# **OPINION**

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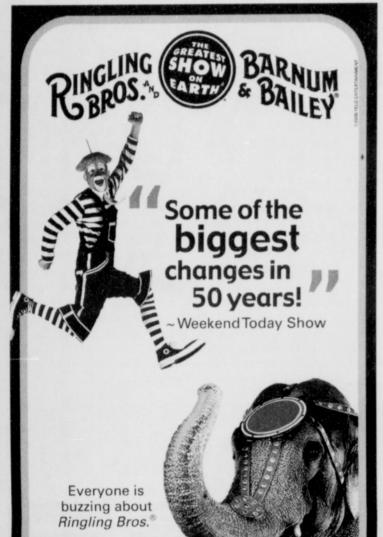
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# Brothas Must Keep Up with Sistas

### 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. All over this country, sistas are doing it for themselves. And they deget: black women have over-

come countless obstacles, battling racism and sexism, both overt and subtle, to get their just due.

But, for every black woman that wins, there are numerous black men that don't even get the chance to play in the game. This isn't meant to compare the two. It's meant to get brothas to realize that while the system may not always be in their favor, they owe it to themselves, their communities and their women to step up and work it the best way

Statistics suggest that black women currently own more companies than black men. Data from the Small Business Administration shows that businesses owned by black

last census, compared to an increase of 29 percent for black men. The disparities don't end there: black women now receive about two-thirds of all college degrees awarded to African Americans, nearly 70 percent of all master's degrees and close to 60 percent of all doctorates. Sistas also outnumber black men in medical, dental and law schools.

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

We should understand that these barriers are there and we should help our men figure out serve all the success they ways around them.

> cause for concern. As our women succeed, they are positioned to become tomorrow's business leaders and decision makers. The black male voice will become more and more obsolete. Our families, too, will suffer. Education and income disparities make it increasingly harder for black men and women to relate to each other, causing rifts in and breaking up families. Over time, our young men will have fewer male role models.

> There are several societal obstacles that keep many black men from success. During slavery, our men were rendered powerless as they watched their women and children abused. Post slavery, our youngest men were forced to work to help support their

women increased by 75-percent since the 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. In modern times, this translates to psychological and social barriers that have our men convinced that education is not 'cool,' that setting goals is a useless exercise and that, no matter what, the system will find a way to keep them down

From the schools systems that push our boys into Special Ed, labeling them "behaviorally challenged" to the prison industrial complex that feeds on our men, society does keep many black men from reaching their full potential. Not that black women haven't had their struggles - they have - but social programs, welfare reform, for instance, have helped many women pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

As a people, we should understand that these barriers are there and we should help our men figure out ways around them. We should not allow these obstacles to become excuses for why our men aren't shining as brightly as they can. The coolest, most macho thing our men can do is find a way to work the system and defy the odds, showing everyone that expects them to fail just how talented they are.

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

## 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. Americans are tough enough to fight

World War II or Korea.

up with the war and with Presi-

cannot be won in Iraq. the war zone. That country is fighting a

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insists as long as he is wounded and maimed. Thou- Iraq, we were creating more terstay the course in order to terrible head injuries and emofight the war on terror- tional trauma. An untold story is that 137,000 women - most of

Our military is battered and dent Bush's leadership. He has rines are caught in the cross-fire. months, thousands of marine finally admitted that Iraq had Two thousand six hundred have veterans will be recalled. Enlistnothing to do with 9-11, but still been killed and 19,000 have been ment bonuses as high as \$40,000 glect. attract mostly poor and minority recruits, but not enough to make transportation systems - our enup for the shortages of man-Subscribe 503-288-0033 Fill Out & Send To: power.

Iraq, Osama Bin Laden is roaming free in Afghanistan - ordering

president that he would sands are returning home with rorists than we killed. Worldwide terrorist attacks actually tripled between 2004 and 2005.

U.S. taxpayers are spending The war on terrorism them minorities - have served in more than \$1 billion a week in Iraq. Yet today, we are as vulnerable as the day after 9-11. Inany war - if it is justified like civil war which goes back for stretched beyond the limit. Since stead of doing what it takes to hundreds of years. Last month, the start of the war, 14,000 army secure the nation, the president The American people are fed 3,000 Iraqi's killed each other. veterans have been called back manipulates the people's fear of Our brave soldiers and ma- into service. In the coming terrorism to salvage his popularity. The people of New Orleans are the tragic victims of this ne-

> Our seaports, bridges, tunnels, tire infrastructure - remain unprotected. Our major cities are While we are bogged down in shortchanged in anti-terrorism funding.

Clearly, the president lacks the

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.

people in the Sudan. With the portant, non-violent role in pro-U.S. preoccupied in Iraq, North tecting the country. Korea and Iran are developing nuclear weapons.

This administration is incomdiplomacy. Because of its poli- ity. cies, America is hated in the Mus-Rumsfeld wondered whether, in sional Black Caucus.

attacks around the world. His vision and leadership to mobilize friends have taken over Somalia a domestic peace corps. Our and killed thousands of innocent young people could play an im-

No, there is nothing wrong with the psyche of the American people. But, what is strained is petent at warfare and scornful of the president's contact with real-

Congressman Charles Rangel lim world and disrespected by is a Democrat from New York our allies. Even Secretary and a member of the Congres-

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### 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.

I had been unaware that the information had been published. Due to the concern for Chester's welfare, as well as the sense of community responsibility that I believe declined. went into the preparation and effort to publish the information, I was I want to personally say thank you contacted by a "witness" who read

tion, we were able to fine-tune our Persons Unit

investigation and ultimately safely locate Chester, out-of-state, on Sept. 6. Local police had contact with Chester and I spoke with him by phone. He indicated that his having left Portland was voluntary and that he wished to maintain his privacy.

For that reason, I cannot go into detail regarding the circumstances of his having left Portland, but I can tell you he is no longer considered missing, and his welfare has been checked by police with further assistance having been offered, but

On behalf of the Police Bureau, for your efforts to help Chester.

Detective Mike Weinstein, As a direct result of that informa- Portland Police Bureau, Missing