics. And Ward Connerly was actually able to get things done on his agenda without ever firing an HBD shot. To date, The Bell Curve is 16 years old. Arthur Jensen and J. Phillipe Rushton have been peddling this stuff longer than OneSTDV's been alive. Steve Sailer and Derb have been blogging about this since back when big floppy disks were used on computers, and William Shockley was talking about eugenics back this time a century ago. Anyone out there reading this-please name ONE (pardon the pun) public policy initiative that was crafted and endorsed by HBDers that was actually accepted by the People at large in nearly a century of "scientific race realism"?

I'll wait.

Uh-huh. That's what I thought.

You know, for a bunch of guys who deem themselves at the top of the cognitive foodchain, they certainly don't act very smart. Because if nothing else, the very fact that BLACK CONSERVATIVES can get further pushing their ideas than they can, ought to tell them something. But no, they keep going back to the same poisoned well over and over again.

And what makes it worse is that OneSTDV sucks royally at debate. The above exchange proves it. In fact, I have consistently noticed that his "dispassionate" facade quickly tumbles down when someone rhetorically dismantles his position-then he quickly devolves into namecalling and hysterical harangues. Yea, real ringing endorsement for the Cognitive Elite! No wonder he was rejected from Princeton.

Feel free to holla back, OneSTDV. The floor's all yours…

Heh heh

The Obsidian

FeministX Bitchslaps OneSTDV, Too (Ouch!)

Obsidian · 17 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since I've asserted that blogger FeministX has made some comments in disagreement w/OneSTDV and the HBD set and since commenter Too Tall Jones has asked to see a bit of proof, below I present a Mar 21 2010 post from her blog, called simply, "Statements Of Fact"; talk about taking someone out to the woodshed…whew!

"Statements of Fact

Fact: There are twice as many low IQ whites as there are low IQ blacks in this country.

There are 230 million whites. Approximately 15.8% have IQs below 85. That's about 36 million people.

There are 37 million blacks. Approximately 50% have IQs below 85. Do the math.

If someone is bright, I don't really care if they've got kinky hair and dark skin. I don't even care about the mean dispositions their children might regress to. The HBD world's excessive focus on the behavior of blacks is plain old racism they try to excuse with some studies even though HBD types are happy to ignore those same studies when the conclusions aren't what they wish.

As others have said, blacks have been in this country during the whole ride up to the top. They didn't ask to come here, and they didn't prevent this country from becoming the world's richest and most powerful. If you happen to be displeased with their aptitude, it's only fair that you reserve twice as much ire for white proles since there are twice as many of them to cause problems. Half Sigma seems to be the only HBD blogger who is fair minded about this issue. Personally, I think it's a waste of time to focus on the petty vices of the low IQ or the sympathy that liberals have for them. Eventually, the solution to the IQ disparity problem is going to be gene/hormone therapy which allows the children of low IQ people to develop the brains needed for high IQ functioning anyways.

OneSTDV wrote a post which is a prime example of HBD hypocrisy.

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/03/abolishing-summer-break.html

His basic assumption is that the school year should not be extended because it is part of what he calls, "the liberal war on childhood" (a thing which I call a delusion from OneS's imagination). In this post he wants to believe that extending the school year cannot help the low IQ learn (on his blog, low IQ and NAM are synonymous). At the same time, he wants to believe that depriving the average IQ of family time is detrimental. This is how his mind works. Attempts to improve the lives of of the low SES are futile while minor environmental changes to the lives of the middle class are a problem.

While OneS claims that his beliefs are backed by decades of data, he balks when I requested the simplest forms of data that would support his thesis. I ask for data which shows the psychological damage caused by longer school years, and he thinks the request is ridiculous. I ask for data which shows that longer school years do not increase learning, and he has no interest in providing it. Instead he volleyed a series of ad hominems against me; one insult more absurd than the next. Because I pointed out the logical inconsistency between believing that an educational initiative that cannot alter the lives of NAMS can simultaneously alter the lives of AMs in a meaningful way, he called me a liberal creationist. Me? A liberal creationist, now? Because I ask for data which supports his conclusions, I was called, most ironically, an omega male. OK….It's beautiful to insult someone who is not what you are by claiming that they are what you are. No, dear OneS. Unlike you, I don't have any experience living as an omega male. That's not a cheap insult. It's just a statement of fact.

Posted by FeministX"
http://feministx.blogspot.com/2010/03/statements-of-fact.html?showComment=1270980648002

Comment and reply, holla (are ya listening, OneSTDV?)

The Obsidian

REAL “Genetic Based Dating Tips” For STEM (Read, White, Nerdy) Guys

Obsidian · 18 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

A little while earlier, OneSTDV says the following:

“Quick Dating/Game tip for Betas:

If you intend on scoring women significantly above you in dating market value (i.e. physically attractive), then focus on dating prospects within your own ethnicity . This is an especially efficacious strategy for Greeks, Jews, and Russians as these groups have extant cultural, religious, and social edifices solely comprised of peer ethnics. I would include Italians as they’ve maintained themselves as a distinct group, but Italian women are primarily attracted to alphas, per Jersey Shore . Women will lower their standards for the commonality resulting from shared culture and background as well as the offering of positive communal reinforcement, especially from more traditional elders.”

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/04/simple-genetic-based-dating-tip.html

In the comments, FeministX says:
“This tip is retarded.

You want to date up, date black women. The fewest men want them. If you have a job and can hold a conversation, you have a chance at scoring a model on a billboard if you are willing to date black chicks. I know because I’ve known men who’ve dated black models on billboards. They’d have had no chance at nailing the white chicks in the same ads.”

…and OneSTDV responds:
“Almost all white men see dating a black woman as “settling”, even if she happens to be attractive and demure. This probably holds true for other non-whites as well. There’s a reason why white nerds date Asian girls.

And this isn’t coming from experience in the HBD world. This is coming from my personal experience with the epitome of non-racially offensive middle class suburban whites.”

Very interesting comments, especially in light of the venues in which they were made.

If there’s one area where HBD can be of most realworld practical use to its enthusiasts, its in the realm of sex and relationships. Unfortunately, as Planet Grok and FeministX, among others, have pointed out, far too many of the HBDers’ focus is on “NAMs” rather than on things that can actually make a difference in their lives. This is important, though-after all, it is Human Nature to scapegoat others for one’s own problems and shortcomings, and no one wants to admit that they are in essence, a loser. Especially when it comes to Women.

I’ve been a part of this odd nexus of Game and HBD online venues now for several years, and during that time, it is undeniable to see that the community is comprised of a kind of Male who fits a distinct profile:

1. White, largely non-Jewish/non-”ethnic”

2. Ranging in age from early 20s-early 40s

3. At least mildly agnostic to fervently atheist

4. Right of Center politically

5. Highly formally educated, ranging from BA to grad school alums

6. And, perhaps most importantly, these guys tend to work in the “STEM” fields-Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

In other words, based on plain eyeball observation, the average guy in the Game/HBDsphere tends to be White

Nerds. Yes, there are notable exceptions-I'm one of them-but the general observations I've noted holds up in the main. You won't find many journalists, artisans, lawyers, or bankers in this crowd; moreover, not many Black Men are to be found here either, for reasons that will be explained below.

HBD, and this is an excellent time to layout my own views regarding it, at its best, is the study of variations of all kinds obtaining across the spectrum of the Human family. One need not be a genetics scholar to know that human beings differ in ways big and small, in aggregate. We see this demonstrated in sports, for example.

The problem, when it comes to the HBDsphere as it is currently defined, is, like FeministX noted recently, that said bloggers cherry pick the kinds of areas of importance and results of HBD-studies they want to highlight. For example, the present day HBD crowd holds to the idea that, based on roughly a century of testing, African Americans consistently score roughly one standard deviation, or fifteen points lower than Whites-therefore, so say the HBDers, nothing can be done to erase this "gap", because the cause lay in immutable genetic reasons, and not say, Racism.

Personally, that isn't something that's abhorrent to me; after all, we all cannot be Einsteins, and it to me is just basic commonsense to know that everyone won't be born with this or that trait or characteristic.

However, what the HBDers don't seem to do is take their own focus and really apply it to other areas in life. Above, we see that OneSTDV once again gets it wrong.

I say that because, if indeed HBD is rooted in studying how varied human population groups/sub groups differ from each other, and that these differences have at their base genetic antecedents, then it becomes clear what the real problem is for the "Beta" Males:

They are incapable of attracting the more desirable Females in today's sexual marketplace.

They are incapable because they lack the traits necessary to attract such Females, chief among them being, social dominance. Nor should this be surprising, given the fact that "social dominance" isn't a trait that works well in a STEM career. Social dominance works very well if your an I-Banker, or if you work in Big Law or Sales of some kind; social dominance is excellent to have if you work in the arts or entertainment, too.

But the very nature of STEM work demands introspection, solitude, and a kind of myopic focus that, if applied to other areas of life, can be quite debilitating. STEM fields are also inherently "abstract object oriented", because you work mainly with "things" and not people, something which I-Banking, Big Law, Medicine, Sales and the Arts all demands.
Well, when it comes to Women-who are intensely "people" focused-being a STEM guy simply doesn't make her wet. Not only are you out of the picture in terms of not being visible to others in what you do, but the HBD-selected traits needed to excel in such fields are those that are *negatively correlated* to success with Women-who are again, far and away more socially aware and focused, than are Men all things being equal.

Hence the advent and booming popularity of Game, a codified system of "how to's" in terms of getting the attraction of, and having sex with, desirable Women. As one who has spent a good bit of time, online and off, among those who attend bootcamps and the like, let me assure you that in the main, those most likely to be there are White STEM guys. Or put more simply, Nerds.

One of the criticisms of Game has been that it "overpromises" its benefits to Men-that, with just the right training, any guy can land a "HB10″. Of course, this isn't true, indeed, its often far from the truth. Whether this is due to ignorance of HBD-related factors, or whether it is due to pure good old fashioned American greed, what a lot of guys in these bootcamps and trainings aren't told is that there are real limits to what they can hope to attract in terms of Women, based on what they're bringing to the table to begin with-and the truth is, that for the STEM Guys, most simply don't bring enough "raw material" to get 'er done.

So, just as OneSTDV got the whole Alpha Male thing wrong, by trying to make the case that Eli Manning was one (he's WRONG-Michael Vick is an Alpha Male, NOT EITHER MANNING), he gets this issue wrong, too-because,

in a culture that valorizes individual choice, freedom of association and has never had a strong tradition of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”-on top of the advent of the Four Sirens-STEM Guys are really caught in a kind of bind. Yes, he’s right to point out that such guys tend to fare better with Asian females, but even that comes with a bit of “fine print”-for example, such a guy’s chances of landing a Lucy Liu type are slim at best.

But the biggest thing that holds such guys back is the simple fact that Women now live in an age where they don’t need Men to survive in the microsphere, ie, they don’t need to get married or have the input of a Male in their private life in order to survive-which means they have the freedom to pursue those Men who really makes them wet. On that score then, the things STEM Guys like OneSTDV have to offer then, aren’t in high demand circa 2010.

This brings us to FemX’s comments about Black Women. It is said in Game circles that it isn’t a good idea to listen to Women who give advice in the area ofhuman sociosexual relations, because most Women cannot be objective enough to give good advice that’s right down the middle, so to speak-and FemX’s comments are Exhibit A in this regard. Her comments assumes that said hot Black Women would be receptive, A, to White guys in general-when the evidence as we have it would suggest otherwise-and B, that they would be receptive to the OneSTDVs of the world, which again, if simple eyeball observation on the streets of America is any indication, is also demonstrably false.

While OneSTDV makes a interesting point about “settling”, he too reveals his lack of understanding Game-that, in Nature, Males display, and *Females choose*. That’s no different when it comes to Black Women. And the simple truth is, that most Black Women don’t see White Men as viable mates because they don’t see them as “Alpha” enough. Indeed, how many White guys are like Hugh Jackman or Robin Thicke? So, while a White Beta may be loathe to get with a Black Woman because of the message it sends to everyone else, ie “settling”, in truth its the other way around, or at the very least mutual-most Sistas don’t want to “settle” for a White guy either. Indeed, Women-Black or White-have demonstrated that they would rather go without any Man at all, rather than to “settle”.

So, here’s my HBD take on the White STEM Guy’s dilemma:

1. You have to understand that Women who rate a “6″ or higher on the attractiveness scale is, for all intents and purposes, out of your reach. The reason for this is because any such Woman can and will attempt to see what she can snag out on the open market. Women who are at least nominally 6s can if nothing else get a string of booty calls, if not get to be in the rotation of an Alpha Male’s de facto harem. For you, Women who rate a 5 and below are your target market.

2. Now personally, I think that for White STEM Guys, their best bet is to go the Yellow route. For well-known reasons along HBD lines, Asian Women are a good fit for these guys-but again, some fine print needs to be discussed. For one thing, your chances of landing an Asian HB10 are slim, because like all HB10s, they won’t settle for anything less, regardless of color. That said though, Asian Women have a “flatter” bell curve of attractiveness-fewer HB10s among them, but also fewer outright fuglies either. What you get is a wider “middle” of moderately attractive Women, and that coupled with their inherent liking for nerdy guys, White Men still being considered to be the highest status Males in the American social pecking order and so on, makes this probably the best bet for said guys. I should also note that for the relatively rare Black Nerds, like David Alexander, their best bet is getting with similarly disposed White Women, as most Sistas require more dominance in their mates, and as a rule, Black Men don’t find Asian Women attractive in the way White Men do. That said, the David Alexanders of the world need to understand that they’re not likely to land the Jenna Jameson’s of the world either, they’re gunning for the Alphas, White or Black. So, if you’re a Black Nerd, just follow what I said above for White guys, and adapt it to your circumstances, and you’ll be OK.

3. Families have almost no pull in today’s mating environment, so forget what OneSTDV said. American Women love the idea of making their own choices as to who they will hookup with. So be prepared to put your own work in here. Avoid spots where hot chicks proliferate, such as clubs, frat parties, etc. Instead your chief hunting grounds should be the workplace, church, college campus spots such as lecture halls and libraries, SciFi conventions and Comicons, that sort of thing. Apple events might work, too.

Now adjourn your White Nerdy asses…
The Obsidian

Adoption & Race

Obsidian · 19 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Blogger Black & German/Alte recently posted a link to a very interesting article on her site, Butterfly Squash; in light of the recent story of an American (White) Woman sending back her putatively troubled adopted son to his native homeland Russia, the following story, first appearing in the Christian Science Monitor, takes up another interesting phenomenon – that of the role Race plays in the American baby business.

Below is the whole article, and in the comments below, I will offer what I think is thee most salient point of it all. Stay tuned…

The Obsidian

Born in America, adopted abroad
African-American babies are going to parents overseas even as US couples adopt children from other countries

.By Dawn Davenport, Contributor to The Christian Science Monitor / October 27, 2004
http://www.csmonitor.com/2004/1027/p11s01-lifp.html

Adrian Stokkeland, a 2-year-old in Canada, dances with his mom to the music of Elvis and sleeps with his most treasured possession, a box of toy cars. Emma Sonnenschein, an energetic 19-month-old in Germany, loves to "help" her mom around the house. Elisa van Meurs, a 5-year-old in the Netherlands, is a real girly-girl. Her favorite outfit is a Minnie Mouse dress, paired with a Snow White tiara and pink Barbie shoes.

Adrian, Emma, and Elisa have more in common than their charm and being the apple of their parents' eyes. All are black children born in the United States and adopted as infants by parents in other countries.

They also are representatives of a little-known trend: At the same time the US is "importing" increasing numbers of adoptive children from Russia, China, and Guatemala, it is "exporting" black babies to be adopted in other countries.

Since 1995, US State Department records indicate that international adoptions by Americans have increased more than 140 percent. Couples often cite the lack of American babies as the reason for adopting from abroad.

But the US is now the fourth largest "supplier" of babies for adoption to Canada. Adoption by Shepherd Care, an agency in Hollywood, Fla., places 90 percent of its African-American babies in Canada. One-third of the children placed through Adoption-Link in Chicago, which specializes in adoptions for black babies, go to people from other countries.

The exact numbers are not available, but interviews with adoption agencies and families in Canada, Germany, France, and the Netherlands indicate that the US also sends babies to those four countries as well as Belgium and England. Most of the children are black newborns. Most of the adoptingparents are Caucasian.

Why is it happening?

There is no simple explanation for why many white Americans prefer to adopt from abroad rather than adopt the available black babies at home. Racism is one reason, says Cheryl Kinnaird of Adoption-Link in Chicago. But there are others, she adds.

Families might choose an international adoption because of an affinity for a particular country or a desire to help. Many couples want a child who resembles them so that their family will not stand out as an "adoptive family." Since most adoptive families are Caucasian, this might explain the rise in adoptions from Russia and other eastern European countries.

In 2003, 37 percent of all international adoptions to the US were from countries where the majority of children adopted were Caucasian.

White couples may also be concerned about how their extended family will react to a black child. And they sometimes worry they are not up to the task of raising a black child in America and are not sure it is in the best interest of the child to be raised in a white environment.

Then, too, whites often are uncertain whether they can provide the child with cultural exposure to the African-American community.

Most adoption professionals agree that, all other things being equal, it is best to place an African- American child with an African-American family. The National Association of Black Social Workers' position is that every effort should be made to place children with families of the same race and culture.

Most, but not all, birth mothers agree, if they have the choice. However, they do not often have the choice, since fewer African-American couples apply to adoption agencies. One reason is that babies are frequently available within their extended family or community, and they have no need to go through the expense of an agency to adopt. Also, the number of infertile black couples who can afford to adopt is simply not as large as the number of black babies available.

The word hasn't gotten out

Some speculate that African-American babies have lagged behind in adoption rates because many Americans don't realize they're available. Media coverage and popular culture have focused on Americans adopting internationally rather than domestically.

"When we started to think about adoption, we thought only of international adoption because that's all we were hearing about," says Lisa Malaquin-Prey of North Carolina, mother of an adopted Russian baby. "We thought it would cost too much and that we would have to wait for a long time if we adopted domestically."

"I think that more Americans would adopt these babies if they knew they were available," says Stacy Hyer, a white American living in Germany with two adopted black children.

There is evidence of increasing adoption of black babies by white American families. But ingrained preferences still play a part in who is chosen for adoption.

The majority of couples seeking to adopt are white, but there aren't nearly enough Caucasian babies available in the US to meet the demand. Although exceptions certainly exist, American parents generally prefer babies to toddlers, girls to boys, and Caucasians to African-Americans, adoption professionals report. Other ethnicities fall in between, depending on their skin color. African-American boys are at the bottom of this "ranking" system, they say, which is why they're harder to place.

"We have to work much harder to find homes for our African-American babies," says Robert Springer of Christian Homes, an adoption agency in Texas.

No one is equating babies with commodities, but the principles of supply and demand apply. Adoption costs and waiting times in the US vary depending on a baby's ranking in the "desirability list."

The children who are in the greatest demand are also in the shortest supply. Those who want to adopt healthy white babies in the US may wait as long as five years, agencies say. In contrast, they add, the waiting for African-Americans is often measured in weeks and months, especially for baby boys.

The demand for biracial (black/white) babies falls in between, and the wait reflects this. The waiting period for a biracial girl can be more than a year.

It's also the case that adopting a white baby costs more than adopting a black or biracial one.

Adoption fees for healthy Caucasian babies can be as high as $40,000, according to the US Department of Health and Human Services. For biracial babies, the cost is about $18,000. For African-American newborns, it ranges from $10,000 to $12,000, agencies say.

The costs to the adoption agency for each child also vary greatly, not because of race but due to circumstances. The agency may have paid all the prenatal expenses and living costs for one birth mother, for instance, and not another, who decided on adoption in her ninth month of pregnancy.

Why fees are less for black babies

But instead of passing along the actual costs to the new parents, many adoption agencies – most of which are nonprofit – charge a set fee that is determined by how difficult the baby may be to place. The agencies say this enables them to find homes for the children who are hardest to place.

Fees and waiting times for American families adopting internationally vary by country, but total costs, including travel, are usually about $30,000, with a waiting time of nine to 18 months.

Because of regulations and laws in the country of origin, most of the foreign children adopted from abroad by Americans are more than 1 year old when they arrive in the US.

In contrast, American babies can be adopted as soon as their parents relinquish them.

Families in foreign countries cite the availability of newborns as the primary reason they choose to adopt in the US. Canada and Europe don't have as many babies available for adoption. Therefore, "if you want a newborn, you go to America, " says Bart van Meurs, Elisa's dad. Families also cite the health of the babies, the short waiting time, and the availability of medical records as additional advantages. Race is seldom a consideration.

"Most of our families just want a baby as young as possible, and the US is the best place to go for a newborn," explainsLorneWelwood of Hope Adoption Services in Abbotsford, British Columbia. "They are not ignoring the race issues, but they don't think, like the Americans, that the less black the better."

"The families from abroad do not think of black babies as being second best, babies that they'll 'settle' for because white babies are hard to find," says Ms. Kinnaird.

Most adoption agencies encourage the birth mother to select the adoptive family for her child. Sometimes a black birth mother prefers having her child adopted overseas because she believes there is less prejudice there than in the US.

"Some birth mothers view placing their child abroad as a way for them to have a better life with less struggle," says Joe Sica of Shepherd Care in Hollywood, Fla.

Long-term studies of black children adopted by white parents paint a picture of well-adjusted children and teens strongly bonded to their families.

Tianna Broad, who's 12, readily fits into this picture. She's into makeup, clothes, soccer, and horses, as are most of her friends in British Columbia. "She's pretty much a typical Canadian teen," says her mother, Karen Madeiros.

Most parents abroad report little prejudice against their adopted black children. "Canada doesn't have the same race history as the US," notes Dawn Stokkeland, Adrian's Elvis-rocking mom. "There isn't the 'us' versus 'them' mentality here."

There are also not the numbers of blacks in Canada. "In my son's elementary school [in British Columbia], there are only eight blacks out of 450 kids and even fewer in my daughter's middle school," says Ms. Madeiros. "Most of the blacks here are middle-class professionals, and our neighborhoods are completely integrated".

."For the most part Germans have very positive views of blacks – they see them as singers, actors, and athletes – all positive images," explains Ms. Hyer. "My children are almost always accepted for who they are without any expectation of who they should be because of the color of their skin."

"I think the main reason there is little prejudice against blacks in Germany is because there are so few blacks here," says Peter Sonnenschein, father of two black children.

That's not to say there are never problems. Some parents say their children have encountered racism.

"Because Holland had many colonies, many [black] people live here and there is prejudice against them," says van Meurs.

"Although my [12-year-old] daughter has never experienced any racism that I know of, I can't say the same for my [10-year-old] son," says Madeiros.

Parents in Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands have formed support groups to help their children develop a positive self-image.

Signs of change

While the news may be encouraging for African-American children adopted abroad, there's evidence of change on the home front, too, as more white Americans look into adopting black babies.

Since the US doesn't keep statistics on private domestic adoptions, the exact numbers of trans-racial adoptions are not known, but anecdotal evidence abounds of a shift toward black infants being placed with white American families.

"We can find homes for all our babies in the US, but there are regional differences," notesRobert Springer of Christian Homes in Texas, who adds that "many families in the Northeast, Northwest, and Minnesota are eager to adopt African-American babies."

Dick Van Deelen, with Adoption Associates in Michigan, reports that for the first time in 35 years they have a list of white families waiting to adopt black babies.

In a twist to the import/export world of international adoption, "We are thinking of looking to Africa to bring over more children to meet this need," he says.

Adoption-Link, in Chicago, also has a waiting list of families for black babies.

"The younger generation that is now adopting is less prejudiced and more open to becoming a mixed-race family," says Mr. Van Deelen.

Some say that the growing willingness of Americans to adopt US babies regardless of skin color comes at a good time, since placement of American babies abroad may be threatened by new regulations.

The US is in the process of ratifying an international treaty on international adoption. Although the regulations are not final, it is expected that they will make it harder for agencies to place American babies abroad.

But all the talk of adoption trends and prejudice fades in the day-to-day existence of parenting after the child arrives.

Ms. Stokkeland sums up what most parents feel. After a particularly trying day with a strong-willed 2-year-old, she sighs and says, "I wouldn't trade [Adrian] for the world. He is truly the child God wanted me to have."

The adoption was such a success that Stokkeland did it again. Earlier this month, Adrian got a new little sister, as Claire Lisa, also African-American, came north from Georgia to join him and his mother in Canada. Stokkeland says she couldn't feel more blessed.

Considerations Of The Black Male, Circa 2010

Obsidian · 20 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday's post on Baby Adoption and Race was not only powerful in its own right, but also kind of puts the icing on the cake as it were, when one considers the nature of my postings of late. In the main, they were focused on Black Men, and the challenges they face. If we put them together with what we already know on this score, and add again, yesterday's post, a powerful, mind-numbing narrative emerges.

We know that Black Men are twice as likely to be unemployed, even when controlling for college education, when compared to White Men. We know that Black Men are six times more likely to be in prison, parole or probation, than White Men. We know that Black Men have shorter lifespans than White Men, the going average now is around 70 or so. We know that Black boys are more likely to be suspended and/or expelled from school, to be disciplined more often than their White counterparts, and to drop out of highschool at a rate significantly higher than White boys. We also know that they are more likely to be prescribed behavioral modification drugs like Ritalin, and to be assigned to Special Ed classes, more than White boys.

We know that Black Men suffer from diseases like prostate cancer at a much higher rate than do White Men, that an African American young Man has a better chance of survival in Baghdad or Khandahar than in Baltimore or Washington, DC. We know that Black Men are often the last hired and the first fired. We know that Black boys are adopted dead last, and at a quarter of the price as Asian babies from avowedly Communist countries. And we know, for a fact, that Black soldiers were often treated worse than sworn enemies of the United States government.

We also know that Black Men have far and away more run-ins with the nation's police force than anyone else, certainly more than White Men. Nor will his manner of speaking or dress will matter much-last year's incident involving well known Ivy League academic Henry "Skip" Louis Gates, proved that, as if Black Men needed any more such evidence. For Black Men-*any Black Man*-merely stepping outside one's door for something as mundane as going to the corner store can prove deadly.

When one just stands back and takes all this in, just lets the stats and data of just about every measure that industrialized societies considers important, and notes the fact that Black Men come in at or near dead last, the effect is as if one has been sucker punched with a concrete fist. Perhaps then, it is understandable as to why so many Black Men seem apathetic, deeply cynical and defensive. After all, psychologists say that a bunker mentality is a common defense mechanism to protect oneself from real or perceived threats.

All of these thoughts occurred to me yesterday, while having a conversation with a good friend o mine of over a decade. We often discuss racial issues, politics and the like, and we often disagree with each other, especially when it comes to the divide between Black Men and Women. And to be sure, yesterday's convo was no different; but I had an epiphany during the exchange:

One major reason why Black Male/Female relations is so fraught with acrimony in our time, is because in a very real sense, Black Men and Black Women live in very different worlds.

As we've noted here in this forum, Black Women, taken as a group, have made significant gains that Black Men, in aggregate, have not. For example, we've seen how education has undeniably and literally paidoff for Black Women, often exceeding the incomes earned by White Women. We cannot say the same thing for Black Men. Moreover, Black Women have gained tremendously from the Women's Movement-for example, it is documented that Black Women make up a full third of all abortions performed in this country, a bedrock goal of the Feminist cause. And again, Black Women have made powerful gains.

This helps to explain the views of many Black Women toward Black Men, after all, "the system" works for the former in ways that it just does not for the latter. Even Black girls can be adopted quicker than Black boys.

None of this is to suggest that Black Women don't have their fair share of problems and challenges-they must

certainly do-nor do I want to give the impression that Black Women have made gains at the expense of Black Men-I don't feel that way, either. Still, its hard to deny the basic and simple facts on the ground. As noted earlier, Black Men die of prostate cancer and a much higher rate than do White Men, and to date there has been nothing done about this; meanwhile, Black Women have the comfort of knowing that not only the current President, but several ones before him, have made tackling HIV and AIDS in Black America a major area of concern, because Black Women were impacted the most. And that's not including breast cancer awareness, heart health, and so on.

Personally, I think Black Men know a lot more than they're willing to let on about their place in American life and how they feel about it. Perhaps this explains the higher rates of hypertension and the like among Black Men. Surely, the swirl of deep emotions emanating from all of the above, has to have deleterious health effects. Something else that, to my knowledge, has never been studied.

At any rate, I think this explains why Black Men don't seem to have that kind of gung-ho spirit that other groups, and even Black Women, seem to have. That's hardly surprising, when put into perspective of the things I layout here.

One of the things that occurred to me yesterday during my convo with my buddy, was that for Black Women, particularly those who have had the college experience, the world of possibilities is open to them; the gulf between them and Jennifer and Emily, isn't that wide after all.

Until its time to find a husband. Then, Reality comes crashing in.

In my personal travels, I am struck by just how many Black folk consider themselves "post racial". Although I didn't catch it at first, something dawned on me: the majority of those who took such a view, were Black Women, not Black Men. To be sure, a few Brothas were in the mix, but the overwhelming majority were Sistas who felt this way.

Now I understand why. For many Sistas, life really IS "post racial". Brothas on the other hand, cannot say that. Not with the vim and vigor with which so many Sistas do.

There will be those who read this and say that whatever problems Black Men have and now face, are problems of their own making. Indeed, we can and will continue to hear this line of reasoning from newly minted American citizens, fresh off the boat, and eager to tell Black folks, Black Men especially, what's "wrong" with them. Nor will they be alone-for scores of more native born Americans will think the same way, not the least of which, will be Black Women.

And to be sure, Black Men have shown that they are quite capable of indulging in self-destructive behavior, "proof positive" for the views of those mentioned above. What gets lost in the shuffle of course, are things like the adoption story, or middle aged Black academics being spread eagle on the hoods of police cars.

Perhaps the most interesting-if not difficult-part of all this, is in how we impart what we know above, to the next generation of Black Men. On that score of course I don't know what any of you would say to your son, brother, cousin, grandson or nephew; but I know for a fact that I cannot look at mine and tell them, that they can be whatever they want to be with a straightface. The best I can tell them is that it is possible.

Which is quite a far sight from what is probable.

The Obsidian

The HBDers So-Called “War” On The SWPL Class-Wassup Wit Dat???

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If it’s one thing the HBD set loathes more than “NAMs”, its “SWPLs” (yet another dead giveaway that the bulk and mass of these dudes are STEM Nerds? They use lots of arcane acronym-laced language), a kind of shorthand for “Stuff White People Like”. That, in turn, was/is the title of first the popular satirical blog and followup book by Christian Lander, both of which lampoon young White Liberals as effete, hypocritical, self-righteous posers. If you haven’t checked out the book or the blog by now, you owe it to yourself to do so, they’re a hoot. And they give tremendous insight into the White Psyche, both on the SWPL and HBD ends of the spectrum.

As something of an “alien observer” in this corner of the Internet, that odd nexus of HBD & Game, and as one who has always been interested in how people think and why they act in the ways they do, the internecine squabbles and jockeying for social status position that is the never ending story between and among White folks holds an intense fascination to me. Over the past few years in particular, not a week will go by where at least one of the better known HBD bloggers-Steve Sailer, Half Sigma, OneSTDV, Roissy, etc, et al, will take time out of their busy lives just to take yet another dig at their sworn enemies, the SWPLs of the world. Oddly, I am not aware of any such sites by said class of White folks where they return the favor in kind. If any of you reading this out there are aware of such a site or blog, please let us know in the comments? Thanks!

Anyway, what I find fascinating about the HBDers’ jihad against SWPLdom, is the fact that while they vilify said class for being hypocrites, such as being gung-ho for Black folks yet carefully steer their kids from attending Black schools, the HBDers aren’t much better. For all intents and purposes, these guys ARE SWPLs themselves-they haven’t worked a hard day in their lives, have attended, if not Ivies, at the least decent Big State Unis, work in cubicles pushing pencils, wouldn’t be caught dead in a Micky D’s drive thru, and have many of the other trappings of the pampered SWPL set. Ah, but the difference, you see Obsidian, is that the HBDers are keeping it real-by telling the truth about life, the way the world works, and all the “pretty lies” that SWPLs trade in.

Gotcha.

Well, to quote Jigga, I don’t believe these jokers for one minute, they need more people. First of all, if these dudes were truly about “truth, justice and the American way” why do they hide behind screen names, or worse, post their drive by posts on SWPLs with the ubiquitous “Anonymous”? I mean, if you really ’bout it/’bout it, why hide who you are? The truth is on your side, right? Then you have nothing to fear.

Second, if all that SWPLs stand for makes you retch, why you still a desk jockey? Oh, wait, that’s right, you also loathe “Proles”, too. Can’t be caught dead doing their kind of work either. Yea, that’s the ticket.

Well, at the very least you could give up a few of those SWPL-associated pleasures and delights, you know, chuck the Whole Foods thing, go grab up some dollar menu burgers at Mickey D’s a few times a week, be really down with the people!

crickets chirping

You know, maybe its my Blue Collar roots, maybe its a result of my “NAM” hardwiring, I don’t know, but where I come from, if you got beef with someone, you don’t go rant and rave incessantly about them from behind the comfort of a computer screen, YOU GO SEE THEM. If I felt as strongly about someone or a group as much as these guys do about SWPLs, I wouldn’t hesitate to put them on blast and let them know exactly where it came from and who said it-moreover, I would jump at the chance to tell those cats about themselves in the real the first chance I got.

But, you see, another major feature of being White, Anglo (or Jewish), and at least nominaly Middle Class, is being oblique. Inferred. Implied. Nothing is ever directly confronted, in part because you don’t want to piss off anyone

who might be in a position to make you or break you. That's why such White folk are so neurotic all the time, because they use up prodigious amounts of brain power trying to decipher the hidden meaning behind every gesture and comment a fellow traveler makes in the course of a day. In the hood, people pretty much say what they mean and mean what they say. You always know where you stand, friend or foe alike.

So, for all those who hate on SWPLs, I say simply this: step up front and confront these folks:

Or please give it a rest, and shut the fuck up?

Now adjourn your wannabe tough, fake the funk asses…

The Obsidian

Ladies: The Choice Is Yours...

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In Gamespeak, an Alpha Male is a Man who Women in aggregate would choose as a mate based on him possessing the full suite of traits Women have shown to find attractive. Very often, these traits can and often do run counter to conventional notions, such as a prestigious job, vast wealth, or “leading man” looks, although these things certainly don’t hurt.

So, to demonstrate the above, I thought to ask the ladies in the forum who they would choose if it were up them:

Denzel Washington, or Tom Hanks?

Clive Owen, or Will Smith?

Seth Rogen, or Anthony Anderson?

Michael Vick, or Ben Rothlisberger?

Bill Clinton, or Barack Obama?

Daniel Craig, or Idris Elba?

Dirk Nowinski, or LeBron James?

Jamie Foxx, or Matt Damon?

Eminem, or Black Thought?

Lenny Kravitz, or John Mayer?

Bruce Lee, or Steven Seagal?

Jason Statham, or Wesley Snipes?

Take a moment to think of your idea of the hottest NFL stars past and present. Let’s say you could come up with a list of your Top Ten. Question-do either Mannings (Peyton and Eli) appear on it? Please give say, three names from your list.

Now, real quick, do the following names appear on your list of Alpha Males:

Steve Jobs

Warren Buffett

Bill Gates?

Would this name be on this list:

Sean Connery?

Please feel free to elaborate on the choice you made and why you made them. What is it about the choices you’ve selected that “do it” for you? What is it about the ones you *didn’t select* that knocked them out the box?

Note to the Fellas: Please yield the floor to the ladies on this one. Let’s give em till sundown at least, OK? It’s important to allow them to speak.

Ok-let er rip…

The Obsidian

Open Mic Friday: Some Thoughts About Black Men & "Acting White"

Obsidian · 23 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Today we continue our ongoing examination of one of America's most curious social animals-the Black Male. But, unlike previous posts, where we look at the matter from the perspectives of employment, or relations with law enforcement, today's post will plumb the depths of territory that in my humble view, gets a considerable degree or short shrift in the public square.

In more recent years, the notion that one reason why Black kids haven't done as well in school and by extension in life, is because of the idea that doing so is seen as "acting White". Virtually all eyes reading this right now, are familiar with those words and the ideas they generate. Prominent Black figures from Bill Cosby to Barack Obama himself, have addressed this issue. Black scholars, like the late John Ogbu, have done detailed studies of the so-called "phenomenon". Even books have been written about it, if not articles and chapters of larger works.

What seems to have gotten lost in the shuffle within the midst of this debate, are some clarifying questions: first of all, exactly WHO among African Americans makes such a claim? We assume and lump in "kids", but the facts on the ground as we have it from test scores and other objective measures flies in the face of this assumption-as we have learned in as many weeks, Black Women consistently outscore and just do better overall in terms of education than do Black Men. From grade school to highschool and on into college, and beyond, this is easily documented. So, its difficult to square all of this with the notion that "Black *kids"* hold this "acting White" view. I posit that we need to be much more precise-it is fair to say, based not only on the aforementioned evidence but other more admittedly anecdotal but nevertheless powerful measures, that it is BLACK MALES who may indeed hold these "acting White" views.

So, if we indeed accept and start out from that premise, more questions emerge. One of them, is where precisely did this idea come from? Was it always thus in American life? Or was it a relatively recent thing that has come upon us? And in any event, a much deeper question for me is, WHY do so many Brothas take this or similar views? What's the psychology involved-the rationale-the reasoning-the emotions that drive it? Surely, people do things for a reason, no matter how seemingly nonsensical they may be to the rest of us. Up until now, I've never really heard these questions being asked; the "default" position seems to be, to wag a finger at the collective of Black Men and shout/shame them into "acting right". Needless to say, the stats as we have it, don't look encouraging in that regard.

History records that indeed the idea of Black Men thinking that to have a rich life of the mind was akin to "acting White" is indeed a relatively new thing in American life. Nor have Black Men always done well in schools either, for a number of reasons, when compared to Black Women-indeed, the historical record is that Black Women have always tended to have more formal education than Black Men, going back a century ago and beyond. But this didn't stop Black Men from wanting to learn about the world around them. In fact, a kind of self-teaching has long been a part of the Black tradition when it came to its Males, and we can point to very well known examples who were for all intents, largely self-taught – Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, Stanely Crouch, Richard Wright, and many, many others. It would be a mistake to assume, that just a Brotha did work requiring a strong back, that he also didn't have a strong mind as well.

So, what happened? We are now in he early 21st century; this "acting White" business has been around in the public discourse since at least the 90s. Something took place to transform Black Men who saw learning vital to their sense of self-actualization regardless of whether they went to school or not, to Black Men who are at the very least indifferent to any form of education, if not outright virulently hostile to it.

On this score, to be sure, there will no shortage of speculation and theories flung about; many will point to the "Great Disruption" that was the 1960s and early 1970s as the cause and culprit. And in fairness, it may indeed play a role, however small or tangential. For my part, I am not entirely sure exactly what happened or precisely when;

but the evidence as we have says to me, that what we're dealing with isn't something chronic, but rather some relatively new. And we're lightyears away from understanding why-which means we'll also be lightyears away from actually solving this riddle.

But I do have some thoughts to share on the matter…

After much thought on this and related questions, it occurs to me that perhaps one reason why Black Men are disengaged from education and learning, is because in so many ways, they don't see it as being worth the effort, that it is a world that for all intents and purposes is cutoff from them. On this score, many Black Women are quite vociferous in their response-after all, if they were able to do it, why can't Black Men, too?

And this *is* a legitimate question, if for no other reason that very often such sentiments come from Women who face very slim pickings out on the mating market. While there are perennial murmurs about the need for Black Women to "broaden their horizons" the best evidence as we have it are that for better or for worse, and for the foreseeable future, Black Women in aggregate see Black Men as their ideal mates. And, because like White Women, and indeed other groups of Women in modern American life, they too want a mate that shares many of the experiences, interests and outlooks on life that they have. For Women, such things are vastly important.

Hence the all-importance of college education, because it not only confers a middle class lifestyle and income, but it also is a kind of "finishing school credential" that Women find very appealing in a Man. Indeed, it is not at all unsual for a Women, regardless of color, to reject out of hand potential suitors who lack this credential, because it serves as a rough proxy for the aforementioned qualities. Of course, on this front, because the pickings for Black Women are so slim, every suitor rejected means there are even fewer ones left, regardless of their level of education.

In many ways, the gains Black Women have made seem to have come at an almost Faustian price-it is difficult to say today, in 2010, that Black Women on a whole have done quite well for themselves. But the "catch" was that their Men will not be able to share in their success.

Nevertheless many Black Women and even some Black Men will essentially Black Men to "get over it"-but, aside from this strategy clearly not working, the other part that they overlook is that again, a major reason why so many of them seem disinterested in learning and education is because they've "learned" through their own life experience and that of other Black Men they've known, that there is relatively little gain to be had from it-and often, the cost put in outweighs the return on investment. At this point, if moral shaming doesn't work, we can turn to grids, graphs, studies and statistics, but what we fail to see here is that for so many Black Men, the perceptions they have override the "reality" we may be trying to advance in a misbegotten effort to change their minds. This is especially true when it comes to Black Women-we have to remember that they, like all Women, have been shown to be more willing to do what is required than are Men, in the main. And Men have shown that when there is little to be gained in the effort of anything, they begin to vote with their feet.

Some tend to react violently to the idea that people tend to be more interested in something when they see others like themselves doing it, too-the whole of marketing schemes and political campaigns is built on this truism, informed as it is by psychological understanding of the human mind; but somehow, we expect Black Men to suddenly be immune to this facet of behavior and just soldier on anyway, regardless as to what they've seen or witnessed in the negative. Others will attempt to argue, well, look at Obama!-he's made it!-or other high achieving Black Men. And there's something to be said for that.

Nevertheless, these are more like Black images than real flesh and blood Black Men that other Black Men see during the course of their everyday lives. Here, is where sports and entertainment-most notably Hip Hop-comes into play, especially in the case of the latter. If ever there was a kind of cultural "public enemy number one" Hip Hop is it. The sheer bromides and assaults on the artform, blaming it for everything that ails Western Civilization from virtually all sides of the sociopolitical spectrum, would in some ways be construed as silly if the charges levelled against weren't so serious. After all, Hip Hop is hardly the first form of music/culture that shook up the

establishment-Rock music stands as stark witness to that fact. Still, one cannot shake the feeling that Hip Hop gets extra added scrutiny, disdain and harsh critique, because of the appearance of its progenitors.

At any rate, while Obama is an image on the tv screen, Jay-Z is someone much closer to home that Black Men can relate to-he is from Brooklyn, NY after all-and moreover, unlike Obama, who has to bend to the wishes of a world that has at best a guarded view of Black Men, if not outright hostile one, Jay-Z and countless other rappers have proven that not only can they have their voices heard, but make quite successful businessmen out themselves to boot-and most importantly, to do it all *on their own terms*. For this is another very important aspect of Masculinity, that Women, and this includes Black Women, who are often seen as arguably the most independent-and that is to stand apart and define oneself as a Man. I have no studies or “proof” to back me up here; but years of observation of this phenomenon coupled with my own thinking on the matter, leads me to these conclusions. Hip Hop, whether one likes it or not, gives Black Men a chance to be heard, in their own voice, in their own idiom, in a way where they define the rules of engagement, so to speak. And to add to all this, their message resonates with Men far outside the hood-record sales consistently show that the biggest purchasers of Hip Hop for some two decades have been White suburban teen and young adult Men.

So its quite understandable to understand why so many Black Men would look to the Hip Hop and sports worlds in the way that they do; true, not all Black Men will wind up a successful rap or sports stars. But we shouldn’t look too askance at such a dream-after all, there are plenty of areas of American Life that are easily as fraught with the same odds for failure. We all know scores of well-off kids who went to the best of schools and had all manner of opportunities who washed out. The same is true for the hundreds, if not thousands, of business startups who crash and burn within the first five years. The thousands of law school and medical school grads who couldn’t pass the final exams needed to get them over the finish line. The scores of hopefuls who are routinely (and often harshly) rejected from American Idol. The point is that it is somewhat foolish to berate Black Male aspirations as impractical and nonsensical, when the very nature of America is to “dream”.

Ironically, given the subject matter of this post, the lyrical content, delivery (or in rap parlance, “flow”) and topics of so many rappers gets short shrift in favor of the artform’s cruder and more crass genres, coupled with what some consider to something endemic to Hip Hop itself, its ostensible “misogyny”. On this score it can’t be denied that at least some rappers have some quite harsh things to say about Women, and there seems to be an entire cottage industry of young Black Women academics who “deconstruct” this and other facets of Hip Hop life and culture, often attempting to make the case for a Feminist niche within it all. Of course, what’s left out in all of the reconstruction and recriminations from all sides, is the tiny little question as to whether there is any truth to what the rappers are saying on that front. Again, in light of its sales figures and those who are among its biggest purchasers, if nothing else such facts should give one pause.

At any rate, Hip Hop has shown itself to contain a kind of mental acuity and acumen that rivals some of the best song writers, poets and writers of other eras and genres. Talib Kweli’s talking about his child being born, Mos Def’s ruminations about the Earth’s water supply, Common’s take on why Socratic questioning is so important, Chuck D’s many stylings on the state of the times for Brothas, and many, many other finely attuned rhyme spitters, kind of pours water on the notion that Black Men are turned off to education and learning. Perhaps it is the wrapping that its presented in, that’s the turnoff?

In my own personal experience, I’ve found that many Black Men highly value learning, so long as it can be seen to benefit their life directly in some way. Perhaps then, the “acting White” phenomenon, is more a reaction to the notion of an “alien”-and a hostile one at that-concept that means little to no good in a Black Man’s life?

Just a thought.

In any event, it seems clear to me that we’re getting nowhere fast by pursuing the present strategy of essentially trying to shame Black Men into “doing right”. Like the late great Aaliyah said, we need a resolution.

The thoughts presented in this post today, I humbly submit, as a step in that direction.

I’m just sayin…

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

A Word From Neil “Style” Strauss About Haters Of The Game

Obsidian · 27 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

As everyone here knows, I learned Game in the literary sense from two primary sources; one was The Mystery Method, the other was The Game. I read both in the same weekend, the latter first and then the former, and I’m glad that I did. That’s because Style’s book-a colorful memoir of how he went from a zero to a hero with the ladies-really fleshes out and puts a human face on what became the Seduction Community. Moreover, it makes sense of the deeply arcane language that comprises the former work. In my humble view, you really can’t learn Game if you don’t read this two books, and I submit, in the order I’ve suggested above.

A little while back I decided to sign up to get on Style’s email listserv; and every so often I receive emails from him that discusses various aspects of Game, among other things. I thought I would share what he has to say from time to time, if only to dispel the notions of some, that Game is inherently sinister and so on. As anyone who is familiar with Style knows, the Man is hardly a sheister selling snakeoil to the masses, nor does shy away from the real problems the Seduction Community had and continues to face. One of the things I loved most about The Game was his brutal honesty about things.

The following post by Style then, should explain itself. That the Game has its enemies is nothing new; readers of this humble blog know this well. The question, though, has to be WHY do they fear Game so? Please keep that in mind as you read what Style has to say.

And, as always, comment and reply, holla.

The Obsidian

“Hey Obsidian,

I wanted to share some thoughts on an experience I recently had.

I received a call from two producers on the Dr. Phil show. They wanted me to come on and discuss The Game and the community with Dr. Phil.

However, the more I talked to them, the more it seemed like a set-up. So I declined. Instead, they got two of the people in The Game to participate.

And they did a few sneaky things, according to those who were on the show:

1. They filmed some guys sarging, but planted women with secret cameras in the club.

2. They didn’t tell one of the PUAs that another guru was going to be on the show, then they encouraged the guru to be adversarial. The result was a PUA slugfest that sounded like a bad day at Project Hollywood.

3. They brought out a woman at the end of the show who’d been hurt by a man who was NOT in the community to confront these guys.

The working title of the segment: WOMEN, BEWARE!

This information just broke my heart. It really infuriates me.

When I wrote The Game and went on to do the press, I told myself that I would neither DEFEND nor ATTACK the seduction community. I'd simply present the truth as it was, the good and the bad.

However, the more interviews I did, the more I realized I was going to have to defend something: The right of guys to learn this.

Anyone who's ever seen the front page of Cosmopolitan or Sex in the City knows that self-help, sexual improvement, dating advice, and attraction skills is an accepted rite of passage for women.

There is no equivalent for men: We are simply shown images of women we are supposed to desire in the pages of Maxim and Playboy, then not told what to do about it.

People get tutored for everything else in life. If you can't do math, you get a tutor. Sex in the City was women getting tutored in what to do with different types of men. I think the coolest thing someone could do is recognize their weakness and work to improve it.

When guys ask me questions, it's usually not about what to do to trick a woman into bed — it's about how to get over heart- break, whether Alexander Technique will improve their posture, whether improv classes will make them more spontaneous, what to do about "this one special girl," how to dress, and so on.

Though some of the "gurus" may have their issues, 99.9 percent of the guys I met learning this are the NICE GUYS. They are the guys women always say they are looking for, yet at the same time are never attracted to.

Usually, the true assholes, jerks, and misogynists are too cocky and arrogant to even consider that they might need to "learn" how to interact with women.

So anyone who's going to get on a bully pulpit and demonize men for trying to improve themselves is not a friend of mine.

And any pundit who's going to criticize men for manipulation when that's exactly what their show producers regularly do to their guests is not a friend of mine.

The community may have its problems — especially for those who get sucked too deeply into it, as I did — but there's nothing wrong with learning social skills, if you're learning from the RIGHT teachers.

The real victims in my experience were not women. The victims I witnessed, the people I saw hurt by the game, were only men. Because the game is a forking path: there's a light side and a dark side, and some get lost in the dark side and lose themselves — in addition to creeping out the very women they're trying to attract.

As a writer, I understand the temptation members of the media feel to create an obvious sensationalism piece. But

it's far better to do the research and find the REALITY of a situation — and it makes a better story. Because the reality is often never obvious. Sometimes it's the last thing you'd ever expect. That's what most of my books are about.

I realize this email is sort of a rant, and perhaps I'm even preaching to the converted, but I had to get it off my chest. There are some 42,000 of you on this list. Some of you are in positions of influence or respect — whether on campus, in the media, at home, at work, or in a community.

Let's do our best to counter small-mindedness and social pressure designed to hold US back because of someone ELSE'S fear wherever we hear it. Whether it's about learning the game, a personal attack against you, or something else you care about, don't take the bait and get defensive. All you have to do is speak the truth. It's the best weapon you have, and so sharp that no one can ever bend it if you wield it properly — without fear or insecurity.

And that's one to grow on,
Neil"

The Obsidian

How The Goldman-Sachs Debacle Informs The Sexual Marketplace

Obsidian · 28 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Yesterday's post about Neil "Style" Strauss' thoughts on how Game was being treated in the daytime media sparked an interesting conversation about the winners and losers of what can only be rightly called the de-regulated sexual marketplace. Although I posted my thoughts on the matter in the comment thread, I thought it deserved a post all its own, because of the points I strive to make therein.

Here it is:

Well, I see that there's been quite a bit more said since I last checked in. A few comments are in order.

I think a major problem in this "2.0″ culture, precisely mirrors what we've been seeing going on in the financial markets over the past few years and counting-that the system as we know it is rigged in such a way that by its very definition, there can only be a few "winners"-and a heck of a lot of "losers".

As yesterday's Goldman-Sachs Senate hearings taught us, the current financial "game" is rigged to the bone, corrupt, you name it. Even GS execs called the deals they were selling "shitty" in their in-house emails. They know how jacked up things were and are, but that didn't stop them from making a killing off of the sheer misery of others. That included competitors, as well as the so-called "little people".

Basic economic rules say, that whenever you blow the doors off the marketplace, the divide between the haves and have-nots grows significantly wider. This is also true in the dating market. In fact, if you really want to understand exactly what happened and is happening on the dating front, all you need do is study Wall St.

The way things are right now, the only real "winners" of the dating world are those Men deemed by Women to have the goods to make them tingle, and the "fair to middling" Women who now can take full advantage of the "deregulations" that have taken place in the market-in the short term, that is. Barring STDs-a major concern, as Ms. Walsh has recently pointed out in an excellent series of posts at her blog, Hooking Up Smart-today's Woman can easily enjoy a sex life that would make Anais Nin blush. But it can only last for so long-depending on when she gets started, 10, maybe 15 years at most, before the downsides of the market begin to take its toll. Nevertheless, *even with the high risk of STDs in the mix*, millions of Women can and will sign on for such a deal before the ravages of time set in and forces their hand to take things in a different direction.

Meanwhile, the biggest losers, at least in terms of timing is concerned, are the many Men who, due to all manner of seismic shifts over the past few decades, have little to no leverage anymore; they either are forced to accept Women who are clearly "below" them, try their hand at acquiring some Game, or sit the whole thing out, with the possible caveat that they may be able to grab up one of the Women who was a "veteran" of the Combat Dating Wars.

The other "losers" are the Women who, say a half century ago, had the beauty and other qualities, to be able to leverage all of it into a stable relationship and marriage. But today, she's either forced to do what her fair to middling sisters do, and put out early and often; or, she chooses to basically take herself off the market, too. And no, the chances of her getting with one of the poor Beta guys above aren't good at all, for a whole host of reasons. Please don't try to use logic here.

But, here's the trick-are you ready?

There will be NOTHING done about either market, the economic one or the sexual one. Do you know why?

Because, deep down, we like both just the way they are.

It is part and parcel of American life not only to be hyper-competitive, but to also expect the best and to think that we have the goods to make that happen. Of course, looking at things rationally, none of that makes any sense at all; but we don't call ourselves the American Rational; we call ourselves the American Dream. No one really wants to

“go back”, and that includes Women AND Men, both. What we want is to WIN-which, by definition, only a few can actually achieve.

So, don’t expect any GS execs, including “Mr. Fab” to do the Perp Walk anytime soon, if ever; and please do not get it twisted and think that their will be some kind of big Leave It To Beaver-style revival. Not. Gonna. Happen. Because human beings have an incredible capacity to BS themselves and others, do expect to see a lot of wings flapping around GS and wrt the sexual marketplace; but in the end, don’t fool yourself into thinking any changes that actually makes a difference will happen.

It won’t.

And that’s *just* the way we Americans like it.

I’m just sayin.

O.
The Obsidian

My Take On Arizona's Illegal Immigration Law

Obsidian · 29 April 2010 · Archived copy · Original

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/04/14/i-came-this-close-to-being-shot-last-night/

Any questions?

The Obsidian

Stephanie's Fall From Grace

Obsidian · 1 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

By now, surely you've gotten wind of the brouhaha out at Harvard, about how a fresh faced and by all accounts highly intelligent young Woman's electronic missive musing on the possibility that African Americans *could be* genetically predisposed towards lower average rates of intelligence in comparison to Whites. Evidently it all started as a friendly debate round a dinner table where it is said that a few members of the Federalist Society were present. The young Woman in question, one Ms. Stephanie Grace, who did her undergrad at Princeton in Sociology and is said to have taken up the singular focus of the HBD set as part of her on the record work, was a member of said dinner party, and felt that she needed to make clear(r?) her views on the matter, so she wrote an email-and the rest as they say, is history.

I suppose I could go into the weeds with it and whatnot, but I think all of that has been done to death by other venues on the Internet-besides, y'all know how I roll-I'm a lot more interested in what drives those who seem to hold to views Ms. Grace does/did, where it comes from, and why they chomp so hard at the bit over it all. True, just because one has less than honorable intentions doesn't necessarily invalidate their arguments; but come on, we all know that in the realworld, the messenger is at least as important as the message he, or in this case she, is trying to convey.

So, for me, the question has to be: why is there so much intense focus by a not insignificant portion of American polity?

Well, if their own views and responses are to be believed, the HBDers will say that bringing this point to light will show Affirmative Action for the sham it is-a crass quota system that tilts in favor of Blacks-less qualified Blacks, mind you-at the expense of more deserving Whites. Merit, the HBDers say, is what should carry the day, along with other such boilerplate as individual rights, and so on.

Now, up until this point, I've been rather mum on my personal view of Affirmative Action and the like; to be quite frank, I am deeply ambivalent about it all. I just want to put that out there, because I am sure there are those who will read my words and attempt to suggest that I have a dog in the fight. Not really-the truth is, that most African Americans don't benefit from AA as is widely believed, and even if they did, that doesn't necessarily mean that I think it's right-again, I'm deeply ambivalent on the matter. In fact, I think AA as it is currently defined is incredibly messy and sloppy; it contributes to the Zero Sum nature of our society, and runs the real risk of creating as much enmity as it purportedly cools out.

