

OPINION

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Brothas Must Keep Up with Sistas

Disparity between sexes is cause for concern

BY JUDGE GREG MATHIS

Black women are doing great things: they're graduating from colleges and graduate schools in record numbers, running their own businesses, buying their own homes.



We should understand that these barriers are there and we should help our men figure out ways around them.

But, for every black woman that wins, there are numerous black men that don't even get the chance to play in the game.

Statistics suggest that black women currently own more companies than black men.

women increased by 75-percent since the last census, compared to an increase of 29 percent for black men.

The fact that black women are outdistancing black men in so many areas is a

cause for concern. As our women succeed, they are positioned to become tomorrow's business leaders and decision makers.

There are several societal obstacles that keep many black men from success.

families; going to school was a luxury that many couldn't afford.

During American apartheid, brothas were often made examples of, publicly beaten and lynched for stepping out of line.

From the schools systems that push our boys into Special Ed, labeling them "behaviorally challenged" to the prison industrial complex...

As a people, we should understand that these barriers are there and we should help our men figure out ways around them.

Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

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Bush's Nonsense Terrorism war can't be won in Iraq

BY U.S. REP. CHARLES B. RANGEL

President Bush says the war in Iraq is straining the psyche of the American people. That's nonsense.



The American people are fed up with the war and with President Bush's leadership.

insists as long as he is president that he would stay the course in order to fight the war on terrorism.

The war on terrorism cannot be won in Iraq. That country is fighting a civil war which goes back for hundreds of years.

Our brave soldiers and marines are caught in the cross-fire. Two thousand six hundred have been killed and 19,000 have been

wounded and maimed. Thousands are returning home with terrible head injuries and emotional trauma.

Our military is battered and stretched beyond the limit. Since the start of the war, 14,000 army veterans have been called back into service.

While we are bogged down in Iraq, Osama Bin Laden is roaming free in Afghanistan - ordering

Iraq, we were creating more terrorists than we killed.

U.S. taxpayers are spending more than \$1 billion a week in Iraq. Yet today, we are as vulnerable as the day after 9-11.

Our seaports, bridges, tunnels, transportation systems - our entire infrastructure - remain unprotected.

Clearly, the president lacks the

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attacks around the world. His friends have taken over Somalia and killed thousands of innocent people in the Sudan.

This administration is incompetent at warfare and scornful of diplomacy.

Congressman Charles Rangel is a Democrat from New York and a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Letters to the Editor Missing Person Found and safe

The Portland Observer recently published information regarding missing Portland resident Chester "Ray" Barber. As I have come to understand it, Chester is sort of an icon in the Dawson Park area and, seemingly, has many friends there.

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