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“Vick, Jena 6 and Simpson”

by
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Poor Michael Vick... just when he gets someone in his corner rooting for him he allows his real character to come through. While out of jail on bail with strict orders to mind his “P’s” & “Q’s” and knowing he’s going to be randomly tested for drugs and such, he just has to get off in a corner somewhere and go loco on a jive stick, joy stick, or joint of giggle weed, whatever marijuana is called in your locale. What does that say about this boy’s intelligence? I would call him a young man but it is obvious, by his actions and choice of friends, he is still in the formative years of an adolescent. Now that the state of Virginia is bringing him up on charges as well, the doo doo he’s stepped in is getting deeper by the minute.

What amazes me even more, though it shouldn’t, are the diverse reactions to the situation from the two ethnic communities surrounding Michael Vick. I watched an ESPN 1 ½ hour special the other afternoon covering a “town hall” meeting of citizens of Atlanta, GA, with a panel of “experts” on sports, social engineering, and psychological mumbo jumbo, hashing and re-hashing the subject of Vick’s guilt or innocence and dog fighting in general.

Many questions were raised as to whether or not this was a racist ploy to “put in his place” a young black male who has struck it rich. Being Atlanta and also being a program dealing with the guilt or innocence of Michael Vick the audience was pretty much a majority of black citizens, so one would think the majority would have said yes, it is a racist act, but the contrary was true. Not quite half the audience waved the racist card. However, when asked to show, by applause, how many felt that dog fighting should not be a crime the applause meter went off the charts in favor of decriminalizing the act. I will say many of the black attendees did not applaud for that and looked distressed that their fellow blacks would think that dog fighting was an okay thing to do.

I am a dog lover, although in my later years I’m preferring to love them from afar... but even if I weren’t I cannot see how anyone could find a shred of “rightness” in allowing two animals of any kind to be thrown into a pit and encouraging one to kill the other. My thinking is a person who supports such a “sport” is evidencing his or her primitive, bestial side and total lack of regard for life of any kind... including human. This attitude might explain the unusually high number of murders, drug addicts and fatherless families in Atlanta’s black community. I must add that I do not feel those in the auditorium voting for the legalization of dog fighting represent the entire black community throughout the United States. This situation should, however, show the black community’s traveling “leaders” the Reverends Sharpton and Jackson that their flock is in bad need of a wake up call as to their perception of right and wrong in all areas of societal living.

Just when one would think that race is no longer a problem in this country things seem to happen to make one think differently. Two other criminal cases are being talked about in the news and in each one the “race” card is being displayed prominently by the media as the motivating factor for “harsh treatment” of the accused perpetrators by the prosecuting attorneys in the cases.

Louisiana’s “Jena 6” case has brought out thousands of marchers, black and white, protesting the legal treatment of the accused. Six black boys, ages 15 to 17 supposedly attacked a white boy and put a hurting on him purportedly for hanging six nooses from a tree on school grounds that had been “deemed” off limits for black students to sit under. The oldest accused, Mychal Bell, has been tried and found guilty of attempted murder and second degree assault in an adult court, with a potential sentence of 22 years in prison. That verdict was thrown out by a Circuit Court of Appeal saying Bell should have been charged as a juvenile. The beating victim, by the way, was treated and released at a local hospital and later that night attended a party with his friends. According to reports Bell is a star school athlete and being scouted by many colleges for his running back prowess.

The District Attorney in question, Reed Walters seems to be walking down the same poorly paved road that the “former” Durham, NC District Attorney, now disbarred, Mike Nifong took against members of Duke’s championship Lacrosse team. If media reports of Mr. Walters’ handling of the case are even close to the truth he faces a shaky future in law enforcement as well.

The third case drawing international attention against a black man is the kidnapping, carrying a concealed weapon and robbery charges brought against O.J. Simpson. Yes, the same O.J. Simpson who was acquitted of murdering his wife. This time, he supposedly broke into a Las Vegas hotel room with the occupants there and demanded that sports memorabilia, allegedly belonging to him, be returned to him. Surprisingly, the whole thing was caught on tape by one of the individuals in the room. Simpson is currently out on bail and back in his residence in Florida.

Again, there is a great disparity of opinions on how Simpson will be handled by the authorities. In a poll taken September 27 by the Associate Press 70 percent of whites believe the charges against Simpson are true while only 41 percent of blacks thought so. 75 percent of whites feel he has been treated fairly and will receive a fair trial while only 36 per cent of blacks believe he will. 55 per cent of the blacks believe he WILL NOT receive a fair trial. Bottom line folks... there’s still a whole lot of work to be accomplished in this country to bring the two sides together. The one thing for which we all should be ashamed and of which we should be aware is, there shouldn’t be two sides to begin with.

As for me I’m one of the 27 percent who believe Simpson was set up for the whole thing... probably by the guy who just happened to get the whole thing on tape.

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