But, being that I understand human nature in a way other folks either can't get with or refuse to admit, I accept AA as yet another of life's necessary evils in our world. Simply put, AA is hardly the first program that favored one group over another, and that includes in the history of America. Indeed, one of the most favored groups ever, where the progeny of the rich and connected-many of which weren't as smart or motivated as their forebears. And yet, there they are, enjoying the privilege that such luck brings.

And this trend continues to this day, *especially in places like Harvard*. Yet, th HBDers, conservatives and the like, don't seem all that bothered by the fact that the scions of the wealthy and connected have always, and continue to in our time, get over *solely* because they just happened to be related to a Muckety Muck.

Now look-whenever someone like me brings up such a point, all the sputtering and smoke-blowing and the like comes outta the woodwork. I get that. Why? Because I understand that human beings have an incredible capacity for self-delusion and Bullshittery, born of their primitive, tribal instincts. Simply put, the reason why the HBD set doesn't raise as big a stink over the fact that the rich and connected have always enjoyed AA, or the fact that, as a group, White Women have benefitted more from AA than any other group, including Black folk, is because, well, they're still White. Please note that no one has even thought to question if Ms. Grace *really deserves to be on the Harvard Law Review*, to say nohing if she *really* had the chops to be at Princeton. That this same lady then signs

off her email by pleading not to be given the Larry Summers treatment, is an irony that only Fate could appreciate.

So, if the reason why those who rail against AA the most say virtually nothing rich White scions and White Women is because they're all on the same team, why not simply say that and call it a day? I for one could certainly respect that position, no need to measure skulls, trot out charts and grids and graphs-just simply say you don't want Black folk getting in on the goods that have always been the preserve of White folk for centuries. Seems simple enough, right?

Well, that's the catch-for better or for worse, ours is a putatively educated, more "scientific" age-and the truth is that we give more weight to those who can express themselves with an air of objectivity, circumspection and thoughtfulness. Simply saying that you have a problem with people who aren't of your kind getting over, well, that sounds…Prole. Besides, what about the notion, the ideal, the principle of merit?

Well, for me, I laugh everytime I hear someone attempt to trot out such a notion. Remember last years big Ricci firefighters "reverse discrimination" case? The "merit" argument was trotted out there, too. They said that the Black test takers simply weren't good (read: smart) enough to pass the test and that more deserving White (and one Latino) firefighters got the finger. Do I believe that such a thing could be the case? Yup.

But, you see, here's the trick for me: there ain't a White person reading this right now who's gonna tell me with a straight face that every single WHITE person they've worked with was fully qualified and the best person around to do the job. There ain't a White person around that's gonna tell me that they don't know White people who got over not because of how smart or capable they were, but because they right connections. Come on.

Indeed, the record shows that incompetence, favoritism and the like is hardly the preserve of Black people. In fact, its so common that White people have benefitted in such ways that we accept it as a matter of course-and perhaps that what sets off so many other White folks about Black Affirmative Action-they see in it what they either couldn't or wouldn't see, in their own backyard.

Among HBD bloggers who go on and on about such things, the only one I've seen to date to have the balls to openly talk along these lines is Steven Sailer, who's often said that AA a is problem only for marginal White guys. Interesting, when you think about the profile of the average HBD blogger, ain't it?

So long as there are human beings who have yet to evolve past their hindbrain thinking, and so long as there are only so many high post jobs and school slots, *somebody's gonna be left standing when the music stops*. That should come as anything new to anyone reading this; the problem is that THEY shouldn't getting ahead of me.

Can we at least admit this?

Of course not. Why? Well, think about it: we exist in arguably the most competitive, zero-sum, me against you/us versus them society known to Man. And worse, we don't have a heck of a lot of love for losers-*especially White Male ones*. Why do I single them out, you ask? Simple. Because White Males, taken as a group, have the most chances for success in the game they've created. If a White guy can't cut it given all the advantage he's been given at birth, well, what are we to make of that, hmm? I mean sure, a less smart Darkie got ahead of you-but what does it say about you, if you're the White guy this happens to? Do you really want to announce to the world that despite a stacked deck, you're still a failure? In a winner take all society like ours? A society that, as George C. Scott said in his Oscar winning role as Gen. Patton so famously said, "loves a winner"?

Like I said, come on.

So, from a purely psychological point of view, it makes sense why there is a hardcore group of guys-and let's be honest here, they are guys-who rail so strongly against things like AA. It makes perfect sense.

At least it does to me.

A final thought about the Black Law Student Association…

Now, admittedly, I don't know a heck of a lot about thse outfits, so it is entirely possible that they're out there doing

the Lord's work, because Lord knows we Black folk need it when it comes to the American Criminal Justice system. All I know, is that, as a guy on the outside looking in, that there are slightly bigger fish to fry than to get all hot and bothered about the electronic musings of some young lass. Yea, she dared to consider the possibility that Black folk ain't too smart-what else is new? These folks act like they ain't never heard someone say something unflattering to Black folk before-wait, maybe they haven't. After all, much has been made of the fact that many students hardly come from the hardscrabble communities that comprise theheart and soul of Black America-that was certainly true of the Harvard Law Review's first Black president. To the BLSAs of the world, I say-get over it. Yes, there are people in this world who don't think all that highly of Black folk, including you, too. Shrug it off and decide if you really wanna make a difference in the lives of Black folk who could really use your help, or, if you're gonna spend the bulk and mass of your life trying to get folk who are at best ambivalent about you and your kind to accept you as equals. Personally, I don't care which way you choose to go, but I really do think you all look kinda silly knee-jerking and carrying on in the way you uppity Blacks do. You're embarrassing more working class Black folk like me. Either get involved in the hood, or go do the Jack & Jill thing-but all that "outrage" stuff-kill that noise. Besides, outrage is vastly overrated.

My job is done here. Comment and reply, holla.

The Obsidian

What's Your Style?, & The Six Traits Of The Alpha Male

Obsidian · 10 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I thought to take a respite from the more heavier sociopolitical themes we've been discussing here in the forum, and return to another theme of mine, which is Game and human sociosexual dynamics.

In his groundbreaking memoir The Game, Neil "Style" Strauss recounts his very first meeting with Mystery, who almost singlehandedly revamped the modern day pickup scene with his keen insights into the psychology of the human mating dance. Mystery tells his students that there are a number of traits that all Alpha Males possess:

1. Alpha Males smile.
2. Alpha Males are well-groomed.
3. Alpha Males are the social center of the room.
4. Alpha Males have a sense of humor.
5. Alpha Males connect well with other people.
6. Alpha Males are confident.

I've personally found that where a lot of guys trip themselves up is in trying to gun for the more complex or complicated stuff about Game, and completely lose sight of simple things like that which Mystery outlined above. Think about it: EVERY Alpha Male does, to lesser or greater degrees, what the list outlines above. Don't believe me? Then go test it out for yourself: spend the next few weekends just being out and about, in parties, social gatherings, clubs, bars. Heck, you can even do this by going to church. Anywhere where there are groups of Men and Women interacting with one another. And you'll see what Mystery said above to be in full operation.

Most guys think that by being/acting "hard" that will get them Women. WRONG, LOL. Looking mean will mean that you'll be by yourself.

A lot of guys think that by playing he background they'll look cooler and thereby get Women. Wrong-they'll just be holding the wall up, like the vast majority of Men do at social gatherings.

A lot of guys think having a sense of humor and busting it up w/lots of smiles makes one look foolish. Wrong-it's the exact opposite.

Lots of cats think a lot of stuff that's just so flat-out wrong till it's not even funny. Then they wonder why, though they'll *never* say it outloud as to why they don't get laid*.

All of the six items mentioned above are the basic, fundamental traits that all Alpha Males have. Again, don't take my word for it. Go and see for yourself.

Another major, major point Style made in his book in his first meeting with Mystery, was where Mystery laidout the importance of Peacock Theory. He said that most guys think that if they look "average" they'll be able to appeal to the widest possible number of Women-WRONG. You gotta specialize your look, if you want to succeed with Women.

Now, what I've found is that many guys get this all twisted-they think that, because Mystery wears outlandish hats and paints his nails black, that they have to do this, too. But that's simply not the case, and Mystery himself has said as much. What he's simply meaning is that if you're going to have a chance of attracting attention from a Woman you want, you have to standout in some way. You can't look like all the other cats-you have to do something that sets you apart somehow.

So, take a look at yourself-an honest look at yourself. In a full length mirror. Checkout your clothes, your hair style, etc. Now, go outside and take a look at all the guys around you. Take careful note of how they look. Do you blend in with them, or do you stand out?

When I buy clothes, or do pretty much anything for that matter, I am always mindful of the fact that my style is

distinctive-personal and unique only to me. Nor is it something I do “just because”-it all has a purpose, a meaning. My style is such that people know who it is simply on hearing about it alone-”that’s Obsidian”, or, “Obsidian would do that”, and so on.

So, what’s your style? What is it about you that’s distinctive, that sets you apart? Why do you wear the clothes you have on, what do they say? Same for your hair style, tats, piercings, jewelry, etc. How do they measure up against everyone else out there? Do they stand out-or do they blend in?

WHY should that Hot Mami stop to speak to YOU? Hmm? What makes you so different from all the other cats out there on the block?

Me? Well, I guess you could say that I’m something of a Dandy-and it flows with what I like to call my cultural cross-dressing tendencies and experiences, if you will. What I mean by that is, I dabble in styles spanning many genres and periods-a bit of Victorian here, some Goth there, a dash of Metro over here, some thug there…you get the idea. But all w/a Brotha’s spin on it, you see. Like that. In fact just over the weekend I was looking into those frock coats gents used to wear back in the day online. Didn’t really find what I wanted, so maybe I’ll checkout a few of the local spots, and if that don’t work, then I’ll just have the thing custom made.

Anyway, taking the time to find what style best works for you is very, very important. Do a bit of research. Allow you imagination to roam free. Experiment! You never know what works until you try.

In the comments below, let’s expand on all of this a bit, shall we?

Comment & reply, holla…

The Obsidian

Meet the Unemployable Man

Obsidian · 14 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Comment & reply, invited.

"Meet the Unemployable Man

by David Wessel
Friday, May 7, 2010

The betting is that the Labor Department's Friday snapshot of the job market will show that employers added workers in April, perhaps even that the unemployment rate fell.

That would be good news, but not good enough. It's hard to exaggerate how bad the job market is. Here's one arresting fact: One of every five men 25 to 54 isn't working.

Even more alarming, the jobs that many of these men, or those like them, once had in construction, factories and offices aren't coming back. "A good guess…is that when the economy recovers five years from now, one in six men who are 25 to 54 will not be working," Lawrence Summers, the president's economic adviser, said the other day.

This is not one of the many things that can be blamed on subprime lending, inept regulators or Goldman Sachs. "The Great Recession has reinforced prevailing labor market trends that were under way long before the recession," David Autor, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist, observed in a recent paper commissioned by two Democratic-leaning think tanks, the Center for American Progress and the Hamilton Project.

Demand for workers who haven't much education — which includes many men, particularly minority-group men — is waning. A shrinking fraction of them are working. Some are looking for work; some have given up. Some are collecting disability benefits or an early-retirement pension. Some are just idle. On average, surveys find, the unemployed in the U.S. spend 40 minutes a day looking for work and 3 hours and 20 minutes a day watching TV.

For 50 years, the fraction of men with jobs in what once were prime earning years has been trending down. Over the same decades, the share of women who work has been rising, a significant social change that lately has cushioned the blow of Dad's unemployment for many couples.

Women have suffered less in this recession. They were more likely to be in health care and other jobs that weren't hit as hard as construction and manufacturing. They are increasingly likely to have the education so often required to get or keep a good job these days.

That's good for their families. But will there be good-paying jobs in the future for prime-age men, particularly the ones who don't go to college?

Americans have worried for decades that the economy won't produce enough jobs. But the economy always provided. As farm jobs were eliminated by mechanization, factories hired more. As factories increased productivity and moved work offshore, more Americans got jobs in health care and other services. And the economists said to all those who had been worried about perennial, persistent unemployment: We told you so!

Yet nothing in the textbooks says that the supply and demand for workers will intersect at a wage that is socially acceptable. At the high end, demand for skilled workers and those who rely on their brains will return when the economy does. At the other end, jobs in restaurants, nursing homes and health clubs — the jobs that are hard to automate or outsource — will come back, too.

In the middle, there will be some jobs for workers without much education, for the plumbers, electricians and software technicians. But not enough to go around.

Men who in an earlier era would have been making good money on the assembly line are, and will be, working security or greeting at Wal-Mart, jobs that almost anyone can do and thus jobs that don't pay well.

If they're working at all. Today, 6.5 million workers have been out of work for six months or more, and that includes only those who are still looking for work. History suggests the longer they're unemployed, the less likely they are ever to work again. Faster economic growth would help a lot, but won't suffice.

One way to resist these market forces is to reduce the supply of workers who aren't in demand and increase the supply of workers who are. That is, educate more and better: Fix K-12 schools, improve worker-training programs, strengthen community colleges, give more aid to college students. All this is wise, but most of it will take a long time.

Another option is on the demand side: Force employers to be less efficient so they have to hire more, or limit imports of goods that threaten jobs of less educated, prime-wage men — solutions with unwelcome side effects.

The government, Mr. Summers said, can increase demand for labor in the short run. Spending more public money on infrastructure, he argued, will both strengthen the economy for the future and employ out-of-work construction workers.

A third option is surrender to market forces and tax the winners to subsidize the losers. Sending checks to idle men is unappealing, but the government could do more to supplement wages (or health insurance costs) for those who work at low wages.

Each approach has shortcomings. So does doing nothing. Sidelining a huge part of an entire generation of men would waste human potential, create economic misery for their families and fuel political discontent."

http://finance.yahoo.com/career-work/article/109471/meet-the-unemployable-man?mod=career-work

The Obsidian

The Importance Of Being Earnest (& Consistent)

Obsidian · 19 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

One big problem I have with people when it comes to the issues of the day big and small, is their inability and more often than not, unwillingness and flat out refusal, to be consistent in their positions on various issues. I was taught that you can determine the soundness of an idea by applying it to both sides of a question, and that notion has stood me in good stead over the years. Sadly, its also an idea that doesn't seem to have gone very far out into the land.

What's worse is that often people confuse their own sense of advocacy for a reasoned argument rooted in moral terms, which is to my mind abhorrent and egregious to an unprecedented degree.

For example…

Gay Marriage. Now, no matter where you fall on the matter be it pro or con, if you're consistent you either say that the current definition of marriage has to be opened to all, or to be kept as is. Why should only gay folk get to be legally married, but Mormons and Muslims, both of whom believe in polygamy, can't? Many gay rights activists will attempt to argue that gays marrying follows the current model of a one to one pairing, instead of involving multiple numbers of people. Although such a position ignores the fact that said pairing also focuses on *one Man, one Woman*, what they also don't seem to want to admit that those who are lovers but are related by blood, also can't marry either-yes, that's right, I'm talking about incest, and there is a such thing as brothers and sisters, among other familial arrangements, falling in love and wanting their union recognized. Why can't they get married, too? For me, the issue is simple-if you want to change the definition of marriage, you have to open it up for all these groups to get hitched. Or none at all. That way, its fair.

Abortion. Whatever the intent of the original Roe ruling, the bottomline is, that Women now have the legal right to determine when, if ever, they will become parents-and that this choice cannot be encumbered in any way by her private sex life. Men on the other hand, do not have this right. They either must abstain from sex altogether, or have themselves "fixed"-things that we have already said wrt Roe (read: Women) are unacceptable. If a Man cannot have a say as to what a Woman does with her body, in this case to have or abort a baby, it then follows that said Woman cannot then force him to underwrite her choices either way. Moreover, it seems to me extremely unfair to tell an entire half of the population that they have no reproductive rights any court is bound to respect. If Women have the unmitigated right to abort, Men should have the right to opt out. Consistent.

Affirmative Action. Staunch opponents of this usually come from the right side of the political spectrum, and they often make the case in "meritocracy" terms. That's fine, except for the fact that they are either oddly silent on, or when pressed, offer weaksauce defenses and rationalizations of other forms of preferences and quotas-take George W Bush, for example. Everyone knows that he got where he is in life as a direct result of his father and by extension his family. Those connections were crucial at every step of Bush 43′s life-and it is not too far a stretch to suggest that other, more qualified, yet less connected and less wealthy people lost out. Yet, Ward Connerly didn't seem to have much of a problem with the Dubyas of the world, and neither do his fellow travelers on the right-they're ONLY concern, is Affirmative Action. Period. Personally, I find such a position hypocritical in extremis-you're either against preferential treatment across the board, or you're not, and you shouldn't attempt to paint your case as some grand stand for principle. You should instead simply say that you have a problem with Black folks getting a bump in the line. The. End.

These and many, many other things, are really what irritates me, not because people may or may not disagree with me, but because of the disingenuous way they often will attempt to base their views. Instead of merely admitting that they have a very biased dog in the fight and leaving it at that, they attempt to make their dog *the dog* if you will, backed up appeals to morality and so forth. Ugh.

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

I Facemug Jamila-*Again*...

Obsidian · 22 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

See for yourself:

http://www.jamilaakil.com/2010/05/why-race-matters/comment-page-1/#comment-1608

And feel free to comment on it all here…

Holla back
The Obsidian

Why We Write

Obsidian · 24 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since I've been thinking about my "mission statement", and since I just had to course-correct Deery on the post and thread of the same name, I figured this would be a good time to let er rip.

Many years ago, when I was first starting out my tenure of teaching at Temple U, I got into the poetry reading scene-alright, I ain't gonna front, it was a good way to meet chicks, LOL. But, as so often happens, I learned a lot about life, others, and most of all myself.

For those who may not be aware, there has been for some years a burgeoning poetry reading scene in certain pockets of Black America-poets of all manner of interest and ability will gather and read their stuff. Much of it is good, some of it whacked, all of it interesting, in that they give a kind of window onto the world of others, how they think, and why they feel the way they do.

One of the themes I saw very early on in m poetry going, was that of a steady stream of Sistas who would, in prose, discuss their love lives in general and Black Men in particular; this was something that invariably placed all the blame for whatever trouble they had in their lives squarely at the feet of the Brothas. And, because Men or all shades and colors, all walks of life, have been taught (read: browbeat) into being deferential to Women regardless as to how ridiculous some of them are and/or sound, very rarely did the Brothas react negatively or respond in kind; when time came for Brothas to get on the mic, they waxed slam-poetic about the police, racism, or some other amorphous entity wreaking havoc in their lives.

As always, Women got a pass.

Among other things, this raised my Archer's hackles, and offended my Libran sensibilities-after all, I was always taught it takes two to tango, and why weren't Brothas speaking up for the other side of the story? In fact, I said to myself then, now that I think about it, how come we have so few Black Male writers (blogs hadn't arrived on the scene just yet) of any particular stripe? Sure, we all can rattle a few names here and there, but for the most part, Black Lit is done by the Sistahood.

I was livid.

I stormed into my Dept Head's office one day, and vented my spleen. He listened intently for about 10 minutes, and then he said one word:

"Write!"

His move knocked me off my square. "Write?", I asked. What do you mean?

What he told me would stick with me all my days.

"One of the biggest problems Black Men have is they don't write. They don't convey to others their views or feelings or impressions of the world around them, and its a shame because the world needs to listen to what you have to say, and you have A LOT to say. Don't blame the Sistas because they got it going on-blame yourselves because for whatever reason, you don't write. If you want to change things, you can start, by sitting down at your desk and writing."

I bought a computer that day, and did just that.

In fact, I decided to "respond" to what I'd heard at so many poetry slams/readings around the city, even though I had no background in poetry whatsoever. I simply copied the style and cadence of the poets I heard-especially the female ones-and wrote about what we in the Game community calls the "LJBF" thing. I talked about the blatant hypocrisy so many Sistas engage in, how they lust after the bad boys then wanna cry victim when they get burnt. I talk about how they claim to want good guys but turn their nose up at them. I talked about all the pretty lies and

blatant contradictions so many Sistas seem to revel in, daily, yet expect guys to adhere to some outmoded and anachronistic standard. I talked about the defile he very word “friend” when they utter it to a Man, because as Men, we take such a word very, very seriously, when so many Women do not.

I decided to do my thing acapella, if you will; just the sound of my voice.

The place roared. Brothas were on their feet. Of course, Sistas felt some kind of way.

But so be it. The truth can often be like that.

My Dept Head at Temple U had armed me with something more powerful than a Bomb-for that night, I truly learned, that the pen, is mightier, than the sword.

Much to the chagrin of many, Hip Hop-a creation of and by Black Men-is now a worldwide phenomenon. People the world over, want to hear what Black Men have to say. This is not lost on me, even now, and especially since the beginning of my own blogging effort.

This blog is one Black Man’s take on the world around him. It is from a perspective that not even some other fellow Black Americans may not be used to or even like. So be it. It is important that the record show, that there were quite a few Brothas who willing to stand up, be counted, and most importantly, to be heard.

What I find so very interesting, is in how when Women blog, or write books, or read poetry, they aren’t assailed with demands to give stats or other forms of “proof”; it is simply and merely understood that they’re giving their take on things, on life. Yet, whenever Black Men speak, be it via a blog or a mixtape, all manner of feathers are ruffled.

Don’t tell me Brothas don’t have power.

One other thing I’ve learned all these years: I don’t know about the notion that Women are such better listeners than are Men. My personal experience, including that of today, doesn’t bear this out much at all. In fact, I would argue that Women can be horrible listeners, because when they hear something they don’t like, they go bananas. This explains why so many Black Women lose it about certain forms of Hip Hop, never once asking why the rappers say it in the first place, and God forbid if they ever ask if what they’re saying has an iota of truth to it. Oh, no.

For those who want to better understand where Black Men are coming from, why they think, feel and act as we do, what we feel and think about the great issues of the day, and to just hear a different take on things, this is the place to be, and you’re most welcome. And for those who are a bit uncomfortable with what I have to say, I can only offer you the way out the door, for I will not change. Not. One. Bit.

The world needs to hear more from Brothas. The Obsidian will do his part.

That is, after all, why I write.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

How Black Women Like Deery & Jamila Make Life Difficult For All Sistas

Obsidian · 26 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Regular readers of The Obsidian Files will know well my epic struggles with commenters Deery and Jamila, two Black Women who seem to delight in disagreeing with me, LOL. That I don't mind, actually-if everyone agreed with my take on various things, life would be very boring indeed.

But, as some of my readers have noted, there is a bit more going on than mere disagreement with these two, a kind of "meta message" that both seem to be transmitting, just under the radar; in Game parlance, we would refer to it as "subcommunication"; some have suggested that these two ladies seem to want to "put me in my place" as a Black Man, one who they deem isn't as smart, sophisticated or urbane.

And to my mind, these astute observers would have a strong point indeed-it has long been known in the Black community of the existence of such Women. In fact, a goodly part of the long running historical tensions extant between Black Men and Black Women, finds much, by no means all, but much, of its basis in this fact.

I've seen the likes of Deery and Jamila all my life. They are often the most haughty, snobbish and bigoted people around. Recently in my post about writer Lori Gottlieb, I argued that I had experienced MORE discrimination and outright bigotry from Black Women than I ever have from Whites, and I stand by that notion today, because its true. In another post where I outlined how and why Women were MORE wedded to the notions of a "double standard", I made the case that Women, taken as a group, were far and away MORE snobbish than are/were Men. Deery and Jamila are Exhibit A & B respectively, on these fronts.

For example, I've said before that, based on her comments made here, that Deery not only sees herself as one of the Black Elite, but actually holds lesser Blacks in a goodly bit of contempt-especially Black Males who don't come from or necessarily aspire to become one of the landed gentry. This was borne out in a discussion where she mentioned her disgust at her own brother's decision not to continue his formal education and instead chose a more modest life. While I have refrained from publicly commenting, either way, on Deery's views in this regard, I will now break my silence to say only this: I have four siblings, and at no time did it ever occur to me to hold them in contempt for not doing what I THINK they should be doing with their lives. So long as they were happy and weren't a net drain on society-not a criminal, having 3 and 4 baby daddies, in jail or on relief forever and a day-so long as they were contributing to the local tax base-I was perfectly cool with whatever they wanted to do or be in life, be that a corporate raider, or working in a pie factory. My love for them didn't change one bit.

So, to hear Deery talk about her brother in such acerbic terms, was to be frank, quite painful to me. But it was also, quite illuminating, too. In so many ways, Deery values social climbing than blood.

We saw this in a discussion where I asked whether Axe cleaning products was seen as low brow; Deery went to great lengths to prove that it was, despite the fact that a majority of female commenters were quite clear that what mattered most was that the Man in question smelled clean, regardless if the soap that took to make that happen came from the dollar store or Macy's.

We saw it again just recently, with a discussion about my take on SCOTUS nominee Elena Kagan; during the conversation, Thomas Sowell's name came up, and Deery's reaction to said name, was again, quite instructive. Although I could immediately see that Deery's real opposition to Sowell was the simple fact that he's aligned with the Conservative Right, I decided to let the convo run until it became clear to everyone else what her personal biases were-and the gambit worked. I'll have more to say about that in a moment, but the point I want to make here is that, aside from his being a Black Conservative, another thing Sowell has gone on record with is his suspicion and disdain of *Elites*-the very thing Deery is wedded to. It then makes perfect sense why Deery would have the reaction she did at the mere mention of Sowell's name, now don't it?

Jamila is no better. Despite her own personal failings, glaring cognitive dissonance and blatant contradictions among her own stated beliefs, still she manages to find a way with which to impugn Black Men as a group; Y, a regular reader here at the O-Files, called it a “Black Men ain’t shit” meme. Indeed, it is, but I’d like to take it a step further-it’s a “Black Men ain’t shit” meme in pseudoscientific drag.

This is because Jamila, in her own sordid attempt to backward rationalize her own mis-steps in life, does so by giving aid and comfort to HBDers like Planet Grok (whom she finally pulled back from, only when he began to get a bit too familiar for Jamila’s tastes) and known and avowed “academic racists” like Michael Levin, a regular speaker at Jared Taylor’s American Renaissance conferences. Initially, on her recent blog post entitled “Why Race Matters”-which is the title of Levin’s 1997 book-Jamila attempts to use Levin’s arguments as to why BLACK MEN were so bad at marrying and being baby daddies. ONLY WHEN I noted that it took two to tango, did Jamila had to admit that, if Levin is correct, it would have to mean that both Black Men AND Women, weren’t too sharp cognitively. She agreed.

But when I then stepped up the Socratic Questioning, asking her that, given the events of her own life would she still agree with Levin’s analysis, she balked. Instead, she blames her own failings not on being fundamentally dim-witted, but rather taking a page out of WEB DuBois’ book(s), and says that her predicaments past and present are the result of her being forced to sharing breathing space with more dimmer Black folk.

Woman, thy name is Cognitive Dissonance.

It got so bad, that even other Black Women readers/commenters could see what was going on; commenter Terry asked Jamila whether she felt this way about the very people who loved and fed and clothed her; in another post, Terry asked how Jamila’s seeming unquestioned embrace of the HBD position jibes with her own self-professed Christian beliefs and worldview. Y, having extensive familial relations in Nigeria, West Africa, demanded proof that Black people and Black Men in particular, were somehow genetically predisposed not to pair bond with Women. Even Chic Noir, who has thus far defended Jamila, had to question the latter on her views, since Chic also has extensive family relatives, this time in Ethiopia-a far sight from Nigeria.

Would it surprise anyone here that Jamila has yet to respond to either of these Sistas?

Chic continues to defend Jamila nonetheless; Terry continues to pray for the gal; Y left in disgust.

And the beat, as they say, goes on.

A little while back I posted up an article written by Psychology Today regular Satoshi Kanazawaa, about why really smart people say, do and believe in really stupid things. He argued that in evolutionary terms, such people are novel, and they use their smarts as a way to signal to others, particularly potentially mates, that they have a kind of extra feather in the cap. The problem with this is, that they’re misapplying their smarts-the vast majority of situations, problems and the like that most of us face in life, don’t require a 130-plus IQ; indeed, far from it. For most people, most of the time, simple commonsense will do.

But for the smarties of the world, they simply cannot bring themselves to grips with the fact that it ain’t that deep, very little of life is. Hence why we see these folks do, think, say, really dumbass stuff. They should be FEELING their way through much of life, instead of trying to show everyone how big their brain stem is.

This creates real problems for Women like Deery and Jamila, all up and down the social foodchain, but especially when it comes to relationships. This is because Black Women are already up against it when it comes to their love lives as a group, and being what some would call an “uppity Sista” can only be a bane, not a boon, to their existence. Instead of merely relating to others on an emotional level, Sistas like Jamila and Deery instead attempt to find some overwrought, overarching paradigm that both demonstrates their smarts, and as well explains (read: justifies/rationalizes) their position. Instead of merely saying, in the case of Deery, “I don’t like Sowell because he’s a Black Conservative”, or in the case of Jamila, “I made some personal mistakes and now I’m gonna do better”, instead these gals have to go through all these mental contortions to explain, defend and justify, their FEELINGS.

This is why Deery can't discuss ANYTHING without a sliderule or a flowchart, and this is why Jamila can't discuss ANYTHING without copiously quoting from whatever flavor of the month author she's reading.

And to many Men, regardless of color, such a thing is really, truly, one. Big. Turn. Off.

Of course, such Women get very defensive when they read/hear such things, for reasons I've indicated elsewhere in the forum, but it doesn't change the facts on the ground. The vast majority of guys simply aren't interested in what your ACT score, or SAT score, or your GRE score, or your LSAT score was or is. Most guys walking around don't consider matriculating through a top tier uni that big a plus, or a dealbreaker if you didn't go. Most guys really ain't interested in debating a chick over something that is bleedingly obvious to like, Stevie Wonder. And most guys HATE having smoke blown up their ass, and when Smarty Women like Deery and Jamila do the kind of things I noted above, that's when a lot of guys vote with their feet.

So long as you're not breathing through your mouth and write and speak in complete sentences, for most guys, you're good to go. There, I said it.

Much has been said about this particular dispensation of time; whatever the reasons for Black Men not going on to higher ed, the fact is that they are now hardly alone-even ASIAN Males are beginning to fall off in comparison to their female counterparts. This spells some serious trouble for Women in general, and for Black Women in particular, because it can point to some real problems *culture wise*-and, as it always does whenever two people come together, the blame cannot be laid at the feet of just one party. Smarty Women have a lot to answer for, too, and here is why I say that the Deerys and Jamilas of the world are making it a heck of a lot harder for the Ys. That's because, unlike so many Women, who talk that Keith Sweat, "I'm gonna, I'm gonna" stuff, Men simply vote with their feet if and when they determine things have gone as far as they can, they run across a better option, or have simply had enough. They don't make a big brouhaha over it. The MSM won't devote hours and hours of primetime coverage to it. They. Simply. Do. It.

And because human beings being human beings, most guys, after having a taste of the Deerys and Jamilas, won't want to take a roll of the dice to find out if Y is or isn't the same.

See where I'm going with this?

A final point. If you're reading this and think, "Obsidian's just got issues with Black Women", I can save you the trouble. I had a Black mom. I have Black sisters by blood. The majority of the Women in my life romantically, were Black BY MY CHOICE, and the love of my life now, is Black-in fact, many of you who read this blog regularly know that I refer to her as such, Ms. Brown Sugah. I do not hate Black Women, far from it. I am proud of their achievements, and want them to succeed.

But that doesn't mean that I won't call certain groups among them on the carpet for their ridiculous, dumbassery either when I deem fit to do so. Just remember, that I'm stepping in the name of love.

Which, is a heck of a lot more than can be said for Smarty, Uppity Sistas like Deery or Jamila, when they talk about Brothas like me.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Obsidian Makes “Federal Case” Out Of Roissy’s Racism

Obsidian · 27 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

“The reason why I make a “federal case” out of all this Roissy, is because for nearly a year, I’ve heard virtually NOTHING BUT the worst, negative stuff said about Black people, and what’s ironic about it is that it doesn’t come from the stereotypical backwater hick, but from purportedly urbane, highly educated folk who ought to know better, but by all accounts simply don’t. Its ways past time somebody from the actual group mentioned started speaking up.

In that the Tucker Max movie is now out, it would be interesting to run a comparison of that to Hitch, and then we can determine if they are really one and the same. By what I’ve seen of Hitch, and by what I know of Max, I’d say the difference between them is like night and day.

As for this notion of “averages” again, what are you talking about? Joe, Specimen, T aka Ricky Raw, heck even Virgil Kent, to me, these are average Black guys, Roissy-and once again you, like so many Whites here and elsewhere, seem stuck on the notion that ONLY underclass, ghetto Blacks represent the wholeness of Black America and/or the Black Experience-even when you know, for a fact, this isn’t true, in the form of the aforementioned Black guys.

Listen Man-I am as Blue Collar as they come. Came from Working Class roots. Never lived in a project building. Never took welfare. And virtually ALL of the Black Men I knew, from my running buddies in highschool to the oldheads at Church, were NOT practitioners of “Holla/low class/crude Black Game”. To a Man, all of them were smooth, well dressed and fairly soft spoken guys w/an air of refinement about them that the ladies-White or Black-definitely liked. A lot.

And that’s what I see here, among the Black Men that regularly frequent this forum. I don’t know any of them personally, nor they of me, but based on what they write and how they present themselves, I’d argue that they basically come from the same mold that the aforementioned Men in my life did-all Black folk did not and do not act as if they were the subject of Bill Cosby’s speech, Roissy. And why that is such a hard idea for you or virtually every White guy here to wrap their head is around is both baffling and deeply disturbing to me. Because again, we’re not talking about backwater hicks here, we’re talking about supposedly sharp folks who’s on the ball.

As for Tucker Max, true, you’ve never been a cheerleader, but you have been an advocate for “Asshole Game”, something that if you recall, I’ve addressed several times in this forum. There is nothing-NOTHING-about TM or AG that is refined or gentlemanly about it, Roissy. In fact, it is the very low class, crude deportment, if one can call it that, that many here deride about Black Men.

And that’s my point. If a White guy’s doing it, it’s being a douche. If a Black guy’s doing it, he’s simply being low class and crude. To me, there aint a dime’s bit of difference between the two, which is why I said to Gig, that to me he’s no different that the ignorant cornerboy in the hood, no matter if his skin is as White as porcelin and has a closet full of college degrees. I find him to be gratuitously crude, crass, and just downright mean-attritbutes not only a true gent, but just any decent human being, would assiduously avoid.

And on that note, and to close out-i reject the notion that one must choose between being a doormat or being a douche. There is a middle way, a third option-its called being a gentleman and a human being, who respects himself and others, while at the same time maintaining standards of behavior and conduct from those he associates with. Quite frankly, I wouldn’t give a Women the time of day or the sweat off my balls if, by her manner and deeds, gets all hot and bothered for the Tucker Max’s of the world. Mind you, I’ve never, ever, questioned the “efficacy” of Asshole Game, and said as much in this forum; what I am saying is that I have a choice. And if the choice comes down to acting like a true sub human being in order to get my dick wet, or going without at all, I will gladly take the latter.

Thankfully for all concerned, there does exist Women who have just a weebit more respect for themselves than

that. I've had the good fortune to know quite a few personally.

Holla back

O"

H/T: Commenter Y, for diligently mining the Internets for previous post comments of mine.

The Obsidian

So-Called “Elites” Have Destroyed Our Country

Obsidian · 28 May 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since it seems there’s a bit of interest in exactly what I think and who I dislike, I thought the time is ripe to let er rip about some things that have been on my mind for a very, very long time.

The popular pundit William F. Buckley once said that he had more faith in the ability of the first 400 people taken at random from the Boston phonebook to run the country, than the entirety of Harvard U’s faculty.

As far as I’m concerned, Buckley was right.

I cite Buckely, not just because I agree with him, but also because, it is our way as human beings to attack or otherwise attempt to discredit the messenger, instead of grapping with the merit of the message itself. Let’s face it, there are those who will say, Obsidian’s only crying sour grapes because he’s a lowly prole, or some such nonsense.

Yet, the sustained trail of evidence as we have it of a solid decade-and counting-says quite convincingly, that the argument swings in my favor. Consider the following:

Enron
Worldcom
Sep 11/Iraq War/Afghan War
Major League Sports AND Olympics
Catholic Church
Wall Street
Upper Big Branch Coalmine
BP

And that’s just to name a scant few. In EVERY instance, high-powered “elites”, charged with the power to make smart decisions, screwed up royally.

And in every instance, who picked up the tab?

Guys like me.

Our love affair with the Elite has been figuratively and in so many ways, literally, the death of us. They have destroyed our communities, destroyed our way of life, destroyed our economy, destroyed our sense of fair play, destroyed political system, destroyed our faith…and right before our eyes, they’ve destroyed the very environment we all rely upon to survive. And please don’t get me wrong. I am by no means a rabid tree hugger, a shill for the Sierra Club. But I can just see, by using simple commonsense, that we can’t go on doing business this way any longer. It is literally killing us.

I try real hard not to romanticize the past-being Black makes that task not at all that hard to do-but I gotta tell ya, I really don’t know if we got it any better than our parents. Depending on the eggheads you believe, the current and next generations will be the first in a century to have it WORSE than their parents, on a whole host of life measures. The Baby Boomers will be the last to enjoy Social Security. It won’t happen for me, nor will a pension, since that too has gone extinct over the past few decades.

My dad could support a family working with his hands-true, he also faced in-your-face racism too-nevertheless, he could and did, support a family relying on his homebuilding skills. That’s all but a thing of the past now, except in a few places. Other Black Men, and for that matter millions of White Men, could work in factories or plants and send their own kids to college. Buy a home. Get married. And retire with dignity. That’s all gone now.

The disparity between rich and poor, between haves and have nots, is obscene. It really is. And how can any of us, turnaround and say to a young person that if they only work hard and play by the rules, they too not only can, but will, “make it”? I don’t know about all of you, but I feel like Rand Paul saying some pie in the sky crap like that.

In just every way, the system is broken, the game rigged, to benefit a few at the expense of the many. And its not even done in smoke-filled backrooms anymore-now the “elites” are flagrant with it. Goldman-Sachs TELLS YOU, to your face, that they’re not gonna apologize because they’ve done nothing wrong. Even when we know for a fact that THEY knew for a fact that they were selling crap deals.

And the War on the Working Class is a true travesty. I listen, watch, read, how our ostensible betters talk about them/us, its as if they/we’re lepers or something. What the hell did they/we do to elicit such contempt, hatred even? Last time I checked, Joe Sixpack, if he was a danger and a problem to anyone, it was to himself. For most such Joes, most of their time and brainpower is devoted to making it through the day, through the week, keeping the lights on and food on the table. Yet, to let our “betters” tell it, the “Proles” are the Devil Incarnate.

It’s like we don’t exist, and if and when we are brought up in the media, its either with the aforementioned scorn or with the kind of ridicule reserved for Archie Bunker. We’re stupid, not sophisticated, backward and most of all, not cool. We can’t possibly have a clue as to what’s going on in the world around us, and we should bow on bended knees in gratitude for the elites to tell us how to think, to live, to act.

We spend ridiculous amounts of money either to attend university ourselves, and/or to send our kids there, and we all know the real reason why we do it-because we don’t want to be associated with “them”. It’s the unspoken rule in the “great debate” about “education” and we all know it. I have always said that there was a powerful attitudinal component to the debate, and one in my view, that explains why we see, what we see. At least in large part.

Well, for my part, I am glad-yes, that’s right-GLAD-things are going the way they are. Why? Because it tramples all over the ASSumptions these so-called “elites” had-and that they are now being consumed by the very monster they unleashed on the rest of us. The people who are suppoed to be our “best and brightest” all too often turn out to be little more than fakin’ the funk with a nasty dunk, if that. They’ve mastered the art of posture, nothing more. And it is only fitting that they be devoured by the very forces they’ve sicced on the rest of us.

When you piss and shat all over the people who actually make it possible for a society to exist and continue, you not only cut off your nose to spite your face, but you get exactly what you deserve.

Burn, baby burn…
The Obsidian

Men At Work

Obsidian · 3 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Several of my esteemed readers have been, online and off, sent me a spate of articles and have been asking me about all the scuttlebutt surrounding the arrival of the New Grrl Order-the fact that we have now crossed the labor market rubicon, where Women now makeup a simple majority of the American workforce. After giving a bit of thought to this, I've decided to respond in this way.

First off, we have to keep in mind that the Chattering Classes are wholly divorced from the rest of the country, no matter how hard they may try to act differently. Simply put, they live and die, in a completely different world than the rest of us plebes. Most of these folks live in the richest areas of the country, and their salaries are counted in the millions of dollars a year if not more. It is very difficult to live that kind of life and have any real understanding of what day to day living is like for the rest of us.

So, the notion that the Mancession has hit mostly married, more well to do couples, is at best a polite contrivance. To be sure, it can happen there, but we all know, as the recent announcement of the Gores going splitsville demonstrates, that fewer Americans are getting married to begin with, and sticking it out when they do. So in a very real sense, such points as raised by the MSM is, at best, moot. If not an out and out diversion.

Where the rubber really hits the road for me, is what I like to call the Acid Test of Equality-for more than three decades, we all have been told that Women have been working against a stacked deck, and in many ways, they were right. But that was then, and this is now. Not only are Women more employed in the workforce, but they often outearn many Men and have more formal educations, to boot. Whatever the gripes of the past may have been, and again, I fully and freely admit they may have been legit, Women can't say that such things obtain any longer, not with the wholesale carnage the Mancession has left in its wake.

So, for me, this period of time will be a perfect one in which Women will demonstrate what they will do when in the Big Chair at last. I for one, can't wait to see what will happen.

Will Women be willing to support Men who no longer work at all? For decades in this country, and centuries worldwide, Men did this for Women. Yes, you may say, but Women bore the babies and took care of home and hearth. Fair enough, but it's been proven that guys can care for babies just as well as Women can, and who said that busting suds or making your bed was a "Woman's thing"? Rubbish.

We know, for a fact, that Men, for all their faults and foibles, did the toughest, dirtiest and most dangerous jobs, often without fanfare or complaint. And they did it to support their families, where, more often than not, their wife wasn't working outside the home. Millions of Men would return home on a Friday and hand over the check to the wife. It remains to be seen if Women will return the favor now that they're the breadwinners.

We also know, that it was very common for Men to literally fall down dead at work. Its been said that more people (read: Men) have heart attacks on the morning drive/commute to work on Mondays than any other week, and I've personally seen that theory borne out in real life-one of my uncles died while having a massive heart attack drving to work one Monday morning; by the time his car crashed into a tree, he was already as dead as a door nail. And one of my best friends of nearly three decades' father died on the way in to work on a Monday morning. In his case, he made it to the job-then collapsed on the shop floor, DOA.

In my own life, a week before I started on my job, a Man died, in the same spot I would be working. Several more would die since my tenure began. Quite a few others would receive career ending injuries. And as we all saw back in April of this year, not a Woman was to be found among those lost in the Upper Big Branch mine or British Petroleum oil rig disasters; the dead were all, to a Man, Men.

So, it remains to be seen if and what kind of stresses White Collar, largely services-oriented workers experience. Something tells me that it won't quite parallel what I've noted above.

Personally, I think this is an excellent time for Men. Why? Because for the first time in a long time, if not ever, we don't have to do what our dads and grand dads did. Make no mistake, they often did jobs they hate, and there wasn't a Chattering Class or Oprah with which they could cry into their beer to. Many Men, stoic as all get out, simply did the damned thing, day in, and day out, handing over the paycheck/wallet to the Missus every Friday like clockwork. Like Tiger said, that's one heck of a transfer payment when you think about it.

But anyway, yea, we guys now have options-real options. We can go back to school-or drop out from a life chained to a desk. We can travel, if even only within the country itself, and see new things. We can remake ourselves anew, try new things, meet new people. And most of all, we can define ourselves away from what society says we should be, which is what we do and have much we make doing it. In this respect, the Mancession was a blessing in disguise.

It's also a blessing in disguise because, when it comes to the ladies, we now know what they truly are all about. Let's face it, money has always been the buffer that kept the wolves of a relationship at bay. With that no longer a factor in the mix, we now get to see what Women, as a group now, are truly made of. What do they really value in a Man? It was one thing to talk a mean game of Keith Sweat stuff back when they didn't have any pull, but that day has long past and they are now in the driver's seat. So I say it's a good thing that you may not have as much moolah as you once did, fellas. Now you get to see what the Women in your life are truly made of.

Somehow, because I have a bit of understanding about human nature that includes Women, I have a hard time believing and seeing Women simply taking on the roles that Men once did, even as it is highly unlikely that so many of them would meet the same fates. Its hard to see Women openly and without complaint, paying for dates outright; or paying the rent/mortage outright; or, gasp!-handing over her paycheck to her significant other to handle the household expenses. To be sure, there are individual cases of Women who don't play to this kind of type; I consider myself blessed to be a Man who has known of this kind of Woman firsthand. But the exceptions don't kill the rule, they only strengthen it.

Of course, I could be totally wrong.

The Ladies will decide…

The Obsidian

The Choice Is Yours...(Saturday Chill-Out Edition)

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Coke or Pepsi?

Ford or Chevy?

Beemer or Audi?

Air Jordan or King LeBron?

Yao Ming or Shaq Diesel?

Big Pun's "Capital Punishment" or Common's "Like Water For Chocolate"?

Serena Williams, or Maria Sharapova?

John McEnroe or Pete Sampras?

Arnie Palmer or Jack Nicklaus?

Batman or Daredevil?

Daredevil or Rorschach?

Rorschach or The Punisher?

Flyers or Blackhawks?

Sanaa Latham or Scarlett Johannsen?

The Joker, or Jigsaw?

Michael Myers, or Jason Voorhees?

Yoda, or Merlin?

Betty Page, or Pam Grier?

Cheeseburger, or Cheesesteak?

Falafel or Garden Burger?

War & Peace or Remembrance of Times Past?

The Art of War or The Prince?

Frederico Fellini or Sergio Leone?

Frederico Fellini or Alfred Hitchcock?

Sergio Leone or Sam Peckinpah?

Doc Holliday or Billy The Kid?

Frank Rizzo or Richard Daly?

Krav Maga or Kali?

Kali or Muay Thai?

Muay Thai or KFM?

Beretta or Glock?

Glock or Walther?

Walther or Beretta?

J Dilla or The RZA?

Tom Ford or Sean John?

Sean John or Kenneth Cole?

Armani or Versace?

Tony Mantegna or Frank White?

The Bourne Ultimatum or Quantum Of Solace?

Quantum Of Solace or Taken?

Iron Man 2 or Spiderman 2?

Spiderman 2 or The Dark Knight?

Hard Boiled or Heat?

Medium Rare or Well Done?

Blonde or Brunette?

Brunette or Redhead?

Michael Eric Dyson or John McWhorter?

OK, I done ran out of stuff to say, so that's it.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Men At Work 2

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As I expected, my recent post, “Men At Work” elicited numerous replies and comments, running the gamut of opinion and this is something I welcome. Let a thousand flowers bloom and all that.

One thing that continues to fascinate and amaze me about people, is in just how little they question their own assumptions. I’m not necessarily knocking anybody here, we’re all prone to doing this; the human condition is such that it is often quite myopic. And history has shown us that it takes a deliberate effort to expand beyond one’s one parochialism in order to see the bigger picture.

This post will attempt to make plain what I said in the last post of the same name, as well to address some of the concerns other commenters have made therein.

Ok, so let’s get to it…

First we have to understand, that we humans are no different from all other forms of life on this planet, in that we are subject to our environment and our success or failure as a species will depend on our ability to adapt to the demands and changes of said environment. Indeed, of all the planet’s forms of life, humans have shown a marked tendency to be among the more adaptable; we exist, live and many cases, thrive, in just about every corner of the Earth, often for centuries. There are entire species of other forms of life on our planet, who wasn’t so lucky. The dinosaurs easily come to mind.

Simply put, we do what th environment allows. When it comes to the topic of this and the previous post of the same name then, it means that when Men were able to be sole breadwinners, they did that. It doesn’t take a historian however to see and know, that the Male as sole breadwinner model has long been in decline-easily three decades if not more-and that the current changes to our social environment suggests that it will change, yet again. In its simplest terms, this means that the breadwinner model, as a means of signalling fitness and worthiness as a mate, is fast becoming a non-factor for Men in our time. This is due to a number of forces-not only have Women gained greated access to formal education and economic freedom, but so too has the more “manly” fields have gone into decline, due to outsourcing and the inexorable march forward technologically. And we are beginning to see this “seeping” trending upwards-as I noted previously, it is not at all uncommon to see solidly middle class, White Collar Men now out of work, their fates being the same as their Lunchpail brethren-being the victims of circumstance, outsourcing, and ever-increasingly morphing tech. The assumption that earning a college degree was a viable hedge against being unemployed, is something many of those Men are no doubt giving a serious rethink to, as they now begin to share the same unemployment line as Joe Sixpack.

And that trend, as the economy continues its contraction/correction, will continue.

This has to have a serious and profound effect on how these and other Men are to signal their worthiness as mates; if your an anthropologist type, one that is a lover of watching how animal life gets on (or not) with one another, you understand well that at the end of the day, said species lives or dies on its ability to get together or not. We know the social environment no longer supports a Man being the breadwinner in aggregate.

So now what?

Well, from where I sit, several things.

One of them will reside in how Women will choose to respond. On this point, there has been much speculation-but I think we have a bit of evidence, however anecdotal it may be, to give us some clues as to what we can expect in the very near future:

1. For one thing, Women’s criteria as to what they find desirable in a mate will considerably change. Since the Man as Breadwinner model is fast becoming obsolete, other factors will take centerstage; in simplest terms, these “other

factors" can be taken together to be classified as Game, that constellation of habits, behaviors and traits that have been shown to have the most appeal to the most numbers of Women overall. Although Game can and often does occur naturally among Men, it has also been shown and proven that it can be acquired and indeed taught; stories abound of Men who were able to learn enough Game to significantly change their love lives for the better, at a fraction of the cost and time that it takes to go the more traditional Male as Breadwinner route, such as paying tens of thousands of dollars for a college degree, for example.

2. And indeed, we're seeing clear and present evidence of this happening. Aside from the popularization of Game by the likes of Mystery, Neil "Style" Strauss and others with their bestselling books and so on, we also know that Male gym memberships have skyrocketed over the past few decades; even Nutrisystem, a weight loss company that primarily catered to Women, now has among its pitchmen NFL legends Dan Marino, Lawrence "LT" Talyor, and Don Shula, all hawking weight programs designed specifically for Men. Where at one time the whole of Men's grooming products consisted of Brute, Alqua Velva and Barbisol, today the industry is bursting at the seams with just about every player in the business marketing their brand of aftershave, bodywash, hair gel, mirrors, deodorants, lotions and colognes, for every Man in every price bracket, from Axe and body oils you can get from the Muslim vendor on the corner, to Armani and Ed Hardy that you can cop from Sephora or Macy's, and everything in between. Even the traditional barbershop has changed; aside from "the usual" a guy can also get a manicure, special facials and massages and the like; in my native Philly, several such shops exist-I know because one in particular is a place I regularly frequented, and I must say they do a really good job! Back in our pop and grand pop's day looking good was a plus; today, its mandatory. As Prof. Andrew Hacker clearly shows in his excellent book "Mismatch", Today's Women are quite vocal *and demanding* in what they expect of Men-they are, because they can. Yesterday's "Brawny Man" is out; today's Pretty Boy is IN.

3. The question remains though, as to whether Today's Women will be cool with supporting a Man who is either out of work from the get go, or makes substantially less than herself. On this score I don't think we have any hard evidence to say either way within an American context, though I could be wrong on that point. If someone out there does have access to such evidence either way, by all means bring it forward. But what I will say right now, is that if indeed Women do wind up supporting their Men, they also need to understand that the same rules will apply to them, that once applied to Men. What do I mean by that?

I mean that Women cannot expect, because they pay the bills, that gives them the right to treat their mate any way they wish. Of course it falls on every individual Man to decided for himself how he will respond, but when it comes to our law and social custom, both are indeed quite clear on the matter: a Man, who was the traditional breadwinner, couldn't justify his abuse of his mate, be it physical or emotional; both the law and social custom has decided that financial responsibility has no role whatsoever to play in the matter. He simply had no right to beat, or browbeat, his wife.

Period.

That same law and social custom, can and I posit, will be applied to Women, as more and more of them come to assume the breadwinner role. This will also extend to alimony and child support payments, too, as more Men assume primary caretaker roles.

Nor should any of this really come as a big shock and surprise to Women either-after all, many if not the vast majority of them, will totally agree with the notion that, just because a Man paid for a date and night out on the town, didn't entitle him to sex-the Women still had the right to say "No". Well, if it's good for the Gander, and all that. My point in all this, in case you haven't caught it by now, is that it would be true folly for Women to think that because they pay the bills in the New Grrl Order that gives them the right to run the roost in any way they wish-if they do, they'll be in for a very rude awakening, first legally, and then socially, if only because of the changes in the environment.

4. Of course, all this comes down to how well both Men and Women can and are willing to adapt to the new "game" of love. For Women, they will now get the full reigns of leadership, which inherently comes with risks and

responsibilities. And for Men, it comes down to whether he is able to disentangle himself from obsolete models of masculinity that have far outlived their purpose and utility in a meaningful, tangible way in our time for the vast majority. Again, it cannot be overstated enough-the Male as Breadwinner model is all but dead now for most Men reading this. Either they'll share that role with the mate in their lives, or they won't be able to have that role at all. So, by the demands of a changed environment, he will have to look to other things which makes him a viable mate that a Woman deems worth having around-and paying for it.

Here is where Game has the most direct answers, though it must also be said that it comes with a bit of fineprint. It is not a panacea, nor will it solve all problems in our Brave New World. Nevertheless, it's the last, best hope Today's Man has-and if he is smart and diligent, he can improve his chances for love dramatically, even as the Mancession continues ruthlessly apace. Consider the following, just for an example:

Most of the Men reading this can and often do get haircuts. They typically cost no more than say, $15. Now consider how much Women pay to get their hair done-in the Black community, it can easily be *four times that amount, if not vastly more, depending on the hairstyle*. Grooming, in the main, is a very important aspect of Game-and does anyone here really dispute how good a nice haircut can make a Man look? It's as if he's reborn or something. I've seen Women give a guy a double take based on that, alone.

My point is, that a Man reinventing himself isn't as hard as it seems, and in absolute dollars comparatively speaking, is way cheaper than it is for a Woman of comparable age, etc. I say this from experience. Yes, one can spend a King's Ransom on books and cds and dvds and bootcamps, with a return on investment that's shaky at best-or, he can spend next to nothing on a few books and the many free websites and blogs devoted to the matter and within anywhere from six months to two years (depending on his learning curve, diligence, etc) can reap the rewards. Again, I've done it. So have many, many other Men.

So, in summary, I'll just say this: whether we like it or not, whether we believe it or not, the social environment that dictated the terms upon which Male and Female came together, is vastly changing. What used to do the job for our dads and grand dads, simply ain't gonna get it for us, if for no other reason than because for most of us, it is no longer an option on the table to be considered. That means we'll have to look to other ways of being, of presenting ourselves to the world. And for Women, at long last they will be truly equals. With all that entails-the good, the bad, and the ugly, too.

Comment and reply, holla.

The Obsidian

New Article In The Atlantic: The End Of Men

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The Atlantic Home
http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2010/05/the-end-of-men/8135/ Tuesday, June 8, 2010

The End of Men

Earlier this year, women became the majority of the workforce for the first time in U.S. history. Most managers are now women too. And for every two men who get a college degree this year, three women will do the same. For years, women's progress has been cast as a struggle for equality. But what if equality isn't the end point? What if modern, postindustrial society is simply better suited to women? A report on the unprecedented role reversal now under way— and its vast cultural consequences

By Hanna Rosin

Image credit: John Ritter

In the 1970 s the biologist Ronald Ericsson came up with a way to separate sperm carrying the male-producing Y chromosome from those carrying the X. He sent the two kinds of sperm swimming down a glass tube through ever-thicker albumin barriers. The sperm with the X chromosome had a larger head and a longer tail, and so, he figured, they would get bogged down in the viscous liquid. The sperm with the Y chromosome were leaner and faster and could swim down to the bottom of the tube more efficiently. Ericsson had grown up on a ranch in South Dakota, where he'd developed an Old West, cowboy swagger. The process, he said, was like "cutting out cattle at the gate." The cattle left flailing behind the gate were of course the X's, which seemed to please him. He would sometimes demonstrate the process using cartilage from a bull's penis as a pointer.

