



Time for Honest Debate...

This is an important, defining time for our nation. Dr. Washington's life was dedicated to educating the head, the hand and the heart, teaching core values that today, everyone -- young & old, black & white, rich & poor -- need not only proclaim but live and practice daily if America is to reclaim its leadership in the eyes of the world.

It is time to move beyond superficialities to engage in healthy debate over substantial matters. To do so, color must be off the table. All eyes today are fixated on our economy. But if history is any guide, race issues are inevitably allowed to surface if they are seen to advance one party's interests.

Over the next months and years, there will be epic battles over the soul and direction of our Republic. We are thrilled that the new leader of the Republican party is Michael Steele. Not because he is black, but because we expect he will be free to articulate a philosophy different than President Obama's without the distraction of race cards played by his political opponents.

Today, the liberal agenda espoused by Barack Obama holds sway. But the conservative objectives that Michael Steele represents and that Booker T. Washington espoused may eventually win out. Either way, our nation will be the better, one hopes, for healthier debates make less toxic with race a non-issue.

Case in point: Welfare reform enacted during the Clinton years was successful because its objective was to get people back to work, not to foster a culture of dependency-on-government. It was initiated and enacted solely because -- there's no tactful way to put it -- Pres. Clinton was forced to cave.

Yes, it may be overly optimistic to expect principles to trump politics consistently. But this time, the health of our nation depends on it.

Time will tell.

Ronald Court & Reginald Jones

Co-Founders, Booker T. Washington Society



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Especially in Today's Economy...

Too Many People Go To College

- Issues & Views Newsletter reprise (summer 1995) - by Leon Podles

Despite today's worship of the college credential, most real wealth in our society is still gained not through education and the professions but through entrepreneurial activity. Higher education as it now exists in America simply doesn't develop the qualities of initiative and aggressiveness... [Read More...](#)

Black History... Yadda Yadda... Commentary by Ronald Court

When famous soprano Leontyne Price was hailed by an opera critic as, "perhaps the greatest black opera singer of all time," she responded with, "What's black got to do with it?" Exactly.

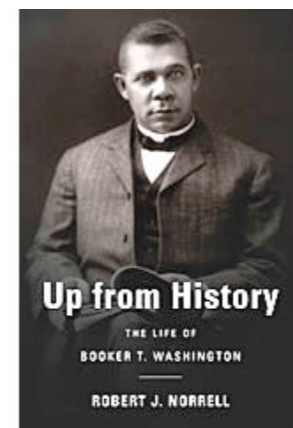
Her fierce dedication, discipline, training and hard work -- in a word, her character -- not her color, defined her. Yet editors around the country still rummage through archives for old columns to recycle to commemorate "Black History" this month... [Read More...](#)

"Up From History" . . . Rave reviews for New BTW Bio

Click to read the [Washington Post's Jonathan Yardley](#) review.

...And [Jason L. Riley of The Wall Street Journal](#) writes that "after decades of neglect, Booker T. Washington is the subject of a timely reappraisal"

For a [radio/TV interview](#) with Author Robert Norrell, email [him](#) directly.



Did You Know...

The Booker T. Washington Society's staff is all-volunteer and does not accept government funding. That means your dollars go directly to programs that help show young people how to be a "CEO" and take charge of their Character, Education & Opportunity.

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Character Matters Commentary by Harris Sherline

"Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee," was perhaps the most widely recognized taunt during the years that Muhammad Ali dominated the fight game. He was and is a larger than life personality, transcending even the ravages of Parkinson's disease, which sidelined him some years ago. [Read More...](#)

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