In the late 1970s, Ericsson leased the method to clinics around the U.S., calling it the first scientifically proven method for choosing the sex of a child. Instead of a lab coat, he wore cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, and doled out his version of cowboy poetry. (People magazine once suggested a TV miniseries based on his life called Cowboy in the Lab .) The right prescription for life, he would say, was "breakfast at five-thirty, on the saddle by six, no room for Mr. Limp Wrist." In 1979, he loaned out his ranch as the backdrop for the iconic "Marlboro Country" ads because he believed in the campaign's central image—"a guy riding on his horse along the river, no bureaucrats, no lawyers," he recalled when I spoke to him this spring. "He's the boss." (The photographers took some 6,500 pictures, a pictorial record of the frontier that Ericsson still takes great pride in.)

Video: In this family feud, Hanna Rosin and her daughter, Noa, debate the superiority of women with Rosin's son, Jacob, and husband, Slate editor David Plotz

Feminists of the era did not take kindly to Ericsson and his Marlboro Man veneer. To them, the lab cowboy and his sperminator portended a dystopia of mass-produced boys. "You have to be concerned about the future of all women," Roberta Steinbacher, a nun-turned-social-psychologist, said in a 1984 People profile of Ericsson. "There's no question that there exists a universal preference for sons." Steinbacher went on to complain about women becoming locked in as "second-class citizens" while men continued to dominate positions of control and influence. "I think women have to ask themselves, 'Where does this stop?'" she said. "A lot of us wouldn't be here right now if these practices had been in effect years ago."

Ericsson, now 74, laughed when I read him these quotes from his old antagonist. Seldom has it been so easy to prove a dire prediction wrong. In the '90s, when Ericsson looked into the numbers for the two dozen or so clinics that use his process, he discovered, to his surprise, that couples were requesting more girls than boys, a gap that has persisted, even though Ericsson advertises the method as more effective for producing boys. In some clinics, Ericsson has said, the ratio is now as high as 2 to 1. Polling data on American sex preference is sparse, and does not show a clear preference for girls. But the picture from the doctor's office unambiguously does. A newer method for

sperm selection, called MicroSort, is currently completing Food and Drug Administration clinical trials. The girl requests for that method run at about 75 percent.

Even more unsettling for Ericsson, it has become clear that in choosing the sex of the next generation, he is no longer the boss. “It’s the women who are driving all the decisions,” he says—a change the MicroSort spokespeople I met with also mentioned. At first, Ericsson says, women who called his clinics would apologize and shyly explain that they already had two boys. “Now they just call and [say] outright, ‘I want a girl.’ These mothers look at their lives and think their daughters will have a bright future their mother and grandmother didn’t have, brighter than their sons, even, so why wouldn’t you choose a girl?”

Why wouldn’t you choose a girl? That such a statement should be so casually uttered by an old cowboy like Ericsson—or by anyone, for that matter—is monumental. For nearly as long as civilization has existed, patriarchy—enforced through the rights of the firstborn son—has been the organizing principle, with few exceptions. Men in ancient Greece tied off their left testicle in an effort to produce male heirs; women have killed themselves (or been killed) for failing to bear sons. In her iconic 1949 book, The Second Sex , the French feminist Simone de Beauvoir suggested that women so detested their own “feminine condition” that they regarded their newborn daughters with irritation and disgust. Now the centuries-old preference for sons is eroding—or even reversing. “Women of our generation want daughters precisely because we like who we are,” breezes one woman in Cookie magazine. Even Ericsson, the stubborn old goat, can sigh and mark the passing of an era. “Did male dominance exist? Of course it existed. But it seems to be gone now. And the era of the firstborn son is totally gone.”

Ericsson’s extended family is as good an illustration of the rapidly shifting landscape as any other. His 26-year-old granddaughter—“tall, slender, brighter than hell, with a take-no-prisoners personality”—is a biochemist and works on genetic sequencing. His niece studied civil engineering at the University of Southern California. His grandsons, he says, are bright and handsome, but in school “their eyes glaze over. I have to tell ’em: ‘Just don’t screw up and crash your pickup truck and get some girl pregnant and ruin your life.’” Recently Ericsson joked with the old boys at his elementary-school reunion that he was going to have a sex-change operation. “Women live longer than men. They do better in this economy. More of ’em graduate from college. They go into space and do everything men do, and sometimes they do it a whole lot better. I mean, hell, get out of the way—these females are going to leave us males in the dust.”

Man has been the dominant sex since, well, the dawn of mankind. But for the first time in human history, that is changing—and with shocking speed. Cultural and economic changes always reinforce each other. And the global economy is evolving in a way that is eroding the historical preference for male children, worldwide. Over several centuries, South Korea, for instance, constructed one of the most rigid patriarchal societies in the world. Many wives who failed to produce male heirs were abused and treated as domestic servants; some families prayed to spirits to kill off girl children. Then, in the 1970s and ’80s, the government embraced an industrial revolution and encouraged women to enter the labor force. Women moved to the city and went to college. They advanced rapidly, from industrial jobs to clerical jobs to professional work. The traditional order began to crumble soon after. In 1990, the country’s laws were revised so that women could keep custody of their children after a divorce and inherit property. In 2005, the court ruled that women could register children under their own names. As recently as 1985, about half of all women in a national survey said they “must have a son.” That percentage fell slowly until 1991 and then plummeted to just over 15 percent by 2003. Male preference in South Korea “is over,” says Monica Das Gupta, a demographer and Asia expert at the World Bank. “It happened so fast. It’s hard to believe it, but it is.” The same shift is now beginning in other rapidly industrializing countries such as India and China.

Up to a point, the reasons behind this shift are obvious. As thinking and communicating have come to eclipse physical strength and stamina as the keys to economic success, those societies that take advantage of the talents of all their adults, not just half of them, have pulled away from the rest. And because geopolitics and global culture are, ultimately, Darwinian, other societies either follow suit or end up marginalized. In 2006, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development devised the Gender, Institutions and Development Database, which measures the economic and political power of women in 162 countries. With few exceptions, the greater the power

of women, the greater the country's economic success. Aid agencies have started to recognize this relationship and have pushed to institute political quotas in about 100 countries, essentially forcing women into power in an effort to improve those countries' fortunes. In some war-torn states, women are stepping in as a sort of maternal rescue team. Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, portrayed her country as a sick child in need of her care during her campaign five years ago. Postgenocide Rwanda elected to heal itself by becoming the first country with a majority of women in parliament.

In feminist circles, these social, political, and economic changes are always cast as a slow, arduous form of catch-up in a continuing struggle for female equality. But in the U.S., the world's most advanced economy, something much more remarkable seems to be happening. American parents are beginning to choose to have girls over boys. As they imagine the pride of watching a child grow and develop and succeed as an adult, it is more often a girl that they see in their mind's eye.

What if the modern, postindustrial economy is simply more congenial to women than to men? For a long time, evolutionary psychologists have claimed that we are all imprinted with adaptive imperatives from a distant past: men are faster and stronger and hardwired to fight for scarce resources, and that shows up now as a drive to win on Wall Street; women are programmed to find good providers and to care for their offspring, and that is manifested in more- nurturing and more-flexible behavior, ordaining them to domesticity. This kind of thinking frames our sense of the natural order. But what if men and women were fulfilling not biological imperatives but social roles, based on what was more efficient throughout a long era of human history? What if that era has now come to an end? More to the point, what if the economics of the new era are better suited to women?

Once you open your eyes to this possibility, the evidence is all around you. It can be found, most immediately, in the wreckage of the Great Recession, in which three-quarters of the 8 million jobs lost were lost by men. The worst-hit industries were overwhelmingly male and deeply identified with macho: construction, manufacturing, high finance. Some of these jobs will come back, but the overall pattern of dislocation is neither temporary nor random. The recession merely revealed—and accelerated—a profound economic shift that has been going on for at least 30 years, and in some respects even longer.

Earlier this year, for the first time in American history, the balance of the workforce tipped toward women, who now hold a majority of the nation's jobs. The working class, which has long defined our notions of masculinity, is slowly turning into a matriarchy, with men increasingly absent from the home and women making all the decisions. Women dominate today's colleges and professional schools—for every two men who will receive a B.A. this year, three women will do the same. Of the 15 job categories projected to grow the most in the next decade in the U.S., all but two are occupied primarily by women. Indeed, the U.S. economy is in some ways becoming a kind of traveling sisterhood: upper-class women leave home and enter the workforce, creating domestic jobs for other women to fill.

The postindustrial economy is indifferent to men's size and strength. The attributes that are most valuable today—social intelligence, open communication, the ability to sit still and focus—are, at a minimum, not predominantly male. In fact, the opposite may be true. Women in poor parts of India are learning English faster than men to meet the demands of new global call centers. Women own more than 40 percent of private businesses in China, where a red Ferrari is the new status symbol for female entrepreneurs. Last year, Iceland elected Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir, the world's first openly lesbian head of state, who campaigned explicitly against the male elite she claimed had destroyed the nation's banking system, and who vowed to end the "age of testosterone."

Yes, the U.S. still has a wage gap, one that can be convincingly explained—at least in part—by discrimination. Yes, women still do most of the child care. And yes, the upper reaches of society are still dominated by men. But given the power of the forces pushing at the economy, this setup feels like the last gasp of a dying age rather than the permanent establishment. Dozens of college women I interviewed for this story assumed that they very well might be the ones working while their husbands stayed at home, either looking for work or minding the children. Guys,

one senior remarked to me, “are the new ball and chain.” It may be happening slowly and unevenly, but it’s unmistakably happening: in the long view, the modern economy is becoming a place where women hold the cards.

In his final book, The Bachelors’ Ball , published in 2007, the sociologist Pierre Bourdieu describes the changing gender dynamics of Béarn, the region in southwestern France where he grew up. The eldest sons once held the privileges of patrimonial loyalty and filial inheritance in Béarn. But over the decades, changing economic forces turned those privileges into curses. Although the land no longer produced the impressive income it once had, the men felt obligated to tend it. Meanwhile, modern women shunned farm life, lured away by jobs and adventure in the city. They occasionally returned for the traditional balls, but the men who awaited them had lost their prestige and become unmarriageable. This is the image that keeps recurring to me, one that Bourdieu describes in his book: at the bachelors’ ball, the men, self-conscious about their diminished status, stand stiffly, their hands by their sides, as the women twirl away.

The role reversal that’s under way between American men and women shows up most obviously and painfully in the working class. In recent years, male support groups have sprung up throughout the Rust Belt and in other places where the postindustrial economy has turned traditional family roles upside down. Some groups help men cope with unemployment, and others help them reconnect with their alienated families. Mustafaa El-Scari, a teacher and social worker, leads some of these groups in Kansas City. El-Scari has studied the sociology of men and boys set adrift, and he considers it his special gift to get them to open up and reflect on their new condition. The day I visited one of his classes, earlier this year, he was facing a particularly resistant crowd.

None of the 30 or so men sitting in a classroom at a downtown Kansas City school have come for voluntary adult enrichment. Having failed to pay their child support, they were given the choice by a judge to go to jail or attend a weekly class on fathering, which to them seemed the better deal. This week’s lesson, from a workbook called Quenching the Father Thirst , was supposed to involve writing a letter to a hypothetical estranged 14-year-old daughter named Crystal, whose father left her when she was a baby. But El-Scari has his own idea about how to get through to this barely awake, skeptical crew, and letters to Crystal have nothing to do with it.

Like them, he explains, he grew up watching Bill Cosby living behind his metaphorical “white picket fence”—one man, one woman, and a bunch of happy kids. “Well, that check bounced a long time ago,” he says. “Let’s see,” he continues, reading from a worksheet. What are the four kinds of paternal authority? Moral, emotional, social, and physical. “But you ain’t none of those in that house. All you are is a paycheck, and now you ain’t even that. And if you try to exercise your authority, she’ll call 911. How does that make you feel? You’re supposed to be the authority, and she says, ‘Get out of the house, bitch.’ She’s calling you ‘bitch’!”

The men are black and white, their ages ranging from about 20 to 40. A couple look like they might have spent a night or two on the streets, but the rest look like they work, or used to. Now they have put down their sodas, and El-Scari has their attention, so he gets a little more philosophical. “Who’s doing what?” he asks them. “What is our role? Everyone’s telling us we’re supposed to be the head of a nuclear family, so you feel like you got robbed. It’s toxic, and poisonous, and it’s setting us up for failure.” He writes on the board: $85,000. “This is her salary.” Then: $12,000. “This is your salary. Who’s the damn man? Who’s the man now?” A murmur rises. “That’s right. She’s the man.”

Judging by the men I spoke with afterward, El-Scari seemed to have pegged his audience perfectly. Darren Henderson was making $33 an hour laying sheet metal, until the real-estate crisis hit and he lost his job. Then he lost his duplex—“there’s my little piece of the American dream”—then his car. And then he fell behind on his child-support payments. “They make it like I’m just sitting around,” he said, “but I’m not.” As proof of his efforts, he took out a new commercial driver’s permit and a bartending license, and then threw them down on the ground like jokers, for all the use they’d been. His daughter’s mother had a $50,000-a-year job and was getting her master’s degree in social work. He’d just signed up for food stamps, which is just about the only social-welfare program a man can easily access. Recently she’d seen him waiting at the bus stop. “Looked me in the eye,” he recalled, “and just drove on by.”

The men in that room, almost without exception, were casualties of the end of the manufacturing era. Most of them had continued to work with their hands even as demand for manual labor was declining. Since 2000, manufacturing has lost almost 6 million jobs, more than a third of its total workforce, and has taken in few young workers. The housing bubble masked this new reality for a while, creating work in construction and related industries. Many of the men I spoke with had worked as electricians or builders; one had been a successful real-estate agent. Now those jobs are gone too. Henderson spent his days shuttling between unemployment offices and job interviews, wondering what his daughter might be doing at any given moment. In 1950, roughly one in 20 men of prime working age, like Henderson, was not working; today that ratio is about one in five, the highest ever recorded.

Men dominate just two of the 15 job categories projected to grow the most over the next decade: janitor and computer engineer. Women have everything else—nursing, home health assistance, child care, food preparation. Many of the new jobs, says Heather Boushey of the Center for American Progress, "replace the things that women used to do in the home for free." None is especially high-paying. But the steady accumulation of these jobs adds up to an economy that, for the working class, has become more amenable to women than to men.

The list of growing jobs is heavy on nurturing professions, in which women, ironically, seem to benefit from old stereotypes and habits. Theoretically, there is no reason men should not be qualified. But they have proved remarkably unable to adapt. Over the course of the past century, feminism has pushed women to do things once considered against their nature—first enter the workforce as singles, then continue to work while married, then work even with small children at home. Many professions that started out as the province of men are now filled mostly with women—secretary and teacher come to mind. Yet I'm not aware of any that have gone the opposite way. Nursing schools have tried hard to recruit men in the past few years, with minimal success. Teaching schools, eager to recruit male role models, are having a similarly hard time. The range of acceptable masculine roles has changed comparatively little, and has perhaps even narrowed as men have shied away from some careers women have entered. As Jessica Grose wrote in Slate , men seem "fixed in cultural aspic." And with each passing day, they lag further behind.

As we recover from the Great Recession, some traditionally male jobs will return—men are almost always harder-hit than women in economic downturns because construction and manufacturing are more cyclical than service industries—but that won't change the long-term trend. When we look back on this period, argues Jamie Ladge, a business professor at Northeastern University, we will see it as a "turning point for women in the workforce."

The economic and cultural power shift from men to women would be hugely significant even if it never extended beyond working-class America. But women are also starting to dominate middle management, and a surprising number of professional careers as well. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, women now hold 51.4 percent of managerial and professional jobs—up from 26.1 percent in 1980. They make up 54 percent of all accountants and hold about half of all banking and insurance jobs. About a third of America's physicians are now women, as are 45 percent of associates in law firms—and both those percentages are rising fast. A white-collar economy values raw intellectual horsepower, which men and women have in equal amounts. It also requires communication skills and social intelligence, areas in which women, according to many studies, have a slight edge. Perhaps most important—for better or worse—it increasingly requires formal education credentials, which women are more prone to acquire, particularly early in adulthood. Just about the only professions in which women still make up a relatively small minority of newly minted workers are engineering and those calling on a hard-science background, and even in those areas, women have made strong gains since the 1970s.

Office work has been steadily adapting to women—and in turn being reshaped by them—for 30 years or more. Joel Garreau picks up on this phenomenon in his 1991 book, Edge City , which explores the rise of suburbs that are home to giant swaths of office space along with the usual houses and malls. Companies began moving out of the city in search not only of lower rent but also of the "best educated, most conscientious, most stable workers." They found their brightest prospects among "underemployed females living in middle-class communities on the fringe of the old urban areas." As Garreau chronicles the rise of suburban office parks, he places special emphasis on 1978, the peak year for women entering the workforce. When brawn was off the list of job requirements, women often

measured up better than men. They were smart, dutiful, and, as long as employers could make the jobs more convenient for them, more reliable. The 1999 movie Office Space was maybe the first to capture how alien and dispiriting the office park can be for men. Disgusted by their jobs and their boss, Peter and his two friends embezzle money and start sleeping through their alarm clocks. At the movie's end, a male co-worker burns down the office park, and Peter abandons desk work for a job in construction.

Near the top of the jobs pyramid, of course, the upward march of women stalls. Prominent female CEOs, past and present, are so rare that they count as minor celebrities, and most of us can tick off their names just from occasionally reading the business pages: Meg Whitman at eBay, Carly Fiorina at Hewlett-Packard, Anne Mulcahy and Ursula Burns at Xerox, Indra Nooyi at PepsiCo; the accomplishment is considered so extraordinary that Whitman and Fiorina are using it as the basis for political campaigns. Only 3 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women, and the number has never risen much above that.

But even the way this issue is now framed reveals that men's hold on power in elite circles may be loosening. In business circles, the lack of women at the top is described as a "brain drain" and a crisis of "talent retention." And while female CEOs may be rare in America's largest companies, they are highly prized: last year, they outearned their male counterparts by 43 percent, on average, and received bigger raises.

Even around the delicate question of working mothers, the terms of the conversation are shifting. Last year, in a story about breast-feeding, I complained about how the early years of child rearing keep women out of power positions. But the term mommy track is slowly morphing into the gender-neutral flex time , reflecting changes in the workforce. For recent college graduates of both sexes, flexible arrangements are at the top of the list of workplace demands, according to a study published last year in the Harvard Business Review . And companies eager to attract and retain talented workers and managers are responding. The consulting firm Deloitte, for instance, started what's now considered the model program, called Mass Career Customization, which allows employees to adjust their hours depending on their life stage. The program, Deloitte's Web site explains, solves "a complex issue—one that can no longer be classified as a woman's issue."

"Women are knocking on the door of leadership at the very moment when their talents are especially well matched with the requirements of the day," writes David Gergen in the introduction to Enlightened Power: How Women Are Transforming the Practice of Leadership . What are these talents? Once it was thought that leaders should be aggressive and competitive, and that men are naturally more of both. But psychological research has complicated this picture. In lab studies that simulate negotiations, men and women are just about equally assertive and competitive, with slight variations. Men tend to assert themselves in a controlling manner, while women tend to take into account the rights of others, but both styles are equally effective, write the psychologists Alice Eagly and Linda Carli, in their 2007 book, Through the Labyrinth .

Over the years, researchers have sometimes exaggerated these differences and described the particular talents of women in crude gender stereotypes: women as more empathetic, as better consensus-seekers and better lateral thinkers; women as bringing a superior moral sensibility to bear on a cutthroat business world. In the '90s, this field of feminist business theory seemed to be forcing the point. But after the latest financial crisis, these ideas have more resonance. Researchers have started looking into the relationship between testosterone and excessive risk, and wondering if groups of men, in some basic hormonal way, spur each other to make reckless decisions. The picture emerging is a mirror image of the traditional gender map: men and markets on the side of the irrational and overemotional, and women on the side of the cool and levelheaded.

We don't yet know with certainty whether testosterone strongly influences business decision-making. But the perception of the ideal business leader is starting to shift. The old model of command and control, with one leader holding all the decision-making power, is considered hidebound. The new model is sometimes called "post-heroic," or "transformational" in the words of the historian and leadership expert James MacGregor Burns. The aim is to behave like a good coach, and channel your charisma to motivate others to be hardworking and creative. The model is not explicitly defined as feminist, but it echoes literature about male-female differences. A program at Columbia

Business School, for example, teaches sensitive leadership and social intelligence, including better reading of facial expressions and body language. “We never explicitly say, ‘Develop your feminine side,’ but it’s clear that’s what we’re advocating,” says Jamie Ladge.

A 2008 study attempted to quantify the effect of this more-feminine management style. Researchers at Columbia Business School and the University of Maryland analyzed data on the top 1,500 U.S. companies from 1992 to 2006 to determine the relationship between firm performance and female participation in senior management. Firms that had women in top positions performed better, and this was especially true if the firm pursued what the researchers called an “innovation intensive strategy,” in which, they argued, “creativity and collaboration may be especially important”—an apt description of the future economy.

It could be that women boost corporate performance, or it could be that better-performing firms have the luxury of recruiting and keeping high-potential women. But the association is clear: innovative, successful firms are the ones that promote women. The same Columbia-Maryland study ranked America’s industries by the proportion of firms that employed female executives, and the bottom of the list reads like the ghosts of the economy past: shipbuilding, real estate, coal, steelworks, machinery.

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The End of Men

By Hanna Rosin

I f you really want to see where the world is headed, of course, looking at the current workforce can get you only so far. To see the future—of the workforce, the economy, and the culture—you need to spend some time at America’s colleges and professional schools, where a quiet revolution is under way. More than ever, college is the gateway to economic success, a necessary precondition for moving into the upper-middle class—and increasingly even the middle class. It’s this broad, striving middle class that defines our society. And demographically, we can see with absolute clarity that in the coming decades the middle class will be dominated by women.

We’ve all heard about the collegiate gender gap. But the implications of that gap have not yet been fully digested. Women now earn 60 percent of master’s degrees, about half of all law and medical degrees, and 42 percent of all M.B.A.s. Most important, women earn almost 60 percent of all bachelor’s degrees—the minimum requirement, in most cases, for an affluent life. In a stark reversal since the 1970s, men are now more likely than women to hold only a high-school diploma. “One would think that if men were acting in a rational way, they would be getting the education they need to get along out there,” says Tom Mortenson, a senior scholar at the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. “But they are just failing to adapt.”

This spring, I visited a few schools around Kansas City to get a feel for the gender dynamics of higher education. I started at the downtown campus of Metropolitan Community College. Metropolitan is the kind of place where people go to learn practical job skills and keep current with the changing economy, and as in most community colleges these days, men were conspicuously absent. One afternoon, in the basement cafeteria of a nearly windowless brick building, several women were trying to keep their eyes on their biology textbook and ignore the text messages from their babysitters. Another crew was outside the ladies’ room, braiding each other’s hair. One woman, still in her medical-assistant scrubs, looked like she was about to fall asleep in the elevator between the first and fourth floors.

When Bernard Franklin took over as campus president in 2005, he looked around and told his staff early on that their new priority was to “recruit more boys.” He set up mentoring programs and men-only study groups and student associations. He made a special effort to bond with male students, who liked to call him “Suit.” “It upset

some of my feminists," he recalls. Yet, a few years later, the tidal wave of women continues to wash through the school—they now make up about 70 percent of its students. They come to train to be nurses and teachers—African American women, usually a few years older than traditional college students, and lately, working-class white women from the suburbs seeking a cheap way to earn a credential. As for the men? Well, little has changed. "I recall one guy who was really smart," one of the school's counselors told me. "But he was reading at a sixth-grade level and felt embarrassed in front of the women. He had to hide his books from his friends, who would tease him when he studied. Then came the excuses. 'It's spring, gotta play ball.' 'It's winter, too cold.' He didn't make it."

It makes some economic sense that women attend community colleges—and in fact, all colleges—in greater numbers than men. Women ages 25 to 34 with only a high-school diploma currently have a median income of $25,474, while men in the same position earn $32,469. But it makes sense only up to a point. The well-paid lifetime union job has been disappearing for at least 30 years. Kansas City, for example, has shifted from steel manufacturing to pharmaceuticals and information technologies. "The economy isn't as friendly to men as it once was," says Jacqueline King, of the American Council on Education. "You would think men and women would go to these colleges at the same rate." But they don't.

In 2005, King's group conducted a survey of lower-income adults in college. Men, it turned out, had a harder time committing to school, even when they desperately needed to retool. They tended to start out behind academically, and many felt intimidated by the schoolwork. They reported feeling isolated and were much worse at seeking out fellow students, study groups, or counselors to help them adjust. Mothers going back to school described themselves as good role models for their children. Fathers worried that they were abrogating their responsibilities as breadwinner.

The student gender gap started to feel like a crisis to some people in higher-education circles in the mid-2000s, when it began showing up not just in community and liberal-arts colleges but in the flagship public universities—the UCs and the SUNY s and the UNCs. Like many of those schools, the University of Missouri at Kansas City, a full research university with more than 13,000 students, is now tipping toward 60 percent women, a level many admissions officers worry could permanently shift the atmosphere and reputation of a school. In February, I visited with Ashley Burress, UMKC's student-body president. (The other three student-government officers this school year were also women.) Burress, a cute, short, African American 24-year-old grad student who is getting a doctor-of-pharmacy degree, had many of the same complaints I heard from other young women. Guys high-five each other when they get a C, while girls beat themselves up over a B-minus. Guys play video games in each other's rooms, while girls crowd the study hall. Girls get their degrees with no drama, while guys seem always in danger of drifting away. "In 2012, I will be Dr. Burress," she said. "Will I have to deal with guys who don't even have a bachelor's degree? I would like to date, but I'm putting myself in a really small pool."

UMKC is a working- and middle-class school—the kind of place where traditional sex roles might not be anathema. Yet as I talked to students this spring, I realized how much the basic expectations for men and women had shifted. Many of the women's mothers had established their careers later in life, sometimes after a divorce, and they had urged their daughters to get to their own careers more quickly. They would be a campus of Tracy Flicks, except that they seemed neither especially brittle nor secretly falling apart.

Victoria, Michelle, and Erin are sorority sisters. Victoria's mom is a part-time bartender at a hotel. Victoria is a biology major and wants to be a surgeon; soon she'll apply to a bunch of medical schools. She doesn't want kids for a while, because she knows she'll "be at the hospital, like, 100 hours a week," and when she does have kids, well, she'll "be the hotshot surgeon, and he"—a nameless he—"will be at home playing with the kiddies."

Michelle, a self-described "perfectionist," also has her life mapped out. She's a psychology major and wants to be a family therapist. After college, she will apply to grad school and look for internships. She is well aware of the career-counseling resources on campus. And her fiancé?

Michelle : He's changed majors, like, 16 times. Last week he wanted to be a dentist. This week it's environmental science.

Erin : Did he switch again this week? When you guys have kids, he'll definitely stay home. Seriously, what does he want to do?
Michelle : It depends on the day of the week. Remember last year? It was bio. It really is a joke. But it's not. It's funny, but it's not.

Among traditional college students from the highest-income families, the gender gap pretty much disappears. But the story is not so simple. Wealthier students tend to go to elite private schools, and elite private schools live by their own rules. Quietly, they've been opening up a new frontier in affirmative action, with boys playing the role of the underprivileged applicants needing an extra boost. In 2003, a study by the economists Sandy Baum and Eban Goodstein found that among selective liberal-arts schools, being male raises the chance of college acceptance by 6.5 to 9 percentage points. Now the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has voted to investigate what some academics have described as the "open secret" that private schools "are discriminating in admissions in order to maintain what they regard as an appropriate gender balance."

Jennifer Delahunty, the dean of admissions and financial aid at Kenyon College, in Ohio, let this secret out in a 2006 New York Times op-ed. Gender balance, she wrote back then, is the elephant in the room. And today, she told me, the problem hasn't gone away. A typical female applicant, she said, manages the process herself—lines up the interviews, sets up a campus visit, requests a visit with faculty members. But the college has seen more than one male applicant "sit back on the couch, sometimes with their eyes closed, while their mom tells them where to go and what to do. Sometimes we say, 'What a nice essay his mom wrote,'" she said, in that funny-but-not vein.

To avoid crossing the dreaded 60 percent threshold, admissions officers have created a language to explain away the boys' deficits: "Brain hasn't kicked in yet." "Slow to cook." "Hasn't quite peaked." "Holistic picture." At times Delahunty has become so worried about "overeducated females" and "undereducated males" that she jokes she is getting conspiratorial. She once called her sister, a pediatrician, to vet her latest theory: "Maybe these boys are genetically like canaries in a coal mine, absorbing so many toxins and bad things in the environment that their DNA is shifting. Maybe they're like those frogs—they're more vulnerable or something, so they've gotten deformed."

Clearly, some percentage of boys are just temperamentally unsuited to college, at least at age 18 or 20, but without it, they have a harder time finding their place these days. "Forty years ago, 30 years ago, if you were one of the fairly constant fraction of boys who wasn't ready to learn in high school, there were ways for you to enter the mainstream economy," says Henry Farber, an economist at Princeton. "When you woke up, there were jobs. There were good industrial jobs, so you could have a good industrial, blue-collar career. Now those jobs are gone."

Since the 1980s, as women have flooded colleges, male enrollment has grown far more slowly. And the disparities start before college. Throughout the '90s, various authors and researchers agonized over why boys seemed to be failing at every level of education, from elementary school on up, and identified various culprits: a misguided feminism that treated normal boys as incipient harassers (Christina Hoff Sommers); different brain chemistry (Michael Gurian); a demanding, verbally focused curriculum that ignored boys' interests (Richard Whitmire). But again, it's not all that clear that boys have become more dysfunctional—or have changed in any way. What's clear is that schools, like the economy, now value the self-control, focus, and verbal aptitude that seem to come more easily to young girls.

Researchers have suggested any number of solutions. A movement is growing for more all-boys schools and classes, and for respecting the individual learning styles of boys. Some people think that boys should be able to walk around in class, or take more time on tests, or have tests and books that cater to their interests. In their desperation to reach out to boys, some colleges have formed football teams and started engineering programs. Most of these special accommodations sound very much like the kind of affirmative action proposed for women over the years—which in itself is an alarming flip.

Whether boys have changed or not, we are well past the time to start trying some experiments. It is fabulous to see girls and young women poised for success in the coming years. But allowing generations of boys to grow up feeling rootless and obsolete is not a recipe for a peaceful future. Men have few natural support groups and little access to

social welfare; the men's-rights groups that do exist in the U.S. are taking on an angry, antiwoman edge. Marriages fall apart or never happen at all, and children are raised with no fathers. Far from being celebrated, women's rising power is perceived as a threat.

What would a society in which women are on top look like? We already have an inkling. This is the first time that the cohort of Americans ages 30 to 44 has more college-educated women than college-educated men, and the effects are upsetting the traditional Cleaver-family dynamics. In 1970, women contributed 2 to 6 percent of the family income. Now the typical working wife brings home 42.2 percent, and four in 10 mothers—many of them single mothers—are the primary breadwinners in their families. The whole question of whether mothers should work is moot, argues Heather Boushey of the Center for American Progress, "because they just do. This idealized family—he works, she stays home—hardly exists anymore."

The terms of marriage have changed radically since 1970. Typically, women's income has been the main factor in determining whether a family moves up the class ladder or stays stagnant. And increasing numbers of women—unable to find men with a similar income and education—are forgoing marriage altogether. In 1970, 84 percent of women ages 30 to 44 were married; now 60 percent are. In 2007, among American women without a high-school diploma, 43 percent were married. And yet, for all the hand-wringing over the lonely spinster, the real loser in society—the only one to have made just slight financial gains since the 1970s—is the single man, whether poor or rich, college-educated or not. Hens rejoice; it's the bachelor party that's over.

The sociologist Kathryn Edin spent five years talking with low-income mothers in the inner suburbs of Philadelphia. Many of these neighborhoods, she found, had turned into matriarchies, with women making all the decisions and dictating what the men should and should not do. "I think something feminists have missed," Edin told me, "is how much power women have" when they're not bound by marriage. The women, she explained, "make every important decision"—whether to have a baby, how to raise it, where to live. "It's definitely 'my way or the highway,'" she said. "Thirty years ago, cultural norms were such that the fathers might have said, 'Great, catch me if you can.' Now they are desperate to father, but they are pessimistic about whether they can meet her expectations." The women don't want them as husbands, and they have no steady income to provide. So what do they have?

"Nothing," Edin says. "They have nothing. The men were just annihilated in the recession of the '90s, and things never got better. Now it's just awful."

The situation today is not, as Edin likes to say, a "feminist nirvana." The phenomenon of children being born to unmarried parents "has spread to barrios and trailer parks and rural areas and small towns," Edin says, and it is creeping up the class ladder. After staying steady for a while, the portion of American children born to unmarried parents jumped to 40 percent in the past few years. Many of their mothers are struggling financially; the most successful are working and going to school and hustling to feed the children, and then falling asleep in the elevator of the community college.

Still, they are in charge. "The family changes over the past four decades have been bad for men and bad for kids, but it's not clear they are bad for women," says W. Bradford Wilcox, the head of the University of Virginia's National Marriage Project.

Over the years, researchers have proposed different theories to explain the erosion of marriage in the lower classes: the rise of welfare, or the disappearance of work and thus of marriageable men. But Edin thinks the most compelling theory is that marriage has disappeared because women are setting the terms—and setting them too high for the men around them to reach. "I want that white-picket-fence dream," one woman told Edin, and the men she knew just didn't measure up, so she had become her own one-woman mother/father/nurturer/provider. The whole country's future could look much as the present does for many lower-class African Americans: the mothers pull themselves up, but the men don't follow. First-generation college-educated white women may join their black counterparts in a new kind of middle class, where marriage is increasingly rare.

As the traditional order has been upended, signs of the profound disruption have popped up in odd places. Japan is

in a national panic over the rise of the “herbivores,” the cohort of young men who are rejecting the hard-drinking salaryman life of their fathers and are instead gardening, organizing dessert parties, acting cartoonishly feminine, and declining to have sex. The generational young-women counterparts are known in Japan as the “carnivores,” or sometimes the “hunters.”

American pop culture keeps producing endless variations on the omega male, who ranks even below the beta in the wolf pack. This often-unemployed, romantically challenged loser can show up as a perpetual adolescent (in Judd Apatow’s Knocked Up or The 40-Year-Old Virgin), or a charmless misanthrope (in Noah Baumbach’s Greenberg), or a happy couch potato (in a Bud Light commercial). He can be sweet, bitter, nostalgic, or cynical, but he cannot figure out how to be a man. “We call each other ‘man,’” says Ben Stiller’s character in Greenberg , “but it’s a joke. It’s like imitating other people.” The American male novelist, meanwhile, has lost his mojo and entirely given up on sex as a way for his characters to assert macho dominance, Katie Roiphe explains in her essay “The Naked and the Conflicted.” Instead, she writes, “the current sexual style is more childlike; innocence is more fashionable than virility, the cuddle preferable to sex.”

At the same time, a new kind of alpha female has appeared, stirring up anxiety and, occasionally, fear. The cougar trope started out as a joke about desperate older women. Now it’s gone mainstream, even in Hollywood, home to the 50-something producer with a starlet on his arm. Susan Sarandon and Demi Moore have boy toys, and Aaron Johnson, the 19-year-old star of Kick-Ass, is a proud boy toy for a woman 24 years his senior. The New York Times columnist Gail Collins recently wrote that the cougar phenomenon is beginning to look like it’s not about desperate women at all but about “desperate young American men who are latching on to an older woman who’s a good earner.” Up in the Air , a movie set against the backdrop of recession-era layoffs, hammers home its point about the shattered ego of the American man. A character played by George Clooney is called too old to be attractive by his younger female colleague and is later rejected by an older woman whom he falls in love with after she sleeps with him—and who turns out to be married. George Clooney! If the sexiest man alive can get twice rejected (and sexually played) in a movie, what hope is there for anyone else? The message to American men is summarized by the title of a recent offering from the romantic-comedy mill: She’s Out of My League .

In fact, the more women dominate, the more they behave, fittingly, like the dominant sex. Rates of violence committed by middle-aged women have skyrocketed since the 1980s, and no one knows why. High-profile female killers have been showing up regularly in the news: Amy Bishop, the homicidal Alabama professor; Jihad Jane and her sidekick, Jihad Jamie; the latest generation of Black Widows, responsible for suicide bombings in Russia. In Roman Polanski’s The Ghost Writer , the traditional political wife is rewritten as a cold-blooded killer at the heart of an evil conspiracy. In her recent video Telephone , Lady Gaga, with her infallible radar for the cultural edge, rewrites Thelma and Louise as a story not about elusive female empowerment but about sheer, ruthless power. Instead of killing themselves, she and her girlfriend (played by Beyoncé) kill a bad boyfriend and random others in a homicidal spree and then escape in their yellow pickup truck, Gaga bragging, “We did it, Honey B.”

The Marlboro Man, meanwhile, master of wild beast and wild country, seems too far-fetched and preposterous even for advertising. His modern equivalents are the stunted men in the Dodge Charger ad that ran during this year’s Super Bowl in February. Of all the days in the year, one might think, Super Bowl Sunday should be the one most dedicated to the cinematic celebration of macho. The men in Super Bowl ads should be throwing balls and racing motorcycles and doing whatever it is men imagine they could do all day if only women were not around to restrain them.

Instead, four men stare into the camera, unsmiling, not moving except for tiny blinks and sways. They look like they’ve been tranquilized, like they can barely hold themselves up against the breeze. Their lips do not move, but a voice-over explains their predicament—how they’ve been beaten silent by the demands of tedious employers and enviro-fascists and women. Especially women. “I will put the seat down, I will separate the recycling, I will carry your lip balm.” This last one—lip balm—is expressed with the mildest spit of emotion, the only hint of the suppressed rage against the dominatrix. Then the commercial abruptly cuts to the fantasy, a Dodge Charger vrooming toward the camera punctuated by bold all caps: MAN’S LAST STAND . But the motto is unconvincing.

After that display of muteness and passivity, you can only imagine a woman—one with shiny lips—steering the beast.

*OK boys and girls-let er rip!

The Obsidian

Fun Thought Experiment...

Obsidian · 10 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Who is doing MORE damage to American Society, circa 2010:

Pookie and Laquisha,

OR

Tony Haywood?

Comments?

The Obsidian

Obsidian Writes An Open Letter To Ms. Irin Carmon, Reporter For Jezebel.com

Obsidian · 11 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I knew it wouldn't be long before I would see a "response" to The Atlantic's piece by Hannah Rosin, "The End of Men" from someone somewhere out there the Femisphere, and Ms. Irin Carmon, staff writer/blogger for Jezebel.com, whom I consider to be one of the Internet's "Cyber Sisters", didn't disappoint. Her piece, which was posted on the Jezebel site yesterday, has all of what we've come to expect of today's Estrogen-injected commentariat-heavy on the high falutin' snark, but woefully light on the substance. You can see her column for yourself in full, but for my purpose I'm gonna present what I consider to be its most salient points in the form of what we Black folk know as a "call and response" format-a kind of conversation between Ms. Carmon and moi. Let's roll:

MS. IRIN CARMON: Men Are Over. Except At The Top.

OBSIDIAN: In the words of the Gipper, see there you go *again*, doing that Hypergamy thing. You run right past the points the article itself makes and instead bemoan the fact that the topmost spots are still all Male. Sure didn't take you long to get right to the point, now did ya?

IC: But, see, it's different this time because that one had a question mark! And this one has a limp-dicked and downward-indicating male symbol. All of which means, I guess, that women have a slight edge over non-white supremacy. Must we always compete?

O: Hold up, Ms. Carmon. You know, I've been watching you and your "sisters" throw down for quite sometime now, from the sidelines, and I gotta tell ya-as a Black Man, it gets tiresome listening to upper middle class White (or Jewish, as the case may be) hipsterettes work themselves up into a self-congratulatory lather talking about how "down with the people" they are. Truth be told, there is a tenuous relationship between you all and the Sistas to begin with at best, and in that I've lived or worked in most of the Eastern seaboard's inner city hoods, I have yet to run across the likes of you there making fellowship with Tanya and Rashidah. So, please, spare me the racebaiting, I simply ain't having it.

Moreover, based on your curricula vitae, you haven't done so bad for yourself: magna cum laude from Harvard, worked for the Boston Globe, both at home and its Jerusalem Bureau, the New York Times, Women's Wear; you've globetrotted a bit and got paid doing it; and you were born into what most people would agree was quite auspicious surroundings. Nice work if you can get it, hmm, Irin? All that lathering up about Patriarchy and how The Man's keeping you Womenfolk down's gotta be sooooo tiring…

IC: It can be difficult to shake the suspicion that the Atlantic has an unwritten editorial policy to consider feminism — and any discussion of say, workplace discrimination, sexual assault, reproductive freedom — such hoary conventional wisdom that any issue labeled "Ideas" has to bravely blow it up. (The same may go for critiques of racism). We're so over it all already, and now the supremacy of the feminist establishment needs to be interrogated by some fierce, independent-minded sort like Caitlin Flanagan.

O: What's difficult to shake-to say nothing of keeping a straightface to keep from busting out in laughter-is the notion that "reproductive freedom" is something that is actually evenly applied to ALL people, not just one half.

Shall we go there, Ms. Carmon. Hmm?

IC: Rosin did actually report out her piece, though there is an unmistakable tone of handwringing to it, a worry that all women will turn out like the poor unmarried black women, and a fairly unexamined assumption that when women thrive in the economy, men will grow rightfully angry and resentful that their naturally brawny and vigorous selves are being oppressed.

O: Then it must be true, that two people can look at a piece of art or read a book and take completely differing impressions from it. When I read Rosin's piece (complete with the video clip that I see you forgot(?) to mention, I don't see a heck of a lot of overwrought handwringing; I saw a Woman and her daughter doing a victory dance Terrill Owens himself would have a hard time matching. Go figure.

IC: And yet, for all the hand-wringing over the lonely spinster, the real loser in society—the only one to have made just slight financial gains since the 1970s—is the single man, whether poor or rich, college-educated or not. Hens rejoice; it's the bachelor party that's over.

It's ladies' night! Are you having fun yet?

O: Let's ask Ms. Lincoln, Ms. Whitman, Ms. Fiorina and Ms. Haley, hmm?

IC: Some of this evidence is quite convincing to Rosin's point that women are taking over and men are lagging and it's only going to get worse.

O: Yes, let's examine a bit of that evidence for a moment, shall we? According to the article, *girls* are being requested at fertility clinics now, at a rate of nearly two to one-if ever that was an indicator that things are very good for the ladies, that would be it. Please point me to the part in your piece where you mention that? I must've missed it.

IC: And some of it very much isn't. This is true when she implies that pop culture caricatures (overwhelmingly created by male executives and creatives) are a form of female-friendly social change, and even more so when she glosses over the fact that female domination is most prominent in the least empowered classes.

O: Excuse me? "Least empowered" where? Perhaps you missed the part of her article where, at a young Men's group meeting, a fella relayed his story about being kicked out of the house with the word "bitch!" by his baby mama, because he didn't have any money? Or, perhaps you missed the part of the article where Rosin quotes one of the authors of the book Promises I Can Keep, about how POOR WOMEN call ALL the shots in the mating dance, from start to finish? And, again, as someone who's actually lived a very large chunk of his life in the hood-like, um, all of it-I can tell you, without fear of retribution or rebuke, that those accounts are true. Nor is this "dominance something that is only to be seen among the poor – all up and down the social scale, Women call the shots – they can decide who lives and who dies, who pays if they decided on life. And it doesn't stop there – it extends to who gets dragged into court for all manner of stuff, like rape and sexual harrassment charges, domestic abuse charges, stalking charges, you name it. The way things are right now, all a Woman needs is her say so in order to put a guy – be he Damon on the block or Dimon on Wall Street's butt in a sling. If that ain't "dominance" then I don't know what is, Ms. Carmon.

But, move along, there's nothing to see here…

IC: Here are the nods at the evidence that it might not be so simple:

Yes, the U.S. still has a wage gap, one that can be convincingly explained—at least in part—by discrimination. Yes, women still do most of the child care. And yes, the upper reaches of society are still dominated by men. But given the power of the forces pushing at the economy, this setup feels like the last gasp of a dying age rather than the permanent establishment.

O: Interesting that you completely ignore the fact that boys are failing in school at ever-increasing rates, and aren't choosing to go on to university. Nor is this surprising: in my hometown of Philly, fives years ago, the White Feminists of the Main Line swooped in like flying monkeys when the very idea was floated of creating gender specific schools to adress the city's burgeoning crime and homicide problem. Even as Philly's murder rate was climbing toward 500 for the year, the Main Line Feminists were staunchly against the idea, on the grounds that it would make girls feel bad. Forget the fact that said White Main Line Feminists didn't live anywhere near where the action was, and kept it that way, making sure to send their girls to safe and tidy ALL GIRLS prep schools-no, they not only had the loud mouths, but also had the loot and political pull, to squash the idea of trying to save Black boys'

minds and lives.

Said idea hasn't been heard from since.

But of course, you'll never write about that…

And as for this notion that the Women work and toil from sun up to sundown both at home and on the gig, the facts don't bear this out, Ms. Carmon. Indeed, studies show that American Men are spending more time with their kids than ever, and are contributing to home chores more than ever. Now, could it be better-absolutely. But where I come from, making note of such watershed things is called…progress. I suppose you're not aware of that word?

IC: Near the top of the jobs pyramid, of course, the upward march of women stalls. Prominent female CEOs, past and present, are so rare that they count as minor celebrities, and most of us can tick off their names just from occasionally reading the business pages…The accomplishment is considered so extraordinary that Whitman and Fiorina are using it as the basis for political campaigns. Only 3 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs are women, and the number has never risen much above that.

O: Yea, but here's the kicker Ms. Carmon-is that because "The Man" is still keeping (well to do, upper middle class White & Jewish, in the main) Women down, or are there other factors at play? I say, at this stage in the game, the answer tends to lean toward the latter than the former, and not quite for the reasons you might think. Or assume.

In any event, and surely by now you must know, that both Fiorina and Whitman were able to successfully parlay their businessworld cred into votes at the ballot box-the latter spent more money than Goldman Sachs golden boy Jon Corzine and rivalled Michael Bloomberg for God's sake. I mean, call me crazy, but I thought the other night was a good thing for Women? *smh*…

IC: In his editor's letter, Atlantic editor-in-chief James Bennet tries to explain the dissonance more directly:

"Our politics and corporate boardrooms are lagging indicators of what is happening in the society, where women already hold most positions in middle management and would be overwhelming our universities were it not for stealthy affirmative action on behalf of overmatched young men. Small wonder the Tea Party is mostly male, as well as white."

IC: You could quibble about whether the Tea Party is evidence that white men are going out kicking and screaming because they're so over, or whether it's just a repackaged insurgency of the same old dominant norms. But in the haste to declare the end of all men, everywhere, what's missing here is the fact that this supposed male disempowerment has yet to seriously affect the major citadels of power — who has access to economic and political capital, or positions of influence ranging from Hollywood to Wall Street to, well, The Atlantic . Is it a lagging indicator that will trickle upward somehow, or is it just a reconfigured landscape in which class, race, and gender converge to keep the concentration of power relatively unchanged?

O: Oh, I get it-so what happens to Joe Sixpack ain't all that important, huh, Ms. Carmon? It ONLY matters when Ted Turner gets his comeuppance-is that it? Very empathetic of ya. And please, stop with the "we're all in this together" BS, because we're NOT. Neither you, nor the whole lot of you Feministas, have shown any evidence of really giving one whit of care or concern about what happens to Black or Brown lives. I know, because I'm where the action is.

IC: As Ann Friedman notes ,

"Sure, college-age women tell her they hope to become surgeons and marry men who will be primary caregivers. But research shows that few women actually realize this domestic arrangement— they tend to marry other high-achieving men who expect their own careers to take precedence."

O: Hmm, I wonder why that is? Could it have anything to do with the fact that in truth, the vast majority of Women, given the choice do NOT want to hookup with Mr. Mom?

IC: Many of the fastest-growing, female-dominated industries, which do not require a college education, are among

the lowest paid. And while there are a handful of female CEOs and senators, women have yet to crack the glass ceiling with any sort of critical mass.

O: Meanwhile, many of the jobs don't require a college education, like uh, coalmine worker or oil rig operator, just happen to be ones where fatalities occur, and which are overwhelmingly staffed by Men-you know, like the ones that who died back in April, Ms. Carmon? Wonder if you wrote anything about that. I have to check your website…

IC: To argue that female valedictorians and single mothers getting social work degrees will someday mean "the end" of a society in which men still set almost all the terms is skipping steps. You know, the ones in which we reshape our cultural norms so that male identity isn't polarized between Marlboro Man and "omega male," as Rosin posits and implicitly enforces. And in which increased and broader participation of women isn't concentrated at the most disadvantaged segments of society, or uncritically construed as a dangerously unstable zero-sum game.

O: Please-you know just as well as I do that if and when Women can choose-and we all know they most certainly can and do-they ain't that crazy about "reshaping cultural norms" to the extent that Michael Cera replaces, or even keeps pace with, Tom Brady. And as so many authors, yes, quite a few of them Women like yourself have noted so many times, quite a few Women in our time are CHOOSING to be singlemoms, and despite all the spinning from your corner of the blogosphere, no one's forcing Women to make their academic bones in the Humanities departments. This is all their own choice, so if they don't like said choices, who should they then blame? Why Men, of course!

IC: By the way, with all of the Atlantic 's talk of women and brown people ruling the roost, what will that mean for their own staff? Let's look at their line-up of star bloggers:

O: Come now, Irin, why stop there? Here's a shortlist of the Internet's top ten feminist blogs-maybe you've heard of a few of em:

1. Feministing
2. Feministe
3. Our Bodies Our Blog
4. Jezebel
5. Broadsheet (part of Salon.com, don't ya know)
6. Finally Feminism 101
7. Women in Media & News Blog
8. Holla Back NYC
9. MediaGirl
10. Bitch Magazine

And let's not stop there-theres the traditional "Seven Sisters" mags, Cosmo, Marie Claire, Vogue, People and its many variants, Essence (since you're so concerned about "people of color")…and let's not forget the Queen of them All, "O" magazine, named after its "mama" Oprah Winfrey herself (and soon to have her own network-all Oprah, all the time, oh joy). There's Ana Marie Cox, founder of Wonkette…I mean the list of Women in media, legacy or new wave, is virtually endless. The mere thought or suggestion that somehow Women aren't getting their message(s) out and/or having their voices heard, is patently absurd, when one just takes the most casual of glances around. You could not have written the above with a straightface…right?

IC: And as has already been pointed out , eleven of the fourteen pieces that make up the Ideas issue were written by men. Either the Atlantic is another lagging indicator, or they've read their own cover stories and decided to throw a bone to the beleaguered white man — that future of affirmative action they mention, perhaps.

O: If the shoe fits, my lady. After all, Affirmative Action was designed to redress historical injustices. With the way things are going now, it ain't too far fetched to say that being Male is the New Black.

I just happen to know a little something about that.

If you got a mind-holla back…

The Obsidian

Smart White Man's Burden

Obsidian · 16 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Among other strong interests in HBDsphere, is that of what some call the "Browning of America"-that the USA is slowly becoming more and more "alien"-by that it is meant and understood by its proponents, less White and Anglo, and more Hispanic and in the main, Mexican. The recent passage of AZ's "Papers Please" law is seen by some as a pushback on the part of Whites to defend against this encroachment upon their historic, ethnic and dare we say it-racial heritage.

There isn't a week that goes by in the HBDsphere on the Internets where some blogger-almost always a White guy-isn't bemoaning the coming invasion of Hispanics into his corner of the country, and all the attendant problems that come along with it. Of course, being the gadfly that I am, I tend to like to point out little things, like the following comment I made at OneSTDV's blog a little while ago:

"Once again I find the comments fascinating.

Whiskey – with all due respect you are arguing a strawman. Not once in my entire discussion did I mention anything about Black folks. They are, for purposes of this discussion, irrelevant. We are discussing White folks and Hispanic illegal immigration. However, I do have to give you much credit for daring to actually say what ostensible defenders of truth and keeping it real, like OneSTDV and Camlost, won't say – that the major reason why Smart White guys like you all aren't having babies, is because White Women would rather shack up with Juan or bad boy Jesse James. If that is the case, and it seems as good an explanation as any other, say hello to that Smithsonian exhibit, The Late Great White Guy.

OneSTDV, for your information, I did indeed comment on a recent Sailer thread that took up the question of Hispanic illegal immigration, and mentioned by name, the film Idiocracy; don't take my word for it, please by all means, see for yourself:

"Those who are familiar with me from over at OneSTDV's blog will know what I'm about to say, since he has a related blog post up right now over there.

It seems to me that a lot og the HBD blogger types – to my knowledge in the main they all seem to be White Males with a few exceptions – seem to focus on this "hispanization" of America issue, and I suppose it makes for good blog hits.

But the question I have is, why aren't you guys talking
about something all of you can do -
have babies?

If indeed the future belongs to those who show up for it, then the simple solution is to replicate yourself. even if all the Hispanics, legal and illegal, disappeared from American shores tomorrow, you still have the very real problem of falling fertility among the "smart fraction" White folks. I know many of you here like to discuss the film Idiocracy. But there's a subtext in the movie that clearly shows smartie White folks agonizing over whether to have babies. They of course, died out.

So, instead of all this focus on "NAMs" and the babies they have – why not apply your great intellects as to why so many of YOU DON'T have babies? What is it about being so gosh-darn smart that makes making babies so darned hard?

Please explain?

Any takers?

The Obsidian"

http://isteve.blogspot.com/2010/06/english-learner-lifers.html

Yet there as here, the responses, when they aren't laced with strawmaen, Ad Hominem or otherwise diversionary fluff, is rife with excuse making. ONLY Whiskey has said anything that just might come to the truth here. And, given the utter lack of focus on this question in ANY major HBD forum of note, it makes perfect sense from a parsimonious point of view. After all, who wants to openly admit that they just might be evolutionary losers?

What Roissy does or doesn't take up as a matter of discussion and focus is wholly irrelevant One, and you know it. His is a forum that is completely different in orientation and scopr than is yours. I am asking YOU, why it is that, if America is so worthy of preserving as you once knew it, why Whites like YOU are failing to reproduce yourselves? This is question you have just flatout refused to answer. However, you have near infinite energy and focus to question why "NAMs" can reproduce at the rate they do.

Again, fascinating.

Harold,

I don't doubt what you say in relation to higher vs lower IQ Blacks and their mating/birthing patterns, but for purposes of this discussion it is wholly irrelevant, as the discussion didn't have anything to do with such folk in the first place. I therefore respectfully decline to take up your strawman quesry.

Kiwi Guy also gets an honorable mention in light of his comments.

Put all this together with the fact that, since President Reagan, we have had more Republican Presidents than Democratic, and NONE of them has done ANYTHING to address the issue, that of illegal Hispanic immgigration, in the manner you gents desire – a real irony and political betrayal I might add, since the vast majority of you consider yourselves to be at least nominally center right in your political orientation and outlook. But, if one applies Occam's Razor, the reasons for this is quite simple, and I repeat again for emphasis:

The Left likes things the way they are because it gives them a reliable voting bloc…one that is growing.

The Right likes things the way they are because it gives its business minded constituents a steady flow of *cheap* labor. That's the keyword here, gents – cheap. Which makes perfect sense if you're a diehard capitalist, and should come as no surprise here since so many of your are believers in the free market…right?

In closing, the future belongs to those who deem it important enough to show up for it. If Smart White Guys like OneSTDV, Whiskey, Camlost and others, cannot figure out how to make sure there are remnants of themselves walking around circa 2050, then per Darwin's theory, they deserve to be weeded out of existence. Nature abhors a vacuum, and they will be replaced. If current birthing trends are any indication, Hispanics are doing this replacement job quite nicely.

Get cracking fellas.

The Obsidian"

I maintain that for the exception of Whiskey, no other commenter, and especially not OneSTDV himself, has directly tackled this question, a major consideration if one is to be intellectually honest about the whole matter. I further predict that no one on the HBD side will take up my points about the GOP and how it has utterly failed and betrayed their White constituents own interests either.

But as always, commen and reply, holla.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

The Brothaman's Dilemma

Obsidian · 17 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I see that my humble missive regarding what I call The Smart White Man's Burden has garnered quite a bit of attention, both here and elsewhere throughout the blogosphere; I'll have more to say on that matter very soon, because all of the Bullsh*t excuses certain of the HBDsphere's major proponents makes me wanna retch, and the need for the Searing Light of Truth couldn't be greater. Keep an eye out for "part two" on the morrow.

But for now, I'd like to return to a theme I've been carefully cultivating over the past few months, that of the curious question as to WHY Black Men remain the last hired, and first fired in American life. To be sure, there have been attempts to poo-poo my writings as mere crying in one's beer, blaming "The White Man" and so forth; others, in a vain attempt to demonstrate how sophisticated they are, attempt to parse the issue out using arcane economic principles, or citing federal laws and the like, to explain the phenomenon. Yet, as my humble writings often do, none of my detractors really tackles a central and emergent theme in my writings to date:

That when it comes to human interactions on any level, relationships are paramount.

Insofar as the current topic I concerned, that of Black Men and employment, this key insight cannot be overstated or said enough. Because it is the one thing above all else, that Black Men, taken as a group, lacks the most. Both with others, and perhaps most importantly, among themselves.

Let's discuss this a bit further, shall we?

There are some who believe, that the reason why Black Men do so poorly in the job market, is due to their lack of educational attainment. Some, quite a few in fact, will make a ready comparison to Black Women, who have been well known to do far better on this score. But I would like to humbly suggest that such a comparison is a serious and dangerous assumption, a colossal logical fallacy and mistake of the intellect.

Why do you say that, Obsidian? Simple:

Because when we consider Hispanic and Asian Males of similar ages, they don't have the same unemployment problems-even those associated with criminal activity and spent time in the joint for same. In fact, these two latter groups often have members in their numbers, *who don't speak English*-yet they're still working.

Now, I've been blessed to work in many locales in my life. Had the chance to sit in many homes and actually watch how different people live. In just about city I've been in, the one constant was that, when I got to the hood, there'd be Brothas on the corner. NOT Hispanic guys. NOT Asian dudes (and here I'm talking about the "niggers" of the Pacific Rim: Thais, Vietnamese, Laotians, Cambodians). Brothas. In every town I've visited or worked in: DC, B'More, Motown, NYC, Newark, Camden, Philly, ATL, etc.

So, when we compare a more "apples to apples" groupings of Males, we see that education, while not insiginficant altogether, isn't the linchpin that some so desperately want it to be.

Let's consider another angle now, since I've brought up locales that are either majority Black or at the least, have a large Black presence…

In my hometown of Philly, there occurred a very curious series of evens that really raises the question of the importance and realworld utility of the Vote to Black Men.

It goes like this…

About a little more than a decade ago, there was a big row going on wrt Philly's chronic Black Male unemployment problem; John Street, Philly's second Black mayor and former Black city council president, was pressed to address the situation. At issue: the Philly Convention Center was due for a big renovation, which would involve two of Philly's biggest trade unions, the Carpenter's Union, and the Electrician's Union. In fact, the head of the former was

also a US Congressman (and remains so to this day) of a largely Black district, though he is White. The leader of the latter union has toyed around with the possibility of running for public office, but it would be a formality, since he has every bit as much power and influence as any other major player in Philly; he has made or broken political candidates, and those who are familiar with Philly history and politics will know well what I'm talking about.

Black Philly wanted a certain percentage of those two union workers to be Black, on the basis that since the city's population was now majority Black (just tipping 50% or so), it was only fair that this be the case. The unions balked, hemmed and hawed, but seeing as "the Brothas and Sistas were running this city", as John Street once famously (or infamously, depending on how you look at it), they finally agreed to report to city council at a time in the future on the mandated hirings.

The appointed time came, and when the city council asked about the Black union hirings they were promised, both heads of the unions just refused to answer them. That's right, the heads of the union stood in open contempt of city council(!). To this day, we don't know how many, if any, either union hired who was Black to do that work on the convention center. And we may never know.

None of this should come as any surprise to those who anything about big city politics and the politics of big city unions. It has long been known that the unions-and here I am talking about the skilled trades like pipefitters, electricians, and carpenters-were patronage networks for politicians. I just told you how both current heads of these unions were either in elected office themselves, or they had the ability to be a kingmaker to those who aspired to such an office. Nor is it a secret that union membership is a kind of "legacy admit" for Philly's ethnic White guys-namely, Italian, Irish and Polish-and if one studies the big city politics of Chitown, NYC, Beantown, etc, et al, they'll find the very same thing. Black Men *always* had a very hard time getting union cards that were above anything other than laborer-in fact, in Philly, one of the biggest Black Unions IS the Laborer's Union. Show me a journeyman electrician or carpenter in a Black skin with a union card, and I'll show you the Easter Bunny complete with the chocolate eggs.

Now, with all that said, let's keep in mind the following facts:

There was a Black mayor, who prior to that was the first Black city council president of Philly.

There was a Black police chief.

There was a Black fire chief.

There was a Black city managing director.

There was roughly half-Black city council, AND it also had a Black city council president who went on to be mayor himself (Michael Nutter)

And, with all that "Black Power" they not only could make the unions hire Black Men, they couldn't even get them to answer questions about it. Worse, for all of Philly's "Black Power" it couldn't get its own sons a job.

If that ain't a powerful, and deeply profound statement about just how woefully inept and utterly impotent "Black Power" is, I don't know what else to tell you.

But I can give you some more examples.

Go anywhere Blacks are in large numbers, and there you will be sure that Black Men are also outta work in large numbers-nor is this anything new; it's been for decades. Yet, those same Black areas will look like Philly in terms of Black Faces in High Places.

And, to add insult to injury?-those same places will have Hispanic and Asian Males-who often have nowhere nar the political "clout" Black folk supposedly do, and as I've said, often don't even speak English (proxy for low to little education)-yet, they're working.

What's wrong with this picture?

I was always taught, when you have eliminated the probable, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. And the truth is, the main reason why Black Men lag behind everyone else when it comes to work-even Black Women-is simply because, Black Men don't network. They lack the patronage networks that makes things happen. They can't pickup a phone or write an email to someone they know and get another Black Man hired-if they could, the chronic unemployment rates for Black Men wouldn't be so very high. Political clout, education, criminal history-all of these are but ancillary factors, because as I've shown you, they didn't stop other groups of Men from getting on.

ALL other groups of people, network, and unabashedly look out for their own. Do you doubt me? Try hanging out with the Gay and Lesbian folk. Or spend some time among the Jews. White Women? Forget about it. And the Irish, Italian and Polish guys? Yup yup.

Even Sistas do it. How do I know? Because every Sista I've ever known, didn't have to wait that long for a gig if she wanted it. Usually, it was but a phonecall or two away. Yea, they'll take a bit of a hit in this recession, mainly because their Men will have such a bad go of it. But insofar as they're concerned, it'll be a relative speedbump. Nothing more.

But when it comes to Black Men, we are socially, economically, and politically isolated-thats the fact, Jack. And if you're Black-or if you're just someone who goes through life with their eyes open-you know what I'm saying is true.

It's even true, it's even especially true, with regard to our 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. He got virtually 100% of the Black Vote-even Black MEN, like Armstrong Williams and Colin Powell, gave him their support-and what do Black Men have to show for it?

If the stats are any indication, nothing.

But wait Obsidian, the whole country's going through a hard time right now, and besides, Obama's not even halfway through his term, you may say. And you'd be right.

But here's the point-not only has Obama done nothing in return for overwhelming Black Man electoral support, *he doesn't even address their concerns openly or otherwise*. Obama's from the Chi-he knows the deal. Yet, to date, the ONLY time he's addressed Black Men as a group, was to dress them down on Father's Day back when he was a candidate. And, because as far as I know, no one else who's Black and Male are raising these kinds of points, I must therefore conclude, that the bulk and mass of Black Male voters, are cool with all that.

You get what you pay for…or in this case, vote for, I suppose.

Here's the bottomline: Brothas, America has always been, and shall forever remain, an intensely competitive place. There are no permanent friends, only permanent interests. And truth be told, no one's really all that interested in putting you on, for a variety of reasons. When push comes to shove, as it often does, and others have the power to determine who gets on and who doesn't, and it comes down to you or your Sistas, the latter wins. Every. Single. Time.

Like Malone told Ness in the 1987 hit film The Untouchables, the reason why you're not successful is because no one wants you here. You gotta develop your own team, one who's singular purpose is looking out for each other. There's no need in whimpering about the White Man, because I already told you the deal on that front; moreover, he has every bit a right to look out for his interests as anyone else. Nor will it do any good to go whipping up on the Sistahood-they don't make policy, and are only playing the hand they've been dealt. Simply put, it pays these days to be a Double Minority, and I can't knock the ole gals for shakin what they mama gave em.

In the end, this comes down to us, and whether we're willing to take this time in our national history and use it as a serious wakeup call and a teaching moment, or, whether we will once again punk out and pretend like whatever else we're doing is more important.

Until we learn to turn to each other instead of on each other, until we learn to make it our business to hook each other up, until we stop playing a rigged game that by design we cannot win, we deserve to be behind the Eightball

of Life.

That's my story, and until the hatahs can prove me wrong, I'm stickin' to it.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Suckerpunched In Seattle

Obsidian · 19 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

By now I'm pretty sure you've heard about and/or seen the iPhone "tape" of a young Sista getting cold-cocked in the face by a "Law & Order" White cop. When I first saw the footage myself, it made my blood run cold-because it was a most chilling portent of things to come.

I say that because, on a gut/visceral/perhaps even evolutionary level, Womens' natural protectors are their Men. This is true no matter where you go on this Earth, no matter how far back you go in the past. The term "raping and pillaging" speaks directly to this truth-once the Menfolk were taken out in some way or another, the Women were left completely vulnerable to the mercy of the "invading" Males. History is replete with such accounts.

For Black Women in America, they cannot always say with any certainty, that their Men can or will be able to protect them in a manner comparable to other American Women. Indeed, of all of America's various groupings of Men, Black Men have seen more "taking out" by various means, legal and otherwise, from day one in this society.

People can and will see what they want to see in that video-she should not have interfered with the cop, many, White and Black alike, will say. In that I have no idea what went down prior to the iPhone cam rolling, I really don't have much of a comment, other than to say that it could very well be possible that the Sista was concerned about her *brother* or some other Male of importance to her, being given the business by that cop-my understanding was that he was stopping the guy for, get this now-jaywalking. Sounds strangely reminiscent of Rudy G's tenure in NYC, his method of crime fighting entailing scholar John Q. Wilson's "broken window" theory-if you hammer offenders for the small stuff, it makes it harder for them to commit the bigger crimes. Say what you will about the theory or Rudy's way of going about it, the facts are, that NYC's overall crime rate went down, substantially. Of course, there were casualties-Amadou Diallo and Sean Bell are two names that instantly come to mind-but the people of the Empire State-White and Black alike-have said, that such "incidents" are small prices to pay for the greater good of having "Law & Order".

So, I for one am not terribly interested in the "facts", because I know that the police can find/discover or out and out make them up as they go along, and they almost always win. When it comes to Black folks, I mean. I don't know about anyone else, but I've seen many episodes of "Cops" where there were out of control White Women, and I can't ever recall seeing any one of them being cold-cocked the way that Sista was out in Seattle last week.

Which brings me back to why this turn of events makes my blood run cold.

To be a Black Man in America means to live with the constant threat of death. Be it at the hands of Rashid down the block, or be it at the hands of Officer Friendly, or anywhere in between. Every time I step out of my door, I do so with the knowledge that it could be my last time, and that my demise could be over the most trifle of things; that I personally may not even have anything to do with the situation that led to my being taken out. And if-keyword here-my death is investigated, it will be with the vibe of "what did he do?" draped over the whole operation. If what I've personally witnessed many times, including the murder of loved ones, by other Black Men or police themselves merely "doing their duty" is any indication, my "investigation", such as it is, will be perfunctory and brief. And then I'll be forgotten about. Rare cases where Black Men either have extraordinarily deep pockets, like OJ, or if they're on a first name basis familiarity with the President of th United States, like Skip Gates aside, this will be the likely outcome of many a Black Man's lives, out on the streets of America, nor has this been all that different in our nation's history. To say it is unfair, is to peddle in understatement. But it is life.

And I'm willing to live with it, not only because I must, but also because, I was under the illusion that, if the police couldn't or just as likely, wouldn't, protect me, they would at least look out for my three sisters, for my Brown Sugah. I love them all dearly, and would protect them with my own life. But I cannot be around to protect them all the time. And like I said, I'm cool with the police not realy caring about me, regardless of the content of my character. At least they would lookout for them.

For me, that illusion, that dangerous assumption, was shattered into bits when I saw that camera phone video earlier this week.

Students of history will note that these events take place on the 20th anniversary of the Rodney King beating, an incident that, like the Sista's beardown in Seattle, was caught on Candid Camera-shown on television screens, worldwide. Yet, even the plain as the nose on your face evidence wasn't enough to have the offending cops, all White, arrested. The Simi Valley verdict exonerating the officers caused the worst riots in Los Angeles since the infamous Watts riots of the 1960s. And, like now with the current situation, many people-White, I have to say-insisted that King brought the beating on himself, and that if he had simply "not resisted" arrest, he would have been alright.

Even keener students of history will note that this week's events come at a time when, just a little over a decade ago, a young immigrant was gunned down in a wall of gunfire-41 gunshots to be exact-because he happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, happened to look like a perp a crack squad of NYC's Finest were looking for, and happened to try to identify himself. Amadou Diallo met a grisly end in front of the door to his own apartment, shot through 41 times.

It doesn't take an historian or social scientist to see that ours is a vastly changed world, and not always for the better. No one's going to accuse me of good ole days romanticism, but the simple truth was that a century ago, if you were a Female on a sinking cruise ship, your chances of getting off and living to tell the tale was good, and that was regardless as to whether you were Lady Astor, or Ma Clampett-the chances were high that wealthy and White, Men gave up their chance at life so that you, and any kids present, would have a chance to live. There was a time when, if you were an elderly lady, chances were good that at least one "sonny boy" would help you get across the street safely, or help you carry the groceries in the house. Even at the height of Jim Crow, a Black Woman was reasonably sure that, if she ran afoul of a purse snatcher, somebody-most likely a Brotha-would at the very least make a good faith effort to chase the ne'er do well down.

No one reading this can say, with a straightface, that any of that is true in aggregate, anymore. Keep in mind, the massacre at Virginia Tech was particularly grisly, in part because most of the victims were Female, in this case, White Females. Not too many Men, White Men now, deemed it important to protect them, it seems.

I know, I know-the Sista out in Seattle brought it on herself. How many times have I heard that line, one that only seems to be reserved for those who share my skintone. At least in my lifetime, such taglines and statements were reserved for us Brothas.

Now it seems, it can be applied to Sistas, too.

The Obsidian

Considerations Of The Jamila-Lady Raine Axis: What Do YOU Think?

Obsidian · 21 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Readers of this humble scribe's blogging outpost will know well the names of the ladies who appear in the marquis; they are among a certain throng of female voices that have cropped up in Game and to a lesser extent, HBD-related venues; this is to be expected, as the gals always wanna be where the boys are.

What sets these two lasses aside though, are their pretentiousness and utter failure to live up to the very "mission statements" they have set for themselves. Of course, for those of us who are wise in the Ways of Game, this comes as no surprise; at may not be politically correct, or even downright polite to say, but the truth is that Women tend to have a very difficult time arguing ideas in a linear fashion.

Here's a perfect case in point:
http://ladyraine.wordpress.com/2010/06/14/new-lady-raine-pics/

You'll want to pickup the action around comment #400 or so, and take it from there. Also, lemme set things up for ya so you don't get confused:

A little while back, after eventually growing tired of Lady Raine's inane drivel, I simply stop arguing from a position of logic and told her to shut up. For that, she "banned" me. LOL. Oooh!

Well, as some of you might have picked up on by now, I do have quite a mischevious streak, and decided to go back to her blog to see whether she was the same ole same ole. As you can see, she is. Yea, "Visitor" is me. And as you can see, she proved EVERYTHING I posted-about self-sealing arguments, ad hominem, you name it. She even called me-ready for this now?-a Nigger. That's how intellectually vapid she is, that she has to resort to calling me America's worst ethnic slur.

Man, if all of life were so easy! Winning out over Lady Raine in a debate is like shooting fish in a barrell. You can countdown the minutes before she gets to sputtering, cursing and attacking.

Why am I even taking the time out to discuss any of this? Well, aside from the fact that it's my blog and I can discuss anything I like, I also want to point out WHY Women, as a rule (there are always notable exceptions), SUCK at logical debate. You've already seen how I've exposed, over and over again, Jamila's weaksauce "logic"-in fact, it got so bad in her case that not only have virtually every Black person in this corner of the internet has distanced themselves from her-including all but one Black Woman-but even one of her new ardent supporters called her site unusual due to its *many* contradictions. Contradictions for which she refuses to properly contextualize to say nothing of explain.

What else is new?

One of my big problems with both these ladies is they attempt to palm off their highly subjective and personally biased OPINIONS & FEELINGS as the product of rigorous intellectual thought. Nothing could be further than the truth, and when one applies the principles of Logic and Socratic Questioning, it shows.

It's been said that we all attract what we are to us, in some way or another; that, if you want an accurate gauge of who and what you are, just take a look at the people around you, that are in your life. That Jamila, for example, has effectively chased off other Black Women (except one), and that Lady Raine is surrounded by a coven of some very angry Women, really says it all. Personally, I am very sensitive to the kinds of people I "let" into my life somehow, because, being the metaphysician that I am, I understand that they say something about me.

Anyway, there is one common factor between Lady Raine and Jamila, aside from their sharing mutual blogroll links, and that's Chic Noir. She can be seen on both blogs, and when confronted with all the evidence as I've laidout here, one cannot help but ask what motivates this young lady to spend any time at either venue. Perhaps she will see

this post and answer the question herself.

Game recognizes a concept called “backward rationalization” a kind of mental self-inflicted jiu-jitsu Women will often engage in in order to explain why they do what they do. The basic consensus when it comes to Jamila is that she rags on Black folks and more specifically Black Men, because it assuages her sense of failure and inferiority. And the same can be said about Lady Raine, not along racial lines, but others, like her “war” on Roissy and the PUA/MRAspheres, etc. There is not a week that will go by that she isn’t ranting and raving on about one or more of these individuals/groups, and it is clear that the whole thing presents a serious source of discomfort and pain for her that, because of her extreme defensiveness, she simply cannot openly admit. So, all the defense mechanisms-which require a heck of a lot of energy to keep going I might add-are trotted out and remain in full force.

Anyway, it is what it is, folks. Game, and by extension evolutionary psychology, has been indeed vindicated, if these two ladies are any indication. They bear out the principles propounded by both.

OK, I’m done. Now it’s your turn-

What do you make of Jamila and Lady Raine? Feel free to elaborate, open mic.

Holla back

The Obsidian

Burning Question For Deery

Obsidian · 22 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

In light of more recent exchanges…

A question I have for Deery is this:

I've been thinking about all you said here; I have to ask you, what is the point you're attempting to make here? You say that you read some blogs but don't actually comment but on a select few. You then say that you like to have "balance", ad that this, along with a need to avoid a nasty atmosphere plays a strong role in the why's and wherefores of what you post and so on. I get all that, but what I'm having trouble with is why do you do so here? Especially given what I've told you over and over again? You certainly aren't converting me; I can't say for sure, but I don't think you're converting anyone else either.

You said that you read Roissy and disagree with about 90% of what he says; why don't you comment there? Why don't you bring some much needed "balance"-given that you're a Black Woman, and his is a forum which has said things about Sistas that make anything I've said look like a glowing tribute? Why?

I just don't know why you single me out for frequent commenting, given that we don't seem to be even in the same room. In fact, by all accounts, you seem to zealously defend your inability to emotionally relate to me (and perhaps by extension Black Men?); this is the second time you've mentioned your "MB type", almost as a rationalization as to why you do things as you do.

I mean, I could get it if I came off as a quant blogger, a science blogger, etc-you know, a blogger who said, I am someone who deals in hard facts and data, not doctrine. Then, if I get the facts wrong, I can totally get you coming in to take me to task.

But you don't do that. You seem to want to do something which fundamentally has no place here. What point does it serve? What is the point? You know, for someone who prides herself on using her brain, one would have thought you would have considered all these questions a very long time ago.

So, I have to ask Deery-why are you here? What do you hope to achieve, and why do you make it your business to make my blog one of the few on which you comment? It's like you acknowledge where I'm coming from, but still you do what you do. It's like there's a disconnect or something. I tell you that I'm blogging about my impressions, my feelings about the world around me, that its art, not science; and yet you persist in coming here to discuss science. This is why I call you a piss poor listener. Because it seems that no matter what I say, you just don't get it. And you insist on shoe horning your view in here somehow, as if I give a shit. Or anyone else.

I've never met you, so all I have to go on is these internet interactions-but if I didn't know better, you don't have a heck of a lot of empathy, Deery. And that makes a lot of sense given your MB thingy. That's fine, but if that's the case, then you will not be able to "get" Game either, and that's what trips a lot of guys up about it-because in order to be successful with Game, you have to understand where Women are coming from. You have to be able to see life through their eyes. I honestly don't get the sense that you see things from my side of the river, so to speak-and worse, you've made it quite clear that you have no intention in the least to even try.

So, I really don't get why you're here, Deery. Again, given your keen intelligence, it is quite baffling to me that you haven't really considered all this.

If so inclined, holla back
The Obsidian

Obsidian Files Scorecard

Obsidian · 23 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Since it has been suggested that I obsessively focus on our lady triumvirate of Lady Raine, Jamila and Deery (and Chic Noir attempted to suggest that I was stuck on Bag Lady) and since I never got around to "tagging" my posts since this blog's inception, I thought it would be a good to do so now. The following is a complete listing of the number of blog posts devoted to a particular topic:

Bag Lady 1
Black Men 24
Black Women 13
Deery 3
Feminism 9
Game 41
HBD 25
Hip Hop 4
Jamila 7
Lady Raine 5
Obsidian Archive 3
Origins 1
Politics 59
Race 32
Sex 22
Uncharacterized 38

Total number of posts as of Jun 23 2010: 179 (including this one).

As you can see, my earlier guesstimate was accurate: adding all the posts that have in their subject line the names Jamila, Deery, Lady Raine or Bag Lady, they total 16, roughly 10%. The other 90% of my posts since Oct 31 2009, have been devoted to other topics. Deery attempted to suggest that I had a "smattering" of posts devoted to Game; as you can see above, unless she has an understanding quite different from what is typically known as "smattering" my blog contains a goodly bit more about the subject, at 41 posts and counting. Roughly speaking, that's about a quarter of all my posts to date, or 25% or so. Far from a "smattering".

Higher still are the number of posts I devote to what could be viewed as political issues, and here Deery has made some remarks on the matter; according to my "dashboard", there are at present some 59 posts on the topic. Approaching a full one third of all posts to date.

Comment and reply, holla.

The Obsidian

LTR Game & The Great Recession

Obsidian · 25 June 2010 · Archived copy · Original

OK fellas, the Summer is officialy here, we're about a week out from the Nation's birthday, and…you're brokedown and busted financially. Hopefully, you're not one of the more than a million "hobos" Congress fronted on the other night and halted your hard earned UC bennies-but wherever you find yourself on the socioeconomic ladder these days, everybody's feeling the crunch, and this is especially true of you're a Brotha-let's face it, we tend to have a tougher time of it financially than do our White brethren, in aggregate.

So, in this post I wanna try to address a few points that go right to the heart of your love life and by extension, your Game. The great Carl Jung once said that every moment in time is good for something, if you but figure out what, and I say true dat-this Great Recession is an excellent time to determine how tight your overall Game is. I say that because the most commonly used "form" of Game, is what I call Wallet Game-the guy simply attempts to buy his way into a Woman. While this can and often does work, it is very, very corrupting on a whole host of levels-first off, it makes a Man lazy. We Men are serious creatures of habit, which explains why so many of us fail at Game to begin with. It's so much easier to simply buy ole gal a frilly frock than to really appeal to her natural born instincts as a Woman and her desire for a psychosocially dominant Man. This is why guys who are loaded, *and* have no or very weak Game, lose their Women to other guys so very quickly-money alone, simply ain't it used to be anymore, people. The sooner a Man figures this out, the better off he'll be when it comes to Women.

Another reason why "Wallet Game" is weak is because it is contingent on your cash flow and your cash flow alone-and as we all can see as of late, such a thing can come and go like a thief in the night, right? So when the loot runs out…so does she, if that's all you had to offer her in the first place.

On the other hand, if you've been diligently honing your Seduction skills, studying Womens' ways, taking stock of yourself and making adjustments, and more, you'll find that the current economic climate isn't that impactful to you at all. Of course, one could always use more cream, no doubt about it-but, for the skilled Gamesman, it just isn't as big a factor, if at all, as it is for the poor saps who have nothing else to hang their hat on.

So, let's take a look at a few things…

1. Me and Brown Sugah went out recently to a very nice venue, and we both couldn't help but notice a most disturbing trend-all of the ladies were dressed so nice in their summer dresses, their hair was did up, makeup looking good-and ALL the fellas looked like they just came from off the Appalachian trail, or came out from working under a muscle car changing the muffler, or were so sloppy/unkepmt/out of shape as to give the whole of Manhood a seriously bad name. In my humble view, they might as well to be walking around with a sandwich board that said "please come an PWN me and take my Woman right from under my nose".

Fellas, I thought we've gone over this before-you gotta clean yourself up, hmm? That means, if you're gonna take your Woman out somewhere, that means that you DON'T wear:

Sneakers. You're a grown-assed Man, look like one. Unless you're running errands, running ball or just busting it up with the homies on the block, there isn't really any reason why you need to be wearing sneaks on an outing with your girl. Get some shoes, or if preferable, boots, which is my shot. But please, whatever you do, NO Timberlands. Why? Because Trees are for one thing, over-saturated-every guy wears em. They infer nothing unique about you at all; you seen one guy with a pair of Tims on, you seen em all. Remember, you gotta specialize. Personally, I wear anything BUT Tims, and this is coming from someone who's quite a few pair-but only because of the nature of my work profile. I couldn't get out of those things quick enough come quitting time, LOL.

Now, for me, I like to wear stuff that best expresses my personality, who I am on the inside and I bring that out. So, another reason why I tend to wear boots is because it's a nod to my motorbike days-so yup, I tend to wear biker type boots. In fact, I've got on a pair right now that I copped last month on the humbug-I was just walking down the Ave in my native Philly, and decided to dip into one o the many sneaker/footwear shops. Once inside I checked out the

Men's footwear section; they had the obligatory Timberlands. But I noticed that they also had a couple of nice pair of boots, and the one that jumped out at me reminded me of some boots I had many years ago. So I copped em, took em home, gave em a Marine Corps spit shine, and the rest as they say, is history. I've gotten compliments on em from guys and gals alike-even a gaggle of 12 year old girls liked em. Try getting that kind of fever with some run of the mill Trees.

Next, this droopy pants thing has gotta stop, chief. That, put together with the "beach bum" short deal I see far too many Brothas doing, just ain't gonna get it. While I own both khakis and dress slacks, for most times whe you're taking your lady out jeans will do just fine. But here's the trick-its the type of jean and its cut and fit. I mean, think about it-does Anderson Cooper wear droppy jeans? Does Hugh Jackman have his underwear all out on display? Nope. And neither should you. Get some jeans with a nice cut and fit, top if off with a nice belt. I like to wear bootcuts since I tend to wear boots a goodly bit. Take some time to actually try on different types and brands of jeans, Man. Trust me when I tell you, no one, including your girl, really is all that interested in looking at your saggy jeans wearing butt.

Shirts-that whole wife beater thing? Dead it. You're taking your Woman OUT, NOT lifting weights with the homies in the yard, hmm? Same deal with the Shaggy style supa dupa long tee shirts-uh uh. Here's a novel idea: try wearing a shirt that one, actually fits properly and two, actually looks nice? And I don't mean you gotta spend a fortune on em either-you can hit up many a vendor for some for nominal cost. I have, iin fact I'm wearing such a shirt right now. It's fitted, olive green, with a black gryphon on each side of the chest & wings on the back-definitely urban, but it looks nice. I have a number of shirts like that when I'm going out & can "dial it up or down" in terms of shirts depending on the venue. One of my favorite types of shirts to wear are the military style, real durable and they're cheap. And, if you're gonna work tees, make them fitted ones. No one wants to see you in the equivalent of a burlap bag.

Now, personally, I wear shades a lot, but not because I'm trying to look cool-well, maybe just a little. But the major reason is because I have very light sensitive eyes, and when its really bright out, it hurts. In the summers it is not at all unusual for me to wear my aviators until sundown. Here's the thing though-you gotta make sure whatever shades you're gonna wear actually fits your face and the size/shape of your head. Otherwise, you'll win up clowning yourself. Yes, people are indeed laughing at you.

Cuts and smell goods, general grooming and the like should at this point go without saying, but given that I've recently had to endure multiple Brothas on the bus who were so damned funky that I almost hurled and passed out, I gotta speak on this yet again-fellas, I get that times are hard, but damn Man, the dollar store got deo and soap, you dig me? I know because I done made use of that option myself many a time when the ends were low. Same deal with cuts-like Brown Sugah said, and she's right, if you can't afford to hit up the barbershop on the regular, invest in a pair of clippers and go for self. I know quite a few Brothas who've done this. Looking like a Mountain Man just ain't cool. Same deal with the smell goods-how many times do I have to say that Women have a stronger sense of smell than we do-especially around that time of the month, or when they're pregnant? Don't take my word for it, ask them. You coming through with the funk to overpower Bigfoot…uh uh. Granted, errbody can't afford to go in for say, Armani's Aqua Di Gio, but surely you can put together $5 for some Muslim oils? Again, I've been there done that and haven't had any complaints. As long as you're clean, smell non-funky and look somewhat together, for most Women, you're good to go. It's a kinda low bar, and that's kinda sad, but it is what it is. The good news, on the other hand, is if you're a guy who understands all this, and diligently works to put your best foot forward, you'll have no trouble in the least "breaking the ice" and/or keeping your Woman in love/lust with you. Trust me when I tell you, they are acutely aware of the fact that Men like you are in short supply.

The great thing about all this is, that it don't cost a lot, fellas. You can get cleaned up for a mere fraction of the cost that it take for most Women, trust me. Those boots I was telling you about? They cost me half the price I would have paid for some Trees, and I got a lot more compliments on em, too. Shirt I mentioned? $20. Jeans? $40. Shades? $25. Toss in the $15 I pay for a cut/shave, and another $25 for the Paris Hilton for Men I got on, and you're looking at under $200-trust me, Women can easily spend that on getting their hair/nails/toes and maybe eke

out a dress alone. Take some time to look nice, Man. It don't cost a lot.

Now, let's go to the next thing, which is taking your lady out on a tight budget. First of all, what I'm about to say assumes that you're already in a LTR; she's earned her spot and its only right to do right by her. It's important for Women that you take them out periodically. Women are much more socially inclined than we fellas are; so, being cooped up in the crib, while it may not be a big whup to you, can be problematic for them. Plus, being out and about signals to everyone that you're together, which is huge for Women; trust me, few if any Women wanna be a Bootycall, or think that they are, because you never take them out. Like anything else in life, your LTR is an investment; what you put in, is what you get back. You invest some time and ends in your Woman, and the ROI can be quite substantial.

The great thing about the Summertime, is that you can find a lot to do for very little cost. Take some to find out what's going on in your town; I like what T aka Ricky Raw said about knowing your town and how important this is for a Man. Women HATE planning outings and dates, and would much rather her guy do it. Personally, I'm a big fan of waterfronts and piers, sidewalk cafes and parks. Usually such venues are in the middle of or near other events that are going on, so that gives plenty of opportunities for spontaneity, too. Have some sense of where your going, know the lay of the land, what things cost, etc. Have it all planned out as much as you can. Usually, all this won't run you more than a Benjamin or so, and again if you're creative and have done your homework beforehand, and/or if you're someone who can improvise on the fly like me, you'll be able to keep your love life strong even as the economy crumbles around us. Keep in mind, the hospitality business is hurtin BAD-and by that I mean, anyplace where people go to chillout, relax and have a good time, which includes the aforementioned venues. Trust me, there are deals galore. The greeter gal at the spot me and Brown Sugah went to practically begged us to have a sit, and it turned out to be quite nice.

Alright, that's it. Come on fellas, you can do this!

Now adjourn your grimy asses…

*Obsidian's iPod is playing: Kick Push

The Obsidian

An Open Letter To The Spearhead Readership

Obsidian · 2 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

In light of the nature of the overall response to my recent article on Game and the Recession, I thought to write what I hope will be a brief and to the point reply.

Over the past few years in my time of observation and involvement with what has become known in some circles as the "Manosphere", I've noticed what I consider to be a palpable strain of discontent among its denizens. Men, often angry and bitter, seem attracted to this odd nexus of the Internet, where Men's Rights, Game and "HBD" all seem to converge, or at the very least, are only mere "doorsteps" away from each other. To say that there is no legitimate locus of these Mens' anger, is to be disingenuous-it is simply a matter of fact that the way in which Male and Female get on together in our time now-marriage, dating, sex-has tremendously changed, and not always for the better. For far too many Men, the changed landscape is one that is a veritable battlefield, one that is littered with the bodies of otherwise decent guys, ran roughshod by the sociopolitical machine that is our "enlightened" age. Many Men have run afoul of the Women-friendly court system, be it via divorce, or child support, or with regard to rape and sexual assault accusations. No reasonable person can say, with a straightface, that not only can these systems be abused, but they also contain within them very real imbalances that can prove extremely costly to Men in so many ways. On these and other points, I truly do commiserate with my brothers.

But when the anger and righteous indignation on the part of my brothers becomes counter-productive – to the point that even the mere suggestion that Men should take care in their appearance is tantamount to being gay or putting Women on a pedestal – that my friends, is where we part company.

And that's where the "Men's Rights Movement", if one wishes to call it that, is right now, in my view. It is a deeply held concern I have shared in private with The Spearhead founder, Welmer, and it is one that he has some affinity for; in fact, he has expressed to me his disdain for the more shrill voices in the house that he has so painstakingly built, and intends to address it, soon. I for one hope that he does. Because let's face it-silence implies consent-and for those who are our "opponents"-namely, Feminist Ideologues-it is the shrill voices that gives them the rational and justification to paint ALL of us in the exact same light. Those who wish to denigrate me, then, are only helping to tear down what guys like Welmer are hoping to create, blinded by their own hatred, bitterness and pain.

Welmer has asked me to focus a bit more on Game-related pieces for The Spearhead, and this is something I have agreed to do, because let's face it-for the vast majority of Men out there, Women will play a big role in their lives. And I for one, actually likes Women, and I refuse to apologize for that. Nor am I some bitter chump in a dank basement somewhere-and that brings me to another point:

One of the most striking things I had observed about the Manosphere, was the sheer bile and vitriol, the ferocity of bitterness and anger directed at Women and by extension, anyone who suggests, even in the most benign way, that Women ain't all that bad. This took me aback because those who seemed the most angry and bitter, were by all intents, America's Most Wanted & Preferred: White Guys. And let me refine that point just a bit more, if I may: I'm talking about middle class, college educated, good money earning, White Guys. Take it from me, a Black Male Blue Collar "Prole", who's seen a tremendous lot more pain, suffering and strife in his life than the vast majority of you will ever know in two lifetimes, you guys have the world on a string. You, for the most part, live where you want. Pickup and travel at pretty much where you want to go. There are real opportunities that are open to you that will never be open to me. You will never have to worry about being shot by those who are sworn to protect you, when you go out to get something to eat. And you are still on top of the real money making and status heap. Sure, you may encounter some setbacks, but then, what guy doesn't?-the point is, that all thins being equal, comparatively speaking, if anything, one would think that it would be me, who was bitterly grousing about the unfairness of life.

But, I don't. Somehow, I made Game work for me, found some measure of happiness and joy and yes, love out of this place we call our world. Is it perfect?-no, but then I never set out for perfection. Just a bit of satisfaction.

So, I'm really and truly sorry fellas, but I just cannot get to all that bitterness so many of you seem to revel in. The notion that a guy who takes some interest and care in how he looks, is akin to him being "gay", simply doesn't compute for me. The idea that treating the Woman who you've been with for an extended period of time as a human being is somehow weak or pandering, I just don't get it. The line of reasoning that says that being neat and clean for one's own sake, as well as that of your mate somehow makes a Man a pantywaste, is a kind of anti-social behavior that I find anathema to all that I stand for.

As far as I am concerned, Game can be used to improve a Man's life where it matters the most, no matter how many of you may want to try to deny it, and that's with regard to Women. I don't see the idea of advocating for basic decency and fairness on behalf of Men or Women, and also actually liking Women, as being mutually exclusive. There's a middle ground, a "both/and"; that's been the story of my life, and it still continues to work now.

I am NOT a PUA, nor am I an "MRA". I'm just a Brotha who's trying to live some semblance of a decent life, and who believes in basic justice and fairness. The ideals propounded by the PUA & MRA communities, assist in that effort, for me. Nor do I have to be nasty, vindictive or bitter about it either.

The Spearhead is on the cusp of something truly great. I can feel it. And I am just hoping that it doesn't get ruined by those who, because of their unwillingness to move beyond their own past hurt and pain, are quite fine to execute a kind of scorched earth strategy in order to make their point. If they win, we will have done no better than the very Feminist Ideologues we decry at every chance we get. We can do better than that, fellas. The Spearhead has given us a chance to really highlight what men are all about, and guess what, it's more than angry fist-pumping in the air. There's room for Welmer's great recipes (more, please!), there's room for neatly presented issues of import for us, and yes, there's room for Game, too.

I'm just sayin.

Obsidian's iPod is now playing: Busta Rhymes & J Dilla, "Dillagence"

The Obsidian

The Spearhead: Revelations

Obsidian · 9 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

The past week or so has been one that took even me-someone who's seen a great deal in his life-by total and utter surprise. After writing a piece that was one of my more lighter works, about the need for guys to make an effort to clean themselves up, I got the usual torrent of naysayer negativity in response. That in turn led me to write an open letter, a kind of follow up to my previous piece; in it, I had the gall to make some boldface observations of the Men's Rights Movement circa 2010-and we're off to the races. My humble view in this regard wasn't even the bulk of my letter; it was more like a paragraph. But it didn't matter-that one part of an overall piece was the topic of discussion by a goodly part of the Spearhead readership, so much so that, as of last night, upwards of *350 comments* were registered. I'm not a record keeper for the Spearhead, and its owner Welmer would certainly know better than me, but it would not surprise me if it turns out that my open letter was among if not the most commented upon post in the site's history to date.

And while such a feat would make any blogger/writer puff out their chest with self-assured accomplishment, it is in fact, anti-climatic for me, because of what can only be described as a surrealistic display on the part of many of the respondents that approaches Orwellian levels, if not surpasses them. All manner of strawman were erected, Ad Hominem attacks abounded; "advice" was trotted out for my ostensible "betterment" in how to properly address White Men; I was called Nigger repeatedly; the list of diversions, boogie men, fabrications and the like, were for all intents, endless. I was and remain, speechless by it all.

Perhaps the biggest irony of it all, was in noting the fact that the one voice of reason in the discussion appeared to be that of a Woman, a frequent Spearhead commenter named Renee; she calmly and methodically examined the comments and claims made by others, repeatedly asking where I made such claims that I had been accused of, on what basis did they have to ferret out my intentions and motivations. She did this over and over, but to no avail; these guys are gonna believe what they wanna believe anyway.

I say it's an irony because we are told that Men taken as a group, are more logical and level headed than are Women. If what we've seen over the past week at one of the Internet's burgeoning examples of Men's Rights Activism is any indication, that is a view, an assumption, that at the very least, needs a serious rethink.

One of the more obvious questions that emerges out of all this, is one of Race. It is not unfair to say that at present and in the main, the MRM is for all intents and purposes, White. That need not be a bad thing in and of itself, but let's face it-ours is a racially sensitive and aware age, it is the coin of the realm, and will always play a role in our national narrative for better or worse. Sooner or later, this question would have to come up in the Manosphere, and indeed it has, often not under the best of intentions.

The same questions have emerged on the Feminist side, and I've written about this; it is undeniable that Black Women have their own challenges in this regard, yet, if objective measures such as access to abortion and education, increased money earning and legal protections both in the workplace and at home are any indication, Feminism can be safely said to have assisted them. At the very least, it hasn't gotten in the way. And, we can note that Black and White Women if nothing else, give the appearance that all is well.

With more Black Men coming into their own online, it is inevitable that they will come across the Manosphere, and they will do so with their own take and spin on things. Being upset with them for merely pointing out the bleedingly obvious will not and cannot move the ball forward. And again, what has been gained from merely being angry all the time? At some point you have to move on.

Perhaps the biggest irony of them all, is in noting the fact-depending on where you are, some would say a sad one-that at present, the only real example of a "Men's movement", are the ones to be found in PUA circles. These guys have proven they know how to organize, get their message out, and attract new recruits to their cause. They make money and fund their own initiatives. The more straightlaced MRM, on a whole, cannot say this, and I say there are

many good reasons for it. Again, if what went down at the Spearhead with regard to my own posts over the past week is any indication, those reasons should by now be quite apparent.

Being a prognosticator is a tricky thing; truth be told, you strikeout a heck of a lot more than you hit the motherlode. But somehow, I don't feel all that pensive when I say, with a good degree of lament, that the MRM's future doesn't at all look very bright. As I've said offlist, if a bunch of guys cannot even get themselves together to wash their asses and wear some halfway presentable clothes, how are they ever gonna change the world?

The Obsidian

Being A Reproductive Loser Is A Fate WORSE Than Death

Obsidian · 10 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Many of you reading this humble missive of mine is familiar with the blogger Roissy. About a year or so ago, he wrote a blog post that ignited a firestorm of controversey accross the Internet. The topic? One Mr. George Sodini, and his truly tragic, monstrous life. Roissy made the case then, that for Men, not having the company of a Woman was a fate worse than death, and though I have had many areas of real contention with the Crimson Gamesman, on this point I must agree:

> When men kill women, the underlying reason is almost always an unfulfilled psychosexual need. This goes for spree shooters, rapists, and serial killers. I'm not surprised Sodini hadn't had sex in nearly 20 years. As I've written before, to some men on the losing side of the desireability bell curve celibacy is walking death and anything is justified in avoiding that miserable fate.

Well, as it turns out, evolutionary psychologist Satoshi Kanazawaa has confirmed the same sentiment, in his most recent article, "Why the Death Penalty and the DNA Technology Do Not Deter Murderers and Rapists". Unlike so many posers in the Manosphere, who cherrypick evo-psych info when and where it suits them, I actually enjoy considering ALL of what it has to say on all manner of questions of the human condition. Here, Kanazawaa makes it clear that we will never be able to deter Men from killing and raping, because of deeply entrenched biological hardwiring that goes directly to our need to reproduce. For those Men who have the least to offer a society, killing and raping are legitimate ways to ensure their genetic legacy, or at the very least, making sure that others around them don't get to reproduce either. It's a powerful article, and I invite everyone to check it out.

Once again I cannot help but observe the kismit in play here, given the events of the past week or so. At this juncture, I'm pretty much talked out about the matter. I'll leave it to my esteemed readers to come to their own conclusions.

Feel free to discuss!

Obsidian's iPod is now playing: "Get By Remix", by Talib Kweli

The Obsidian

Strongarming A Cognitive Midget, Part Two

Obsidian · 15 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

They say any press is good press, so you know I was quite pleased when neophyte blogger Jamila made the following post about moi. She accuses me of being a liar and then proceeds to make her case:

"I'm not even opposed to those men in the game community playing a little fast and loose with the facts in order to make themselves look better, as long as they do not blatantly lie. Once you have told what is clearly a lie to someone in order to either have sex with that person or to slander a person, group, or movement that you don't like you fall to the rank of 'a little lower than dirt' in my book. Luckily for Obsidian, he didn't have too far to fall."

Look who's talkin', LOL. I have an established track record for being above board in my positions and views with regard to Game; has Jamila even read The Mystery Method or The Game? Based on her recent comments, one would have to say, NOT…

Anyway, back to Ms. Jamila:

"1. After I explicitly said I am not obligated to defend the words of other people, Obsidian then asks me to…wait for it…defend the words of other people!"

O: That's because I find that those who are into HBD tend to like to play fast and loose with REALITY. These are people who tend toward the Losertarian side of the ledger, who think they can divorce theory from result and practice. Often I ask questions over and over because, quite frankly, I want to cut through the Bullshit answers I get from such folk.

For example, recently I asked Jamila whether she supported increased racial profiling like Michael Levin does (more on this point in a bit). She says she doesn't, but then that puts her at serious odds with her new master, since he clearly DOES feel that such a measure is not only warranted, but would in fact, be highly effective. Now, any reasonable person would have to ask – how can you support something that, were it up to your fellow travelers, would PUT YOUR OWN FAMILY AT RISK?

As you can see, to ask the question, is to answer it. Jamila either never thought it through, or she didn't care. I don't know which. But here's the bottomline: were racial profiling implemented in the manner suggested by Levin and many other HBDers, Jamila's own flesh and blood, yup, her brother, is at risk of winding up being a chalk outline, his civil liberties would be moot at best – this is the practical reality of HBD as Public Policy, and make no mistake, the HBDers DO indeed want to alter existing policy and/or implement new public policies rooted in the "science" of HBD. Hang on, I gots the proof…by Jamila's own hand…

"2. The second biggest part of this problem is that Obsidian then maligns those other people by claiming them to say and believe things that they have not said. He makes the outlandish claim that "those who you are your fellow travelers, do indeed view HBD as a means to reinstitute "correctives" like Jim Crow, on the grounds that such measures were actually "better" for Blacks overall."

What a complete crock."

Uh, NO, it's not. Please read the comments, where even OneSTDV's cut buddy, The Undiscovered Jew, takes the boy to task. In fact, he, Too Tall Jones and I tried to talk sense into the boy, all to no avail. What are you gonna do – especially when the Dusky Hued Lass herself doesn't seem to be all that bothered by the matter either. *shrugs*

Back to the Cognitive Gnome:

"Because Obsidian is known as a troll who enjoys spamming blogs that discuss human biodiversity it wasn't hard for me to find posts where other hbd bloggers have already answered the questions that he poses ad infinitum. Said responses to Obsidian are always in a polite, clear, succinct way possible…and

then a week or two later Obsidian reappears asking the same questions and making the same false claims."

Note the dog whistle words, "troll" and "spamming" – translation: Obsidian actually engages these guys in real debate on that which they claim to be interested in, stumps the crap outta them, then they get mad. Happens all the time…

But here's the best part – after labelling me a "troll", Ms. Jamila then GOES AND QUOTES A SELF-PROFESSED TROLL OF MORE THAN A DECADE LONG, ONE MS. "DANA", TO DEBUNK ME:

(quoting Obsidian): What would such a world look like [if HBD was publicly accepted]? What public policies would be crafted with HBD at their core? Could anyone here, be it OneSTDV or anyone else, make a rough ten point plan outlining these measures? It's just that they don't catch serious flak for saying that they want a rollback on everything that made African Americans a real part of this country.

(Dana's response): dana: just because i want to accurately describe the nature of blacks in the US doesn't really mean i want to do anything about it or believe in a government strong enough to "do" anything about it. most HBDers are libertarians [OneSTDV: I'd say pseudo-libertarians] and don't want to "do" anything but REPEAL unconstitutional and dysgenic policies–not enact positive active eugenic policies.

Stop right there – earlier Jamila says that I'm off the rails, right? Because, you know, I keep asking what the HBDers want to actually see done with their "evidence", right?

Take a look at the following DIRECT QUOTE from Dana:
"REPEAL unconstitutional and dysgenic policies–not enact positive active eugenic policies."

Repeal. You saw that word, right? Doesn't "repeal" mean, like, you know, to CHANGE?

And uh, didn't I express concerns about the HBDers wanting to in one way or another, using it to alter or otherwise CHANGE public policy?

Doesnt Michael Levin offer a listing of PUBLIC POLICY measures, based on HBD, in his book?!?

I rest my case.

But wait, there's more! Jamila then quotes "Anonymous" and "Galton" from the same thread; here's their laundry list of PUBLIC POLICY CHANGES they want to see happen, BASED ON HBD…

"-Scale back educational funding and profligate spending on "new and improved" reform. Reinstitute tracking and place emphasis (both practical and social) on vocational training.
-The end of the abusive and parasitic race hustle industry: Accept racial disparities as natural.
-End all unfunded entitlements, including section 8, affirmative action, and Medicaid.
-Dissolve Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
-Having a child without the means to support it is a felony or some other less stringent disincentive for fecund welfare recipients.
-Increase length of jail sentences for all violent offenders.
-Tell the truth about race differences in the mainstream media.
-Persistent felons would be deported.
-Only skilled immigration.
-Deport all illegals immediately."

I mean, really. Talk about shooting fish in a barrel…

Finally, Little Miss Clever Silly delivers her coup de grace (whew):

"I don't want to continue to throw peanuts to the peanut gallery or give the attention whores that which they seek; thus, I am also going to refrain from responding to Obsidian's posts from this point forward unless he says something I deem worthwhile—which will only happen rarely at most."

Attention whore, huh? Well, you know what they say - it takes one to know one.

In the comments thread below, I'll offer more choice offerings that never made it to Jamila's posting board; she's known for not posting stuff she no like, and I am not the only one who says that, by the way.

My job is done here.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

The NAACP Takes On The Tea Party-BAD MOVE

Obsidian · 16 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Buy now I'm sure you've heard about the NAACP calling the Tea Party out on the carpet for their refusal to recognize and then distance themselves from, what the NAACP considers to be racist elements in their midst. Ben Jealous, current head of the NAACP, has been on something of a media blitz over the past week or so, in an effort to gin up support for their resolution which basically calls the Tea Party racists.

But this time, the NAACP bit off just a weebit more than they could chew.

For one thing, Sarah Palin was quick to fire back, saying that if anyone was pandering to racial allegiances and the like, it was the NAACP, not the Tea Party. Before the end of the week, the whole of the Tea Party movement-which included several Black members-was "on message" carrying the same mantra Mama Grizzly Palin put into motion-they were successfully able to use a brilliant display of rhetorical Jiu-Jitsu and put the onus right back on the NAACP themselves, with their charges that the organization was little more than a race hustling shakedown operation-and worse, that they had ceased actually being relevant a very long time ago. To add insult to injury, even fellow travelers of the NAACP, like MSNBC, has asked aloud:

Given all the many problems the African American community has to deal with, is this effort by the NAACP something they should engage in? Shouldn't other issues, like say, the overwhelming unemployment rates for Black Men, take center stage on the NAACP's agenda?

In other words, what has the NAACP done *lately*?

It was painful to watch Mr. Jealous' grimacing as such questions were put to him.

But of course, the talking heads on one of cable tv's most Liberal stations, had a point.

Actually, three or four.

The Tea Party ain't responsible for Chicago's horrendous homicide rate

The Tea Party didn't force Black kids to dropout of highschool at rates exceeding 50% in many Black urban areas

Mark Williams could write a thousand "satirical letters" and it would have NOTHING to do with the skyhigh incaceration rate, or infant mortality rate, or out of wedlock birthrate, in the Black community.

So, if all this is the case – and it IS – why do outfits like the NAACP, focus on stuff that has at best, symbolic import?

Regular readers of my humble missives know well my view of folk like the NAACP and their pet causes; not only do they make themselves look like utter fools when they do ridiculous stuff like this, but they also belie their own lofty, noble goals by revealing their deepseated class bias and disdain of those not born of the right Brown Paper Bag hues.
If anyone disputes what I say here, all you need do is take a look at the founding of the NAACP itself-yes, the founder(s) of today's Tea Party may have racial motivations, but they are by no means alone. WEB DuBois is considered the "grand daddy" of the country's oldest civil rights organization, and his view as to how things ought to be done wrt Black America is well known and documented. He had no use whatsoever for the likes of Booker T. Washington or Marcus Garvey, and he even snubbed imminent scholar John Hope Franklin, possibly because the latter was too dark for DuBois' blood.

It is not a stretch to say who and what the NAACP was aimed at and was out to do. It by now, should be quite obvious. That isn't to say that it did nothing good in its more than a century of existence-its famed Legal Defense Fund played a strong role in ending Jim Crow, which proved to be on balance, a net positive for all African Americans. But we wouldn't be honest if we didn't say, that the NAACP never did have as part of its mission,

dealing with the gut level, on the ground, day to day concerns of Pookie and Ray-Ray. Their focus was more on people who resembled, more or less, DuBois himself.

And in our time now, racist views/condoning aside, can anyone honestly say there is a comparison to be made between the NAACP and the Tea Party? The former is basically one big quasi-corporate/non-profit operation; the latter, a true grassroots effort. And, note the support the latter has gotten online, in the wake of this dustup the NAACP has started-it's quite substantial. Now compare it to the support the NAACP has gotten.

crickets chirping

I know there are those out there who will take umbrage with what I'm saying here, and for what it's worth, I feel your pain. But the facts-and I really hate to confuse you all with any of those-are simply that the NAACP hasn't been relevant in the lives of Black folk since the 60s. Just ask yourself this little question if you doubt me:

Do you honestly think that the now Ben Jealous led NAACP could call on one million or more African Americans to assemble in a public show of force, against the racism of the Tea Party?

If you're wondering, yes, I am making a clear comparison to the Nation of Islam's call for one million Black Men to mass on the Mall in Washington DC, 15 years ago. If you will kindly recall, among the (Black) detractors, were voices in the NAACP.

This event proved something-the long history of the NOI's engagement with the kinds of Black folks the NAACP doesn't even talk about, let alone actually deals with, on the ground and where the action is – heck, even Bill Cosby said as much, back during his famed (or infamous, depending on your POV) "Poundcake Speech". Black Men from all walks of life responded to Min. Louis Farrakhan's call, much to the chargin of the more hidebound Civil Righters-like voices in the NAACP.

And while said voices was busy quibbling about the financial speck in the Minster's eye, they were ignoring the 2X4 in their own-the NAACP has a history of financial mismanagement and malfeasance almost as long as its actual civil rights history itself. And on top of that, the NAACP has a history petty infighting, too-which included Jealous' highly contentious election.

So, on balance, is the Tea Party racist, or at the very least, seems to attract racists and condones them in their midst? If Mark Williams is any indication, among a great many other things, I would say, YES.

But for real, it ain't that big a deal for the vast majority of Black folk, y'all. We got much, much bigger fish to fry.

If the NAACP can't be down with helping to fry said fish, they could at the least refrain from wanting to pick over the bones.

I'm just sayin.

Commnt & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

Remember This, All Of You...

Obsidian · 20 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Tough times don’t shape character; they reveal it…

And tough times don’t last for long; only tough guys do.

O.

Shirley Sherrod Speaks Out

Obsidian · 21 July 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Well, as I noted yesterday, it seems the full story is indeed getting out; the following news report is courtesy of the New York Daily News:

“Shirley Sherrod, ex-USDA worker: White House forced me to resign over fabricated racial controversy

BY Aliyah Shahid
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Tuesday, July 20th 2010, 2:46 PM

USDA Shirley Sherrod, the former Georgia State Director of Rural Development for the USDA, resigned on Monday after making racial remarks.

One strike and she was out.

A black employee who resigned from the Agriculture Department on Monday said the White House forced her out after remarks that she says have sparked a fabricated racial controversy.

Shirley Sherrod , the former Georgia director of Rural Development, said she received a phone call from the USDA ‘s deputy undersecretary Cheryl Cook on Monday while she was in a car. Cook told her that the White House wanted her to call it quits.

“They called me twice,” Sherrod told the Associated Press . “The last time they asked me to pull over the side of the road and submit my resignation on my Blackberry, and that’s what I did.”

The controversy began after several media organizations posted a 38-second video clip of Sherrod speaking to a local Georgia chapter of the NAACP . She tells the group that she did not give a white farmer “the full force of what I could do” after he asked for assistance.

The video surfaced days after the NAACP quarreled with Tea Party members over allegations of racism.

Sherrod said her statements were taken out of context.

“My point in telling that story is that working with him helped me to see that it wasn’t a black and white issue,” she said. Sherrod added that the episode took place in 1986 before she worked for the Agriculture Department.

Sherrod said that she eventually became friends with the farmer and worked with him for two years to help him avoid foreclosure.

The woman who says she is the wife of the farmer referenced in the clip told CNN Sherrod helped her family save their farm. Eloise Spooner described Sherrod as “getting in there and doing all she could do to help us.”

President of the national NAACP, Benjamin Todd Jealous , supported the resignation, saying the organization has a zero-tolerance policy.

“According to her remarks, she mistreated a white farmer in need of assistance because of his race,” he said in a statement before Sherrod’s explanation.

“We are appalled by her actions, just as we are with abuses of power against farmers of color and female farmers.”

Less than a week ago, I openly questioned the motivation and goal of the NAACP in their rousting up the hornet’s nest that is the Tea Party. I simply did not see what there was to be gained in engaging in such a dustup with the grassroots organization, after all, they’re not responsible for the many problems that beset African Americans. Moreover, given its own rather colorful past, I wasn’t entirely sure the NAACP should have been the ones to take the Tea Party task, if any group should have done so at all.

Well, as I predicted, things have gotten ugly and will only get uglier in the days and weeks to come, as the current "outing" of a videotaped snippet of a public address one Ms. Shirley Sherrod, of the USDA, supposedly made to a local NAACP group. In the NY Daily News piece above, Sherrod makes clear who forced her to resign-it came from the White House itself. Meaning that either Obama came up with the idea, or at the very least he signed off on and/or was aware of it.

What a big mess.

At the risk of sounding like a really badly broken record at this point, I must ask, yet again:

How does any of this help Black people? I mean, we got really big problems that need addressing: we've been hit hardest by the recession; we've been hit hardest by the subprime mortage crisis; and we've been hit hardest by the job losses that have occurred across the country in the last few years.

Why isn't Obama and/or the NAACP, the Congressional Black Caucus, or the other umpteen public advocacy groups that claim to speak for and work on behalf of Black Americans, saying anything about any of the above? Why aren't they on the country's major news outlets talking about these things? Why aren't they leading protest marches, sit ins, etc et al with these issues in mind?

Is something wrong here, or is it just me?

Expect to hear more from the Sherrod case. No matter how it eventually shakes itself out, the bottomline is, that the Tea Party has in a very real sense, WON. All the NAACP has gotten out of this, is dirty.

Damn.

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

Sistas Can't Be Ms. Ann...

Obsidian · 1 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Let's continue our polemic against certain deeply held hidebound views among a considerable segment of our population, as expressed by several recent past posts by me, and our ongoing examination of said themes therein…

I have suggested, that a major stumbling block for many Black Women in the mating game, is that they have been exposed to, and have accepted, a set of ideas that have proven highly ineffective; in more simpler terms, I have said that it does Sistas no good to attempt to ape "Ms. Ann"-another way of saying, "White Women".

That's quite a provocative statement, Obsidian! Care to clarify a bit?

My pleasure.

What I meant by that statement was, that in many ways, Black Women simply cannot use the same kind of "model" that their White counterparts use, because their reality is wholly different from White Womens' reality. Therefore, it can only end badly for so many Black Women, when they attempt to do what Ms. Ann does in these areas.

For example, even in the midst of rapidly changing times, a White Woman coming out of college today, can still reasonably expect to marry if she so desires it, to a White Man who also had the college experience, by or before the age of 30. This is simply not the case for Black Women-as is commonly known and accepted in these parts, the ratio of college educated Black Men to Black Women is considerably lopsided. This is important, since college is and has been for quite some time, the de facto mating ground for America's young people. Indeed, when it comes to Women, one of their unspoken hopes and aspirations in attending college in the first place, is to meet a guy who they might marry. And this is no less true of Black Women.

Indeed, it is this crushing reality for Black Women that fuels a goodly bit of their angst and anger; most Black Women attend more "mainstream" universities as opposed to the HBCUs, and thus get to see, firsthand, what their White sisters do or at the least, can do-and it is only natural to compare that to themselves, and/or other Black Women they know. Hence, all the attention Sistas in this cohort, which is quite considerable, gets from the Chattering Class.

But it doesn't stop there; in addition to Sistas tending to attend more "Whiter" colleges than do Brothas in aggregate, they most certainly have more "access" and exposure to the "White world" than do Brothas in aggregate, too. Therefore, they get to see, firsthand, the possibilities of said world, moreso than do Brothas, and again, we need to keep in mind here, that yes I am generalizing for the sake of making a larger point clearer. There are always exceptions, but they don't address our topic today. Anyway, for many Sistas, as I've said, they get to see things that many Brothas may not-yet, in so many ways, they can't really participate in said world, fully. To this end, I have a great degree of empathy for my Sistas. It must feel like a cruel joke, I imagine.

So, this is why I say, that for so many Sistas, attempting to ape "Ms. Ann" is a losing strategy, for very simple reasons: most Brothas don't go on to college. So, right off the bat, there's a real issue Sistas have to contend with that their White sisters, even in our time now, do not.

Then, as I've noted above, there's the all-important attitudinal component to this piece-and here I have to say, that I continue to be amused by just how often we neglect this very important aspect of the human condition when discussions like these comes up. We forget that aside from brass tax items, there is also a whole complex of emotions, feelings, expectations, entire worldviews, that attend such things. This is why, when it comes to the current discussion, so much of what I say will come across as very difficult for some Sistas to understand and/or accept.

And here again, I can dig it. It's tough to be asked to let go of one's dreams and aspirations, especially when you not only get to see said things become a reality for others, but you're close enough to them everyday to taste it for yourself. A big part of the college experience, for Women, and in this case Black Women, is one where the world

of possibilities is wide open. And in many ways, it is. But if all the data and stats are any indicator, we cannot say the same for Black Men.

It is here that, for my part, Black Women might want to consider having a bit of empathy for their Brothas; for while it is true that aping Ms. Ann isn't something that is viable for many Sistas, it is also true that entire areas of human endeavor are all but closed off to Black Men as well. Many Black Women may see the world of possibilities; so many Black Men never see it at all, or if they do, they are told in ways big and small, overtly and implicit, that they are not wanted or welcomed. Small wonder then as to why so many of them "disappear".

The bottomline here is that Black Women, if they wish to be successful in the game of love, have to learn to think outside the box. They have to consider other things that makes for a viable mate, because the current model they are seeking simply doesn't work, if it ever did.

And by no means am I saying this will be easy for Black Women, or fair; it most certainly is not, on both counts. Simply put, Women as a group aren't outside the box thinkers; they tend to follow the herd. Bucking the system is a very painful thing for Women to do, and those who understand Game know why this is (think about it-the term "outlaw" doesn't immediately bring to mind a female image, does it?)

But if Black Women want a different result, they cannot keep doing the same things. They have to actually try DOING something different. One thing they can do, is to deeply consider that what they've been led to believe in, isn't something that doesn't work out so well for them in the areas of love, romance and the like.

For my part, I think it would do Sistas well to chuck the idea of what I call "me Tarzan, you Jane" thinking. Such crude gender roles, as well as unrealistic expectations, don't really work out so well for Black Women, for the reasons already stated.

I could say more, but I'll hold here. Besides, the best thoughts expressed tend to show up in the comments!

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

Being A Member Of The Honorary White Club

Obsidian · 13 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Commenter Dragnet offers some keen and sage insights on the Great American Skin Game, in this way:

(Quoting commenter Escarondito): When the group of “minorities” become the majority in America, which is coming in my lifetime (I can’t wait!!!:P), they need to still feel their superiority somehow.”

DRAGNET: “I am not as sanguine about the prospect for this as you are. If we’ve seen anything over the few hundred years of American history, it’s that the definition of “white” is amazingly protean. The Irish weren’t “white” when they got here—but they are now, etc. I think it is entirely possible that Asians and eventually Latinos will assimilate so thoroughly into SWPL culture that they will be considered white and, in time, come to look at themselves that way.

White people will do whatever they can to maintain power—even assimilate other groups. This isn’t just endemic to those of European descent—it’s what any majority anywhere does to maintain itself, and it’s power. Being “white” in this country has always been defined in opposition to black people, and with time the definition of “white” will come to mean “not black”. Black people are really the only group that cannot be assimilated, and it’s largely because we refuse to (in addition, of course, to being so culturally/physically distinct). I think this is also true of Jews, but to a lesser extent.”

Tru dat, Brotha. Tru dat.

From Prof. Andrew Hacker’s Two Nations:

“Becoming White

From the colonial period through the Jacksonian era, most white Americans were of English ancestry. Alexis de Tocqueville, during his visit in the 1830s, felt he could characterize the country and its free citizens as “Anglo-Americans”.

Given the changes in the population, this epithet could not last. Even so, the Anglo-American model has remained remarkably durable, with most subsequent immigrants adapting to its canons. They not only learned English, the single national language, but also adjusted their lives to the economy and technology associated with that prototype. This does not mean that the majority of white Americans regard themselves as “English” in a literal sense. They can and do identify with other origins. Even so, it could be argued that most contemporary citizens associate themselves to a greater degree with Anglo-American culture than with their ancestor’s country of origin.

To say this would seem to resurrect the conception of the melting pot, which argued that immigrants would shed their older identities and assimilate to the new culture they encountered. That view has been challenged in many quarters. Rather than as a cauldron, many commentators today prefer to see America as a mosaic or even a lumpy stew. At best, the pot still contains plenty of unmelted pieces. Hence the renewed emphasis on “ethnicity”, with its focus on the country’s racial and national and religious diversity.

Even so, assimilation has taken place, and it continues apace. One of the earliest examples was the Germans, who in terms of sheer numbers once made up the nation’s largest immigrant group. Yet for at least a generation, it has been hard to find many people who qualify as “German-Americans” in any serious sense. Soon after their arrival, which gained momentum after 1848, Germans quickly learned English and studied the customs of their new land. Many were merchants or farmers, familiar with the rules of a market economy. In addition, it became evident that they were not particularly committed to the country they had left behind. (In fact, there was no unified Germany at that time.) Each generation saw more intermarriage, accompanied by moves to mixed neighborhoods. Service in the Union army during the Civil War speeded the assimilation process, which was effectively completed during the First World War. With the suburbanization of Milwaukee and Cincinnati, there are no longer any neighborhoods with a German flavor.

What also eased acceptance of the German immigrants was the realization by Americans of English origin that they needed an ally. For one thing, their own stock was not being renewed by immigration. And, as often happens with groups that arrive early, the offspring they produced began to feel they should no longer have to do society's less pleasant chores. German-Americans could see why they were being co-opted, and they welcomed the chance to show their ambitions and skills. The English had a further motive: encouraging the Germans, who were mainly Protestant, helped to hold the Catholic Irish at bay.

It took the Irish longer to shed an alien identity. Although they arrived already knowing English, rural folkways slowed their adjustment to an urban world. Furthermore, at the time of their arrival, Catholics were not regarded as altogether "white". (Thomas Nast's political cartoons gave Irish immigrants sub-human features.) Italians may have been less fervently Catholic than the Irish, but their acceptance was hampered by peasant habits. Many decided to return to Italy after brief sojourns here; and some of those who chose to stay took their time learning the new language.

Jews, who arrived in large numbers at the turn of the century, were at first kept at the margin of "white" America simply because they were not Christians. Still, by a generation after their arrival, they had set themselves to mastering the tests for college admission, civil service posts, and many professions. The Second World War speeded the process of assimilation. At its end, people from every corner of Europe were considered fully "white". Two Americans of Irish extraction have been President, and being a Catholic was seldom a bar to promotion or preferment. The Chrysler Corporation had a Lee (from Lido) Iacocca for its chairman, while an Irving Shapiro headed Du Pont, and Ivy League universities have routinely appointed Jewish presidents.

By this time, it should be clear that the question is not "Who *is* white?" It might be more appropriate to ask, "Who *may* be considered white?", since this suggests that something akin to permission is needed. In a sense, those who have already received the "white" designation can be seen as belonging to a club, from whose sanctum they ponder whether they want or need new members, as well as the proper pace of new admissions.

Despite-or perhaps because of-their race's dominance, the two hundred million Americans who carry the majority pigmentation seldom think of themselves as "white". (Indeed, about the only times they do are the infrequent occasions when they find themselves in or driving through a black neighborhood.) While they have no objection to checking the "white" box on a form, they say they give more thought to specific aspects of their identity, such as their Italian or Scottish or Jewish origins, than they do to their whiteness. The white designation, they add, may fit egregious exceptions like the the neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan. But they would be quite unhappy if, say, a group of stations sought to bill themselves as "White Entertainment Television." And they would also object were it proposed that "white" were added to the way we describe Yale University or General Motors.

Indeed, CBS would certainly reply that its 60 Minutes gives ed Bradley equal billing with Mike Wallace, or cite Bryant Gumbel's popularity with predominantly white audiences. Given the nation's mosaic, it would be odd indeed if we encountered an out-right refusal to hire a Connie Chung or a Geraldo Rivera.

Moreover, those who see the world through white eyes assert that they are unable to think of any traits or attributes that all Caucasians have in common. Where there is still some agreement that the nation's dominant antecedents are European, as is its reliance on Western literature and learning, this is seen as a cultural, not a racial heritage. Just as most white Americans protest that the charge of racism does not apply to them, so they also deny the centrality of their race. Nor does it occur to them that there might be a connection between these two disavowals."

pp. 9-12

More in a minute…

The Obsidian

Which Is More Important-Race, Or Gender?

Obsidian · 14 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

According to OneSTDV, the former trumps the latter ultimately and utterly, and he cites as "proof" of this, Steve Sailer's analysis of the OJ Simpson trial. While I can see the logic, such as it is, of Sailer's argument, I personally find the question itself to be quite provocative for a whole host of reasons.

Based on all I've read, observed and experienced in my life, I think the answer to the question is "it depends on who you ask". I say that because in my experience, Women overall, simply don't perceive race and racial issues in the same way that Men overall do. In recent months, I've written somewhat extensively about this very point, that Black Women for example, those who consider themselves college educated and the like, see themselves as living for the most part, in a "post-racial world"-and in many ways, they would be right. However, the view shifts considerably for Black Men-I've written quite extensively how, from birth, race colors, if you will, the whole of their existence-even Barack Obama, leader of the free world and President of the United States, cannot escape this truth. Simply put, Race defines, and confines, Black Men in a way that is at the very least, qualitatively different for Black Women.

To give more witness to my assertions above, we need go no further than my own exploits last month, with what I call The Spearhead Controversy. Regular readers will know well what I mean by this, and for those who are just coming in on the discussion, I urge them to checkout the links for themselves to get up to speed. The Spearhead's readership was quite clear on where they came down on the matter-Race Über Alles, like a MFer. One of my articles generated some 400-plus comments at the Spearhead-at the time a record-so animated its largely White, Male readership were about my insights; one of their readers even went so far as to take me to task in the form of *two* YouTube videos.

Which brings me to another point-the Spearhead has putatively positioned itself as a new front on the nascent Men's Rights Movement, a movement, if one can call it such, comprised almost entirely, of White Males. Based again, on my own direct experiences with said group, they have made it quite clear as to what they deem more important, and the supposedly unifying characteristic of being Male ain't one of em. Race, trumps that.

By contrast, the Feminist Movement, flawed though it may be, and undeniably White in both its leadership, "voice" and direction, hasn't been a hindrance, implicitly or otherwise, to Black Women. Indeed, by all accounts, it can be said that Black Women have actually gained from many of the aims and stated goals of largely White Feminists. To be sure, Black Feminists have their fair share of bones of contention and woes with their White sisters; but at the end of the day, as we all see with our lying eyes everyday on the morning commutes, break and lunchtime and office parties, Black Women and White Women get along just fine-at the very least, they've agreed to fake it like they do.

It's hard to say with any degree of certainty, that Black Men will benefit from the Men's Rights Movement, should it ever become a potent enough sociopolitical force to be taken seriously, or even if they have a seat at the table at all. There is little evidence on the ground that suggests that the majority membership and leadership actually wants Brothas around. Yet another reason why I say, to answer OneSTDV's query, it depends largely on who you ask.

One can speculate as to why the genders, Male and Female, perceives Race so differently as they do; I'm all ears as to your thoughts. But as far as I'm concerned, the matter isn't as cut and dry as Mr. OneSTDV would like to believe.

Which, by now, shouldn't come as a surprise, to anyone.

Comment & reply, holla…

The Obsidian

Dr. Laura's Obsession With The "N-Word"

Obsidian · 15 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

"Societies create vocabularies, devising new terms when they are needed and retaining old ones when they serve a purpose. Dictionaries list words as obsolete or archaic, denoting that they are no longer used or heard. But one epithet survives, because people want it to. Your vulnerability to humiliation can be summed up in a single word. That word, of course, is "nigger".

When a white person voices it, it becomes a knife with a whetted edge. No black person can hear it with equanimity or ignore it as "simply a word". This word has the force to pierce, to wound, to penetrate, as no other has. There have, of course, been terms like "kike" and "spick" and "chink". But these are less frequently heard today, and they lack the same emotional impact. Some nonethnic terms come closer , such as "slut" and "fag" and "cripple". Yet "nigger" stands alone with its power to tear at one's insides. It is revealing that whites have never created so wrenching an epithet for even the most benighted members of their own race.

Black people may use "nigger" among themselves, but with a tone and intention that is known and understood. Even so, if you are black, you know white society devised this word and keeps it available for its use. (Not officially, of course, or even in print; but you know it continues to be uttered behind closed doors.) Its persistence reminds you that you are still perceived as a degraded species of humanity, at a level to which whites can never descend."

-Andrew Hacker, Two Nations, pp. 55

By now, surely you've heard about radio talker Dr. Laura Schlessinger's latest on-air rant, wherein which she used the word "Nigger" 11 times inside of five minutes. The rant on her part took place as a result of an on-air and real time exchange between herself and one of her callers, an African American Woman who called for advice on how to handle her White husband's friends fast and loose use of the word "Nigger" and related racial slurs toward Black people. Dr. Laura's response was to note what I like to call the "Nigger Double Standard"-how Black rappers, comedians and ordinary layfolk, can and do make frequent and liberal use of the word "Nigger", but as soon as someone White does it, it becomes a huge issue. The point being, they say, that if the word truly is bad and racist, it shouldn't be used by anyone, anywhere, at anytime, and, more importantly, African Americans are being blatantly hypocritical. Of course when her caller took issue with Dr. Laura's use of the term, Dr. Laura's response was "don't NAACP me!"-a not so thinly veiled reference to the NAACP's failed attempt to upbraid the Tea Party, which led to a public airing of an NAACP-sponsored event where then-US Dept of Agriculture apparatchik Shirley Sherrod is seen saying that she didn't do all she could to assist a White farmer retain his land, and this comment eliciting applause from the Black crowd in attendance.

Dr. Laura has been properly vilified in the media, complete with a crocodile tear-laden "apology" on her part, but the damage has been done, and more importantly, her world-infamous acerbic ways have re-invigorated yet another round in the Great "Why can't we (read: White people) say Nigger too!" American Debate-a question that I've been giving quite a bit of thought to-and have decided on what I think should be the appropriate African American response.

As Prof. Hacker says above, everyone in America knows exactly what the word Nigger means, who originated it, and what for. Moreover, as he rightly points out, it is interesting indeed that there is no "White" equivalent for such a term, or for that matter, no foreign one either. The word Nigger stands alone and remains the ultimate ethnic slur and racial putdown.

So it shouldn't come as any surprise as to why African Americans, taken as a group, remain quite sensitive to the word, when uttered from White mouths. Regardless as to how often that same word is uttered or its many variations is repeated among the Black masses, the fact remains that it takes on a completely different meaning when in the mouths of White Americans. Why this is so should at this point really go without saying, but since even ostensibly intelligent people such as Dr. Laura still don't seem to get it, here it go:

It is because the word is only a verbal manifestation of the potential power to wound, limit, or otherwise effect Black lives, when uttered by Whites-and that's the whole point, Dr. Laura, something that you accused Black folk of attempting to seize, in fact-power. While many Whites innocently attempt to analyze what they see as a "double standard", Black people see as an intellectually dishonest attempt to legitimate the use of a term that extends a very real sense of power over Black lives, that even the worst of Black styled anti-White epithets, like "cracker" and "honkey" and "Whitey" can never do. If we care about racism, it's because of its ability to make real its power in the lives of its targets. No matter how many Whites claim "reverse discrimination" and the like, the fact remains that few if any Whites can make the case that Blacks hold their very lives in thrall the same way so many Whites can wrt Black folk. The very notion that all things are equal in this way, as presupposed by Whites like Dr. Laura, is more than just silly. It slaps the whole of American history in the face with a mighty pimphand, and proves yet again White America's great capacity for being not just a nation of cowards, but also of amnesiacs.

Finally, I have to observe the following: despite her part-Italian background, Dr. Laura strongly identifies with the Jewish side of her family, and has gone on record early and often, proclaiming her Jewish ways.

Whether Jews rib each other by calling one another "kike", "hymie", "heeb", etc., behind closed doors or not, I don't know. But one thing I DO know, is that the Jews will not hesitate to step to you with the quickness if you say something about them they don't much approve of, and last time I checked, Dr. Laura didn't seem to have too much of a problem with how they do business.

Yet, she wishes to tell Black folks how they should conduct theirs-an issue I will address in the coming days.

Now adjourn your intellectually dishonest asses…

The Obsidian

Now It's The (So-Called) "Educated Brotha's" Turn...

Obsidian · 22 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Esteemed readers of my humble missive know well my views about *certain types of Sistas*. I don't go after the Sistahood in toto, because to do so would be unfair; instead, I focus my laser sights on those Sistas who putatively "got it goin' on", put em under the searing Light of Truth, and just raise a few Burning Questions. Over the past few weeks in particular, I've been doing just that and then some, much to the chagrin of the Hateration Gallery. Alas, as what I have brought to light has been for the most part, unassailable, they really have nothing substantial upon which to mount a counterattack.

Such is life.

But because I try to be a fair Man, I thought it only right to consider the Educated Sista's counterpart-the so-called Educated Brotha. I say "so-called" because it's been my considered view-borne of years and years of the closest observation-that many of these Brothas lose essential parts of themselves in the process of their getting "education", among them being simple commonsense. To say nothing of, balls.

The following example should suffice.

I've spoken at length how we've all known a Sista or five, who put up with all manner of crappola from (White) people on her job, in fact, it is not unusual for her to put up with it for *years*. The reason for my noting this being, that often these same Sistas are so quick not to take any guff, real or perceived, off any Brotha. But when you point out what I just did, out comes Rodney the Rationalization Hamster, as if on cue, running his poor widdle legs off on that wheel: she can't choose her job or who she works with (BS), she has to do what she gotta do to survive (BS), she gotta take care of her Aunt May-like mama (BS); on the other hand, she does have complete control over her love life-translation-I CHOOSE to treat my Man like crap.

Coolbeans, I say. Hey, it ain't the first time someone's been caught being a rank hypocrite, and it won't be the last.

But given that we who study Game understand that it is the wont of Women to rationalize their decisions in life, coupled with their desire to partner with whomever is the Grand Pubah at the moment, it's completely understandable why a sizable number of Sistas in this cohort trade in some much verbal garbage. After all, they're just as much slaves to their hindbrains as we Men are-the difference being, of course, that for most of us fellas, most of the time, we're a weebit more honest about it.

This is why it's so very hard for me to understand how the so-called Educated Brotha can allow himself to be brought lower than many Educated Sistas on the jobs they work. I've been giving this whole ball of wax a goodly degree of brainpower and had been considering writing yet another stinging post deconstructing aspects of the Black Mind, but had put it on the shelf until I had all the facts in…when, a very interesting bit of Kismet came into my life, yesterday evening, and suddenly, it all made sense.

I say that because yesterday, Ms. Brown Sugah and I were among a group of interesting people, who or course shall go nameless. Among them was a young Brotha who had only earlier this Summer come out of one of the country's biggest name unis. He began working in NYC's mammoth nonprofit sector, as most middle class Negroes do, and had noted that it had been pointed out to him by his presumably White superiors that the attrition rate among BLACK MALES was exceedingly high-that, in fact, within the short time he'd been there, they had already "let go" of at least one such Brotha, for failure to properly roll over and play dead.

Our young hero waxed eloquently about how he was determined to turn around the perception there of Black Men, and so on and so forth. Ms. Brown Sugah looked at me from across the room, and I guess she could note my famed (or infamous, depending on whether you're on the receiving end of my sniper fire) Chesire Cat grin; I was just waiting for a break in the convo, to make my move.

And boy, did it-as soon as everyone gasped for breath, I hopped in:

“You know, I’m glad you brought that up So-&-So, because that’s been something I’ve been waiting to ask a Brotha like you for a very long time now, and that is simply this…

WHY do Brothas like you seem hellbent on flagellating yourselves? You know good and damned well them White folks, especially White Males, DON’T WANT YOU THERE, and only tolerate you because they have to-but they’re crafty enough to make sure that there’s never anymore than a handful of you there at any one time. Everyone with some commonsense knows that if and when they have to choose, Sistas win.

Moreover, why do you Brothas insist on playing a game that, by definition, you CANNOT WIN? For one thing, if shit goes wrong, who’s got your back? Certainly not any Brothas-usually, you guys are the only Darkie Male in the place, and many of you take that as some badge of honor or something. Yo Bruh, Rambo was a movie, that “Army of One” ish is dead. There’s strength in numbers, always has been, always will be-and if you’re outnumbered and outgunned from the get go, you’re ass is grass.”

Our young hero looked at me with the deer-in-the-headlight look; the other peeps in attendance had no rap either.

The room was silent for a good 15 seconds.

God, how I love it when that happens.

You see, the dirty little secret is, that Brothas-and I’m talking about the so-called “Educated” ones, they put up with a lot of crap, too, and for the aforementioned reasons, I argue that it in many ways is WORSE than what Sistas deal with. At least in the former’s case, they’ve got more in their numbers to work with, can more easily network, and they directly and indirectly benefit from being in essence, a “double minority”. Plus, Women are by nature BSers-don’t believe me? OK then-show of hands, how many Black folk here know a Sista who can turn on the “Ms. Ann” voice at the drop of a hat? And please don’t front. You know exactly what I’m talking about.

Show of hands?

Yea. That’s what I thought.

I close my case.

In the case of Black Men, at least the ones I know, doing such things don’t come easily, if they come at all; I imagine it must be an utterly debased, soul-killing ordeal, and if my theory holds water, it’s true, because you can see it all over the faces of those relative few Brothas who work in high-end nonprofit and especially Corporate America. It’s like what happened to Eddie Griffin’s character in Undercover Brother when he basically became an Oreo. Notice how Sistas can’t wait to talk about their jobs, what happened on the job, who’s doing what, etc-now, take a look at the Brothas. No. Words. Just that soulless, empty look in their eyes.

Damn.

Anyway, taking advantage of the “dead air” in yesterday’s confab, I noted, that while I came from the Blue Collar side of things, that I also realized that it conferred on me many blessings in disguise. One of them was that I still very much worked in the World of Men, and Men by definition, don’t like to front or fake the funk. Moreover, Brothas, when they’re in the workforce, tend to be concentrated in the Blue Collar sections more, which translates into one, more numbers being in my favor, and two, higher chances that those who can actually make decisions looked like me.

Indeed, I told our party yesterday, that I was very fortunate to be able to not only work in an environment where I could see myself all day everyday, but that every shot I got at moving up in the world, came at the hands of someone who looked like me. Even more to the point, if God forbid something went down and I was in the crosshairs, I had people who had my back. That has stood me in good stead a number of times over the course of my work career. If I was UC Brotha out in Corporate America, I’d be bounced quicker than a basketball.

Additionally, I told my party that, unlike our young hero, who has to basically deal with 24/7 supervision from White folks, the numbers of Black superiors over me formed a de facto Buffer Zone of Protection between me and

White folk. Also, I was blessed to have a wide degree of latitude where I could pretty much call my own shots-my immediate supers didn't care how I got the job done, so long as it was done and they didn't have to hear Mr. Charlie's mouth.

Finally, the kicker-after giving the whole matter many years of the most intense thought to the matter, another salient feature about my own worklife was that I worked in jobs where PERFORMANCE BASED ON PRODUCTION mattered first and foremost: you either got the account, or you didn't. You made the sale, or you didn't. You either produced "x" numbers of widgets, or you didn't. You either moved "x" numbers of product out the door, or you didn't. That, I've found, proved to be a boon to me, because with jobs like those, the raw numbers cannot be denied, unlike amorphous "performance reviews" which is really code-speak for popularity/bootlicking contests. They are, because so often, many of those pencil pushing jobs have little to do with actual production and a heck of a lot more to do with personality-and we all know where, in the minds of those who matter, Black Men rank on that score.

As the convo shifted onto other planes, as they always do, I couldn't help but to feel a bit sorry for the young Man to my right. It wasn't my intention to burst his bubble or anything like that, but better for him to consider all of this now before he winds up another soulless Undercover Brother out there in the hinterlands.

More to come soon. Stay tuned…

The Obsidian's iPod is now playing: Ya Bad Chubbs, by Chubb Rock

The Obsidian

Black Folk & Class: My Response

Obsidian · 25 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Although it appeared on yesterday's comments thread in response to what Chic Noir said, and has received a bit of comment in its own right, I thought it would be a good idea to present it as a post in its own right, because I felt that I made points that haven't really gotten the attention, focus and examination they deserve. So, here it is, in full, and in a few I'll edit in additional informational links that will further sharpen the tip of the spear.

Let the conversation, continue…

"Well, I suppose now is as good a time as ever to jump in and offer a response to Chic Noir's (and now it seems several others') evidently heartfelt comments.

Here we go…

Aside from the glaring problems in terms of leaps of logic, peddling in dangerous assumptions, and just downright wrongheaded thinking evidence by Ms. Noir, I think the thing that has to be addressed here are what I like to call the "intangibles" of any debate-what drives us as we do.

Surely, this isn't an alien concept to Chic or anyone else, since we've either engaged in such theorizing ourselves, or have witnessed others do it. For example, Chic theorizes that my reasoning for raising the questions I did of so-called Educated Brothas, was due to some shortcoming on my part, particularly, that I was the low Man on America's social totem pole; my Hulk-like envy of my brethren had to explain why I seem to go so hard on, and consistently single out, my ostensible social betters. Several others have, at the very least, questioned my own personal motivations as well.
I say, relevance as to the questions and theorizing aside, that the very act of doing such a thing is paramount here. Why do I say that?

BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO SUCH QUESTIONING OF BLACK MIDDLE CLASS FOLK IF THEY WERE DOING WHAT CHIC WERE DOING ABOVE, IE, TELLING POOR, UNDERCLASS BLACK FOLK ABOUT THEMSELVES.

The tacit assumption there would be, and is, that such an individual is dispensing not only correct information but also a kind of "tough love" to his/her lower caste brethren. On the latter score, the tacit assumption is, that merely BEING "underclass" raises all kinds of eyebrows, from being deemed lazy and improvident, to being less intelligent and yes I'll say it, even immoral.

You see, there are deep, psychological reasons as to we we as a society, both Black and White alike, continue to insist on upbraiding a documented small group of people; for Whites, especially those like Gorbachev, who despite his many and varied world travels, still doesn't seem to understand the fact that most African Americans are middle class, to middle class Black folk themselves, who fret that their more "ghetto" brethren threatens to topple what little social cred they have in the White world, by tainting them with the "Black" label-Black of course, meaning "ghetto", again, despite the fact that most Black Americans are middle class in our time, and have been for at least several generations.

See how that works?

The question has to be, WHY? WHY does Gorby still see Black folk in toto as a "problem"? WHY does Chic have so much bile in her system for a small segment of the population, one that will not seriously impact her life in any event? WHY, in spite of historical facts, do we as a society automatically associate the actions, comings and goings of less than 12% of the Black community, to the Black community as a whole?

And WHY is there so little said, especially with a critical eye, of the Black middle class?

That's what this blog attempts to examine, and hopefully, answer, folks.

So, let's continue with our examination, shall we?

You see, I think there are deeper reasons as to why Chic Noir goes so hard at her "lesser" Sistas in the way she does, and they ain't all got to do with real or percevied pathologies. Notice how she implored me not to bring up "that book again". The book she refers to is one that I've mentioned in this and other venues for sometime now; it's called Promises I Can Keep, and was written by two White (and I think, Jewish) Women sociologists, one of whom worked at Philly's St. Joe's University. The goal of the book was to examine the lives and choices of Philly and Camden NJ's poor Black, White and Hispanic Women; among other things, they wanted to know why these Women were having kids despite not being married, given all we know about such things and poverty, etc. They conducted extensive longitudinal studies, and actually lived with some of these Women over time. The results were quite eye-opening, and necessitates a close read by anyone who is so vociferous about the issue, like Chic Noir was/is.

But, she hasn't read the book. Why? Who knows-but my suspicion is that the issue has more than a passing academic interest for her, and this is something I'd like to explore further with her. And so, please allow me to share a theory…

I think the reason why this issue, one at its base, has to do with birth, children, and yes sex, is because these are all very deep concerns for Chic-personally. I mean let's face it, here she is, a young African American Woman who, while revering her traditional upbringing, also has considerable issues with it. Why do I say that? Because in traditional African American life, at her age she's supposed to be considering marriage proposals-and Chic, over the course of at least several years, both here and elsewhere, has made it quite clear that not only does she have no intention to do any such thing, but she also has no intention to have kids either. All of which is fine, of course-but they directly rub up against both that traditional upbringing she reveres in her grandparents especially, but also by extension, the Gamesphere, too.

Why do I say that? Because, while granted, the Gamesphere doesn't deal with having kids and getting married per se, it DOES deal with relationships-and sex. And on both counts, close readers of Chic Noir's many comments know well her "issues" with these areas, which have suggested many deep concerns on both fronts. I mean, think about it, if indeed she has no interest in having kids or getting married, why would she spend so much time in venues that at least by proxy, suggests such things (relationships & sex)? It's like me professing to have no interest in Botany, yet spending goodly amounts of my time on the Burpee seeds website leaving all manner of comments. My inner psyche is not in sync with my consicous mind here.

So, bringing all this round robin back to our "around the way girl" piece, I think one of the reasons why Chic-and she is by no means alone, let me tell you-has so many deep issues with them, despite NOT having an academically informed view ala the book I've mentioned above, is because these Women do something which she still has many personal issues about. Namely, having a goodly amount of sex with precious little difficulty.

I'll let that theory hang out there in the ether before moving on to my next point…

OK. Let me next put myself on the other side of the microscope, and reveal a bit of my personal motivations as to why I do what I do…

And that's because I've discovered, that we attach VALUE JUDGMENTS about who we are as human beings, on some of the most flimsy metrics around. Simply put, if you're college educated, white collar professional, etc, it is a given that you're a good person. You will be given the benefit of the doubt, all the moreso if you're White. If on the other hand, you're not college educated, if you are blue collar, and especially if you're Black, you are automatically considered suspect; please recall Deery's recent use of the term "educated thug" along these lines. Moreover, please consider my own personal experiences in these regards; value judgments in my world ca have deeply profound consequences, for things that are not only out of my control, but those who render such judgments have no qualms in the least doing so either.

Yet, the past decade has shown us what such soft-reasoning will get us; clean cut White guys, the so-called best and

brightest, have brought our national and international economic system to its knees, for example. Putative professionals have repeatedly and utterly bungled what should have been straight forward humanitarian operations, here in the USA. And the cover of white collar respectability, has succeeded in hiding the face of avarice, mendacity and greed, all while destroying a considerable portion of the very environment itself, perhaps for generations to come.

Chic says, in her parting shots above, that underclass Black folk "hurt us all", and I couldn't disagree more. What's true is that they hurt themselves. The aforementioned class of folk, THEY hurt "all of us", in ways we are only now dimly aware.

Yet, we continue to dump on Pookie and Shaniqua; outstanding exceptions like Bernie Maddoff aside, we don't seem all that upset about Wall Street Banksters and if not crooked, at the very least inept politicians who've been around for decades.

Why?

BECAUSE WE ACTUALLY WANT TO BE THESE PEOPLE.

That's why.

And that's why we will never full on confront these folks, no matter how much Assange leaks information out to the world, no matter how much Lewis, and Waters, and Rangel utterly disgrace themselves, no matter how badly Banksters have ruined our very way of life, and no matter how badly politicians screw over the very people who are their constituencies-because, in the end, to be an American is to aspire not to hate on the Big Shot, or even be critical of him-but to BE LIKE THEM.

And, in addition to that, to be an American, is to kick dirt on those we deem to have fallen down on the job, who for whatever reason, couldn't hack it. Take a look at the way the so-called "99ers" are being treated by the Congress. Patton told the truth when he said that America LOVES a winner; and she simply doesn't have much time or love, for those who lose in the game of life.

Alright, let me address just one more major point Chic Noir spoke on, and then I'mma turn it loose…

The big problem I have with the whole "irresponsible" argument that is leveled at poor Women wrt having kids out of wedlock, is that it is at best inconsistent and at worst is hypocritical. Affluent single White Women have kids out of wedlock, too, we just don't call it that. It's called IVF, and studies are now coming in, that their kids are beginning to show the same problematic signs their poorer brethren are showing-more likelihood for them to engage in drug abuse, more likelihood to engage in lawbreaking, more chances they'll suffer from depression and poor performance in school, you name it.

Yet, the discussion is entirely different when it comes to this latter cohort, and would it surprise me to learn that Chic herself really didn't have a problem with such Women either?

Umm…nah…

OK, I'm done. Comment & reply, holla…

O."
The Obsidian

Tony Dungy Tries To Run The Old Jedi Mindtrick

Obsidian · 26 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

When I can, I try to catch the MSNBC program "Morning Joe". This morning they briefly had on as a guest former NFL Super Bowl winning coach, Tony Dungy, who was promoting his new book "Mentor Leader" or words to that effect. Barely a minute into the interview, out comes the trope about fatherlessness in Black America, and what to do to stop it. Dungy's response?-I call it the modern day iteration of the Old Jedi Mindtrick…

Why do I say that? Because Dungy trotted out the same old "morality ploy" that Obama trotted out back during his campaign for the presidency on Father's Day, 2008-that somehow, it was a Black Man's "responsibility" to "Man Up" if he got a Woman pregnant and be a dad.

What utter rubbish.

I say that because we wouldn't even fix our mouths to tell Women that, because they got pregnant, they had a "responsibility" to be a mom. In fact, we do all we can NOT to say such a thing.

But that's not the biggest insult to a Brotha's intelligence.

The even bigger insult to injury is in just how downright intellectually dishonest the Dungys and Obamas of the world truly are. In Obama's case, a Man who unabashedly supports Planned Parenthood, has nothing to say about the "moral duties" of Women who get pregnant-in fact, he so supports the legal right of Women to determine their own reproductive lives, that he wants his own daughters to be able to have access to PP.

Of course, he's silent on the matter of seeing to it that Men, Black, White or otherwise, have the same reproductive rights enshrined into law. But then again, Obama's never been much of a spokesman *for* Black Men anyway.

But that's another discussion for another day…

As for Dungy, he ought to be ashamed of himself. After all, he was one of the leaders of one of the best teams in the history of the NFL, a sport that doesn't rotate or rely upon on "morality" but on RULES. In other words, LAWS. Everyone knows just how complex football is, and a big reason for that is because of the many rules/laws that apply to any given situation over the course of the game. Moreover, and think about this very closely before you answer-did Dungy's Colts win their Super Bowl on the basis of being good guys with hearts of gold, or, by being the better team in large part, by knowing and applying the rules/laws of football to their advantage?

If your answer was the former, my response is quick, name me a NFL team that has won its highest honor on the basis of being morally good guys? In fact, name me a time in ANY pro sport where a "moral victory" won the day? I'll wait.

The real truth here, is that we as American society, are deeply ambivalent about fatherhood. It remains a big, amorphous, legal, social and political grey area, one that can be twisted and subverted and demagogued to serve the interests of everyone BUT fathers themselves, and especially poor Black ones. Nor is this ambiguity accidental. One gets the specific sense that those who either bang the drum for the fostering/protection of Women's Rights, and/or those who bang the drum of putatively populist furor over "deadbeat dads" actually likes the idea of an ill-defined concept known in our time, as American Fatherhood. So long as there are no laws in place that clearly lays out, in specific terms, what a father is and what his rights are, both groups are free to play fast and loose with the debate at will. Meanwhile, those most impacted by such craven displays at left to the mercy of the mob.

The rights that Women enjoy today, didn't come about by appeals to anyone's sense of "morality" and certainly didn't come about by attempting to shame Women into "doing the right thing". Womens' right to be, or not to be, a mother, came as a direct result of changes in the LAW, that is vigorously enforced. If you doubt me, just head on down to your local Planned Parenthood clinic and try to prevent a Woman from entering the place, and report back the results. I believe they still allow you one phone call from the lockup.

If guys like Dungy and Obama and the umpteen thousand million folk out there who blather on and on about “fatherless (read: Black) homes” are really serious about seeing to it that things change on that front, they can prove it by pushing to make changes in the LAW that govern such things. We can start with publicly and enshrining into law what we all already know to be true in actual fact of everyday life-that just because you screw someone doesn’t mean you intend to be a parent. Nor does it mean that because you didn’t use birth control, that you have defaulted on your right to say, “no thanks”-after all, we don’t do that to Women. We have to get deadly serious on exactly what, in legal terms, a father is, what his duties are, and most importantly, what his RIGHTS are, under the law.

Anything other than doing this, is really a weak attempt to deploy the Old Jedi Mindtrick.

Finally, as I close out, I would just like to mention again a film I noted in my recent Black Gen Xer post, a highly acclaimed film called Kramer vs. Kramer. The dad in that movie still lost custody of his son, despite the fact that he cared for his boy while the mom left to go across country for a year or more. Keep in mind, the film focused on the inner lives of a White, upper class couple in New York’s more tonier side of Manhattan. Yet, look at the result. That film was and still is, considered to be one of the most important in modern American life to date. “Morality”, in the end, didn’t win the day for the character played by Dustin Hoffman.

Now adjourn your intellectually dishonest asses…

The Obsidian

Friday Black Thought Experiment

Obsidian · 27 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Given that virtually every discussion that takes place concerning African Americans invariably goes “ghetto”-that is to say, obsessively focuses on the Black “underclass”-I thought we’d try something different today.

I want us to conduct a conversation about African Americans, that does NOT in any way, references said “underclass”. Black America is a rich and varied place, where most of its inhabitants are NOT “underclass”. In fact, most Black folk today are at the very least working class, if not middle class and above.

So, let’s see what we can do here, shall we? Here are the rules:

1. You are free to discuss Black folk in any way you wish, but NO references to “underclass”, “ghetto”, etc, Black folk

2. ANY such offending references will be deleted

3. Question: WHY do we spend so little time discussing the rest of Black America? Why hasn’t the Black middle class garnered the same attention and focus and interest from sociologists etc, as their poorer/underclass brethren? For more on this point, please see Northwestern U scholar May Pattillo.

Readers of my blog will know well my tendency to discuss other aspects of Black American society; I am often quite critical of certain classes of said society, for what I see as their failure in some cases, and outright collusion in others, to improve the Black society as a whole. Feel free to make of that what you will and comment upon it here in this thread.

OK, the floor’s open! And I warn all knuckleheads: please do not try me. My delete button finger is quite itchy today…

Comment & reply (within the lines!), holla…

The Obsidian

White Male Guilt & Victimology

Obsidian · 30 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Given the recent Glenn Beck rally and the overall tenor and tone of the country, I thought to offer the following series of comments I left at Chuck Ross' blog, the post where he takes up the issue of CNN's reportage of Black Male under performance in America's schools:

"Bullshit, Chuck, and you're the one who tries to run that fake the funk pseudo intellectual crap line. You're just mad that unlike the other poor excuses for Black Men in these parts, I actualy challenge your weak and pathetic asses.

You and your ilk crossed the line a long way back, Chuck. Don't get mad that now I'm stepping right in your chest.

I took the time out to address specific claims in this very post that still haven't been responded to, by you or Doug or PA. Which indicates to me, that I've won the debate.

The entire arc of the (White) Manosphere is one of victimology, woe is me, everybody's picking on me, the much maligned White Guy-from Sailer, to Half Sigma, to OneSTDV, to Roissy to the Spearhead, and it's downright sickening, one because that's no way for grownassed Men to conduct themselves, and two because if yure really all that like you say you are, you would have done somethng by now, and you haven't.

The bitter truth is, that the whole lot of you are indeed, LOSERS. L. O. S. E. R. S. Read it slowly. I did not stutter or make a typo.

And it shows, that loser label, I mean. How are any of you guys gonna pick up chicks talking like that? Most White gals don't like racists, opps, I mean "race realists", and all that jazz you and your ilk routinely pop off with? Please.

Oh, and you should check the Dr. Laura thread at my blog, several of my commenters clean your clock several times over by now.

Smh…pathetic.

O."

Some of my readers my have noticed my appearance and interaction over at Roissy's blog, where I posted this same series of comments, with the challenge to anyone there to actually debunk me on the substance therein.

I repeat that challenge here and now:

I defy anyone here to debunk what I have said, on the merits.

Any takers?

Holla back

The Obsidian

Monster.com & The "Hip Hop Generation"

Obsidian · 31 August 2010 · Archived copy · Original

I've talked a bit about Generation X and in particular, my take on it as an African American one, which I find to be hugely important, since whenever topics like these come up, they're almost always spoken of in essentially White terms. For example, many White Gen Xers will make loving odes to the so-called "Summer of Love" that took place in the latter 1960s and supposedly marked an idyllic time for the preceeding generation, the Baby Boomers, in the bloom of their LSD-induced haze of "Free Love".

Meanwhile, of course, if you were Black at that time, and you lived in Urban America, chances were, you didn't get a whole heck of a lot of love from the powers that be. Rome was literally, burning.

Anyway…

I say all that as a setup to the following piece I got by way of the job headhunting website, Monster.com. It's about how the Hip Hop Generation-undeniably a Gen Xer creation and phenomenon-takes its place in the America workforce. I'll tack on the article itself below, but please allow me to register the following observations:

1. The single biggest observation about all this from my standpoint, is that it doesn't mention any Blue Collar workers. Nor should this come as any shock or surprise, as the Blue Collar sector barely gets a mention in the larger national discourse. The assumption, both tacit and implicit, is that everyone works in an a cubicle pushing a pencil, and that's simply not true. While Gen Xers in particular remain the most college educated American cohort in the history of the union, the fact also remains that they still represent a minority of the American population as a whole. One reason why I personally find Monster.com to be a waste of time, is because it doesn't help anyone who works in the Trades or the Blue Collar sector, and again, they're not alone. Of course, it comes as no small irony to me, that so much blather about "the Hip Hop generation" would be had, while its creators were hardly college types to begin with. Hmm.

2. Exactly what is a "Hip Hop look"? I'm not entirely sure I know what that means-after all, both A Tribe Called Quest and NWA are Hip Hop acts, but they have totally different "looks"; Sean "Puffy" Combs, Jay-Z and 50 Cent have all been known to don snazzy suits, and other acts like Kanye' West wouldn't have in many ways, a more "classic" "Hip Hop look" (to me he's a lot closer to a Hipster in appearance). Then there's Pharell Williams of The Neptunes-by his own admission, he dresses like a nerd. Same deal for Lupe Fiasco. The Monster.com article doesn't make clear exactly what a "Hip Hop look" means.

3. The article makes some mention of how the so-called Hip Hop generation uses lots of slang on the gig and so forth on the job and at interviews. Where I came from, you knew what "code switching" meant-is there something I'm missing here?

As you might have guessed, I could go on, but I'll hold here and wait for your comments. Let er rip…

The Obsidian

The Hip-Hop Workplace

Cultural Clash or Generational Transition?

By Dan Woog, Monster Contributing Writer As the generation of African Americans who grew up singing "We Shall Overcome," donned jackets and ties and broke new paths into the corporate world nears retirement, a new generation of African Americans is entering the workforce. These younger workers grew up on hip hop, the urban look and the expectation they would follow their parents and grandparents into the workplace. But will they fit in? "That's a very valid question," says Bruce Sherold, president and CEO of Diversity Search Group, a minority executive recruitment firm. "Young hip-hop people tend to see things on their own terms. They want to be accepted

just for who they are. People my age tend to conform more to the culture, whether it's the workplace culture or culture at large."

"These kids are talented, but their viewpoints are different," Sherold adds. "African Americans of my generation — 45, 50, 55 years old — are probably more conservative than the mainstream media gives us credit for. We think things should be 'professional.' Young people's definition of 'professional' is different."

Clothes, Hair & Language

Hip-hop culture is expressed in the workplace in two main ways, Sherold explains: clothes and hairstyle. "When I interview young people now, I have to remind them how to dress," he says. "They don't seem to think their appearance has any impact on an interviewer. That's a challenge for me. I talk about their social responsibilities, especially in organizations without a lot of African Americans. Everyone who follows them will be judged by how they dress and act. That's a big responsibility."

And then there's language. "They talk in rap slang," says Sherold. "It takes a while, but eventually they realize you can't really communicate that way."

Navigating Both Worlds

Not everyone agrees. Bakari Kitwana, cofounder of the first National Hip-Hop Political Convention and author of *The Hip Hop Generation: Young Blacks and the Crisis in African American Culture* says that while growing up in hip-hop culture, college students — the type going into corporations — "already learn to navigate both worlds. They learn there are two sets of cultures for African Americans. If they decide they're not going to make compromises, they won't make it in the business world."

Kitwana uses the National Basketball Association as an example. "Athletes won't get far if they don't conform on some level," he says. "The NBA has a dress code, and players shed their gangsta dress [on the job.]" But many athletes and white-collar workers reclaim their hip-hop sensibility off the court and outside the office. Kitwana uses himself as an example. With two master's degrees, he had one classroom style when he taught, another for his social time.

In fact, some hip-hop aesthetics are celebrated in the corporate world, says Kitwana. When Darrell Cobbin was a vice president and business unit manager with Coca-Cola USA, Sprite became the fastest-growing soft drink brand in the country. One reason, Kitwana explains, is Cobbin created authentic ads that resonated with hip-hop kids. "That's the ideal world: to be recognized in your field for your achievements, while being true to your culture without pandering."

A Bold Attitude

Carol Lewis, president and CEO of CSL Image Consulting, spends much of her time coaching African Americans on business, protocol and fashion concerns. She says fitting in to the corporate culture means not wearing anything that blares, "I'm cool!"

But she also describes an upside to hip-hop. "Plenty of talented, creative individuals come from that culture," Lewis says. "They're fearless, zealous and they want something better for their lives. They use their street skills in the workplace. They're willing to make a deal at all costs, or relocate anywhere if it means getting on the fast track. They're natural salespeople. They look at all different angles of a situation, and they take great risks. It's a bold attitude."

A Two-Way Street

The move into a new workplace can be challenging for anyone — bold attitude or not. Sherold believes it's everyone's responsibility to help young African Americans adapt. "First, it's the individual's responsibility himself — you can't minimize that. But it's everyone else's job, too, to maximize the potential of those around them."

Still, it's a two-way street. "Employers have to realize these new employees are coming in with a different attitude," Sherold says. "It's not wrong; it's just different."

Asking The Hard Questions In The Post-Racial, Post-Feminist Age

Obsidian · 1 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Reader “Shree” posts the following comments from our recent conversation on the state of White Male Victimology:

“Have you seen this?

Two University of Pennsylvania economists have completed a study showing that over the past four decades the happiness gap between whites and African Americans has been significantly reduced.

That’s good news indeed and Julia Baird is right to offer it as proof that the civil rights movement has made an appreciable difference in the lives of African Americans. Link here.

But, as she notes, the picture is not quite as clear as it first appears. While African American women have enjoyed the greatest increase in their personal happiness, African American men did not have any increase at all.

Why is it that the civil rights movement, in practice, seems to have been biased against men? Why is it that the movement did not save African American males?

More here…”

http://stuartschneiderman.blogspot.com/2010/08/has-feminism-made-women-happier.html

Indeed, the above blogpost “snippet” raises all manner of very uncomfortable questions on a number of levels and on all sides, questions that simply have not been honestly considered to say nothing of resolved.

The first question is of course, why are White Women, the putative beneficiaries of the Second Wave, so very unhappy, per the UPenn study? If you’re of a mind to read social issue blogs, chances are you’ve heard of this study; I certainly have, and it is always interesting to see the reaction of hardcore feminist ideologues attempt to vilify the authors of said study, who just happen to be two White Women economists. Could it be, that there was never any real comparison to be drawn or made, between the Women’s movement, and the Civil Rights movement? Could it be that, while White Women had legitimate concerns, they never approached the degree of urgency and severity, that those who were African American faced? Could it just be, that the brave new world of liberated Womanhood, wasn’t all the Sisterhood that it would be-indeed, far from it?

Then, of course, comes the even more uncomfortable question:

Given that the UPenn study clearly shows that African American Women are clearly more happier overall than are White Women, yet African American Men have NOT benefitted much at all from the Civil Rights era, could it be possible that Black Women benefitted from being, in essence, a “double minority”? And, why is there virtually nothing said about this, most notably, how little Black Men have gained over the past four-plus decades?

With so many social issues, wrapped up undoubtedly with economic ones, playing out across our national landscape, and with President Obama’s “referendum’ on his tenure comes ever close into clear focus in the 2010 midterm elections, these are real questions that I feel simply cannot go on being ignored much longer.

It will be very interesting to see what happens.

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

Studies Show That Women (White & Black), Doing Better Than Ever, While Black Men Doing Worst Of All (And Why NOTHING Will Be Done About The Latter)

Obsidian · 2 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Once again one of my the astute readers of The Obsidian Files has come through, offering the following Science Blogs post about a new University of Chicago social science book that shows that African American Males are the hardest hit in society and least likely to get the assistance they badly need. The study covers a rather broad range of life measures, and this undeniably explains what we have been seeing in the decades since the Civil Rights era.

None of this comes as any surprise to regular readers of my humble missive; I've been quite detailed in making the case as to how and why Black Men are not only up against it as a group, but are truly Men without a Country in this regard. Regardless as to the facts on the ground, American society has said, quite clearly, that they regard Black Men as the "problem" - and therefore, if anything, they intend to fund more programs to keep Black Men as far away from the epicenter of American life as possible.

Meanwhile, yet another great reader of the Files offered a story outlining what we've all known to be true - that in America's biggest cities, unmarried Women – both White, and Black – are clearly making more money, not less, than White and Black Men of the same age. Of course, this is seen as a triumph, and in many ways, it is. But, as I've mentioned above, we already know that there will be nothing said as to addressing the real problems that beset Males, especially Black ones.

What's the end game, you may ask? From this distance of time, it's hard to say; my guess, based on both observation and direct experience, is that White Men will continue to refuse to see allies in Black Men and instead will see adversaries, while Black Women will continue to do what they've always done - lay the blame for their lack of success in "having it all" squarely at the feet of those same Black Men. Surely, there will be little if anything said or done on the political level; Obama simply can't risk upsetting the Working Class White Male Vote by suggesting that Black Men, who voted for him in record numbers and still overwhelmingly support him by all accounts, are worthy of our specific and sustained support. Whether he intended to or not, whether he likes it or not, Obama has found out that he, as a self-identified Black Man, isn't viewed as "one of us" by White America, no matter what he does, no matter how hard he works or plays by the "rules".

Join the club, Mr. President. You truly are a Black Man now.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

What Message Does Barack Obama Send To Black Men & Boys?

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Image via Wikipedia

I ask because, given the current highly charged political times we find ourselves in, only a few months out from the all-important 2010 midterm elections-for all intents a de facto referendum on Obama's performance as President-I thought it would be a good time to ask.

But before I present what I think to be some very hard questions to you, my esteemed readers, let's briefly review the events of the past nearly two years…

When Barack Obama came on the scene during the 2004 Democratic Convention in Boston, he was heralded as the heir apparent to Bill Clinton, a politician almost without parallel. Obama was young, handsome, articulate, and most of all, Black. Before he left the lecturn that night, rumors began to fly about a possible presidential bid.

The rumors and speculation continued for several years until, in early 2007, then-US Senator of Illinois Obama confirmed what was by then, a foregone conclusion-that he would indeed seek the Democratic nomination for President of the United States.

The nearly two year long campaign was arduous and in some instances, brutal. While this was true for the entire field, it is undeniable that the sense of Obama, for better and sometimes for worse, being being put under a microscope, his every action or comment being ultra-scrutinized, was there. This was glaringly apparent during what some call the "Pastor Disaster", Obama's scandal involving his-them pastor and spiritual advisor, the controversial Christian minister, the Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright. Although Obama attempted to finesse the situation, he was eventually forced to jettison Wright altogether in a bid to keep his campaign and aspirations alive. The gambit worked.

Other aspects of Obama's life were dissected-his credentials, if one can call them that in light of the Constitution's requirements for eligibility to vie for the office of the presidency, were called into question-did he really get into Columbia and then Harvard, under his own steam, or was he, like his wife and future First Lady Michelle Obama,

an “Affirmative Action baby”? Was he selected as Harvard’s first Black president of its famed Law Review *because* of his keen constitutional law skills, or *because* he was Black and looked the part?

Then, there was the personal examination itself: why did he marry a darker skinned Black Woman-was it a cynical political move, one designed to mollify Black Women voters in particular, and burnish his “street cred” with African Americans in general? After all, Obama’s formative years were not spent among Black folks-after being born in Hawaii, he lived for a time in his youth in another country-a Muslim country-in Indonesia. Returning to the States, he spent the rest of his youth in Honolulu, a place not known for its burgeoning African American population. This, along with his lack of ties to the more traditional Civil Rights Establishment, led to real questions being raised, if only among African Americans themselves, as to whether Obama was indeed “Black enough”.

Which led to a discussion of Obama’s heritage-as he was keen to note, and which has been stated ad nauseum eversince, he is of bi-racial lineage, born of a White Woman from Kansas, and a Black Man from Kenya. This we know, but what remained in the air was whether his parents were indeed married at the time he was born, and under what circumstances did they come together in the first place; for that matter, was Obama really born in Hawaii-or was it in Kenya?

And let’s be honest, many in both the Chattering Classes, and on the street, would say-Obama doesn’t look like the “typical” Black Man, at least not the mental image we have when we think of such a term; we think more along the lines of say, a Jesse Jackson or an Al Sharpton, or an Alvin Greene-that is to say, the phenotype that suggests West African genes, and a Slavery past. Senate majority leader Harry Reid and then-presidential hopeful Joe Biden‘s well-meaning if bitingly candid remarks about Obama’s persona and appearance, put out on Front St., what we all knew was true, if not at least in the psychological sense-that, in its best light, Obama was Black, but not “too Black”-meaning that his appearance, demeanor, vocal tonality and word choice, mannerisms, the whole shot, were such that he could bridge the divide, and give both camps-the Black and the White-what they wanted.

The political proctological was, I’m sure, drawn out and at turns, quite painful for the Union’s first “serious” Black presidential candidate. But in the end, it all worked. Barack Hussein Obama, Jr., took the Oath of Office on Jan 20, 2009.

It was hailed as a watershed moment in US political history; we had finally done what many thought was the impossible-moreover, his very compelling story, said loud and clear-especially to Black Men and boys-that they could be whatever they wanted to be, if they but played by the rules and worked hard. Reams of such articles and blogposts and Tweets and Facebook messages went out. Rapper/actor Common suggested that the “Obama Effect” would take hold of young Black Men in particular, making a seachange in their outlook and behavior. This latter point was huge in the American public mind-after all, Black Male problems were seen not so much as matters requiring fixes in and/or adjustments of public policy, but rather as personal flaws of the spirit, lapses in judgment and poor decision making. Barack Obama himself said as much, when, as a candidate for the presidency, he took special time out of his grueling schedule to “address” Black Men on Father’s Day 2008, to give what some consider to be a “tough love talk” to Black Men for being “little boys instead of grown Men” in abandoning their responsibilities in being fathers to their kids-a most curious campaign stop, I thought at the time, and one that, as far as I am aware, has no parallel insofar as presidential electoral political history is concerned.

Yet, his speech, given at a prominent Black Chicago church, was met with great approval by those in attendance, and around the nation in general-after all, who could argue with Obama himself? A Man who had been abandoned by his father, a Black Man, whom he met only once in his life, yet had gone on to be a loving and involved father to his own two kids. He was able to say openly to Black Men, what others in American society-notably Whites-either wouldn’t, or couldn’t, for fear of being accused of bigotry or racism. The Black Family was in crisis, and this wasn’t because of flawed economic, social or political policy, but solely due to the *moral* failings of Black Men.

Obama would go on to win nearly 100% of the Black Vote, with Black Men in particular voting in unprecedented numbers.

Little Black boys were shown pictures of Barack Obama at home and at school, and told if that they worked hard and did the right things, they too could rise to the highest office in the land. All was right with the world.

Fast forward nearly two years hence. My, my, what a difference, some 22 months can make.

At present, according to various public opinion polls, one in every five Americans believes that President Obama is a Muslim, was not born in the United States, sympathizes with terrorists, and despises heartland American culture, ideas, norms and most importantly, values. An even higher percentage, when asked, responds by saying "they don't know". All this, while the drumbeat of such sentiment goes on, without any pushback from Obama's ostensible allies and supporters. An entire political movement, motivated in goodly part out of personal animus towards him, has grown since his taking the Oval Office, with shows of protest including the brandishing of military-issue assault rifles-something not even seen during the height of the Bush v Gore controversey.

While many in our time attempt to hazard out the truths of life with the aid of studies, grids and graphs, I have personally found that Psychology helps to answer the many "why's" of life. While I am by no means alone in this regard, it must also be said that psychology itself continues to get its fair share of detractors and naysayers, largely because it's not "scientific" enough, if at all. I agree on this latter point-it is not scientific, if by that its meant, in the way that say, Physics is. Nevertheless, psychology has proven to have considerable value in understanding human behavior, what motivates us to act and think as we do.

So, with that said, and with my previous comments above, please allow me to make the following premise:

That, despite his truly compelling personal story, his academic and political achievements, his unique personhood, and his "duties" as an American-among them being, a dutiful and loving husband and father-President Barack Obama, is still not fundamentally accepted as "one of us" by a significant-and growing-segment of our population.

Question: what kind of *psychological* message, does that send to Black Men and boys?

The answer, for me, is quite simple, and profound: that no matter how hard you work, or degrees you get, no matter how faithful you are or what kind of dad you are, no matter how much you thump the Bible and imbibe the best of Americana, you will NEVER be fully accepted as a Brother-In-Arms of the American Creed (indeed, one is forced to recall Malcolm X's famous rhetorical question, "what do you call a Black Man with a PhD?", to which is he answers himself, "I'll tell you what the White Man calls him – he calls him a Nigger."). At best, and in the best of times, you will be given "provisional" status in the membership of who is considered "American" or not-

-and, let's not mince words here. "American" is simply another way of saying, "White". And in the minds of MILLIONS OF Americans – and not all of them White by any means – Black Men simply aren't "American".

Period.

I have gone on record in painstaking, and painful, detail, as to what life is like as a Black Man in America, from birth, to the hood, to the boardroom. The evidence, anecdotal as it may be, is hard to deny, when one just steps back and surveys it all.

In my humble view, it is extremely difficult to look a young Black Man in the eye, and with a straight face tell him that he truly can be anything he wants to be, AND be fully accepted as an American as well. To a large extent, I can tell his sister this. But I have a very hard time telling HIM this.

Moreover, I have a very hard time telling him, again, with a straight face, that the cost/benefit analysis of "doing the right things" is really worth it FOR HIM, in the end. Sure, I can give him all the boilerplate populist and always-infused-with-morality-when-it-comes-to-Black Men yearbook reasons for him to do it-but, when it comes to Black Women, a simple cost/benefit, straight shot analysis is all that is needed. Simply put, if they do x, y, and z, they experience success. We simply cannot say the same for Black Men, in aggregate. It's very, very painful to acknowledge this, publicly or otherwise. But true nevertheless.

There are those out there who read my blog with some degree of regularity, and for this I thank you, deeply. Many

of you have sons, or otherwise know young Black Men. After reading this, do you still feel the same way you did on election night, 2008, or Inauguration Day, 2009? What would you say to those young Black Men, right now? Would you agree with me, or not, and why?

By all means, feel free to register your comments and feedback.

Now adjourn your asses…

Special biggups and shoutouts to Brotha blogger Shaun King for giving me the inspiration to do up this post. Go check him out!

The Obsidian

Chuck Ross, Black Men, & "Fitting In"...

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Yesterday, fellow blogger and Obsidian interlocutor Chuck Ross, made the following statements and posed the following questions:

> See, the mistake that is too often made is that people make this argument that society and culture is white which implies that it's "white's only". But that's not the case. This culture has a certain set of characteristics and qualities and the majority of its occupants happen to be white. Theoretically, blacks have the option to capitulate and embrace the type of behavior that helps them fit into a society that just so happens to be white-majority.
>
> But too many people think that the secret lies in the opposite direction. Instead of blacks moving towards the status quo, the status quo must shift to meet blacks. But this isn't a good strategy, from an HBD perspective. These are ugly truths, but if the point of all of this is to solve the problem and to come out with a strong society and economy, black tropism is a better bet than status quo shifting.
>
> By the way, of all the "Black Movements" that have ever existed in this country, has anyone ever come along and said, "you know what, just 'sell out'. Just accept society as it is and try to operate within it." I don't think any movement leader has ever adopted that strategy for improving black peoples' lot. Why, considering all the other movements of Black Nationalism or passive resistance or aggressive resistace hasn't this happened? Why not try that?

In my admittedly clipped reply, I said to Chuck that he had raised some very provocative (but by no means novel, as we shall see) questions, and as I had been thinking about a related topic, I would return with an expanded series of thoughts in response.

The following are those thoughts.

First, as I said above, we have to note, and keep in mind the **fact** that Black folk have **always** sought to "fit in"; even Pat Buchanan, without question one of the Right's best known Conservative voices, has said as much: we eat the same food, wear the same clothes, have the same names, pray to the same God. Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, WEB DuBois and Booker T. Washington, and countless other African Americans, prominent and pedestrians, were and are, completely culturally assimilated into American cultural mores. Black folk, unlike more historically recent immigrants, didn't speak a "mother tongue"-we've spoken English for nearly the entire time we've been here. And consider Black Women, who spend billions of dollars a year, torturing themselves to look White. (NOTE: For a very interesting discussion on the latter point, please see this current blog post and comments by me at Chuck's blog.) I mean, just on the face of it, Chuck's comments and questions above, seem at the very least incurious and obtuse, and at worst, pernicious and duplicitous.

And let's not even get started on the ultimate example of "fitting in"-the 44th President of the United States-with mixed, at best results.

Yet, just as the American historical record records the simple fact that its citizens of African background have bent over backward to "fit in", it also documents a more recent, but nevertheless vociferous chorus of voices who pose the very same questions and makes the same assertions as Chuck does.

Here, we have to turn to what we may call the New American Right-by that I mean, those who choose to identify with ideas and notions espoused by White Americans who consider themselves the guardians of America's originalist traditions, although they aren't White themselves. There are no shortage of such individuals in our time, many of them having come along during the Reagan era-but for our purposes, we'll consider three such people, all Males-"esteemed" economist and social critic Thomas Sowell; Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas; and finally,

former Reagan administration staffer and conservative pundit, Dinesh D'Souza.

All three of these Men have had harsh words for what D'Souza derisively calls "the cultural left" and in particular those on said left who happen to be and/or openly and vociferously advocate for Black folk. They are staunch opponents of Affirmative Action, say that welfare and other social programs are the true culprit behind the difficulties that poorer African Americans face, and most of all, that their problems stem from moral failings that are intensified by all the aforementioned public policy programs. They say that the chief problem facing Blacks-particularly those who are poor-isn't racism big or small-but rather the adoption of, and allegiance to, a set of cultural norms that are self destructive. Moreover, they assert, that if they just "work hard and play by the rules"-which includes "acting White"-that they too can achieve success.

Indeed, this is exactly what D'Souza-himself an immigrant from India who had achieved honorary White status-says in what is perhaps his most controversial book to date, the early 1990s tome The End of Racism. In it he asserts that a big part of Black culture is rooted in slavery uprisings ala Nat Turner, a kind of defiance that has long outlived its usefulness in the New World Order that was the post-Civil Rights Era. John Ogbu, the late educational scholar who became infamous for his Shaker Heights study, said more or less the same thing, using the term "oppositional culture" to explain in part, why Black kids who were the products of solidly middle class and upwardly mobile Black parents, still lagged behind White and Asian students on standardized test scores.

This "defiance of/from slavery" tradition/theory was also espoused by Manhattan Institute scholar John Mcwhorter, who in his own linguistically eloquent way, did a "yea, what he/they said". There are many more examples across the Black/Non-White Conservative firmament, one that is firmly rooted in a blame the victim, "breaking a Man's leg and then calling him a cripple" argument.

Although such notions are as intellectually sound as the idea that the moon is made of cheese when one does even the most casual study and observation of African Americans post-Slavery (think: Gunnar Myrdal), they nevertheless have tremendous appeal and cache in more Conservative circles; they have a near-metaphysical attraction for them, hence why so many of their adherents, from the elite to the rank and file, like Chuck, routinely utters such things.

Yet, we here at The Obsidian Files has been putting a laser-like focus on "fitting in", and we've found that there is a very important distinction to be made when it comes to the discussion about Black folks. Simply put, this is largely a question aimed at Black Males, since we have reams of evidence that "fitting in"-if by that is meant, doing all the things that White society deems a pre-requisite to success-has indeed worked for Black Females. And, while there have indeed been Black Female voices on the Right, such as say, Condoleeza Rice, it seems that those who gets the most play and are featured most prominently to the public, have been Black Males.

Which brings us to Prof. Sowell, and Justice Thomas.

If you're Black and you find yourself having a go at White Conservatives, it won't be long before you hear them triumphantly trot out the names of prominent Black Conservatives; Sowell and Thomas tend to be at the top of the list. Usually, they are named to one, act as examples of what Blacks "should" do-and two, they are mentioned as quasi-martyrs to the cause of being "independent thinkers" (read: they agree with Conservatives) who went off the Black Liberal groupthink reservation, and as a result were summarily excommunicated for this egregious sin. And of course, a third powerful reason, is that such names are proudly mentioned as proof positive, that the Republican Party in particular, and the Conservative Right in general, aren't racists.

By all accounts, if the voter rolls and exit polls eversince the LBJ era is any indication, Black folk enmasse ain't buying.

What's always been interesting about both these Men to me, is that they are more oddities than real flesh and blood people; I mean, neither of these Men has gained legitimate distinction in their respective fields in their own right. They are known more for their kind of Bizarro "Race Man" personas and stances, than for their life's work in terms of their professions-a

true irony, since they and by extension the Right, denounces the Left for being and doing the exact same things.

Consider Thomas for example-nominated to replace the legendary Thurgood Marshall by Bush 41, Thomas's paltry record as a jurist might have gotten much more deserved scrutiny had it not been for the "high tech lynching" that was the Anita Hill testimony against Thomas during his Senate confirmation hearings. Many have speculated that that Thomas wasn't nominated By Bush the Elder because he was truly the Best Man for the job, but rather, because he was the right kind of Black guy for the Right. Surely, no one who has even a smattering of legal eagle skills and awareness would say that Thomas stands in the same room as Marshall-and, in yet another incredulous display of irony, Thomas' claim to fame prior to being tapped to succeed Marshall on the bench, was being the HNIC at the EEOC-a governmental agency that was and continues to be vilified by the Right for being little more than an Affirmative Action rubberstamping operation. Yet, Thomas dutifully performs his function, by out-Righting even notoriously Conservative Antonin Scalia, who in his own words has said that Thomas is on some other ish with his Conservative views.

Then, there's Sowell-who, after trying out living the life of a Black radical, got his act together, went to Howard and on from there to become one of the country's most lauded economists you've never heard of, unless you're on the Right or are accosted by folks on the Right if you're Black and you find yourself discussing racial issues with them (see above). What's always been fascinating about Sowell to me is, for all his supposed prowess as an economist, *he has never participated in a national discussion on the matter*. I mean, think about it-since at least the early 70s, he has been known to Washington insiders, and at least three GOP Presidents, in Reagan and both Bushes. One has to ask-if indeed Sowell is all that, why wasn't he given a golden invitation to be part of any one of these POTUS' inner circles, helping to craft national (and by extension, international) economic policy-especially given the events of the past few years in particular? Why is his biggest claim to fame, in fact and to date, been that of a "Race Man for the Right"? I mean, if indeed Sowell hadn't discussed his heretical views on Race, ie, Black people, would he even be mentioned by the Right, let alone lauded?

None of this is to say that he doesn't make some very interesting points and arguments. But, ya gotta admit, it does raise some powerful questions, don't it?

What all three of these Men have in common-D'Souza, Sowell and Thomas-is that were willing to "sell out" to the degree Whites-and here I am saying White Conservatives, though in no way completely limited to them-feel comfortable. Simply put, White people feel comfortable with Black Men who have been "broken", much in the same way bucking broncos are broken and made more amenable for human use. This is why there is so much said about Black Men being perceived as having "chips on shoulders" and the like. Think about it. In the White American public mind, Black Men must be domesticated, must be controlled lest their innate Wildman natures run amok on the countryside.

That these Men, Sowell, Thomas and other Black Male Conservatives, make it a special point of their very careers, to publicly upbraid-and that's key, crucial, here, as White folk LOVE IT when Black people "tell it like it is" to other Black folk they deem as "misbehaving"-recall Bill Cosby's "Poundcake Speech"-Black people and their perceived moral failings, really says a great deal as to what Black Men have to do in order to "fit in". I've written about this recently, and wasn't surprised that the response from Black Men themselves was rather paltry. Perhaps their silence spoke volumes to the cold, bitter truths presented in that particular missive.

So, in summation, I say to Chuck that not only should he study his history-he can begin by checking out Skip Gates' excellent PBS series on the African American experience and go from there-but I would also say to him that "fitting in" for Black Men carries with it an extremely high price that even Black Women aren't asked to pay; and given the spotty, at best, return on investment Black Men have received, is it any wonder if we discover, that they aren't all that crazy about "fitting in" much anymore?

Comment & reply, holla.

Now adjourn your historically ignorant asses…

The Obsidian

The Obsidian Goes On Safari: A New Era Begins

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[image]

I've been experimenting with some new things of late, among them trying my hand at photography. I have a prominent Neptune in my horoscope, and it is being activated by transiting Neptune as we speak (I also have Neptune=Sun/Moon), so I said to myself, why the heck not? One thing that becomes very apparent after studying so many charts over the years, is that so many people have so much latent talents and abilities that they never get a chance to explore.

So, from time to time, I figure I'd post up what I shoot as the spirit moves me. Right now I'm largely in a "black and white" shooting phase. The above photo I took while out a and about. Lemme know what you think!

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Idris Elba As James Bond? Why NOT?

Obsidian · 7 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

In a recent discussion obtaining over at Ms. Susan Walsh's place Hooking Up Smart, I left the following sidebar comment:

> I remember, I think it was last year on another forum, the White guys went beserk for my suggestion that if the powers that be who presided over the James Bond franchise really wanted to shake things up and breathe fresh air into the franchise, they'd make Bond a Brotha Brit. I can easily see Idris Elba, who is a Brit btw, pulling it off. But, like I said, the White guys in the forum nearly had a bird, LOL. They argued that Bond could only be a White guy, but when I mentioned that according to Fleming, Bond had dark hair and Daniel Craig is a blonde, they flicked that off. So much for being purists, LOL.
>
> The UK has a very long history of involvement on the African continent – Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, just to name a few, to say nothing of Jamaica and other points in the Carribbean – it is very easy to envision a Black Bond. Moreover, with the Cold War nearly a quarter of a century in our rearview mirror, and with the center of the action in the world now taking place in the largely non-White world, WHY NOT make Bond Black?
>
> But, like I said, we like our heros White – even when it defies basic commonsense.
>
> O.

We often have discussions about Black folk and the roles they do or don't play in Hollywood. Contrary to the usually grossly misinformed opinion of many, the truth is that Black folk are still highly constrained as to range of roles they get. Here's another series of comments I made to that effect, again from the same blogsite above"

> First off, please name me five top billing Black actors? By that I mean, actors who are Black, and can carry a film on their own – NOT a sidekick.

> I'll wait.
>
> There are only TWO Black actors at present, who can carry a film completely on their own – Denzel Washington, and Will Smith. That's. It.
>
> ALL the remaining Black actors are in essence, supporting actors – sidekicks.
>
> Let's count the ways, shall we?
>
> Brooklyn's Fines featured an all ensemble cast, but it was quite clear who were the stars, and they weren't Black – they were Ethan Hawke, and Richard Gere. Don Cheadle and Wesley Snipes were supporting actors.
>
> Speaking of Cheadle, both he and Terrance Howard played second fiddle to Robert Downey Jr. in both Iron Man films.
>
> Morgan Freeman, who portrayed Nelson Mandela in Invictus, played second fiddle to Matt Damon, who played the captain of the South African rugby team. Prior to that Freeman played a supporting actor role to Angelina Jolie and James McAvoy's Wanted. And before that, he played second fiddle to Christian Bale's Batman Begins and the Dark Knight.
>
> Common played second fiddle to Bale in Terminator Salavation.
>
> Indeed, even when Black actors win Oscars, they STILL can't headline a "mainstream" movie. Case in point?
>
> Forrrest Whittaker, who won an Oscar for his portrayal as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in the Last King of Scotland, starred in the film Repo Men – he got second fiddle to Jude Law, who, last time I checked, wasnt an Oscar winner.
>
> Jamie Fox, who won an Oscar for "Ray", played second fiddle to Gerard Butler, who, like Law, has yet to win such a high honor. But he was White, and White Americans still pretty much like to see their heroes as White Men.
>
> There are an entire slew of excellent Black actors who will NEVER carry a major motion picture simply because they're Black. Morris Chestnut, Omar Epps, Blair Underwood, etc et al. Most of these actors wind up in "Black" vehicles for most of their careers.
>
> so this idea that Hollywood is just bursting at the seams with Black actors…well, we gotta take a closer look at that.

Finally, I offer the following comment from a recent discussion here at the The Obsidian Files:

> I was about to take it down for the night, but I gotsta respond to this…
>
> As for Star Trek, as a diehard Trekker, I think I can weigh in here. You're talking about Zoe Saldana, who played the "new" Uhura, who had a thing going on with the "new" Spock. Last time I checked, not many Sistsas were into Sci-Fi, so I would like to see some data on what you claim in that regard. That said, yea, there is SOME truth about SOME Sistas going bonkers over Black Man/White Woman love/sex scenes in movies. But given that the tables were turned in the recent Star Trek movie, I would think Sistas wouldn't have a problem with that. Again, I need to see some movegoing data. Do you have any, or if not, where'd you get your info from?
>
> As for Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, which starred Avery Brooks as Captain Benjamin Sisko, his wife, who as Black, was killed off very early on in the series. Personally, I would have loved to see him have a love interest who was also Black. Why?
>
> Because these shows, films, etc, they send messages. And I think it's important to send the message that not only are there black folk in the future, but they still do fall in love – in fact, there are Black folk on and from other planets. Why not? If we can have every other race represented, why not Black folks too?
>
> Now, going back to the Star Trek movie…

> Kirk was shown to be a rambunctious kid, which is a nice way of saying, a rule breaking jerk. Yet, he wasn't seen as a problem, but rather a guy with merely some rough edges. As i sat there watching the movie, I said to myself, that if James Tiberius Kirk were instead Jamaal Tyrone Kirk, he'd be locked up somewhere, not in Starfleet Academy on the way to becoming caption of the USS Enterprise.
>
> And with that, I'm out. Catch ya on the black hand side…

I'll just end this post with a very interesting episode from my own life, many years ago, that remains one of the most profound yet…

Around Thanksgiving time, I was spending time with my fam, and was vegging out on the couch with one of my nephews, Khaleel. A perceptive Scorpion with a bunch of planets in Capricorn, I've always had a liking for his way of looking at things, which became very apparent early on in his life.

We were watching an CGI animated film called Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within. It was something that appealed to young boys as it had Sci Fi and adventure themes. Basically, Humanity was being overrun by alien phantoms who on the warpath.

In the final epic battle taking place on Earth, one of the group's members, a Black seargent, gets wounded and decides to sacrifice himself so that the rest of the crew – all White – get onto the spaceship and blast off. Of course, the "heroic" Black soldier dies.

After that scene, my nephew Khaleel looked up at me, and asked, "Uncle, can I ask you a question?"

"Sure, Khaleel. Shoot!"

"Why does the Black guy always have to die?"

That's a question no White person is pressed with. And I couldn't answer my nephew, either. I was speechless. The message, to his then barely ten year old mind, was clear: that his life simply wasnt worth as much as that of Whites, even in a distant future where we fly around like the Jetsons.

And so, I turn it over to you, my esteemed readers: what do you think of what I said? Do you agree, or disagree, and why? What roles does Hollywood play in our lives? Should it be there just to provide mindless entertainment, or should it be a vehicle through which we see the best part of ourselves?

Holla back

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Are Smarts & Sex Appeal Mutally Exclusive? Well, As Far As Women Go, In A Word: YES

Obsidian · 8 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

Readers of The Obsidian Files will know well Ms. Susan Walsh of the blog Hooking Up Smart. There, she attempts to help young college aged, middle and upper middle class and primarily White Women navigate the college campus "hookup" scene. There aren't any hard and fast studies to look to that gives any indication as to how successful she is in this regard, although her blog has garnered something of a steady following of regular readers and commenters, and according to Ms. Walsh herself, she receives many letters per week from young ladies asking for matronly advice about the whys and wherefores of the world.

Ms. Walsh is no stranger to the O-Files; we've had quite a few interesting exchanges over the past year or so, and yesterday's post-article by her suggests that we'll have quite a few more before it's all said and done, LOL.

I say that because Ms. Walsh, and apparently a goodly number of her readers, seemed to get rather upset with my making the simple observation, that on average, really smart gals don't tend to be real hot lookers. That prompted not only heaps of hot shoals on my head by her readers, but Ms. Walsh's missive attempting to decry and then debunk my cold-eyed commentary.

Here's the problem, though – it won't work.

Not because I say so, because rather, because Men overall do.

That's right – what Ms. Walsh and so many other Women in our time simply refuse to get, is that they have NO say whatsoever, as to who and what Men find hot. Men, and ONLY MEN, do.

Now, Obsidian, how can you say that?

Simple, I reply. It's called Maxim.

For those who've been living on a desert island ala Cast Away for the last few decades, Maxim magazine is

considered one of the best sources of information if one is curious, and serious, about what young lads find sexually attractive in a Woman. Their annals are packed to the gills with lists of the best looking and hottest ladies around, and have come to be known over the past decade for their famed "Maxim Hot 100". They've released their Hot 100 for the year 2010; let's take a look at the smart ladies Ms. Walsh listed in her piece and compare and contrast, shall we?

•Emma Watson: attends Brown (no Maxim rating)
•Jennifer Connelly: attended Yale and Stanford (no Maxim rating)
•Kate Beckinsale: studied French and Russian literature at Oxford (no Maxim rating)
•Geena Davis: IQ 140, Mensa (No Maxim rating)
•Sharon Stone: IQ 154, Mensa, enrolled at Penn at age 15 (No Maxim rating)
•Claire Danes: attended Yale (no Maxim rating)
•Elisabeth Shue: attended Harvard (no Maxim rating)
•Brooke Shields: attended Princeton (no Maxim rating)
•Madonna: IQ 140 (no Maxim rating)
•Nicole Kidman: IQ 132 (no Maxim rating)
•Shakira: IQ 140 (no Maxim rating)
•Asia Carrera: IQ 156 (but, ahem, very poor judgment) (no Maxim rating)
•**Zooey Deschanel: gifted singer songwriter, briefly attended Northwestern (Maxim #73)**
•Danica McKellar: UCLA grad, math whiz (no Maxim rating)
•Loren Rabinowitz: New Miss Massachusetts, 2010 Harvard grad, double major in pre-med and (no Maxim rating)

Now, of course, we can quibble about a few things here; I don't think many guys would disagree with the proposition that Sharon Stone or Brooke Shields weren't hot in their day, or that Asia Carrera wasn't a head turner either. And surely, it would be hard to find a Man who still got a pulse who would deny that Shakira ain't got it goin' on.

Still, it's very interesting – and telling – that only ONE Woman on Ms. Walsh's "brainy" list actually made the Maxim Hot 100 for 2010 cut – at #73. Didn't break the first half of the list, didn't make the top 25, and damn sure didn't make the top ten.

Hmm.

By the way, I looked up another of Maxim's lists, this one focusing on Hot babes of the 80s? Madonna didn't appear on it – and when was the last time you ever heard a bunch of guys raving on about Madonna's looks anyway? I'm hardpressed to think up any myself.

Just for kicks, here's the top ten of Maxim's Hot 100 for 2010 list:

10. Marisa Miller
9. Kim Kardashian
8. Olivia Munn
7. Elisabetta Canalis
6. Rihanna
5. Megan Fox
4. Blake Lively
3. Zoe Saldana
2. Brooklyn Decker
1. Katy Perry

Notice something? Yup, that's right, **KIM KARDASHIAN** is rated #9.

Natalie Portman doesn't rate *at all*.

Now, let's address the Evolutionary aspect, shall we?

A simple law of nature states, that in all things, there are tradeoffs. Simply put, more brains equals less sex appeal, all things being equal. This explains why really smart folk have fewer kids, for example, if one accepts that kids are a rough proxy for having sex. They have a harder time getting together and making whoopee, and this is especially true for really smart Women – I remember reading Half Sigma, a Jewish HBD blogger out of NYC, who cited the GSS that indicated that really smart ladies had a tougher time finding a mate and settling down with him, or if they did, they had a higher rate of divorce. Surely really smart gals tend to be more nuerotic than gals of middling or a bit above average IQs – in other words, like their Male Mensa counterparts, there comes a point where having a scalebusting IQ becomes counterproductive, when it comes to forming close relationships. We all know well the nerd archetype. There's a Female version of this, too. It's called the Jane Austen Club(s). (By the way, please take note of the painting of Austen; case in point.)

Look, why any of this should come as a surprise to the Hooking Up Smart crew is a bit beyond me – it just comes as commonsense to me that everyone can't be smokin' hot, that's just Life. But that doesn't mean that one can't be happy, either; a big part of life is knowing what your limitations are, staying in your lane and yea, I'm gonna say the dreaded "S" word – settling. For Women, this is extremely hard to do, especially in a time where the doors of limitations restrictions are blown off for them. But what I'm saying above, about who Men in aggregate find hot, isn't likely to change anytime soon, and it is a serious Fool's Errand to attempt to do otherwise. If one accepts that we are the result of tens of thousands of years of shaping and molding by our environment and the adaptations to same, then it only makes sense to simply acknowledge these truths and move on with our lives.

I know I did. Readers here will know that I'm not exactly the tallest guy in the room; at 5'8″, I'm actually quite short in stature for a Man. And, being on the smaller side has its disadvantages.

How so, you may ask? Easy – for one thing, Women don't prefer Men my height. Don't take my word for it, see for yourself – go hit up Match.com, or OKCupid, or eHarmony, or Craig's List, and take a look at listings from the ladies seeking gents – five will get you ten that few if any will actually call for a Man UNDER 5'10″, which in America, is the average height for a Male. I know I certainly haven't. Nor will Women experience any bit of cognitive dissonance in the least for their outright prejudice and clinging to double standards in this regard, while decrying Men for their "superficial" likes, wants and desires in a Woman - if anything, they'll defend it, and vociferously at that, coupled with a goodly bit of shaming language; you're merely a loser for mentioning such a thing, and so forth. Simply put, when Women can choose – and anyone who knows anything about Game knows that Women do the choosing most of the time – they choose a taller Man over a shorter one, all things being equal. That's just the way it is.

So too, is it this way on the job – the University of Pennsylvania, in my hometown of Philly, did an extensive study on Male height and how it impacts Men's lives; they found, that for every inch over 6′ or so, a Man earns an extra thousand dollars a year. And the reverse is true for every inch a Man is under 6′. So, in other words, there are real costs to being a shorter guy like me. I've been judged in all kinds of ways, simply because of my lack of height. Nothing more. But that's the way we human beings are wired – out in the hinterlands of the Savannah, a Man with Size mattered, and it made sense for a Woman to seek out such guys. (I always chuckle at those ladies who like to pretend their oh so enlightened, and then turn right around and betray their brains for declaring thier thing for tallish Men. At least we guys are honest about being in thrall to our hindbrains.)

I could curse the darkness for enduring the slings and arrows of Fate, but instead, I sought ways to overcome my shortcomings, pardon the pun, and compensate for it. In the years since that time, which was very long ago, I think I've done OK for myself – I've led Men in the business world of sales, and not only was the highest paid man in my union shop who wasnt management or a journeyman in less than three years by standing out as the hardest working and smartest Man in the room and was in the running for union shop president, but I also have date quite a few ladies who were 5'10″ or taller – including my current lady, Ms. Brown Sugah. I haven't had any complaints. To paraphrase another Little Big Guy: "Look at me! Judge me by my size, do you? And well you should not. For Game

is my ally; and a powerful ally it is.”.

And that’s the message I bring to the ladies of Hooking Up Smart – when it comes to guys, brains are nice, but they don’t come before other things Men find appealing, first and foremost being looks. And if you don’t have a heck of a lot of that, there are things you can do to address it. It’s called Sephora. If you can’t catch a Man’s eye, what you say out of your mouth, is at best, moot. Being a Gal with a Big Brain is of interest, nine times out of ten, only to YOU. For most guys, it’s most definitely a plus, but it don’t come before being easy on the eyes, being loyal, being good in bed, and not being a headcase.

There, I’ve said it.

Now adjourn your asses…

Obsidian’s iPod is now playing: “I’m Not A Player” by Big Pun

The Obsidian

Obama Goes “Back To School”, Or Why Rasheed Doesn’t Bother To Read

Obsidian · 14 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

President Barack Obama heads to my hometown of Philly to deliver his second annual “Back To School” speech at one of its area highschools (I don’t know for certain, but five will get you ten he WON’T be at schools like: West Philly High, Dobbins, Gratz, William Penn High, Germantown High, MLK High, Southern, Overbrook, etc et al.; my guess is that he’ll more likely appear at Central, or Girls’ High, or Mastermann, something like that, or, one of the Charter Schools), where he is expected to tell Philly’s benighted pupils to keep their noses to the grindstone and “dream big”. This comes on the heels of his “HBCU speech” that he gave the other day, where he addressed the nation’s Historically Black Colleges & Universities, and where, on cue, he gave essentially the same “message”. While he talked, the tv-I was watching MSNBC at the time-flashed the now-publicly acknowledged highschool dropout rate for Black Males: nationwide, its 53%. That’s almost twice the rate for White Males. Nor is this anything new-it’s been a simmering problem for decades now, at least a generation long. Yet Obama, at least the parts of the speech I could stand to stomach, didn’t broach this topic. After about roughly 15 minutes, I had all that I could stand, and changed the channel.

If you’re a regular reader of The Obsidian Files, you might have guessed that I don’t think particularly all that highly of the 44th POTUS. I’ve given a few “sneak previews” here and there over the past year as to what I think of him and why, but I’ve been keeping my powder dry for the day after the all-important 2010 Midterm Elections; when that time comes, I’ll be in a much better position to fully unfurl how I really feel about Mr. Obama.

Until then though, and again, regulars here will have already read it before but it bears repeating, please don’t hold your breath looking for Obama to address in any meaningful way, why Black boys are not just failing in school, they’re not even bothering to show up at all. What we can expect from Mr. Obama is more boilerplate, warmed over peptalks about studying hard, turning off the tv and the like, and if he does indeed say anything about Black boys, it will sound like a modified version of what the President said a little over two years ago, to date the ONLY time he has specifically and directly addressed Black Men at all; by now you all know of it. It was his 2008 Father’s

Day Address in his political hometown of Chicago, where Mr. Obama took special time out of his grueling campaign schedule for the express purpose of upbraiding and insulting his strongest constituency to date. As you might have guessed, I'll have more-a whole lot more-to say about this, and a great many other things, in due course.

While Obama exhorts to young folk the necessity of studying hard and fulfilling dreams, there will be hordes of young Black Men on the mean streets of Philly, with nowhere to turn, nowhere to go, nowhere to run, nowhere to hide-a Cohort truly without a Country-because they will have concluded-rightly, I might add-that there is no place for them in American society. They may not know anything much about sociology or economics or politics or history, but they have two good working eyes and have enough commonsense to connect the dots between their lives and the countless other lives of Black Men around and before them, to be able to see that there's not a whole heck of a lot to be gained in spending time in places that are at best, deeply ambivalent about you being there, and at worst, are openly hostile to you being there. Put that together with the glaring fact that there's a heck of a lot of deadwood in the schools (read: teachers that suck), an irrelevant curricula that fails to meaningfully prepare the young to get on in the world on its terms (especialy if you're Black & Male) and the inane expectation that boys in particular are supposed to be still and act nice while knowingly being shoveled copious amounts of horse dung for some 7 hours a day, 5 days a week, and it's little wonder that Da'Shawn and Tyreese start to vote with their feet.

But of course, living in the world that we do, one that is overrun with a motley crue of Clever Sillies, Incompetent Knuckelheads and out and out Buffoons, we'll never address the most obvious reasons why so many young Black Men chose to simply opt out. In the sports world, if your team's record is below .500 consistently for several seasons, its time to call in the head coach and general manager in for a talk-their last one. In the business world, if more your business loses more than half its revenues, clients, and/or accounts in a year, for several years running, guess what?-you won't be in business much longer unless you can find out what the problem is, and pronto. Usually, that means the management team's got to vamoose.

But in the Bizarro world that is the Public Sector, such Cro-Magnon Man understandings of how the world works is passe'; all kinds of money is spent trying to come up with new ways to turn crap into gold, or at least give the appearance of it. Put that together with a Teacher's Union that has the Dems in particular by the scrotum, and viola!-a whole new cohort of excons, coming right up.

In a sane world, the very mention of so many of a nation's citizens falling so far behind would be enough to mount a call to arms; but as we all know and understand here at the O-Files, Black Men learn from an early age, that there are NOT regarded as Brothers in Arms, but rather Enemies of the State-or at the very least, potential ones. Hence the reason why I've said before, and it bears repeating now, that Obama not only won't address this issue in the way it needs to, but CAN'T:

Because the very mention of a need to focus our resources on a sector of our polity that truly needs it, is politically, socially and economically radioactive. It will deeply upset a constituency Obama needs, perhaps for the balance of his term, and even moreso in his second, assuming he's reelected: middle to working class White Males. They will interpret ANY move on his part to focus on the dire straits Black Men and boys face and are indeed in, as a direct threat and assault on their very survival, taking limited and precious resources, opportunity and know-how away from their sons, and putting it on those who are undeserving of the effort, and who are more prone to be problematic in any event. In an era where White folk are beginning to feel the burn, this is something Obama simply cannot ignore.

But as we always knew here at the Files, that's only one part of the story.

At least another part of the story, as Obama's Father's Day Address clearly showed, is the simple fact that we too-Black America-see Black Men in general, and its younger cohorts in particular-as a pathogen to be cleansed, a blight on the national landscape that hollas out for removal to someplace remote. Black Men and boys know and understand very well that it ain't just White America that regards them with distrust and suspicion, but many places within Black America, too, are they told in ways big and small, that they are really not wanted. After all, when Black folk want to get something done, history has told us they made it happen: the Civil Rights and Voting Rights

Acts, the Crime Bill and Obama's election itself, are all testaments to Black American focus, initiative and purpose.

So, with all that said, one can only conclude, that the reason why Black Males fall so far between the cracks and below, is because not only does White America like it that way, but that Black America doesn't have that big a problem with it, either.

And that's the Truth, Ruth.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Question For The Sistas: Are You Part Of The Solution, Or, Part Of The Problem?

Obsidian · 17 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Given the Signs of the Times, I thought the time was ripe to put this one out there…

Back in my rambunctious youth, which included in part, an "Afrocentric" phase, I and my friends at the time would pride ourselves on being "critics" of just about any and everything; we had pithy answers for questions hurled at us, and we gave those we considered less than satisfactory to us or the "community" no quarter in our recriminations.

Part of our critique had to do with those who had gone on before us; in our shortsighted and woefully misguided view, they either hadn't done enough, or had done too much of the wrong things. To back up our critiques, we would cite Kenyatta, or Nkrumah, or Lamumba as examples of Brothas keeping it real. Of course, Malcolm got favorable mention as well.

One day, while hanging out at the old UNIA building in North Philly (which still stands today as a landmark of sorts), my buds and I were doing the "critique" thing again, until one of the Elder Brothas, Brotha Battles, had all he could take.

He lit into us.

First, he outlined what life was truly like back in the early 20th century for Black folk in general, and Black Men in particular; how "nightriders" were common, how Black soldiers returning home from war were lynched at in their uniforms, how grown Black Men were expected to avert their eyes and step off the sidewalk when White Men came along. How Black folk didn't have the option of voting, couldn't take a number one or two at a gas station, couldn't try on clothes at stores, you name it. He questioned all our loud talk-empty loud talk-that we would engage in, from the comfort of a building that was built on the backs of our ancestors, at a time when merely doing so-yes, even in a place like Philly-could definitely have guys like Brotha Battles, if not severely beaten, killed outright.

Then Brotha Battles proceeded to ask us some simple questions: had we registered to vote? Of course not, that was whacked, etc et al. Alright then, he aid, what was our plan, since his generation had obviously failed so badly? We bloviated some more in response, until finally Brotha Battles got up from the table and simply said to all of us:

Either you're part of the solution, or your part of the problem.

And walked out.

We youngbucks sat in silence.

That saying above, you're either part of the solution or your part of the problem, was a popular one amongst older generations of African Americans during the Civil Rights struggles of the 60s and the years immediately following them in the 70s. As goals were achieved and dreams were realized, the saying seems to have fallen out of favor. At least I can't recall anyone saying any such thing of late.

But with the Mancession-and that's what it is, make no mistake-continues unabated, and as I hear more and more accounts of relationship stress as a result of, at least in part, the economic hard times afoot, its something that comes to mind, as I read more and more, about life on the Black hand side.

On this note, not enough can be said-if the Mancession, so named because the economic downturn has hit Men disproportionately harder than Women, is true-and it is-then Black Men in particular have been dealt a one-two knockout combination. We've been covering the matter of Black Male employment issues here at the O-Files for the better part of the year now, and I suspect we'll do a bit more, seeing that this is the second year of the Mancession, with a referendum on President Obama's term in office looming large in less than two months; it will be a time of deep reckoning and questioning for Black Men.

Let me kindly suggest, that among the questions Brothas should pose, especially to perhaps their biggest critics, Sistas, is simply this:

Are you part of the solution, or part of the problem?

This is a highly valid question, for a number of reasons.

For one thing, it has been documented that Black Women have benefitted far more from the mass social movements of the 60s and 70s, on just about every major life measure one can think of, than Black Men; meanwhile, Black Men have indeed gone backward. None of this is to say that Black Women have *caused* this; but it is undeniable to argue that what I've just stated above is so. Only someone who isn't being honest, would argue otherwise.

We also know, thanks to a recent study/book published by the University of Chicago, that Black Men get far and away less help and support from the nation's various social service agencies; indeed, if you're a Black Man and you fall on hard times, your chances of winding up out on the streets, is very real. For all their bluster, Black Women know for a fact that they can get help when they need it-and quite a few have availed themselves of just that. Black Women may have their problems and may not be as valued as Ms. Ann, but they know they can get help if things go bad-from staying with family and friends, to getting full-on assistance from all levels of the gov't. Black Men, in aggregate, can't.

Yet, many Sistas don't seem to have any problem in the least excoriating and scapegoating Black Men for their being victims of circumstance during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression-another era of tremendous suffering for Black Men. It doesn't seem to dawn on Black Women that not only do they get a serious thumb on the scale at just about every juncture, but that Black Men get shunted at every turn as well. They don't seem moved by the most basic of facts, that by now are evident to all but the most hidebound individuals, that the whole of the country is suffering, and that Black Men especially, have been put on the edge of the cliff…with quite a few going over it.

Many will feel justified in kicking their longterm mates, hubbies and even flesh and blood, to the curb-giving rise in the minds of many Black Men, to thoughts that perhaps the rappers were onto something after all. Others, while not physically removing such "dead weight" from their lives, will nevertheless feel justified in criticizing their Men, even while they head off to work for Big Gubment.

What's fascinating to me in all of this, is how so many Sistas react in these situations; they don't seem to have a "we" mentality-all of a sudden, it's "me" and more importantly for this discussion, a "you ain't" mentality. Yet for all the pretenses of power & influence so many Sistas have, one would think that in times like these, they would put all of that to good use, and help their Brothas out. Many Sistas, as noted above, make their bread and butter working for the State either directly or indirectly-which means, they're close to politicians in one way or another. Indeed, its hardly a Brotha who at one point or another, hasn't been regaled with name-dropping asides from a Sista, in some "career" capactiy, has been in the presence of so and so, rubbed elbows with Mr. or Ms. Muckety Muck, was at a big confab with a bunch of "big names". Many Sistas pride themselves on "networking", on knowing errbody. They spend large chunks of their time online at work, emailing back and forth, texting and what-not to and fro, essentially running off at the mouth on company time. Yet when the rubber hits the road, and their own Man needs help, suddenly they become amnesiac; their big mouths clam up; they're invalids who can't do anything.

Or is it rather, they won't do anything?

It all comes as a shock to the system and a punch in the gut to those Black Men who have played by the rules of society and got nothing but recriminations in return, backed up by excuses from their own gov't as to why they can't get the help that even recently arrived illegal immigrants can recieve. The insult is added to the larger social injury, when the one ally they thought they had, in essence, turns on them, too; contrary to the popular mythology, Black Women aren't as loyal and "ride or die" as they like to shout at the tops of their voices to have us believe; what they really mean by such declarations, is that they were, or would be, loyal to those topshelf Brothas, who now can

exercise their mating options, and decide it's time to upgrade-usually to a White(r) Female. But when it comes to the rank and file Brotha-as the Signs of the Times will bear witness to-Sistas won't have much problem ditching him when it is necessary to do so.

It is for this, among a great many reasons, that I have said that the African American Male, is truly a Man without a Country. In so many ways, shapes and forms-many of which, the keen reader with a sharp eye will notice-I've have been making the case in recent months that to be Black and Male in America, is to be Persona Non-Grata, *regardless of what you do*. Indeed, I am at a loss to think of another such blogging effort, that has attempted to lay things out in such a fashion, from birth all the way to the highest public office in the land. Sure, some among you will attempt to put a good face on what I've laidout, will make the case for "fighting the good fight"; and we all certainly know others, who will rationalize their "it ain't my fault" mentality, simply shrugging their shoulders and blaming the guy for being a cripple when they had a role in breaking the Man's leg in the first place. But the point, in cold, brutal fashion, is made: being Black & Male, is extraordinarily hard in ways not even Black Women can understand.

Or care to.

Because of the inherent fragility of Black relationships to begin with, it isn't a stretch to say that this Mancession will see quite a few such unions go down in flames; my guess is that it will bring relations between Black Men and Women to an all-time low, as if that were even possible, and this I take no pleasure in saying in the least. What I have concerns about, and what is likely to be lost in the shuffle even in the Age of Obama, is what I've laidout here-that of all America's Men, Black Men in particular, will be the Mancession's biggest victims; and that Black Women, in aggregate, will be accessories to this national crime, after the fact.

I say that because, Black Women will have decided, one way or another, as to whether they'll be part of the solution, or a part of the problem. The early evidence, as we have it, doesn't look encouraging.

Time and history will be my judge, as to whether I was right or wrong.

If you're a Sista reading this, and your Man is under the gun economically, as far too many of us are these days, and you find yourself having a go at him for his economic plight, you have to decide-are you part of the solution to his life, or are you part of the problem? Because I can assure you, that he has more than his fair share of problems just living day to day (don't take my word for it, Jigga said it best), and doesn't need any help from you or anyone else adding to them on that score. What can you do to move things along in the right direction? Are you being productive and constructive? Are you bringing all your education and know-how to the question, to solve problems? Are you up in those politicians faces, demanding to know why so many Black Men have been out of work, for years, for decades? Have you talked to the people in your social circle, about helping your Man out in one way or another? How many have you talked to? How many job leads have you helped your Man to get? If you see yourself as a "strong Sista", well, the times we find ourselves in now, is the acid test to ascertain the veracity of your (here to fore unconfirmed) assertions. Put up, or do yourself, your Man, and the rest of us, a really big favor:

Please. Shut. Up.

Thank you.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Astrology Talk Sunday: Christine O'Donnell

Obsidian · 19 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

Since Sunday is "news talk show day" about the previous week's current events and biggest newsmakers, I thought I'd give a bit of astrological context to he whole discussion. Before I begin, please let me say that astrology has long played a role wrt political, social and economic commentary going back to monarchs and military leaders of ancient times; so what we're doing today is in keeping with tradition.

Also, a word to the haters (read: "skeptics"): please, do us all a big favor, and keep your thoughts to yourself, or take them elsewhere. The minute they come up on my board, they'll disappear. I'm done with arguing with folks who can't even be bothered to even crack open a book on the subject. If and when I feel like it, I may devote a thread to you all and IF you've done your homework, we can have a respectful, and informed, discussion on the matter. But not today. Please do not try me. You will not like the result.

OK, so with all that said, let's dive right in…

Without a doubt, the biggest name in the news in the past week, has to be Delaware US Senatorial candidate Christine O'Donnell, who, on Tue, Sep 14, 2010, roundly defeated GOP moderate and longtime fixture Mike Castle by a whopping seven points-an upset if there ever was one. She has the full backing of the Tea Party movement, and after a bit of agita on the part of the GOP hierarchy, the day after the elections they closed ranks behind O'Donnell, as she prepares to take on the Democratic nominee, Chris Coons, on Tue, Nov 2, 2010. O'Donnell has been dubbed "Sarah Palin East" by the Chattering Class, mainly for her populist appeal and her good looks. Astrology confirms both, and more, about Ms. O'Donnell.

Christine O'Donnell was born on Aug 27, 1969 in Moorestown NJ, according to Wikipedia; no birthtime is known, but just her birthdate astrology is striking.

Among other things, O'Donnell was born on a full Moon in Pisces. This alone accounts for her being seen in some circles as "looney" or "whacky" for her religious, social and sexual views. But aside from this, having a high-powered Moon in one's horoscope says something else: it suggests that the entire chart is "energized" by the power of the Sun. This is because the Moon reflects the light of the Sun, takes it and distributes it to the rest of the planets in the horoscope; moreover, a strong Moon like a full one gives the entire chart more "juice" than a chart with a dimmer-lit Moon, all things being equal.

Then, in O'Donnell's case, being a political candidate, having such a high-profile Moon matters significantly; in

mundane astrology, which concerns itself with political, social and economic matters, the Moon is taken to represent the general (voting) public and Women in particular. In order to vie successfully for public office, one needs to win over enough of the public who will vote for an support you. So having a well placed Moon helps tremendously, and if one studies very popular politicians they will find that the Moon in their charts tend to be well placed. O'Donnell's Moon is free from blemish, ie, not having any hard aspects on it from challenging planets. These Lunar factors alone account for her success.

But wait, there's more!

We also observe that her Venus is in Cancer, the Sign ruled by the Moon, and is in aspect to Neptune in Scorpio, and Pluto in Virgo. This is a very favorable combination bestowing good looks and "sex appeal"-and keeping in mind her already having a full Moon (in Pisces, often a good looking Sign for Women), well, we see the results.

What's really interesting about O'Donnell's chart (using the standard practice of setting the horoscope for 6AM and applying Solar houses when the birthtime isn't known), is the fact that she was born with *three* Mutual Receptions, *all involving Venus*: Venus exchanges places with the Moon, Venus exchanges places with Saturn, and Venus exchanges places with Jupiter. In all these cases, Venus comes out the winner in these interplanetary "swaps", giving her even more power and influence. Yet another testimony for her good looks, sex appeal, and influence as a female candidate (O'Donnell identifies herself as a feminist).

We also observe that Mercury, Uranus and Jupiter are all in triple conjunction in Libra, along with Mars unaspected in Sagittarius-all combos that speak to a capable debator, being able to improvise on the fly. The one fly in the ointment is Mars in Sagittarius' tendency toward rampant opinionation, putting one's foot in the mouth, etc. Provided O'Donnell's handlers reign this tendency in, she will have a good chance in her debates with the highly favored Coons.

If we more closely examine O'Donnell's Solarscope, we can get a better understanding of her religious and sexual views. Saturn is in Taurus and retrograde, in her Solar 9th house, the house of religion. Saturn here, in my experience, will tend to manifest one of two ways: either in terms of atheism, or in terms of religious dogmatism, and by all accounts, the latter seems to apply to O'Donnell, a Roman Catholic. Which is very interesting, since the current Pope, Benedict XVI, also has Saturn in the 9th house(!), and was seen as a kind of "enforcer" of Catholic doctrine in his days as Cardinal Ratzinger.

We also note that Saturn in O'Donnell's Solarscope rules her Solar 5th house, the house most associated with sexuality. Capricorn here could speak to a kind of frigidity. Venus is the ruler of the Solar 9th, one of the sexual planets of astrology (and interestingly enough, the Vatican's Venus is in its 9th house in Taurus!), and goes there due to being in mutual reception with Saturn, highlighting the focus on her sexual views. Taurus, on a Sign level, has always been seen as rather conservative, as does Capricorn on her Solar 5th house, and her Virgo Sun (whose symbol is the Virgin Maiden, after all!).

Finally, when we consider the astrology of election day, last Tue, we note that the Moon was applying conjunction to O'Donnell's Mars, while Pluto was exactly square her Uranus-a classic symbol of overturning the status quo. Mike Castle, who was also born on a full Moon, this time in Capricorn, didn't have any supportive election day astrology going for him; indeed, on election day, the Sun sat right on his Neptune(!), the latter planet always being a big challenge to politicos. (Castle: Jul 2 1939 in Wilmington DE, Wikipedia)

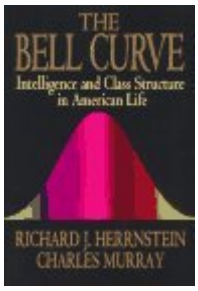
But can she win in Nov against Dem fave Chris Coons? Unlike Castle, Coons represents a much harder challenge; his natal astrology backs this up (and which I'll get to in the comments). The election day astrology looks favorable to both candidates as well-suggesting to me, that the poll results will be close.

Comment & reply (skeptics beware), holla…

The Obsidian

Discussing The HBDers' "Bible": The Bell Curve

Obsidian · 20 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original



Cover via Amazon

Like all good believers, the "Human Bio-Diversity" set has its "holy book". It's called The Bell Curve, authored by the late Richard Hernstien, of Harvard U, and Charles Murray, presently a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank. In that this post will be a discussion of The Bell Curve, and that I want as much participation on the matter as possible, the following comes from the widely accessible Wikipedia entry on the book:

"The Bell Curve is a best-selling but controversial 1994 book by the late Harvard psychologist Richard J. Herrnstein and American Enterprise Institute political scientist Charles Murray . Its central argument is that intelligence is a better predictor of many factors including financial income, job performance, unwanted pregnancy , and crime than parents' socioeconomic status or education level. Also, the book argues that those with high intelligence, the " cognitive elite ", are becoming separated from those of average and below-average intelligence and that this is a dangerous social trend. Most of the controversy concerns Chapters 13 and 14, in which the authors wrote about racial differences in intelligence and discuss the implications of those differences. The authors were reported throughout the popular press as arguing that these IQ differences are genetic , and they did indeed write in chapter 13: "It seems highly likely to us that both genes and the environment have something to do with racial differences." The introduction to the chapter more cautiously states, "The debate about whether and how much genes and environment have to do with ethnic differences remains unresolved."

The book's title comes from the bell-shaped normal distribution of IQ scores. The normal distribution is the limiting distribution of a random quantity which is the sum of smaller, independent random phenomena. The message in the title is that IQ scores are normally distributed because a person's intelligence is the sum of many small random variations in genetic and environmental factors.

Shortly after publication, many people rallied both in criticism and defense of the book. Some critics denounced the book and its authors as supporting scientific racism . A number of critical texts, including The Bell Curve Debate , were written in response to the book."

From the section "Content", a discussion of what inspired the book:

"The Bell Curve contains 941 pages in the first printing and 879 in the revised paperback . Much of its material is technical and academic. The book's statistical explanations are styled to appeal to a general audience. There are extensive notes, graphs, and tables. The Bell Curve is divided into four sections.

Part I argues that social stratification on the basis of intelligence has been increasing since the beginning of the twentieth century.

Part II presents original research showing significant correlations between intelligence and various social and economic outcomes. For instance, based on data as of 1989 this section shows that among non-Hispanic whites, intelligence level (cognitive class) is a better predictor of poverty than parents' socioeconomic class.

Part III , by far the most controversial, examines what role IQ plays in contributing to social and economic

differences between ethnic groups in the United States.

Part IV discusses the implications of the findings for education and social policy in the United States.

Herrnstein and Murray in many ways follow in the footsteps of UC Berkeley researcher Arthur Jensen , whose controversial article on the subject appeared in 1969 in the Harvard Educational Review . The Bell Curve argues that:

1. Intelligence exists and is accurately measurable across racial, language, and national boundaries.

2. Intelligence is one, if not the most, important correlative factor in economic, social, and overall success in the United States, and is becoming more important.

3. Intelligence is largely (40% to 80%) genetically heritable.

4. No one has so far been able to manipulate IQ long term to any significant degree through changes in environmental factors – except for child adoption – and in light of their failure such approaches are becoming less promising.

5. The USA has been in denial regarding these facts, and in light of these findings a better public understanding of the nature of intelligence and its social correlates is necessary to guide future policy decisions in America."

In the section marked "Policy Recommendations" The Bell Curve is quoted as saying:

"Herrnstein and Murray recommended the elimination of welfare policies that encourage poor women to have babies:

We can imagine no recommendation for using the government to manipulate fertility that does not have dangers. But this highlights the problem: The United States already has policies that inadvertently social-engineer who has babies, and it is encouraging the wrong women. "If the United States did as much to encourage high-IQ women to have babies as it now does to encourage low-IQ women, it would rightly be described as engaging in aggressive manipulation of fertility." The technically precise description of America's fertility policy is that it subsidizes births among poor women, who are also disproportionately at the low end of the intelligence distribution. We urge generally that these policies, represented by the extensive network of cash and services for low-income women who have babies, be ended. The government should stop subsidizing births to anyone rich or poor. The other generic recommendation, as close to harmless as any government program we can imagine, is to make it easy for women to make good on their prior decision not to get pregnant by making available birth control mechanisms that are increasingly flexible, foolproof, inexpensive, and safe. [1]

This claim spurred later research in economics and sexology , which considered that welfare programs for women had a doubly negative effect on aggregate IQ within the transfer group, by allowing the female partner to forgo a full consideration of the male's ability to serve as a provider of familial resources, instead placing greater emphasis on desirable physical or social characteristics (presumed to be not as positively correlated with IQ). Neither of these claims, as originally embodied in text and the follow-on research, dealt with race as such, but rather demonstrated concern that large numbers of minorities were positioned as recipients, leading to a continual worsening of the measured divergence in intelligence. However, two years later, the 1996 U.S. welfare reform substantially cut these programs.

In a discussion of the future political outcomes of an intellectually stratified society, they stated that they "fear that a new kind of conservatism is becoming the dominant ideology of the affluent – not in the social tradition of an Edmund Burke or in the economic tradition of an Adam Smith but 'conservatism' along Latin American lines, where to be conservative has often meant doing whatever is necessary to preserve the mansions on the hills from the menace of the slums below" [2] . Moreover, they fear that increasing welfare will create a "custodial state" in "a high-tech and more lavish version of the Indian reservation for some substantial minority of the nation's population." They also predict increasing totalitarianism : "It is difficult to imagine the United States preserving its heritage of individualism, equal rights before the law, free people running their own lives, once it is accepted that a

significant part of the population must be made permanent wards of the states".

There's more to the Wiki entry on TBC, and I urge all those interested in this discussion to read it all for yourself here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bell_Curve

OK. A few quick comments:

I recall very well when TBC first came out, 16 years ago. As one might have guessed, it created quite a stir in certain sections of the Black community, for its implying that African Americans were in fact, genetically inferior to Whites and East Asians especially. Being a curious guy, I decided to see what all the hubbub was about and read the book for myself. What I found was quite different from all the hoopla.

For one thing, TBC, while it does mention African and Americans and Hispanics, doesn't come right out and says, "they're intractably dumber than everyone else". What they say is that both groups seem to test lower than do Whites and Asians, but they don't go into specifics as to why that is. Moreover, they say very little about Race and IQ; I think less than three chapters overall discuss the matter, out of a book that's nearly 1,000 pages long(!). The book primarily deals with the prospect of an ever-widening society, bifurcated along IQ lines-what Hersnstein and Murray calls a "Cognitive Elite"-and everyone else, and what this can mean in social, economic and political terms. To that extent then, the book is quite interesting, because by definition-even now, some 16 years later-the country is majority White, and therefore, the book is dealing with IQ variations among the country's dominant racial group-White Americans. The extreme focus of attention the few chapters on African Americans and Hispanics totally took the focus off this main point, in my view, and it seems that the HBDers are no different from the Liberals they love to excoriate in this regard, for they focus on the racial aspects of TBC just as much, if not much more, than do their Liberal arch-enemies. Either the HBDers haven't read the book-a claim many of them level at the Libs-or, they have read it but largely misunderstood it, something else they accuse the Libs of doing.

I have several critiques of the book. One of them is the assumption on the part of TBC's authors that IQ can explain everything worth explaining about human endeavor, and that if one encounters problems in life, it is due to their inherent *lack* of IQ, and not to any other factors. To conservative minds, this is a large and comforting point, one that confirms what they already think and believe, especially as it relates to what the HBD set derisively calls "NAMs"-Non-Asian Minorities. Basically, Black and Brown folks. Which again is ironic, given how little TBC actually focuses on People of Color in any event.

My second critique of TBC lies in the fact that they seem to discount out of hand Sir Francis Galton's theory of Regression to the Mean, the idea that even if two verifiably smart people mate and have babies, their babies run the real risk of not being as smart as them, and as they grow and have kids of their own, the chances of said grandkids being as smart as their grandparents diminishes, and so on and so forth. TBC assumes that the "Cognitive Elite" will always be thus, NOT because they're in a position to manipulate the levers of power and influence to assist their kids who may not be as smart or motivated as themselves, but simply because they can subvert Galton's Law and keep on reproducing their high IQ selves. Interestingly enough, the HBD set rarely if ever takes up regression to the mean along these lines; they ONLY discuss it when it comes to what they deem as the rare instance of a smart Black couple; they then fret about the prospects of their kids "regressing to the Black mean", and so forth. Talk about ignoring that which ain't popular or comfortable, huh?

Finally, my third major critique of TBC, and definitely of the HBD community, is in their public policy "recommendation" areas. As noted above, TBC basically wants the US Gov't to enter into a kind of Eugenics program, targeting who they deem as undesirables breeding as a result of gov't largesse in the form of welfare payments and the like. As the Wiki article above clearly notes, the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, under Bill Clinton, pretty much killed that idea before it could get off the ground, and Charles Murray has since gone on to other subjects. Nevertheless, the notion of eugenics remains very popular in HBD circles, almost always aimed at keeping the "undesirable" population down by either cutting them off welfare entirely, or, by making birth control a

mandatory condition of getting welfare in the first place. That eugenics itself has been largely discredited doesn't seem to deter these folks, nor does the fact that per their own reasoning (Rushton notably), IQ and fertility/fecundity is *negatively correlated*. This is noted in the cult film classic Idiocracy, where the smart people basically died out, because they spent all their time handwringing over whether the have kids or not, while the putatively lesser smart folk got on with the business of having kids. TBC talks about ways in which to help smart Women have kids, but as I point out in a number of posts along these lines earlier this year, so long as we live in a free society that affords smart White Women options other than popping out babies at a young age, they will take up those other options. Every single time out-and, barring a Chinese Communist style eugenics scheme, there isn't a whole heck of a lot we can do about it. It is interesting that neither Murray, nor any prominent HBD blogging voice to date, has seriously tackled this end of the issue.

There's more, but I'll hold here so as to allow others to jump in on the discussion. Suffice it to say that I think TBC, while highly provocative, is also a greatly misunderstood book, one that raises many very interesting questions, but also has some very huge gaping holes in it and makes some seriously dangerous assumptions as well. If the authors of TBC wanted to spark a lively discussion surrounding intelligence and the role it can play in a postmodern industrialized society, I think it can be safely said that they've achieved that objective. And I think it is beyond ironic that the HBD crowd-one that is largely atheist and considers religious believers to be beneath them-clings to their deeply misguided "understanding" of TBC in the same way they accuse Christians of being beholden to the Bible.

OK, that's it. Now, adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

“Cool” In The Age Of Obama: A Reply To Chuck Ross

Obsidian · 24 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

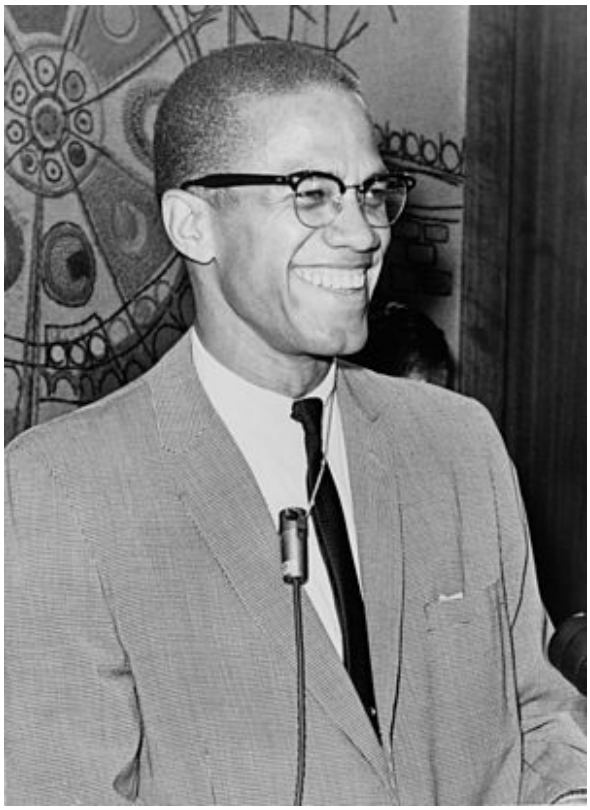


Image via Wikipedia

Blogger Chuck Ross has penned an essay over at his blog where he purports to examine the American phenomenon known as “cool” (http://glpiggy.wordpress.com/2010/09/23/on-coolness/). Stirred to act in the wake of a series of heated and lively exchanges between myself, Ross and a number of his regulars, Ross finally decides to investigate the matter for himself.

Ross writes:

“What is “ cool “? More importantly, what are the mechanisms by which this aesthetic navigates through our culture and what are the social consequences of it. Herein, I will state my case that “cool” is an arbitrary term meant to behave much like the vermin in the popular childhood arcade game “Whack-a-Mole” – where white people represent the mallots. “Cool” is an arbitrary or fluid term that parallels black culture; in fact, “cool” *is* black culture; it is a tautological argument in that “cool” in America becomes whatever black people are doing, saying, listening to, or valuing at the moment. Since “cool” can only exist as diametrically opposed to white/mainstream/Western culture – aka the status quo – it follows that whatever white people are doing is “not cool”. This has debilitating consequences, as I’ll point out.”

Ross mentions the work and observations of Yale U African art historian Robert Farris Thompson, who has written quite a bit on the matter; Ross’ argument? That, among other things, “cool” is a factor which inhibits Black progress and achievement:

“This artificial valuation – stemming from white guilt – has, in essence, crippled black youth in this country while also cracking the armor of white youth. Since black people became the arbiters of cool and because cool had real observable power in society and popular culture, one aspect of positive social valuation was at the mercy of black people. As a result, “cool” has become synonymous with the gangster, thug, and underachiever.”

African Americans who are familiar with critical theory of any kind will not find the above bombshell that Ross

drops as anything new; blaming Black folk for their problems has been taken to a high artform among quite a few voices in the public square. The “causes” of what’s “wrong” with Black folk run the gamut, and usually, seem to change with the current clime: for Ross, both the HBD meme-which posits that Black folks are in aggregate, innately inferior to Whites and by extension, Western (read: White) civilization, and by extension *anything* that springs from Black culture, like the concept of “cool” is therefore inherently incompatible with Western (read again: White) notions of progress, stability and achievement, is the order of the day. Don’t take my word for it; see for yourself:

“In that “cool” is inherently antithetical to mainstream Western values which traditionally valued education, achievement, progress, and lawfulness, black male youths have opted for other life paths. From Orlando Patterson’s NYT piece “ A Poverty of the Mind…”

And

“Because black youth are only defined and identified through their coolness they mostly try to mimic the purveyors of cool: gangsters, sports stars, and entertainers. What we end up with are a bunch of youths trying to be cool rather than productive citizens. It is no surprise, given the dearth of socially feasible options available to black youths, that black culture tends to be relatively homogenous compared to whites. Since so many are chasing the cool and trying to live fit in to one of only a handful of acceptable scripts, each individual winds up not being much different than the next.”

And Ross sums it all up in the following statement:

“So on the one hand, “cool” is about nonchalance and on the other hand it is antithetical to Western culture. No wonder blacks can’t fit in to society. As Orlando Patterson argues, the problem lies within black culture – not in the racism of white culture. At least not today. Of course, in their desire to meld the world together, mainstream society has had to bend to meet the valuable aesthetic of “cool” that is all of a sudden so important. To not bend to that aesthetic is racist or close-minded. But keep in mind, if you have a bunch of non-chalant youth running around, how are you to build and maintain a society, a state, a city, a neighborhood, or even a household? Some vigilance – some sort of caring for higher principles – is required.”

Alrighty then, some correctives are deeply in order.

For one thing, “cool” has been around for a very long time-in the modern historical context, at least since the Jazz era, where the term first originated. While present day Hip Hop culture no doubt continues on in the tradition of “cool” by no means did it originate there; being “cool”, while often associated with nefarious underworld activity, is NOT synonymous with it.

We can say this, because figures like Miles Davis and Malcolm X (in his later life) were NOT criminals, yet were and still are considered to be exemplars of “cool”. Indeed, the newly published memoir of NPR journalist Michelle Norris, The Grace of Silence” gives a deeply moving example of “cool” in the form of her father, who was shot by the police after coming home from fighting in WW2; he handled the matter in an almost textbook “cool” way.

Which brings me to Ross’ next point-if indeed “cool” is “oppositional” to Western and more specifically, American life, it is because American life has made it its business to keep Black Men from fully participating in the enterprise.

Consider the following (and which, surprise!, Ross mysteriously leaves out in his post):

“Marlene Kim Connor connects cool and the post-war African-American experience in her book What is Cool?: Understanding Black Manhood in America . Connor writes that cool is the silent and knowing rejection of racist oppression, a self-dignified expression of masculinity developed by black men denied mainstream expressions of manhood. She writes that mainstream perception of cool is narrow and distorted, with cool often perceived merely as style or arrogance, rather than a way to achieve respect.”

But wait! There’s more:

"'Cool', though an amorphous quality—more mystique than material—is a pervasive element in urban black male culture. [18] Majors and Billson address what they term "cool pose" in their study and argue that it helps Black men counter stress caused by social oppression, rejection and racism . They also contend that it furnishes the black male with a sense of control, strength, confidence and stability and helps him deal with the closed doors and negative messages of the "generalized other." They also believe that attaining black manhood is filled with pitfalls of discrimination, negative self-image, guilt, shame and fear…"

"George Elliott Clarke writes that Malcolm X , like Miles Davis , embodies essential elements of cool. As an icon, Malcolm X inspires a complex mixture of both fear and fascination in broader American culture, much like "cool pose" itself."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cool_(aesthetic)

So, we can see that, at least in part, WHY "cool" doesn't really work as well for White Males as it does for Black ones; it is partly because "cool" was and continues to be, a reaction to being marginalized, from full participation in American life-something that no White Male, including Ross himself, can say with a straightface. We also plainly see, in the examples of Davis, Malcolm and countless other Black Men like Norris' father, that it is entirely possible to be BOTH "cool" and decidedly "Western"-after all, Norris' father actually fought on behalf of the United States; Malcolm trained his mind in the canons of American and Western letters; and Davis made his music using an instrument that is undoubtedly Western. Yet all of these Men, and many, many more, imbued these Western concepts with a certain something that no other White Man could, and that's the "cool".

And that brings me to the nation's 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama. He puts the lie to Ross' ideas that being "cool" is somehow incompatible with Western ideas of progress. Ask any school aged Black boy if they think Obama is "cool" and see what they tell you. Ask the rapper Common, who spoke of the "Obama Effect", if he thinks Obama is "cool", and see what he tells you. Indeed, a big part of Obama's appeal, not just to African Americans, but to a goodly portion of WHITE ones, is that he's seen as "cool"-all the while literally embodying the ideals that demarcate Western culture and ideals as exceptional to all others in the world. His graduating from Columbia and Harvard, being th latter's first Black president of its prestigious law review, becoming a state and then US Senator and finally, President, doesn't preclude him from jamming to The Fugees' "Ready or Not" or from enjoying viewing Omar Little's exploits on the hit HBO series, The Wire. There's room, for both-indeed, so much of life for African Americans, whether they liked it or not, whether Whites like Ross believe it or not-has been a "both-and" kind of thing.

And yet, as Clarke and Connor notes above from the Wikipedia entry on the concept of "cool", Obama also suffers from the very same marginalization so many Black Men have faced and continue to face in our time, right now, at the hands of the wider, and Whiter, society. Indeed, it is hard with anyone to deny that so much of the opposition to Obama has racial, if not out and out racist, undertones to it; no other president has had his personal life given so rough and probing a proctological examination-invasive, undignified, indeed, just downright ugly. There have been shows of armed Men massing on Washington, DC. His religious affiliation is rendered suspect, his familial history and ties are under constant microscopic inspection; his martial choice is the fodder of righting talkers' bromides, his very citizenship is called into question. The latest marginalizing attempt in recent days, is the notion that Obama is imbibing Mau-Mau era, Kenyan anti-colonial agit-prop, that he is nutures an abiding anti-Western and more specifically anti-American animus, and that deep down there's a Muslim Socialist, just waiting for the right moment to spring out, much like the chest bursting scene in the film Alien. NO other president in modern memory, has been the subject of, and subject to, so much ridicule, suspicion and straight-up meanspiritedness. Not Reagan, not Clinton, not either Bushes, not even Nixon-at least in all of their cases, NO ONE questioned their fundamental citizenship, or humanity.

And yet, Obama is the very picture of the "cool pose".

What's really eating Chuck Ross, is this:

White America-which is a lot bigger than “elites” and counter cultural beatniks-has been, and continues to be, fascinated by the exemplars of “cool”-Black Men. Obama, is a case study in “cool” if there ever was one-as noted above, he shoots down any notion that “cool” is in someway, incompatible with Western norms of progress and improvement. He also proves that it ain’t in Black folks’ head-racism is still a very real thing, and that it ain’t the fault of Black people, either. Obama proves that even if you do all the things asked and required of you, you can still be met with racist recriminations and passive-aggressive assaults on your personhood, as only White folk can do.

It’s the push-pull of the fascination on the one hand, and the reviling on the other, of the Black Male on the part of White America, that confounds Ross. Moreover, he is deeply dismayed by the fact that Black Men, for all their marginalization, can and sometimes do hold a sway over him culturally, that to his mind, makes no sense. It doesn’t have to; what he thinks about the matter, ultimately, is irrelevant.

Finally, what bothers Ross the most-hence his ode to Western Civ-is that his days, are numbered-and he knows it. What I mean by that, is the simple act that the days of White Male Hegemony, are over. True, they still do retain control of the reigns of power and influence; but ever so steadily, they are slipping away. Merely being White and Male, no longer carries the cache it once did; it no longer guarantees admittance into American life’s upper echelons of success and contentment. It no longer grants one the presumption of competence and talent. And it no longer assumes that White guys will be granted a presumption of pre-eminence, simply because they’re White. The very fact that Black norms and ways of being-such as “cool”-are the “default” setting of attractiveness in American life, spells big trouble for guys like Chuck. In fact, their discontent and agita can be measured by how much, and how quickly, they will resort to blather about “saving Western Civ” and other such silliness, like the idea that Black Men can “only” get “low class Women”, especially if they’re White. It all comes off as a desperate attempt on the part of HBD-inspired bloggers like Chuck, to remain relevant in a world that has clearly begun to move on without them…

…and if they don’t get with the program, they will find themselves being the subject of an exhibit at the Smithsonian:

The late, great White Guy, circa 2050.

Now adjourn your asses…

Obsidian’s iPod is now playing: Stay Cool, by The Roots

The Obsidian

Waiting For Bizarro: The HBDers' "Take" On Education

Obsidian · 27 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]This week the conglomeration of media outlets that fly the NBC banner has decided to focus on the American education system and the challenges it faces. Among other things they have planned, are townhall style meetings, forums and the like, centered around the just-released "Waiting For Superman", a documentary brought to you by the same folk who made the Al Gore environmental vehicle, "An Inconvenient Truth". The film reinvigorates yet another round of intense handwringing on a national conundrum, what to do about America's ailing schools.

Concomitant with all the hoopla this week, Facebook wunderkind Mark Zuckerberg announced that he would be gifting $100M to the Newark NJ schools, where a wunderkind of another sort, Corey Booker, holds forth. His plan, among other things, is to get Booker control of the schools, in the hope that he can continue his trend of citywide reform, which includes an intense focus on the charter schools.

In an age where the school system clearly isn't working, one would think that anyone willing to put up hard currency would be met with welcome, open arms.

But the nattering nabobs of nativist negativity, the HBD crowd, never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, to coin a famed phrase-in their mind, not only is the Zuckerberg initiative a waste of money, but it's also a waste of time, for one simple reason:

Because Black people are inherently, immutably, intractably, intellectually inferior to Whites and Asians. To bolster this point, they cite scholars like J. Phillipe Rushton, Arthur Jensen, Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein; they point to military IQ testing going back a century or so, and the late John Ogbu's infamous Shaker Heights study, all of which, among a great many other things they contend, that Black folk simply aren't worth the time and money trying to "save" them, that "closing the achievement gap" is a Fool's Errand.

This was the theme of last week's postings by Washington DC-based HBD blogger Foseti. He laments Zuckerberg's master plan here:

http://foseti.wordpress.com/2010/09/23/zuckerbergs-money/

Here's our erstwhile Oscar the Grouch in realtime's take on the matter, one Mr. OneSTDV:

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/09/in-newsweek-jonathan-alter-illustrates.html

And of course, HBD-term founder Steve Sailer discusses this issue at least once a week for the past decade.

Note how all of them have one thing in common, as I've noted above-all of them have a patently deterministic, fatalistic, view of the educational issue-not only do they say that Black folk are a lost cause, but note that they also don't list any solutions whatsoever as to what is to be done, other than a kind of HBD version of the recent publishing of the GOP's "Pledge with America" and the manifesto of the Tea Party-they want basically a return to the way things used to be say, circa 1950 or so, when "separate but equal" was something that worked for the Darkies too!

Before anyone gets anything twisted, let me put it out there right now, that I am hardly anyone's bleeding heart liberal. I know firsthand in a way that the bulk and mass of HBDers only can imagine in the abstract, what it's like to live among truly bad seeds, and all kids, of whatever color, ain't Einsteins in the rough. I get that.

But the problem I have with the HBDers as a group, is that they offer no workable solutions-indeed, these guys seem to delight in either their utter nihilism, or their ability to come up with not only arcane, but completely unworkable programs that no one can or will get behind. Indeed, by how much so many of them nurture a borderline creepy adoration for Goldwater and Rand, for Libertarianism writ large, one gets the distinct impression that either these guys are out of touch with reality, or that they actually like being negative for its own sake.

I leave it to my readers to determine which is which.

Of course, the HBDers, for all their presumed brainpower and forbearance, tends to leave out some very important facts:

For one thing, if their argument hinges in whole or in part on the massive amounts of money that we currently spend on inner city schools with precious little to show for it, then they must also be concerned with the cost it will take to warehouse the Darkies in the joint-because invariably, that's where a lot of these guys (and increasingly, gals) are gonna wind up. No doubt, Newark, DC and other inner city schools are spending ridiculous amounts of money per student-the former city spends some *$22K per student*.

That's just shocking, considering that nearly half of all Newark city highschool students dropout and never graduate.

But, you see, here's the thing: it costs even MORE to lockup said dropouts. And we're talking about just the prison inmate piece here-thats not including costs to have more cops on the beat, funding for nice toys like the cameras Booker has installed in high crime areas of Newark, and the costs to do all the meting out of justice in the court system. All of that costs, and costs big-so again, if you're bellyaching about the waste of money thrown down the rathole of inner city schools, you gotta be miffed about how much it costs to keep Rasheed who don't bother to read locked up.

But that's just a part of the story. Another part of it lies in the simple fact that reform schools-and I'm a big fan of those, by the way-well, they also cost money to run and operate. If we take out the disruptive kids that are making life hell for everyone else, we gotta put em somewhere, and reform schools don't come cheap. So again, if you're bitching and moaning about expenditures of funds, you gotta tackle this issue, too.

Of course, the HBDers couldn't really care less about any of this, because simply put they not only deem Blacks to be "less than" intellectually than the "founding stock" of this nation and their model minority Asians, but they also really don't see the African Americans as just that…American. In the eyes of HBDers, although they never just come out and say it, and Sailer's own tilts toward "citizensism" notwithstanding, the bottomline is that the HBDers feel that African Americans are a net drain on a once great society, and the sooner they're cut loose the better. Of course, the problem with this, is that Black people are, whether they like it or not, American citizens, and as such, have to be "dealt with" in some way. Simply put, either way, you pay.

So, what's my solution to this mess? Well, it should come as no surprise that from where I sit, it's quite easy:

1. GET RID OF THE DEADWOOD IN THE SCHOOLS. That Weingarten lady who is the head of the Teacher's Union in this country is part of the problem, not part of the solution, and we all know it. We all know that it's in the very nature of unions to protect their own incompetency among the membership. This is why "tenure" is so fiercely defended, and the red pen can't stop at the blackboard, but all up and don the "education" foodchain, which includes do-nothing principals, know-nothing "administrators" and any and everyone else who just ain't worth the paper their letterhead is on. We all know that the private and especially Catholic schools do a much better job with a fraction of the staff and money, that schools like those in Newark or pre-Rhee era DC public schools do, so we all know what to do on that end to make things better. We just have to find the will.

2. Bring back that which we know works: phonics, reading comp, basic math functions, basic understanding of how our country came to be and the role of Black folk in it (I'm talking about inner city schools now), what it means to be an American citizen, how to function in this society. We're not talking about reinventing the wheel here, or trying to pierce the space-time continuum, we're just talking about taking Rasheed and Willie and making them into basic, prodcutive citizens. To me, that's a doable, achievable goal.
3. Stop glorifying college. Because for so many people, it's simply not a real option that pays off in a cost/benefit fashion. We need to stop being afraid of saying things we all know to be true. The issue ain't everyone having a degree on the wall, the issue is everyone having the basic ability to function and get along in our society. In sports, you start out with the fundamentals, and the same should hold true with the schools. Bring back the drills, bring

back being fundamentally grounded in the basics, toss the extraneous crap that one is highly unlikely to use out in the real workaday world anyway.

4. Throw the current “curricula” in the trash. Much of it is bunk, which in part explains why so many Black boys vote with their feet. Instead, put in place stuff that these boys and other students will actually need: how to buy a house, how to rent an apartment, how to balance a checkbook, how our economic system works and why, how to go food shopping (VERY important in this Age of Obesity), and other key and important life skills, to say actually taking an interest in what these kids see as important in their lives and engaging them on that. I was watching CNN yesterday and they reported that only TEN PERCENT of current college students even know how to do their own laundry, that requests for recipes like how to make spaghetti shot up SIX HUNDRED PERCENT in the past year alone. That is atrocious-and keep in mind here, we’re talking about solidly middle class kids, not Pookie and Ray-Ray from the hood or Juan and Manny from the barrio. I knew how to do these things before I even got out of highschool. Fact based, real world stuff needs to be focused on heavily in the schools most adversely effected, because they’re the ones who most need to be able to fend for themselves. In the military, the DI’s job is to train his Men not only how to kill efficiently, but also how to survive the war zone so they have a shot at coming back home in one piece sans the flag-draped casket. Haven’t all these “educators” ever heard of To Sir, With Love?

5. Bring back tracking, but make it meaningful and purposeful-it’s not the end of the world if little Bilal or KeyShawn ain’t cut out for the AP track, and this is something a lot of Black parents need to confront. I get the emotional-historical tug around the whole college thing for Black folks, because we were denied from that for so long in this country. But we’re not helping those of us for whom that life is simply not the best fit for them, and we shouldn’t be ashamed of saying so. There’s nothing wrong with tracking in and of itself, so long as it’s done in the right way, AND, it leads to a meaningful life once the kid leaves highschool. The dirty little secret with tracking as we’ve known it is that once Dante’ and James left highschool trade class, they had nowhere to go to take things to the next step, and so either faced dismal prospects out on the labor market, or eventually found half-lives in the “service” unions. If we’re gonna bring back tracking, and again I’m all for it, it’s gotta be coupled with real world outcomes-meaning, that Dante’ and James and KeyShawn and Rasheed wind up being taxpayers, and not tax takers doing a 5 to 10 year bid or longer upstate. So while we clean house in Ms. Weingarten’s union, there’s another union where we need to clean house, and that’s the skilled trades unions-the carpenters, electrical workers, pipefitters/plumbers unions, etc. For far too long these unions have been havens of ethnic White patronage, and have kept out Black Men who could have made real contributions to our society. They need the training and apprenticeship these unions provide, to say nothing of the gateway access to work and contracts these unions are known for.

6. Bring back the reform schools-look, I get it, some kids are just bad seeds and need serious intervention. Just because you’re poor and down and out, doesn’t give you the right to make everyone else’s lives miserable. Reforms schools have a long and for the most part, pretty decent tradition in this country, and the times have shown us that they’re still very much needed.

These are just a few of the ideas I have that will make the schools better for those that need a shot at living a decent life. And I think it can be done a bit cheaper than what’s currently being spent on the schools most adversely effected.

But then again, what do I know-I’m just a lowly “NAM” who is product of those crappy inner city public schools…

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Foseti vs. Obsidian: What Do You Think?

Obsidian · 28 September 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]
Image via Wikipedia

It appears that Foseti, who I referred to in my post yesterday, has blogged a response of his own. At first I was going to do up a point for point refutation of his post, but then thought, since we're all in "back to school" mode, and given that the readers here at the O-Files tend to be quite astute, a better idea occurred to me:

Why not present both his post and mine, and ask you, the reader, to do a bit of compare and contrast?

So, here's Foseti's post, in response to my own, yesterday:

"The Obsidian grudge match

September 28, 2010 9:38 am

While I was enjoying a weekend away, Obsidian decided to take a sucker punch at your humble blogger.

(At a minimum, internet etiquette demands that if you are going to criticize my views, please quote my actual views instead of putting words in my mouth.)

Background

By way of background, last week, I put up a post criticizing Matt Zuckerberg for wasting $100 million dollars. Obsidian jumped to criticize my view – but interestingly not to explicitly defend Zuckerberg, more on this later – and a heated round of comments ensued.

Feel free to read the comments, but I will summarize them for you.

Obsidian thinks that I don't hang around enough with black people – this was the main theme of his comments. I live in an area that is roughly 50/50 black and white. My zip code is about 80% black. I have black neighbors, I've been to a black barbershop (Obsidian asked), etc. While this exchange was going on, one of my best friends who is in medical school was staying with me – he's African-American but not black (his parents immigrated from Egypt). In short: black people love me , heh. I have no idea why Obsidian wants to know this stuff, but he asked. I answered for your reading pleasure and to appease his whims.

Slightly more substantively, Obsidian thinks that HBDers offer no solutions. So, I asked Obsidian to define the problem. His answer so far from 30 comments and now a separate post is easy to quote entirely: "". Surely, everyone has solutions to a problem that is so well-specified!

Of course, since Obsidian won't define the problem, it's easy for him to say that others "don't offer solutions." After all, it's impossible to solve a problem that is undefined. Perhaps I do not have solutions, but at least I'm willing to sack-up and define the problem.

Let's begin.

Problem

The closest Obsidian gets to defining the problem is to steal the definition of the problem from "HBDers." I think. Here is the relevant paragraph:

Because Black people are inherently, immutably, intractably, intellectually inferior to Whites and Asians. To bolster this point, they cite scholars like J. Phillipe Rushton, Arthur Jensen, Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein; they point to military IQ testing going back a century or so, and the late John Ogbu's infamous Shaker Heights study, all of which, among a great many other things they contend, that Black folk simply aren't worth the time and money trying to "save" them, that "closing the achievement gap" is a Fool's Errand.

Ok. First, this misconstrues HBD. HBD is the belief that on average we see differences in racial achievement in areas where achievement is objectively measurable. HBD says nothing about a specific person of any race. None of the authors or studies mentioned by Obsidian contend that "Black folk simply aren't worth the time and money." However, they contend that on average and on measurable planes of achievement, we will see racial disparities. Thinking statistically is hard, but it's important. Obsidian should at least try.

The problem then is "closing the achievement gap." Let's unpack this to be clear. I am taking Obsidian as saying that the problem is: eliminating the disparities between average levels of achievement across various races.

Solution

I offered a solution in the comments, which Obsidian studiously ignored and then largely ripped off. Here was my "solution:"

I would suggest dropping the goal of the modern educational system: making everyone equal. People with low IQs should be given some technical training and sent to work much more quickly (i.e. they don't all need to go to college). Obviously my "solution" won't solve the problem – it only formalizes it. The same number of people "drop out" but at least they don't ruin the schools, waste so many resources and never have a chance to succeed.

I am a formalist . I believe that the problem of making races equal on average is insoluble. Time would be better spent turning lead into gold or building a perpetual motion machine. Thus, I propose acknowledging this reality – accepting the truth of HBD and working from the fact that identical educational systems cannot work for a group with an average IQ of 104 and a group with an average IQ of 85.

Note that my proposal does not "solve" the "problem." Instead it institutionalizes "the problem." People with low IQs will be taught basic skills and sent off to work. The achievement gap will therefore persist across races with different IQs.

Interestingly, Obsidian's solution has the same effect. Here is his solution:

1. GET RID OF THE DEADWOOD IN THE SCHOOLS. That Weingarten lady who is the head of the Teacher's Union in this country is part of the problem, not part of the solution, and we all know it. We all know that it's in the very nature of unions to protect their own incompetency among the membership. . . .
2. Bring back that which we know works: phonics, reading comp, basic math functions, basic understanding of how our country came to be and the role of Black folk in it (I'm talking about inner city schools now), what it means to be an American citizen, how to function in this society. . . .

3. Stop glorifying college. Because for so many people, it's simply not a real option that pays off in a cost/benefit fashion. . . .

4. Throw the current "curricula" in the trash. Much of it is bunk, which in part explains why so many Black boys vote with their feet. Instead, put in place stuff that these boys and other students will actually need: how to buy a house, how to rent an apartment, how to balance a checkbook, how our economic system works and why, how to go food shopping (VERY important in this Age of Obesity), and other key and important life skills, to say actually taking an interest in what these kids see as important in their lives and engaging them on that. . . .

5. Bring back tracking, but make it meaningful and purposeful-it's not the end of the world if little Bilal or KeyShawn ain't cut out for the AP track, and this is something a lot of Black parents need to confront. . . .

6. Bring back the reform schools-look, I get it, some kids are just bad seeds and need serious intervention. Just because you're poor and down and out, doesn't give you the right to make everyone else's lives miserable. Reforms schools have a long and for the most part, pretty decent tradition in this country, and the times have shown us that they're still very much needed. . . .

Obsidian criticizes HBDers, but it's nice to see that his solution implicitly accepts the premises of HBD!

Note that under his proposal, people with low IQs (and thus a disproportionate number of blacks) would receive a

different education and a shorter education than people with higher IQs.

The result would clearly be a world in which the black-white achievement gap persists. People who have been educated to balance their check books simply will not earn money at the same level as people who are trained to perform neurosurgery. Thus, the achievement gap persists. Obsidian's "solution" has not "solved" the problem, it has merely institutionalized it and accepted it. Much like my proposal.

Obsidian's randomness

The problem with arguing with Obsidian is that he fills his post with totally unrelated statements. Let's take a look at a sample of quotes from his post that have no relation to the topic at hand:

GOP's "Pledge with America" and the manifesto of the Tea Party

I support neither and I don't why he brings them up. In fact, I don't vote, I oppose democracy. This blog proudly supports the restoration of the monarchy – preferably a restoration of the Stuarts . Most HBD blogs have been very critical of the Tea Party, which spends most of its time pandering to media to show that it really does indeed love black people and is, in turn, loved by black people.

But the problem I have with the HBDers as a group, is that they offer no workable solutions-indeed, these guys seem to delight in either their utter nihilism, or their ability to come up with not only arcane, but completely unworkable programs that no one can or will get behind.

My "program" was eerily similar to Obsidian's and I will point out again that neither one "solved" the problem. Far from it, both accepted that the problem was not going to be solved.

Indeed, by how much so many of them nurture a borderline creepy adoration for Goldwater and Rand, for Libertarianism writ large

I've spent the last three weeks criticizing libertarians at every turn. Further, this has no relation to the topic of Zuckerberg giving away his money or improving schools. These statements are completely random.

For one thing, if their argument hinges in whole or in part on the massive amounts of money that we currently spend on inner city schools with precious little to show for it, then they must also be concerned with the cost it will take to warehouse the Darkies in the joint-because invariably, that's where a lot of these guys (and increasingly, gals) are gonna wind up.

All of sudden we have "an argument" whereas a paragraph prior, we "had no solutions." I never made the argument that should turn anyone out of school onto the streets. I would also never make the, frankly, racist assumption that those who were turned out would be put in jail, heh. Seriously, I have no idea where this is coming from so I don't know how to respond. My argument does not hinge on the cost of prison.

Of course, the HBDers couldn't really care less about any of this, because simply put they not only deem Blacks to be "less than" intellectually than the "founding stock" of this nation and their model minority Asians, but they also really don't see the African Americans as just that…American.

"The 'founding stock' of this nation" plus Asians is new favorite saying. On one hand, you're accusing us of only liking our own and on the other you're acknowledging that this criticism doesn't apply. All in the same sentence! I heart George Washington (even though I'm a restorationist) and Chinamen therefore I'm racist. Is that the argument? Really?

Of course, Obsidian only makes these points in case he gets argued into a corner. At that point he can point to one of these random, incoherent statements and say "you didn't respond to my point about Goldwater." Then, you'll leave because you'll pretty sure he's crazy.

Obsidian

I think it's clear from his "solution," his refusal to define the "problem," and his unwillingness to defend

Zuckerberg, that Obsidian agrees with much of HBD's premises. He just doesn't like the obvious conclusions. I admit, the conclusions are many ways unpleasant. That doesn't make them wrong.

Finally, as for the accusation that I am nothing but a critic, I would note that I aspire to nothing more. The world is full of idiots that are happy to take your money in exchange for their "solutions" none of which will actually solve any problems.

So few people are critical in the modern era. As a result, so few problems are correctly defined. Albert Jay Nock identified the particular "problem" that we are discussing over 80 years ago. He told us that an educational system whose goal was equal outcome for everyone could only lead to a world in which everyone was a moron. We are far along that road and this problem , the problem , still remains something that is impolite to discuss. To most it is not even acknowledged. Yet there it sits. Free for all to read.

With good critics so few and far between, I would be truly honored to be considered among them."

http://foseti.wordpress.com/2010/09/28/the-obsidian-grudge-match/

And here again, reposted for purposes of comparison and contrast, is my post from yesterday:

"Waiting For Bizarro: The HBDers' "Take" On Education

September 27, 2010 8:43 am

This week the conglomeration of media outlets that fly the NBC banner has decided to focus on the American education system and the challenges it faces. Among other things they have planned, are townhall style meetings, forums and the like, centered around the just-released "Waiting For Superman", a documentary brought to you by the same folk who made the Al Gore environmental vehicle, "An Inconvenient Truth". The film reinvigorates yet another round of intense handwringing on a national conundrum, what to do about America's ailing schools.

Concomitant with all the hoopla this week, Facebook wunderkind Mark Zuckerberg announced that he would be gifting $100M to the Newark NJ schools, where a wunderkind of another sort, Corey Booker, holds forth. His plan, among other things, is to get Booker control of the schools, in the hope that he can continue his trend of citywide reform, which includes an intense focus on the charter schools.

In an age where the school system clearly isn't working, one would think that anyone willing to put up hard currency would be met with welcome, open arms.

But the nattering nabobs of nativist negativity, the HBD crowd, never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, to coin a famed phrase-in their mind, not only is the Zuckerberg initiative a waste of money, but it's also a waste of time, for one simple reason:

Because Black people are inherently, immutably, intractably, intellectually inferior to Whites and Asians. To bolster this point, they cite scholars like J. Phillipe Rushton, Arthur Jensen, Charles Murray and the late Richard Herrnstein; they point to military IQ testing going back a century or so, and the late John Ogbu's infamous Shaker Heights study, all of which, among a great many other things they contend, that Black folk simply aren't worth the time and money trying to "save" them, that "closing the achievement gap" is a Fool's Errand.

This was the theme of last week's postings by Washington DC-based HBD blogger Foseti. He laments Zuckerberg's master plan here:

http://foseti.wordpress.com/2010/09/23/zuckerbergs-money/

Here's our erstwhile Oscar the Grouch in realtime's take on the matter, one Mr. OneSTDV:

http://onestdv.blogspot.com/2010/09/in-newsweek-jonathan-alter-illustrates.html

And of course, HBD-term founder Steve Sailer discusses this issue at least once a week for the past decade.

Note how all of them have one thing in common, as I've noted above-all of them have a patently deterministic,

fatalistic, view of the educational issue-not only do they say that Black folk are a lost cause, but note that they also don't list any solutions whatsoever as to what is to be done, other than a kind of HBD version of the recent publishing of the GOP's "Pledge with America" and the manifesto of the Tea Party-they want basically a return to the way things used to be say, circa 1950 or so, when "separate but equal" was something that worked for the Darkies too!

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But that's just a part of the story. Another part of it lies in the simple fact that reform schools-and I'm a big fan of those, by the way-well, they also cost money to run and operate. If we take out the disruptive kids that are making life hell for everyone else, we gotta put em somewhere, and reform schools don't come cheap. So again, if you're bitching and moaning about expenditures of funds, you gotta tackle this issue, too.

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5. Bring back tracking, but make it meaningful and purposeful-it's not the end of the world if little Bilal or KeyShawn ain't cut out for the AP track, and this is something a lot of Black parents need to confront. I get the emotional-historical tug around the whole college thing for Black folks, because we were denied from that for so long in this country. But we're not helping those of us for whom that life is simply not the best fit for them, and we shouldn't be ashamed of saying so. There's nothing wrong with tracking in and of itself, so long as it's done in the right way, AND, it leads to a meaningful life once the kid leaves highschool. The dirty little secret with tracking as we've known it is that once Dante' and James left highschool trade class, they had nowhere to go to take things to the next step, and so either faced dismal prospects out on the labor market, or eventually found half-lives in the "service" unions. If we're gonna bring back tracking, and again I'm all for it, it's gotta be coupled with real world outcomes-meaning, that Dante' and James and KeyShawn and Rasheed wind up being taxpayers, and not tax takers doing a 5 to 10 year bid or longer upstate. So while we clean house in Ms. Weingarten's union, there's another union where we need to clean house, and that's the skilled trades unions-the carpenters, electrical workers, pipefitters/plumbers unions, etc. For far too long these unions have been havens of ethnic White patronage, and have kept out Black Men who could have made real contributions to our society. They need the training and apprenticeship these unions provide, to say nothing of the gateway access to work and contracts these unions are known for.

6. Bring back the reform schools-look, I get it, some kids are just bad seeds and need serious intervention. Just because you're poor and down and out, doesn't give you the right to make everyone else's lives miserable. Reforms

schools have a long and for the most part, pretty decent tradition in this country, and the times have shown us that they're still very much needed.

These are just a few of the ideas I have that will make the schools better for those that need a shot at living a decent life. And I think it can be done a bit cheaper than what's currently being spent on the schools most adversely effected.

But then again, what do I know-I'm just a lowly "NAM" who is product of those crappy inner city public schools…

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian"

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/09/27/waiting-for-bizarro-the-hbders-take-on-education/

Alrighty boys and girls: what do you think? Who's right, and who's wrong?

Holla back

The Obsidian

Astrology Talk Supplemental: Seth's Charts

Obsidian · 2 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

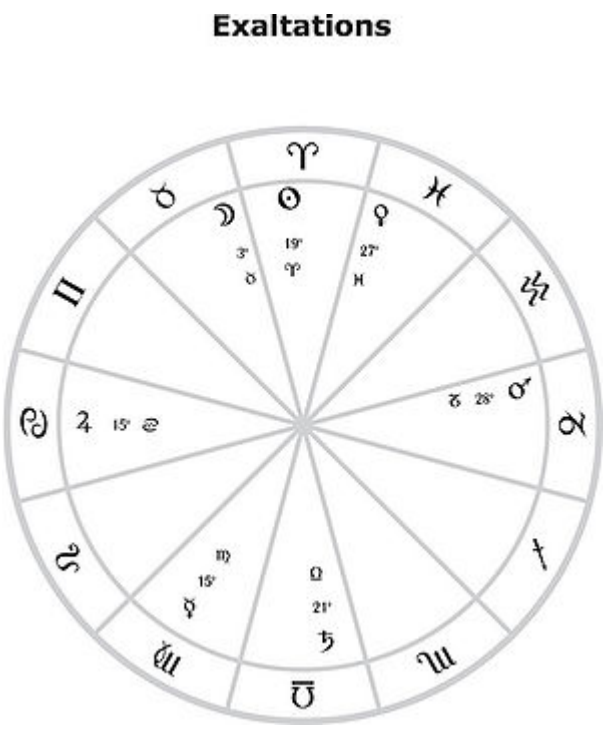

Image via Wikipedia

Although I said that I would do this Sunday, Saturdays are rather slow for me, and the matter's on my mind, so I thought it would be a good time to go ahead with this…

The other day a longtime reader and first time commenter Seth, requested a bit of astrological advice as how to "game" his current love interest, a Libran Male, into a more longterm relationship. He supplied both he and his partner's birth data, and after quickly scanning both charts, I thought it would be a good idea to discuss the matter here on the blog for the benefit of the rest of the readership.

For one thing, I was struck by Seth's horoscope: with a New Moon in Aries, conjunct an exact Venus-Mars conjunction in Aries as well, and all of them in the 5th house, there is little doubt that sexual matters come up as a pretty big concern; a great deal of who and what he is and how he see himself, derives from this. Aries is a very straightforward, "in your face" kind of Sign, and definitely likes to be "number one" to whomever they get involved with.

The Scorpio Asc adds another layer to the sexual dimensions of the horoscope, as does its ruler, Pluto, which happens to be in Venus' Sign, Libra, placed in the 11th house (love received). (Its also interesting that Seth has mentioned in passing that he works in the medical field that has to do with genetics-Scorpio and Virgo, the latter of whom is on his Midheaven or MC, are both Signs that are associated with medicine)

His partner, a Libra Sun Male, has an interesting chart as well: in addition to his Solar placement, he also has the Moon in Pisces, with Neptune at the Aries Point(!) and conjunct his Capricorn Asc from the 12th house side. Finally, the ruler of his Asc, Saturn, is in Scorpio. All of this "waters down" the inherent "tough guy" nature of the Capricorn Asc, and greatly enhances the "softness" of the Libran Sun. This is a very, very sensitive guy, I would say; should have a knack for ferreting out the "vibes" or feelings of others as well. One reason why he may not be inclined to "fight" as much as Seth, is because of all the sensory "overload" that all of the Water and Neptune indicates. Pushing him into a corner wouldn't be recommended. (Where is the "arts" in this Man's life??)

What struck me about both charts, is they both contain a tight Venus-Mars conjunction(!), which mirrors the

current Venus-Mars conjunction in the sky as we speak, and to which I've previously discussed. In this guy's case though, Venus is conjunct Mars in Virgo, and in the 8th house. In Seth's chart, Mars is dignified and rules his Sun; in this case, Venus is fallen and rules the Libran Sun. All of tis suggests to me that this is a pretty "hot" relationship physically, and one where Seth leads, and his partner follows.

Synastry, the art of analyzing two horoscopes for the purposes of determining the level of compatibility or the lack thereof of a potential couple, has a long tradition in astrology, dating to at least the 1940s. If we consider the two charts here, Seth and his current partner, in relation to each other, we can note several very important things.

For one thing, we note that Seth's partner's Asc ruling Saturn conjuncts Seth's Asc, while Seth's Saturn conjuncts his partner's Libran Sun. This is a good augury for longevity of the relationship, as Saturn is the planet of longevity, and is often seen involved in the synastry of couples of longstanding.

Another favorable thing to see here is Seth's Moon falling in the Sign opposite from his partner's Sun, a kind of "echo" of the famed Sun-Moon conjunction synastric aspect.

Additionally, we note that Seth's partner's Venus-Mars conjunction falls on Seth's MC, tying it into the latter's chart strongly, aside from the fact that they both have such conjunctions in their respective charts to begin with.

Seth reported that they had been seeing each other for roughly three months; that would suggest July of this year or so. At the time, in Seth's partner's chart, transit Pluto would be conjunct his Asc, a huge, milestone, once in a lifetime kind of event. This is very interesting, because this young Man has Pluto natally on the MC to begin with(!). This same all-important Pluto transit is square his Sun to boot. In Seth's chart, he is under a Saturn Return, very important here as Saturn is in Libra, the Sign of relationships, marriage, etc. And Seth did mention his desire to settle down.

Finally, the notable thing about thee charts is that they represent two gay males. As I've noted in previous astro-related posts, is that astrology does seem to recognize "gayness markers" in the horoscope. They are, as follows:

1. The Signs Gemini, Aquarius and Pisces, usually involved with the 5th or 7th houses, with Venus and/or Mars

2. The rulers of these Signs (ie, Mercury, Uranus and Neptune) involved with the 5th or 7th houses, with Venus and/or Mars

3. Venus-Uranus aspects

In Seth's chart, we can see that his 5th house Aries Moon is trine Neptune, applying at that; while his partner has his Mars square Uranus, which involves his Venus as well; Venus rules his 5th house.

I'll hold here.

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

To "Swirl" With Anger: Why Sistas Who Resort To "Plan B" Are So Angry (The Ichiban Remix)

Obsidian · 4 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

Obsidian's Note: It seems that my humble missives have yet again ignited a firestorm of controversey; this is to be expecgted when, as Roissy has said, the more the ladies screech in response to a napalm-ether T-bomb you've dropped, the more certain you can be that you've struck a raw nerve of bluntforce honesty. Of course, we're regaled accosted with stuff about who is or is not attractive and why, and how we're supposed to disavow what our lying eyes are telling us, but the facts, well, they are the facts, and no amount of Orwellian crimestop doublespeak is gonna do any good. It is, what it is.

By the way, I've written a goodly bit about the psychology of Sistas in these series of posts; by all means, feel free to check them out!

The other day I was reading Y's blog Zaire Jungle, and ran accross a post where she gives the details of a date she had recently gone out on. As it turns out the guy she dated was White, and by all accounts things went well, with plans for a follow up date (which she has yet to write about, perhaps because it hasn't happened?).

Among the commenters was one Ms. "Jasmine", a self-appointed "swirl" blogger. Apparently, the term refers to interracial dating. Here's the Urban Dictionary's definition of the term. At any rate, Ms. Jasmine's blog seems to center around IR dating and marriage, and I have no problem with that – if you believe in what America stands for – and I do – then you support the idea, indeed the Right, of Freedom of Association. **I fully support and defend a Woman's right to choose whom she will allow into her bed and heart.**

Full stop.

Having said that though, what I couldn't deny or ignore, was the very strong sense of **anger** on the part of Ms. Jasmine, which sparked something else in my head – that I had noticed something of a trend lately with a number of Sistas in the blogosphere, who like Ms. Jasmine, are avowed advocates of "swirling" but seem to do so with a

strong undercurrent of anger, directed towards, who else, Black Men. Although I've recently had to rhetorically re-align her head, Ms. Bene Veira does make a good point in this regard in a recent blog post of hers, and there's yet another "swirl" writer/blogger, Debra Dickerson, who's been known to come accross as a bit angry in this regard as well. (Then, of course, there's everyone's favorite Little Ms. Clever Black Silly; come out, come out, wherever you are…)

Yet, all of these Women so mentioned claim to be happy with their current mates.

What gives?

Well, here's how I see it…

As hardly needs mentioning at this point, Black Women in America are in a unique, to say the least, position in the sexual marketplace (SMP); simply put, their "market appeal" is limited. Sure, we can all think up notable exceptions to this rule: Dihann Carroll, Earth Kitt, Rashida Jones, Stacy Dash, Halle Berry – but by and large, these Women are just that – exceptional. They're NOT the everyday average, rank and file Sista you see on the block on the regular. For that set, getting with a White guy is more like "Plan B" – in a word, settling.

And we all know what "settling" means for a Woman, regardless of color. Now don't we?

The reason for these Sistas' irateness is because of one, the fact that they weren't able to attract the Men of their choice – Black Men – two, they had to more or less settle for guys they could get, which were White guys, and thirdly, many of these Sistas are quite envious of the fact that Black Men, even everyday ordinary ones, have more "appeal" in the SMP. This is documented – for every Sista who "swirls", there are easily 3 to 5 times as many Brothas who can play that same game.

Put that together with guys who make their dating preferences well known like Chad Ochocinco, and well, the very real sense of anger on the part of the Ms. Jasmines of the world is quite understandable.

If not sad.

Lest anyone doubt what I say here, by all means, take a gander at Ms. Jasmine for yourself (she's on the right with the shades on), and tell me how many Brothas would be beating a path to her door; I'll wait (here's a shot of the Little Ms. Clever Black Silly). Yes, the Sistas who tend to hookup with White guys, tend to look like this young lady. That's not a knock, just something more like a fact of simple eyeball observation.

Look, let's be honest. Who we choose to align ourselves with says a great deal about who we are and what we're about, there's no getting around that. But it means different things depending on the sex of the people involved. For Black Women in the SMP, getting with a White guy simply says something different from what it says about a Black Man, all things being equal, and usually, not for the better. For many Black Men, getting with a White gal is a step UP; for many Black Women, getting with a White guy is a step DOWN. It may not be nice to say, but that's the plain truth of it. And you know how we roll here.

There's more that I could add, but I'm curious as to what all of you have to say – do you agree with what I'm, saying here, or not, and why?

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian's iPod is now playing: Hip Hop Forever, Vol. 2, by DJ Jazzy Jeff (Philly represent!)

The Obsidian

Ms. Little Clever Black Silly Is Baaack...

Obsidian · 6 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]
Why Does Jamila Hate On Sistas So Much?

Wow-and the hits just keeps comin'…

After a more than a month and a half long hiatus, everyones favorite Little Clever Black Silly is back with a fresh round of inanity, soft reasoning and self-hate. Frequent readers of the O-Files know that I take a particular pleasure in dismantling this mental imp's blatherings, but for newer readers, a bit of background is in order; you can check em out here and here for starters.

The great novelist and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison once famously said that we "write what we know"; our host proves this yet again (since she herself had a kid out of wedlock while quite young; does this mean she too has "low future time orientation" and if not, why?), with an Oct 4, 2010 post where she takes gratuitous broadsides at poor Black unwed singlemoms. Her argument is, because Black folk have a "lower future time orientation", Black Women are less likely to use birth control, at least the kind that you have to take daily, like the Pill. She therefore advocates Black Women being counselled to take other, longer forms of birth control, like those shots or Norplant, that sort of thing-and-that we need to get over notions that to specifically counsel poor Black Women to do this is somehow "racist"; after all, it's for their own good!

Of course, it never occurs to the Little Black Clever Silly that those Women actually PLANNED TO GET PREGNANT (For more on this point, see Hacker's books Two Nations and Mismatch; also the excellent work Promises I Can Keep by Edin & Kefalas). Ever heard of the so-called "Pregnancy Pact Girls" up in Gloucester? Oh yea, that's right, I forgot, they were White, and so doesn't quite neatly fit into our dusky-hued maiden's HBD talking points script. But the facts, are the facts, regardless of what she may think(?) otherwise.

In fact, unwed pregnancy and OOW births is fast becoming a "White" thing, if one just takes a quick scan of the US Census-each year brings with it a higher percentage of White Women having babies as single moms. In fact, the White OOW birthrate circa 2000 was equal to or higher, than the Black OOW birthrate circa 1960-and growing. And let's be clear here-we're not talking about the kinds of White Women you see on Maury. We're talking about White, professional Women who are at least nominally middle class and are well beyond their teenage years; the last figure I saw in this regard held that the average age was around 25 or so. Murphy Brown, anyone?

Speaking of which, another inconvenient truth our Clever Black Silly refuses to see or recognize, is the serious cognitive dissonance when it comes to so-called "Choice Moms", who deliberately have babies, not just out of wedlock, but to do so in a way that the kid(s) have almost no way of knowing who their father is; at least the Sista around the way knows, or has a pretty good idea, of who the Baby Daddy is and can pick him out of a line up. Although our society has been cowed from taking a brutally hard look at the ethics-and since it gets the Dusky Maiden all hot and bothered-HBD implications-of a bunch of heretofore Women ill-suited for marriage and motherhood by way of natural selection-as to whether them having the means to do so sans any lifescript (read: get married, raise their kids at home with the dad) in the name of "Women's Rights", the evidence is slowly being unearthed that it ain't just Rashida and Deondrah in the hood that we need to be worrying about, but an ever-growing number of Murphy Browns who, with the help of the turkeybaster, are having babies, too-and the research is clearly starting to show, much to the Feminist Lobby's chagrin, that being a single mom, even when you control for education and income, is still a raw deal for the kids (add an order of magnitude if the kid is male). Indeed, the very fact that such a "Murphy Brown" state of affairs can exist so blatantly, to say nothing of the aforementioned reality of more White Women in general becoming Baby Mamas, really undercuts any notions of having "discussions" around "unplanned pregnancy" on the part of "poor Black Women". The whole thing is a farce, and calls into question exactly just what motivates people-especially Women-like the Ms. Little Clever Black Silly to post such nonsense in the first place.

But, as quoted above, we write what we know. If the Dusky Dingbat wants to know why poor Black Women are having babies at ostensibly inopportune times, all she need do is take a long hard look in the closest mirror.

Bang, there it is.

Stick to hitting the books, sis. If you try real hard, you just might get a “B” instead of a “C” this time around…

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Clarifying The "Swirling Debate": Obsidian Jousts With The White Knights Chuck Ross & Zek Jevets

Obsidian · 9 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

"I note that my enemies have written a great deal about me, yet they rarely quote me directly. Why not? If I am so disreputable myself, I must at least occasionally say disreputable things. Is it possible that what I say is more cogent than they like to admit?"

- *Joe Sobran (*winks at Zek*)*

It would appear that since my recent posting on the matter, quite a few

[image]
White Knight Syndrome: A personality characteristic found in most males that lead them to: 1. rush to the aid of any female they see who appears in any form of distress. 2. Become attracted to said damsel in distress. 3. Follow the dying code of chivalry and generally act like a nice guy. Also called young man's disease. -Urban Dictionary.com

people's feathers have been ruffled, and have taken it upon themselves to "respond" to your correspondent's humble writings. I welcome the attention!-let a thousand flowers bloom, and all that.

Sadly though, the critiqes, if one can call them that, leave a great deal to be desired. For one thing, they don't actually take up what I said, or misquote me, or they launch into purely personal attacks that have nothing to do with the matter at hand. But then, Ad Hominem has always been the last refuge of scoundrels.

Interestingly, not one, but TWO White Knights – literally – have stepped into the squared circle to defend the honor of the Swirling Sistahood. One of them regular readers of my missives will know quite well, Chuck Ross; the other, a new blogging voice to these parts, one Zek Jevets (the latter is the BF of one of my subjects of my piece, one Ms. Jasmin).

Gentlemen, I see the charges you have levelled against me, and will answer them!

Shall we dance?

Let's take Mr. Ross's missive first. Here's the opening salvo of his Oct 6, 2010 post, "Anger Over Something New":

"It seems that Obsidian is increasingly agitated by the "Something New" craze that seems to be encroaching on his lek of black women. He's tried every manner of invalidating the relationship choices of black women – especially insofar as the chosen are white men.

I find this funny given that Obsidian is the one blogger who repeats the mantra that one sex has no say over what the other sex finds attractive. But when black women start choosing white men his inner psychoanalyst comes out as if to imply that there is something wrong with black women who choose white men (my interests lie in dispelling the corollary implied there that there is something wrong with the white men chosen)."

And here's Mr. Jevets' opening argument, taken from his Oct 5, 2010 (were these guys in contact with each other or something – notice the calendar dates) post, entitled "Balls Deep to Epic Fail: Swirl Hate":

"Well, allow me to link the offending post which attempts to utilize my girlfriend (among others, including myself, indirectly) in a condescendingly offensive way to make a blanket statement about something which has nothing to do with the author, but does manage to be sexist, racist, and ignorant. That is, the idea that Black women who swirl are settling for Plan B and hating on Black men because of it."

Um-hmm.

Please note that both Men have gotten it all twisted – I haven't said anything of the sort. Here's what I actually said

on the matter:

"At any rate, Ms. Jasmine's blog seems to center around IR dating and marriage, and I have no problem with that – if you believe in what America stands for – and I do – then you support the idea, indeed the Right, of Freedom of Association. I fully support and defend a Woman's right to choose whom she will allow into her bed and heart."

Now folks, I'll tell you something – the other day's post was an excellent study in just how peoples' minds work. Not only did I say the above in the initial post I wrote on the matter, **BUT I CAME BACK AND PUT IT IN BOLD LETTERING** in my "remixed" version, just for emphasis – and STILL, people like Ross and Jevets, to say nothing of their readers and commenters, get it all twisted. But then we all know the old saying: no good deed goes unpunished, right?

Let's examine a bit more of what these gentlemen are saying here…

For one thing I am NOT impugning all Black Women who "swirl" – and I thought the title of my post speaks to this. It says "To Swirl With ANGER" – not just to simply "swirl". As I said above, I have no problem with whoever a Sista decides to get with. That's her right.

What I WAS TALKING ABOUT is a trend I've noticed in more recent years, where the shopworn "Niggas (read: Black Men) ain't shit" mantra, has been taken on by a segment of the Sista Swirling crowd. Indeed, such drive by pieces are done in one way or another all the time, and this is what I was talking about when I linked to Ms. Jasmin's post. But wait, there's more!-here's another post that's making the rounds of the blogosphere, in case you haven't heard.

All I'm asking is – if these Sistas are so happy with the mates they've chosen, why the need to even address Black Men at all? I mean, what's the point? And what's with the seething undercurrent of anger under it all?

This is something neither Ross nor Jevets addresses. Hmm.

What both gentlemen do however, is greatly distort what I actually said, toss all manner of strawmen arguments and red herrings onto the table, and/or launch into wholly irrelevant personal attacks – the latter of which, is a surefire sign, that you have indeed, won the argument.

How so, you may ask? Easy – Jevets attempts to discredit the whole of my argument based on the tagline at the top of my blog, and then attempts to discredit the two sources I referenced in my piece; Ross attempts to discredit my thesis by introducing factors that I never discussed (for example, his parting shot here - what's that all about? LOL).

(It should be also said that both Jevets and one of his readers, a recent commenter here named "Natasha" seem to engage in a bit of hypocrisy themeselves – both hold themselves out as the standard bearers and apostles of logic and reason, but have no problem in the least stooping to the lowest forms of Ad Hominem that I've seen in quite some time. Sad – if they tried really hard, they would be able to come up with some cogent counterarguments.)

Simply put, it is not "sexist" or "racist" to merely observe, and openly state, that in the American Mind, Black Women in toto, do not represent the standard of beauty and attendant status that comes along with it – and of those relatively few that do indeed qualify, they tend to look a lot closer to Vanessa Williams than Venus Williams. This was what Sailer and the Psychology Today articles were talking about, and we have massive amounts of evidence that supports this thesis, from the "Black doll/White doll" and picture studies, to even Black music videos themselves. Sure, we can rail on and on about "sexism" and "racism" all we like, but in the end it doesnt change one bit of what I said in this regard, based on the two articles above:

> "As hardly needs mentioning at this point, Black Women in America are in a unique, to say the least, position in the sexual marketplace (SMP); simply put, their "market appeal" is limited. Sure, we can all think up notable exceptions to this rule: Dihann Carroll, Earth Kitt, Rashida Jones, Stacy Dash, Halle Berry – but by and large, these Women are just that – exceptional. They're NOT the everyday average, rank and file Sista you see on the block on the regular. For that set, getting with a White guy is more like "Plan B" – in a word, settling.

> And we all know what "settling" means for a Woman, regardless of color. Now don't we?
>
> The reason for these Sistas' irateness is because of one, the fact that they weren't able to attract the Men of their choice – Black Men – two, they had to more or less settle for guys they could get, which were White guys, and thirdly, many of these Sistas are quite envious of the fact that Black Men, even everyday ordinary ones, have more "appeal" in the SMP. This is documented – for every Sista who "swirls", there are easily 3 to 5 times as many Brothas who can play that same game."

Such things, matter.

And I posit that they play a role in the current discussion, writ large and overall. Now of course, these two fine gentlemen are free to disagree with me, and even to personally attack me. But I find it interesting that neither has actually debunked what I said, on the same rational grounds that they claim I don't have a leg to stand on.

The sexual market place is real. And in said place, there are indeed clear winners and losers. It is not a stretch to point out who they are, as painful that may be, in aggregate – indeed, when it comes to Black Women, all the media and books, shows and specials, plays and movies devoted to them on this topic alone, is all the proof anyone needs on this score.

Moreover, please note that I never once, interjected a personal opinion on the matter, and only a few days after post my "swirl article" put up a fairly extensive post detailing what I personally find beautiful in Women, the majority of whom were Black. No one could say, after taking a look at said post, that I was somehow the White Man's Manchurian Candidate – clearly, my tastes in Women are quite outside the American (read: White) mainstream. That said however, I am not blind to the realities of this world either; there's a "there" there, and it does no one, especially most Sistas, any good at all, to pretend otherwise.

I could go on, but I'll leave it to my readers to hash it all out for themselves. The personal attacks, strawmen arguments and wild-pitch style misquotes of my words and positions, really do speak for themselves in these two gentlemen's posts. Even if everything they (and/or their readers: Hi Natasha!) say is true, it STILL doesn't address the points made in my post, particularly what I quoted above and the sources I cited. Nor does it address the many hit pieces out there on the part of Something New advocates, who seem to delight in putting Brothas as a whole down, in a deeply misguided effort to lift their own selves up.

It's all a Fool's Errand, if you ask me.

But, I hand it off to you all – what do you think?

Comment & reply, holla…

The Obsidian's iPod is now playing: "Take It Personal" by Gang Starr

The Obsidian

PS: You can see Mr. Jevets and my comments here and here, respectively, on my previous "To Swirl With Anger" post…

Winning The Hearts & Minds Of Black Men

Obsidian · 10 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]
Countering The Conspiracy To Destroy Black Boys, by Jawanzaa Kunjufu

With the Iraq War having finally brought to an end by President Barack Obama per his campaign promise, and with the 10th year anniversary of the Afghan War looming ahead, the nation is now left to grapple with a number of powerful questions; among them, is the very real issue of what has been achieved for all the blood and treasure expended? Are we indeed "safer"? Have we stunted or otherwise impeded the growth of Islamic terrorism-most notably Al Qaeda-so we don't have to "fight them over here"? Has our relations with the Islamic World at large, improved?

I think the answers to these questions, speak for themselves: not a week after President Obama ordered more than a 100K troops out of Iraq last month, than a rash of bombings took place all over Iraq-at a very important time in its new national history, to boot. In Afghanistan, despite a nearly 100K troop presence and the aid of NATO forces, the Taliban is as strong as ever, with its Pakistani "franchise" conducting terror bombings, shootings and raids so often that it has become a daily occurrence. Back home in the USA, Fasial Shahzad and Umar Abdulmutallab, have attempted to conduct terror operations of their own, among quite a few others. Then, since Sep 11 2001 around the world, there have been numerous bombings-July 7 in the UK, the Madrid bombings in Spain, the Bali bombings in Indonesia, the standoff with the Abu Sayaaf in the Philippines, and more recently, the Abu Shabaab in Somalia. Perhaps what's most jarring-and truly threatening-about the latter group, is that they have drawn much of their inspirational and operational talent right from the USA themselves-young Men either originally born in Somalia, or otherwise native born American citizens who heeded the call of Jihad.

A crucial aspect of these "wars on terror", was the idea of "winning hearts and minds"-that, through a series of measures-a mix of traditional combat operations, beefed up intelligence and "nation building"-we could convince the ordinary townsfolk that we're the good guys and that we could sway them over to our side, thus isolating and marginalizing the hardcore holdouts. Indeed, this is the core strategy of General David Petraeus-he's even written a book on it.

But has any of this worked? With nearly a decade of continuous wars being fought, quite literally around the globe in one way or another, what has been achieved-and perhaps most importantly, have we won the hearts and minds of the countless numbers of young Men like Shahzad and Abdulmutallab?

Its a question that brings me to the meat of my post today, since a goodly bit of the public discourse that takes place in our country centers around Black Men and what they're not supposedly doing. To be sure, there's been no Petraeus-like plan to win the hearts and minds of Black Men and boys, but still, I think we can ask if whether what we've been doing has had any real effect or impact on that score. It's been something I've given a good bit of thought to in more recent months.

Recently, one of my regular commenters, a younger Brotha named Dragnet, and I had an interesting exchange on the "Open Letter to Bene Viera" thread. The exchange centered around a sensitive, but urgent question: does the college experience literally payoff, for Black Men, in aggregate? We argued divergent points of view, but ultimately agreed on one: that it isn't the panacea that many both inside our community and out, proclaim it to be, and that it may indeed be more injurious to some of our Brothas. Dragnet agreed with me also, that the siren call of the streets is just too strong to overcome, and that we've failed to come up with a more compelling "ad campaign" with which to sway these Brothas over.

I argued that was in large part due to simple Econ 101 principles-something Dragnet himself, and others like who've received some measure of formal training-should readily recognize and understand. It's called "cost/benefit analysis". Simply put, no one has been able to make the cost/benefit analysis, in simple, plain English and math,

making the persuasive case as to WHY college matters and is BETTER, both in the short AND longterm, for Black Men. I say such an analysis hasn't happened, nor is it likely to happen, because we all know, deep down, that we cannot provide it.

We just don't want to openly admit it.

Allow me to backtrack here a bit, giving you a real life example from my past, to both illustrate the point and to hammer it home.

Many years ago, when I was about 18 or so, I grew up in North Philly, and was deep into the Hip Hop scene; I was a DJ, or what they call a "Turntablist" now, and ran in a lot of associated circles. One of them, was the drugs dealing circles of the time.

I knew a cat who we all called Spanish Ed-since he was Puerto Rican-and while he had no talent whatsoever on the Wheels of Steel, he did have money-lots of it-to get what was then state of the art equipment. His basement looked like a music store, complete with racks and racks of records, huge sound systems, you name it. He often sponsored spinoffs in the neighborhoods with big cash money prizes, rapping contests, etc.

This guy-who was only 19 at the time-not only had his own house, but he also had two cars, a Lincoln and a Porsche; two bikes, both Ninjas; and was the first guy I'd ever seen who had a huge 50″ TV.

We attended summer school together one year, and I would often hangout with him because he wanted me to help him with his turntable skills, and because I liked being to workout on really top notch equipment. So, after school let out I would often be at his spot. One day, I arrived at his place to find him counting money-lots and lots of money-he even had one of those dollar bill counters like you saw in "Scarface"? It was the first and last time I'd actually seen one of those. We sat at his dining room table as Ed counted out upwards of $150K US-and that didn't include the roughly dozen or so water cooler jug-sized bottles that were filled to the brim with coins, from pennies to quarters. I figured he had to have had what, easily another stack in that alone?

The entire table was filled with money-not receipts, not bank statements, not t-bills-but with hard currency, Dead Presidents. I would go on to run multi-state business operations totalling in the millions of dollars per year in sales; I would make weekly "drops" at the bank's night time deposit slot of $50K or more. But I would never again see the kind of money I did that summer afternoon at Spanish Ed's crib.

I want you all to think about what I just said for a moment. Let it sink in. Let it wash over you. The vast majority of you have never seen in excess of $150K US-cash-before in your lives-and certainly not as a teenager. In fact, something tells me that Dragnet may not have seen such a thing, and he works in finance. I could be wrong-he'll kindly correct me if this is so.

Much has been said of Bill Cosby's famed-or infamous, depending on your point of view-"Poundcake Speech" and subsequent comments and actions. Among them, has been a penning of a book with noted Harvard psychiatrist Alvin Poussaint, called "Come On, People!", a kind of how-to guide to parenting young folk and motivational self-help book rolled into one. I decided to read it after all the hub-bub about Cosby's statements had died down.

In its pages, on the matter we're discussing right now, it takes up the question of employment, career matters, and making money, and of course it rails against the notion of flipping burgers or some other menial work as being dead end. It also sings the praises of community college as a pathway to a better life for many young and not-so young Black people, giving a list of occupations that can be achieved by going that route. Most of them have salaries of, at the time of the book's publishing, around $40K.

That's not even one third of what I saw on that table.

Well Obsidian, drugs dealing is not only criminal, but you can be killed or locked up! And to that I say, yes, that's true. In fact, I haven't seen Spanish Ed in years now, and have no idea what has become of him since those heady days of our youth. For all I know, he could very well be dead, or wound up like Big Meech, serving a de facto life sentence. And let me note something else-like the book Freakonomics says, not all drugs traffickers-even if they

don't wind up in jail or dead-will end up making big money. In fact, quite a few make only a little more than what they would working "straight" low-tier jobs. Not much different from the straight world, now is it? After all, many, many people start out at the bottom and remain either there or if they're lucky enough, work their way up to middle management, there to remain for the balance of their careers-with precious little to show for it.

Then there's the very real prospect of occupational hazards that Men face, historically and in our time, even now. Indeed, each passing year sees its share of guys giving up the ghost on the gig-from having a lethal coronary on the way in to work (I've heard it said that quite a few Men have lethal or near lethal heart attacks and/or strokes on Monday morning), to meeting their grisly end any number of ways: getting shot if they're a cop, getting smashed up if they're a factory worker, taking a bad step if they're a construction worker on a highrise project or bridge, getting the Pat Tillman treatment if they're a soldier.

Again, I speak not from arid theory, but realworld experience. The week before I began my job at the plant a Man got killed-in the very same spot that I worked, in fact-and do you know what his bereaved spouse got in compensation?

$80K US. And that was after a year of wrangling with the courts, despite the entire shop seeing the Man get run through with a very pointy hydralically-powered hook through no fault of his own.

So, to me, a guy that tries to apply basic Econ 101 principles to things, I don't see much difference between the Big Meeches of the world, and the Pat Tillmans; both chose paths that contain within them occupational hazards. The question is whether its worth it to pursue one path over another. Given all that we know about the Afghan War, to say nothing about the Iraq War, can anyone say the latter died for a good cause?

Cost/benefit, people. Cost/benefit.

I think a big problem here, is one of ideology-or shall I say, moralizing. You see, we like to moralize to people-it's a distinctly American thing to do-and we do it to others around the world, as well as those among us whom we feel need to be told what they "should" be doing. So, we like to push an ideological view on people, but we're woefully short on a practical, pragmatic, *cost/benefit* sh*t to spit. And when it comes to this particular topic, it shows.

The simple truth of the matter is, that Osama bin Laden and the Streets, they have something very, very important in common: both have a much more compelling message, than the other side. Its a message slickly marketed, field tested, and highly effective-and we have no freaking clue as to how to counteract it. We don't because we really don't HAVE a better alternative in many instances, plus we're still thinking that played out, antiquated, Sir Ivanhoe crap. This is why, back a few weeks ago during MSNBC's "Education Nation week", not ONE WORD was said about what to do to bring back the country's Black boys who dropped out of highschool back into the fold. It's because, we don't know how to on one hand, and we really don't give a sh*t on the other.

I've made the case to Dragnet, that we're not doing our sons, nephews, brothers, any favors by NOT having these kind of hard-hitting discussions-discussions about how the real world operates, and their role in it. About the real cost/benefit analysis it takes to do this or that, measured in hard currency and time invested, to say nothing of the intangibles that come with all of that. We don't do this because on the one side, we know we really can't say with a straightface that it'll payoff for them, and on the other side we really don't know how to think outside that little box our grey matter is in.

Oh, and before anyone tries to lecture me about drugs, let's be frank. It's been with us as long as tats have, and if we've learned anything about human nature, people can and will go to great lengths to get high. I personally don't partake myself, but I'd be a fool not to see the big money that's in it, especially so long as it remains an underground enterprise. I'm not arguing whether one should, or should not, get in the game. All I'm saying is that it is one of quite a few career paths than can indeed prove successful, if one plays their cards right. The same goes for rappers, athletes, you name it-you need talent, drive, persistence and a heck of a lot of sheer luck in order to make it-just like you would if you decided to go to college and try your hand at the straight world. In fact, given what we know on that score, being a Black Man, you'd probably need a goodly dose of Providence, too.

Well, Ms. Brown Sugah's looking at me and making the Sunday Morning repast, so I'll signoff for now. I try to think hard about the big picture. When you look around, you see a lot.

Holla back

The Obsidian

I'm Just Sayin': The Obsidian Replies To Essence Magazine's Jill Scott's Column, "Boys To Men"

Obsidian · 11 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image via Wikipedia

Regular readers of the O-Files know just how much I dig Neo-Soul singer, poet and actress Jill Scott; I've been a big fan of hers since her days of reading poetry and singing on "Black Lilly" night at the famed Five Spot club back home in Philly. Not only that, but we have two very important things in common: we're both from North Philly, born and raised; and we both share a Temple U connection – her attending as a student, me being a volunteer instructor in its world-reknown "PASCEP" program.

One can imagine my elation then, to discover that Jill Scott was soon wearing yet another hat, as a regular Essence magazine columnist. Her first column, which is called "I'm Just Sayin'", created quite a bit of controversey for her views of Black Men dating and/or marrying out – in other words, choosing White Women. It remains a hotly debated and discussed topic in Black circles, and one which I intend to get to another time. But today, I wish to address yet another column she wrote that appeared in the Aug 2010 issue of Essence, entitled *"Boys To Men: Columnist Jill Scott is issuing a desperate call to oustanding brothers to teach our boys how they, too, can become great and powerful men".* it was brought to my attention by one of my regular readers, and I decided to check it for myself. While I appreciate Ms. Scott's heartfelt sentiments, I feel that it is important to bring a much needed sense of perspective, balance, and correction, to many of the views she shared.

It really kinda pains me to do this…

To my knowledge, because the column itself doesn't appear to be available online, I've taken the liberty of copying it from the print version in full and presenting it to my readers. First then, is Ms. Scott's column in its entirety; and following, a remixed version featuring her words and mine, in "call and response" format.

Here's the original:

> **Boys To Men**
> **by Jill Scott, Essence Aug 2010 issue, "I'm just Sayin'" column**
>
> ***Columnist Jill Scott is issuing a desperate call to oustanding brothers to teach our boys how they, too,**

> **can become great and powerful men***
>
> **While traveling in Africa, I met a man who shared with me that when boys in his village are about 6 years old, they are sent "up the mountain". He told me that they leave their homes alone and climb to a place where the men of the village meet them. While there, he said, the adult men teach the boys how to fight with their hands and how to wield seveal different weapons. The boys are taught how to hunt for their food and how to cook it, and they are taught that a woman's happiness is vital to the well-being of society. And then they are circumcised with a hot rock. (Yes. yes, I know.) After all these lessons are given and rites performed, the boys make the painful climb back down the mountain into the arms of their mothers. They arrive as men.**
>
> **Of course, as an American with a son of my own, I preferred to have him circumcised as an infant. But the rest of the ritual seems immeasurably valuable. Where is this mountain climb for our African-American boys? Where is their community of great men? Too many of our sons are being raised and schooled, for the most part, by television, by hustlers in the streets, with only their mothers to tell them how to be a man.**
>
> **As a single mother I pray I can give my son the values that will enrich his life. I will teach him to live within his means because i don't want him to be chained to debt. I will challenge his thinking because I believe one's own discovery of truth is the building block of character. It will be my pleasure and my greatest task to assist my son on his path, but there are lessons that are beyond my capacity. How can my XX chromosomes truly comprehend his testosterone-fueled XY? I have no idea how an erection feels or how to control it. I can fight if I have to, but I don't think it's a good idea to shadowbox with my son. What would i be teaching him about hitting women?**
>
> **The truth is, there are things that only a man can teach a boy. I can show my son the world. I can give him knowledge of many different facets of life, but I believe there are experiences only the male of our species can share. While there are men who only take pride in raising and instructing their sons, there is very little communal education. Just imagine if our men taught our boys conflict resolution-how to settle a dispute so that everyone walks away alive. Maybe if our outstanding men shared that one skill with our boys, there would be fewer violent deaths in our neighborhoods. Fewer of our strongest willed men would be locked behind barbed wire. What if our great men taught our boys how to nurture women and children with love, respect and understanding? Maybe our artists would be more creative when depicting women in their music and videos. Maybe more of our baby daddies would stay accountable. Maybe domestic abuse would crumble like dry leaves and many more of our marriages would last.**
>
> **Our boys need a community of men to stand up for them and to help them fully appreciate their true worth. Our boys need this desperately. This is a call to action. This is a mother's request. Okay, I am begging. Please.**

And here's the remix:

> "While traveling in Africa, I met a man who shared with me that when boys in his village are about 6 years old, they are sent "up the mountain". He told me that they leave their homes alone and climb to a place where the men of the village meet them. While there, he said, the adult men teach the boys how to fight with their hands and how to wield seveal different weapons. The boys are taught how to hunt for their food and how to cook it, and they are taught that a woman's happiness is vital to the well-being of society. And then they are circumcised with a hot rock. (Yes. yes, I know.) After all these lessons are given and rites performed, the boys make the painful climb back down the mountain into the arms of their mothers. They arrive as men."

Although I am very glad that you had the chance to journey to Africa, mainly in connection with your tv show

being shot on location there, I am a bit pensive about over-romanticizing Africa. After all, they have many documented problems (how many people leave Africa for elswhere in the world, versus how many are going there, for example?), not the least of which are many of the "male traditions" that you seem to somewhat naively speak of. Yes, it may be true that "rites of passage" actions are taken in various parts of Africa for the young boys – but there are other "traditions", too – like polygamy, for instance. I don't know for sure, but something tells me that you wouldn't be too keen to sign up to be Wife #3 to any of those "outstanding (question: exactly what does that even mean?) brothers". In such familial arrangements, things are not at all as altruistic as they seem. Keep this in mind.

> "Of course, as an American with a son of my own, I preferred to have him circumcised as an infant. But the rest of the ritual seems immeasurably valuable. Where is this mountain climb for our African-American boys? Where is their community of great men? Too many of our sons are being raised and schooled, for the most part, by television, by hustlers in the streets, with only their mothers to tell them how to be a man."

Ms. Scott, you have answered your own question, without even realizing it – note your quote above: "Of course, as an American with a son of my own, I preferred to have him circumcised as an infant." – emphasis on the words **"American"** and **"I"** – and in America, Women, Black and White, have pretty much a free hand to do as they please when it comes to reproduction and childrearing, backed both by social convention and the power of the State. So much so, I might add, that increasingly, African Women are looking to Sistas like you for inspiration and direction. By all means, take a bow! Where are the "great men" you so longingly speak of? They're gone, Ms. Scott – by your Sistas' choice, I might add. Women in general, and it can be said Black Women in particular, have in many instances, run off many otherwise good Black Men from playing any significant role in the lives of their kids, aside from finanical ones, of course. By your own hand, you made it clear that it was **YOU** who made the decision as to whether your son would be circumcised or not (I note that you didn't mention whether your son's father had any input or say in the matter); and it is the decision of many Black mothers to have their sons raised by the TV, by the hustlers, and so forth. If the resulting boys only have their mamas to tell them how to be a Man, it may not entirely be the fault of the dads; I suggest the Sistahood take a long look in the mirror, before they go to pointing accusatory fingers.

> "As a single mother I pray I can give my son the values that will enrich his life. I will teach him to live within his means because I don't want him to be chained to debt. I will challenge his thinking because I believe one's own discovery of truth is the building block of character. It will be my pleasure and my greatest task to assist my son on his path, but there are lessons that are beyond my capacity. How can my XX chromosomes truly comprehend his testosterone-fueled XY? I have no idea how an erection feels or how to control it. I can fight if I have to, but I don't think it's a good idea to shadowbox with my son. What would i be teaching him about hitting women?"

Well, should you decide to instruct your son in the martial arts, you would be teaching him that he has the right to defend himself, regardless as to where the threat to his existence is coming from; after all, in our time, it is not at all unusual for Men to be abused or even killed by Women; one of the dirty little secrets of the domestic violence industry is that abuse can and often does go both ways – with Men AND Women, being the aggressors.

> "The truth is, there are things that only a man can teach a boy. I can show my son the world. I can give him knowledge of many different facets of life, but I believe there are experiences only the male of our species can share. While there are men who only take pride in raising and instructing their sons, there is very little communal education. Just imagine if our men taught our boys conflict resolution-how to settle a dispute so that everyone walks away alive. Maybe if our outstanding men shared that one skill with our boys, there would be fewer violent deaths in our neighborhoods. Fewer of our strongest willed men would be locked behind barbed wire. What if our great men taught our boys how to nurture women and children with love, respect and understanding? Maybe our artists would be more creative when depicting women in their music and videos.

> Maybe more of our baby daddies would stay accountable. Maybe domestic abuse would crumble like dry leaves and many more of our marriages would last."

With all due respect Ms. Scott, you've got pixie dust in your eyes if you think some "commune" of "outstanding men" is gonna fix these problems you're going on about – and this is coming from someone who's been as involved in the community as it gets. I've volunteered hundreds of hours of my time to assisting others, including boys, and let me tell you Ms. Scott, there IS a such thing as Bad Seeds – some of those "strongwilled men" **NEED** & **DESERVE** to be **LOCKED UP**. Moreover, every conflict cannot be resolved peacefully – didn't you read what you wrote about the African brothers in the above paragraph? What do you think they train those boys to fight and to use weapons for – ceremonial purposes? No, they are taught these things because in the world in which Men live and move in, the threat of violence is real – and sometimes, the only way to counteract this, is to meet it with even stronger – sometimes even lethal – violence.

Furthermore, I think it's highly commendable that dads train their sons in the ways of the world – that was certainly the case with my dad. Nor is it the job of dads to train up the sons of others who made poor decisions in life – and that's where my biggest bone of contention with both your piece, and if I may be so frank, with you, comes from. Let's be honest Ms. Scott, what you want is for men with options – the creme de la creme – to devote precious hours of their own lives, to raise and make productive citizens out of boys who were the result of bad mating decisions, largely on the part of the Mother, since, if we're gonna take it back to Mother Africa, the Woman always chooses her mate, not the other way around. You seem to be saying that it is our – meaning Black Men's – RESPONSIBILITY to raise up the sons of others, like it's our DUTY or something – and that's something I simply cannot get with. For one thing, it's insulting to demand that a Man, or a group of them, raise the boys of others, but it's also highly contradictory of you – if not out and out hypcocritical – to cherrypick those aspects of African "rites of passage" programs that YOU find problematic as an "American", but you don't seem to have any problem encroaching on the right(s) of other Americans – in this case, Brothas – to do with their dime and time as they see fit. Simply put Ms. Scott, all of what you are "asking" is really a CHOICE on the part of Brothas – and in that life is hard enough just being a Brotha, let alone having the task of raising up the next generation of Brothas who emanated from one's own loins, I for one cannot blame any Brotha who chooses to say "no thanks" to your "request". After all, as Americans, they have that right.

Just as you had the right to choose, unilaterally, to have your son circumcised.

And while I'm on that point, let me take it one step further, and be even more brutally blunt: you, Ms. Scott, decided on a course of action, that has left you a single mom, less than five years out from the age of 40. You cannot say that you were poor, or that you didn't know any better due to (lack of) age – you most certainly knew better. Yet, you went ahead anyway, and made your choice. I respect it – but now there are realworld consequences that must be paid as a result – consequences that could very well be paid by your son. You of all people should know, given the "conscious" nature of your songs, how vitally important it is for a Sista to be discerning as to whom she allows between her thighs. Again, since you want to take it back to Africa – birthplace of the Human Race – you must know how basic human evolution and by extension sexuality/reproduction, works – yes? If not, it would clearly explain the quandary you find yourself in, right now.

As for "holding baby daddies accountable", we already have a remedy for doing so – its called Family Court, and Men who have been deemed to be in arrears for their court-mandated support fees can and have been arrested and jailed – I've seen this happen on several occasions myself, firsthand. I don't need to tell you where the one in Philly is located; perhaps you've been there yourself.

Finally, as to this notion of moral outrage directed at SOME rappers for their lyrics, what I don't get is why none of the outraged class never seem to go after Eminem – a Man who by all accounts, has built an entire career rapping in the worst ways imaginable, about his on-again, off-again wife and mother, in ways Tupac or Biggie never did. Moreover, I am always struck by the fact that those who claim to be so very outraged never seem to ask whether if anything the rappers say is true on this score, as off-color their remarks may indeed be. The fact that so many

Males, from so many walks of life can so thoroughly identify with what the rappers are saying, really ought to give one pause as to the possibility, however harrowing, of said lyrics containing within them, a vein – a rather rich one, if sales revenues are any indication – of truth therein.

> "Our boys need a community of men to stand up for them and to help them fully appreciate their true worth. Our boys need this desperately. This is a call to action. This is a mother's request. Okay, I am begging. Please."

Again: in no way am I against the idea of Black Men banding together to mentor young Black boys; but like so many other things in American life, it should and must be, a CHOICE for Black Men to make themselves. Cajoling, or "begging", or putting out "calls to action" and the like, really do need to be given a rest. And again, I happen to both know and have worked with, such "rites of passage" groups in my time; in fact, one such outfit right now, could use your support and "name" to further its mission. But for real, what needs a "call to action", is a spotlight on the role so many Sistas play in situations like these in the first place. Let's face it – you, and the Sistahood – are the gatekeepers. If you want better outcomes, you have to make better choices from the get-go.

I'm just sayin'.

Comment & reply, holla…

The Obsidian

How To Kill Ad Hominem Attacks

Obsidian · 13 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Very often, when you write or say something that strikes a raw nerve, you can and will be personally attacked in one way or another, so as to take the focus off of what you've actually said and onto you, the messenger. Sadly, in an age where not only logic, reason and good ole commonsense have flown the coop a long time ago, such attacks can be effective. I say can, because they're only as effective as those who are its victims allow them to go without challenge. Today, I should like to demonstrate a clear and present example of an Ad Hominem attack, and not only how to defend against it, but to defeat the opponent who resorted to such a strategem in the first place.

Recently, "Natasha W", a young Black Woman who "swirls" visited the O-Files and left a series of comments in response to my "To Swirl With Anger" post; now, she prides herself on her ability to reason and use logic, and has no patience for those whom she deems lacking in these areas. To wit:

> "So… I guess women should never date men. And men should never date women. After all, both have a long history of oppression with each other. How could you date women considering how they've used men to gain a higher position in society? How could women date you given how men have treated women?

Illogic reigns." (Obsidian's emphasis.)

There are other such commentary by her in response to opposing remarks to her views in the resulting comments thread.

Cool, I say! Then what's good for the goose is indeed good for the gander, no? Here's what this same exemplar of cool logic says about yours truly, over at Zek Jevets' blog roughly a week ago (Jevets himself convulsing in an Ad Hominem spasm in response to what I said; please note that he never addresses my arguments or the references upon which they are based – hmm!):

"Well, actually, he is an acquaintance of my brother's girlfriend. They live in the same city and he works around her alma mater sometimes.

Long story ahead…

I remember reading where one of the commenters called him by another name and I thought "Why are they calling him that?" So this morning, riding to work, I was just thinking and my mind drifted. I thought about this situation and how the author had some astrology posts up on his blog, how he has this bulldog style of communicating, and how he seems to like the color black and derivatives of it. Then it was like one of those moments that Raven gets in That's So Raven; my eyes got wide and my mouth turned into an "O". Except I wasn't seeing into the future. I just realized that I've had more than one run-in with him.

I was visiting my brother's girlfriend once and we saw him. They said a few words, but later she mentioned how she thought he was weird because he studies astrology. He had a weird name as well; not sure if it was real or not… but it was like the one that the commenter had used on that blog. So when I remembered these details, I put all the pieces together and started searching — I like to get to the bottom of things. I looked through my brother's girlfriend's facebook friends. Through a lot of twisting and turning I found the guy's myspace page (I vaguely remembered his face), which had a link to another blog of his. Sure enough, when I looked through the comments, I saw people addressing him as "theobsidianfiles" or just "obsidian".

Then, I was thinking further and I remembered this guy used to be on a forum I moderate; I remembered him through the pictures he used and the name — they were same one he used on the forum. We banned him for misogynistic writings, writing inflammatory comments, and stalking other female members. It was a big deal on my forum because he did start some good discussions, so we didn't want to ban him right away.

As I'm realizing all this I'm thinking "Oh. my. goodness"… I had to take a few minutes to digest it all.

So a couple things about him: he is nearly old enough to be Jasmin's father and he is not all that great-looking himself. (That's all I'll say about him in an open venue, but there is more.) He is genuinely a miserable character, says all who know him, and now we see right before our eyes that misery INDEED loves company."

Now folks, this is a classic, textbook Ad Hominem attack. Let's replay the tape, this time with a bit of call and response, shall we?

> "Well, actually, he is an acquaintance of my brother's girlfriend. They live in the same city and he works around her alma mater sometimes."

Notice how Natasha starts right out by saying "I know this guy!", as if her knowing or not knowing me, has any say whatsoever as to the validity of my argument. It doesn't. Logical fallacy #1.

Oh, and for the record – I have no idea who Natasha is, nor is it relevant to the matter at hand; secondarily, I never have "worked around her alma mater", if by "alma mater" it is meant Temple U. I worked, when I was a volunteer instructor at Temple, either clear accross town or before that, out of state all together.

So, that's strike one.

> "Long story ahead…
>
> "I remember reading where one of the commenters called him by another name and I thought "Why are they calling him that?" So this morning, riding to work, I was just thinking and my mind drifted. I thought about this situation and how the author had some astrology posts up on his blog, how he has this bulldog style of communicating, and how he seems to like the color black and derivatives of it. Then it was like one of those moments that Raven gets in That's So Raven; my eyes got wide and my mouth turned into an "O". Except I wasn't seeing into the future. I just realized that I've had more than one run-in with him."

"That's so Raven"?!? Natasha, honey, you're dating yourself. You sure you're legal?

Anyway, Natasha is referring to commenter and gadfly Chic Noir, who often refers to me by the phrases "Mu" or "Uncle Mu", the "Mu" being short for my name, Mu'Min. I met Chic almost two years ago at Roissy's blog, which I began posting comments in Sep of 2008. At the time, I used my name Mu'Min, although shortly before leaving Roissy's to start my own blog, I used the "seduction name" Obsidian – a name that was in fact, given to me by another of Roissy's commenters – and – while there at Roissy's wrote a bit about astrology as well. I have never hidden who I was, as we shall see below. As for the strike count, that's #2…

> "I was visiting my brother's girlfriend once and we saw him. They said a few words, but later she mentioned how she thought he was weird because he studies astrology. He had a weird name as well; not sure if it was real or not… but it was like the one that the commenter had used on that blog. So when I remembered these details, I put all the pieces together and started searching — I like to get to the bottom of things. I looked through my brother's girlfriend's facebook friends. Through a lot of twisting and turning I found the guy's myspace page (I vaguely remembered his face), which had a link to another blog of his. Sure enough, when I looked through the comments, I saw people addressing him as "theobsidianfiles" or just "obsidian"."

LOL. If you wanted to know who I was all you had to do is ask. Like I said, I never "hid" who I was, it was always public. I did have a MySpace but never had a Facebook as of yet, nor do I intend to, for the simple reason that I do quite well for myself insofar as getting my blogging out there into the blogosphere, and I like to be efficient.

> "Then, I was thinking further and I remembered this guy used to be on a forum I moderate; I remembered him

> through the pictures he used and the name — they were same one he used on the forum. We banned him for misogynistic writings, writing inflammatory comments, and stalking other female members. It was a big deal on my forum because he did start some good discussions, so we didn't want to ban him right away.
>
> "As I'm realizing all this I'm thinking "Oh. my. goodness"… I had to take a few minutes to digest it all."

Yet more Ad Hominem: exactly what are "misognynistic writings"? We don't know, because Natasha – perhaps intentionally, declines to give specifics. We are to take her word for it that I am indeed, a "misogynist", whatever that means. And, we've all heard the "stalking" defense before, now haven't we? Tsk, tsk, Natasha; you ladies really should get out of the kitchen if you cannot hack the heat.

> "So a couple things about him: he is nearly old enough to be Jasmin's father and he is not all that great-looking himself. (That's all I'll say about him in an open venue, but there is more.) He is genuinely a miserable character, says all who know him, and now we see right before our eyes that misery INDEED loves company.""

LMAO. You're funny. For one thing, my personal life is irrelevant to the claims you made, but for the record I have never lacked feminine company when I wanted it, and indeed have been involved with Women, continuously, before I began my five year tenure at Temple as well as throughout said tenure. At present, I am with someone who I am very happy with, I might add. As for my physical appearance, I find it interesting that you use as your "character witness" Chic Noir, because she wouldn't characterize my looks in the same way; she's said as much, right here at the O-Files. Moreover, I find your comments about age(ism) quite fascinating, since age had nothing at all to do with what I said (please note that my original "Swirl" post mentioned a middle aged Black Woman(!). Finally, since you're going to use my previous history with Temple U as a guide into my character and so forth, let the record show that not only did I have to satisfy the higherups in the program I taught out of, but I also had to get the approval of my students in order to return the following year. I taught there for five years. That's five years' worth of student evaluations, Natasha. And when I left, it was under my own steam, by my own volition – something others who've been there cannot say.

So, to sum up, we see her employing yet another Ad Hominem attack – and this coming from one who again, holds herself out as some exemplar of reason and logic. She is neither.

As I said before, and I repeat again, Ad Hominem is the last refuge of scoundrels. It is what they do when they cannot legitimately argue against your well laidout points and arguments. Even Natasha admits I do this routinely, in her comment above: "It was a big deal on my forum because he did start some good discussions, so we didn't want to ban him right away."

Hence, my posting the following quote from my previous post on the matter:

"I note that my enemies have written a great deal about me, yet they rarely quote me directly. Why not? If I am so disreputable myself, I must at least occasionally say disreputable things. Is it possible that what I say is more cogent than they like to admit?"

- *Joe Sobran*

http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/10/09/clarifying-the-swirling-debate-obsidian-answers-the-critics/

We await Ms. Natasha's attempts at legitimate argumentation. We know she can do it if she only tries – really hard!

LOL

Now adjourn your asses…

O.

A Tale Of Two Guys: Chuck & Obsidian

Obsidian · 14 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]
Black Guy, White Guy

My recent post, "Winning The Hearts & Minds Of Black Men" & got even more attention and response than I had anticipated, and for this, your humble correspondent is most grateful. It was, and is, a much needed conversation at this time in our national history.

One of the respondents, regular commenter and blogger in his own right Chuck Ross, attempted to argue the "con" position as to why college was a better deal in general for people, to say nothing of Black Men. Among the many things he said, was that I, personally, wasn't factoring in he "opportunity costs"-a basic Econ 101 principle-into my own self-analysis. Although many commenters disagreed with him-among them, Dragnet, RR and Terry-after giving the whole thing a goodly bit of thought I decided to note the following, as a kind of comparison sheet:

Now, what I'm about to say about Chuck, is publicly known, by his own hand, both here at the O-Files, and over at his own blog, so nothing I'm saying is out of line or off-color.

But the truth is, that Chuck isn't really in any position to lecture me or say, Terry's hubbie, about the bennies of college education-not if we use Chuck himself as a living testimony. Here we have a guy who, again, by his own admission, is already down *40K* in debt-with nothing to show for it. Indeed, despite having *two* degrees-one of them a master's presumably in Economics-he's a waiter at a mid-level eatery.

Now don't et me wrong-i have nothing against waiters and from what I've heard, never having done it myself, a guy can indeed make some very nice money for himself. But the truth is, that the "opportunity costs" for him just didn't pan out, now did they? Nor is he by any stretch of the imagination alone-thousands, if not millions, of people are right in the same boat.

Now, take me on the other hand-every job I've had since highschool, has brought a net profit instead of loss. Indeed, I would tell any Brotha within earshot that one of the best things they can do is grip up a temp gig. Why?

Because, if they're smart-**IF**-and if they're hardworking-**IF**-and if they can see the big picture-**IF**-they can convert that temp spot into something quite nice for themselves, in a fraction of the time it takes to get a B.S. degree-with none of the debt.

I'm a witness. I've taken at least three temp gigs and turned them into high paying management or close to management gigs inside of four years or less-one of them I went from a temp guy to operations manager-basically first mate, if you will-inside of nine months. And held the job for an additional three years afterwards.

The principles I learned about business was inestimable, to say nothing about other skills I picked up-and I was making money all the while doing it. I wouldn't be doing that going to school fulltime.

Or even part-time: earlier this year, I played around with the idea of going back to school, to get a degree in a field I both had interest in and actual experience doing. I did a bit of research and so forth, and came up with a school that I had observed "paying off" for a number of people I knew. So, I decided to get the application process started.

Due to scheduling conflicts and the like, things took a bit longer than usual-I learned very quickly that many of these schools try to speed up the process for their own reasons-and that gave me the chance to really roll up my sleeves and do a bit of hard numbers crunching, to say nothing of really grilling those folk who had gone to the same school(s).

So, I did what I'd always done in my previous business gigs: I sat down at the kitchen table, pulled out the yellow legal pad, a simple calculator, and a pen, and did some very basic math. I had already known the rough estimate it would take for me to attend school for about 2 years: about 30K, give or take a few stacks. I would be required to

go at night, since I would also have to work in the daytime-which meant a reduction in possible earnings from either overtime and/or a second gig. And, I would have to predict out another two years ahead-assuming everything went off without a hitch with my studies-as to what the job market would be like at that time.

Well, I said to myself, if-**IF**-I could land a gig in doing what it was that I wanted to do at say, at least 40, 45K/yr, I could payoff my school debt inside of 2 years, at the most 3. It would require basically taking half of my earnings to do it, and all the attendant belt-tightening that comes with it, but I'm a fairly Spartan guy to begin with, and have no other commitments that require major funds like so many other adults do. So, I know I could do that.

What I didn't know, was what the job market was gonna look like say, circa 2012. So, I looked into as much research as I could-some of you may recall a big post I put up predicting what the next decade would bring? Well, let's just say that it had more than a passing professional interest to me. I knew that I had access to some pretty sharp minds and that not only could I get their views on these things, but I could do it for free. Brothas, trust me when I tell you that the Internet is the Great Equalizer! That post, and the respondents to it-which included Chuck-set me on the path towards looking into other areas, and doing much snooping. All of which was quite fruitful.

I ultimately came to the conclusion Dragnet did a few weeks back, waaay back to the Spring or so of this year: that, unless I had either full expenses paid for school and/or an ironclad guarantee in blood from my admissions' officer that I'd get a gig that would net me enough to paydown any debt I incurred inside of three years, max, it was gonna be a **VERY** iffy proposition, at best, for me to do this. Factor in things like age, race, etc, and the proposition is starting to look more like a longshot Hail Mary pass, than a sureshot guarantor of success.

Then there was my really grilling those folk I told you about that had attended the same school I was going to, or schools very close to it? Well, as it turned out, once we got the platitudes that surround "education" and bore down to the hardcore business of cost/benefit, I discovered that easily three out of the five people I talked to-all Sistas, by the way-**STILL** had considerable school debt. Yes, they were working in their assigned fields, and yes, they were making good money-on paper.

But when you looked at the debt ratios, when you factored in the time it took for them to go to school in the first place, it all really hit home for me-far from pulling ahead, at best they were breaking even, or worse, they down in the hole. And keep in mind here-several of these ladies didn't have chick nor child, like Chuck. So, they couldn't hang their still being in debt for having mouths to feed. Sure, their individual spending habits and lifestyle played a role, too-Women after all make some 80% of all consumer spending decisions-but still, after talking to a number of folk, a pattern begins to emerge. One that I began seeing again and again and again.

OK, so the time came to take my admissions' test-what the heck, I say to myself, if nothing else I'll see if I've got the chops to do the school thing. I take the test, and ace it-in fact, I'm told that I had one of the highest scores ever for that school's location. So, I decide yea, I got the chops. Now let's see if I can get the bread…

And then that's where I hit a snag-you see, because of a few things, I wasn't eligible for grants and the like-but I was eligible for quite a few loans. And trust you me, those guys were pushing them loans *hard* on a Brotha.

But I refuse. I had already done peeped the game: no matter what happens, whether I pass or fail, the school gets theirs. The trick is whether I get mine, and doing the school loan thing, based on what I had seen firsthand from talking to so many people, doing my own "market research" and so on, told me that I was taking a huge risk that I was likely to lose.

So, I put the notion of going back to school, to bed. In the end, it just wasn't a good deal.

Oh, and I forgot to add-despite the really great spiel I got by the admissions officer, newly minted grads don't get squat in terms of job assistance. **ALL** of the grads I talked to told me this, and **ALL** of them got their gigs either on their own, or via the hookup.

Another reason for Obsidian to hit the Eject Button.

So where does that leave me, right now, in 2010? Well, right off the bat, in a much better spot than Chuck: for one

thing, I can confidently say that I don't have in excess of $40K in debt, or anything approaching it. In fact, I've always been very careful to keep my debt really low, having seen what happened to people around me who for one reason or another let their debt get outta control at various points in my life. But in addition to that, while he was in school, I was actually making money, AND getting real world, on the job training, in what it takes to run a business. And not just any business-stuff that people **NEED**, like what those coal miners down in Chile do, or what industrial food service workers do, and so on and so forth. In other words, stuff people need and can't do without. Recession proof, more or less.

For all the talk of the evil that Black Men do, by all accounts I'm a success story: I'm debt and disease free, don't have umpteen Baby Mamas out there (and this I know for a fact because I checked it with the Phila. Family Court and had a background check done), don't have a rap sheet as long as my arm, am still alive long after I should be dead statistically, and for more than two decades straight, have been nothing but a net taxpayer to our economy, NOT a tax taker. I fully intend to collect as much of my Social Security as I can, because I'm careful to live a lifestyle that gives me a shot of going beyond the Black Male national average lifespan of 70 or so. And if personal family genetic history is any indication-where most of the Males have lived well into their 80s and beyond-chances are good that I'll get back at least a decade's worth of my SS. Now given the state of the economy right now, it may not be there by the time I'm ready to retire-fair enough-but I won't be collecting it because of something silly I did.

I would tell any young Brotha out there right now to use his head, keep his eyes and ears open, and transfer his street smarts into areas that will make him money. Be willing to start small and grow in time. Be willing to do the work no one else wants to do, and take the piss-ant money they pay for it. Trust me when I tell you, employers are constantly looking for self-motivated talent-and the one biggest thing you can do to help yourself is **show up**. Be early-not on time, but early-and be the last Man to rollout at night. Brothas don't network, and that really holds us back, but it don't have to hold YOU back-if you don't have a network, then dammit, **BUILD ONE**. Learn the art of making friends. There are people all around you, and trust me when I tell you that they're watching you if you're doing what I'm saying here. And trust me when I tell you that you'll be able to build off of that, too. Again: nothing I'm saying here is theory. I've done it. I've proven to myself that I can go anywhere and walk into a job off the street, start out at the bottom and a year or so later, be, if not running the place, be one of the most important members on the team. In fact, I make it my business to make myself so important that if I were gone, it would visibly hurt the business' bottomline. Like the Women in my past, businesses I've left have never been the same, and usually they're the worse off for it.

Based on more than two decades of realworld, on the job(s) experience, nothing beats work ethic, commonsense and being able to quickly size

up and see the picture, to say nothing of seizing on opportunities when they present themseleves. In the Age of The Credentialed Blind, the One-Eyed Brotha is the Commonsense King.

You heard it here.

Now adjourn your asses…

The Obsidian

Technical Difficulties

Obsidian · 18 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

M

[image]
"Subprime In Realtime", Sep 2010, by Obsidian, Urban Jungle Photography, all rights reserved. Biters will be executed.

y deepest apologies to all my readers! The past week has brought with it a plethora of challenges and problems, among them a goodly bit of hi-tech agita. Don't know exactly when things will return to normal; hopefully, by or before the end of the week. I'm working on putting out a number of brushfires in other areas as well, so again, I'm not entirely sure when I'll be back on the blogging grind. Could be before Halloween, could be a bit of time afterward. We'll see.

In the meantime, here's another shot I took last month; among other things I'm working on is getting hold of some more gear, so hang tight, more pics to come…

Y'all behave yourselves now.

The Obsidian

The Sum Of All Fears: Three More "Bubbles" Due To Burst

Obsidian · 20 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Frequent readers of this and related blogs in what some have called the "Manosphere" or even "Roissysphere" will know well about our writings as to what Humanity can expect in the coming decade. Although written from the standpoint of human sociosexual dynamics, they nevertheless have wide application accross the body politic. I urge my readers to checkout blogger The Fifth Horseman's excellent report published earlier this year, entitled The Misandry Bubble for more on what I'm talking about here.

But suffice it to say, that the past decade brought with it a number of "bubbles" "bursting"; first, it was the so-called "tech bubble"; then, it was combined one-two punch of the real estate and banking "bubbles" as the last decade came to a close. We're still struggling mightily to climb out from under that bubble as we speak – just in time to grapple with three more major bubbles that loom large on the horizon: what some have called the education, healthcare and public sector bubbles. In case you haven't already noticed, all three are tied into each other – and promises to make what went down in the Fall of 2008, just two years ago – look like child's play.

Among other news media outlets, here's the latest from Newsmax.com:

> Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston Are Study's Worst-Off Pensions
> Tuesday, 12 Oct 2010 07:36 AM
>
> Philadelphia will run out of money by 2015 to pay pension obligations with existing assets, and Chicago and Boston by 2019, a study by economists at Northwestern University and the University of Rochester forecasts.
>
> The report, "The Crisis in Local Government Pensions in the United States," warns that mounting liabilities threaten "the ability of state and local governments to operate."
>
> The study examines 77 of the largest municipal defined pension plans, covering 2 million public employees and retirees, roughly two-thirds of the nation's total. The estimated liability of all municipal retirement funds is $574 billion, according to economists Joshua Rauh of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester.

Read more here.

And here's what came up on my Yahoo! News this morning as I went to check the mail:

> 11 State Pension Funds that May Run Out of Money
> Posted Oct 18, 2010 03:50pm EDT by Gus Lubin
>
> Here's a shocker: The most immediate state pension crises aren't in New York or California. They're in Middle America.
>
> When it comes to state pensions in the most trouble, do places like New Hampshire come to mind? Probably not, unless you live there, and maybe not even then.
>
> After all, it makes sense that the biggest, most populous members of the union, where budget follies are fairly common, would be facing the most urgently needed fixes. The truth is considerably different. The Granite State claims the No. 11 slot, and it's not the only unexpected name facing pension woes.

Read the whole thing here.

Now, I try to be an optimistic guy, but expeience has taught me to temper it with a goodly dose of reality, too. This state pension thing is intimately tied into education and healthcare, to say nothing of the gov't itself, either directly or indirectly. The tax bases, at all levels, are shrinking, at a time when both legal and illegal immigrant labor supresses wages, and as outsourcing of everything from manufacturing to legal and medical services is and has been

afoot not only for quite some time now, but at an ever-quickening pace.

I'm no one's economist and I welcome anyone's guess on the matter as it's as good as mine, but from where I sit, we're screwed.

For real.

Comment & reply, holla.

The Obsidian

PS: I suppose it is nice to see that everyone else's is finally catching up with us "manosphere" blogging types; we do tend to be just a weebit ahead of the curve

Why Do Black Women Have To Be Such B*tches?

Obsidian · 22 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

[image]
Angry Black Woman

Thanks to one of my readers for turning me on to fellow blogger Ferdinand Bardamu's post "Why Do Black Women Have To Be Such B*tches?". I gotta tell ya, when I clicked on the YouTube video I burst out laughing so hard the neighbors thought something was wrong; then, when I was finally able to stop laughing so hard, I immediately thought about a certain young lady whom I addressed here at the O-Files recently. I leave it to my readers if they see any resembalance between what the video says and what you know who's article says…

You know, I've always said that there was a reason – a very, deeply profound reason – that Hip Hop, most notably its "Gangsta Rap" variant, has not only endured over all other forms of the artform, but has and continues to get howls of derision from the Sistahood; and that reason is because what the rappers are saying about a goodly portion of Black Women, is *true*.

shrugs

Remember ladies: if it don't apply, let it fly.

I'm just sayin'…

Anyway, because it seems to be caught up in comment moderation, here's what I said in reply to Ferd's post:

> Ferd,
> LOL! I like this one, might go and post it up over at my blog sometime this weekend.
>
> In the meantime though, here's what I've been up to of late:
>
> http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/10/11/im-just-sayin-the-obsidian-replies-to-essence-magazines-jill-scotts-column-boys-to-men/
>
> http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/04/09/open-mic-friday-the-black-feminists-burden/
>
> http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/09/17/question-for-the-sistas-are-you-part-of-the-solution-or-part-of-the-problem/
>
> And finally, something I recently wrote that speaks most directly to the matter at hand:
>
> http://theobsidianfiles.wordpress.com/2010/10/01/an-open-letter-to-writing-while-blacks-ms-bene-viera/
>
> Comment & reply, holla
>
> O.

Happy Friday

The Obsidian

Another “Black Dating” YouTube Video: This Time, From The Brotha’s Point Of View

Obsidian · 23 October 2010 · Archived copy · Original

Image by Arty Smokes (deaf mute) via Flickr

Since one of my commenters suggested that I had a particular axe to grind against Black Women, here’s another YouTube video – apparently, there’s an entire series of them devoted to the issue and question of “Black dating” – this time, supposedly from a Black Man’s point of view. I thought the video was personally rather funny, although I have to say that I don’t know any Black Man who would say the things the video character did.

What are your thoughts? Do you know any Black Men like this?

NOTE: Please notice that of all the sqawking being done about these “viral” videos, NOT ONE HAS SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE ONE BEING DONE FROM THE BLACK MAN’S POV. They ONLY complained about the ones on Black Women. White knighting again, anyone? 😉

A Viral Video Attack on Single Black Women (theroot.com)