

President Bennett, Are You a Modern-day Robber Baron? Or, Asked Another Way, Are You Simply An Ordinary Modern-Day Plantation Master?

Darron Smith seems to think so. See, "[Emancipate the Black College Athlete](#)," *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. May 5, 2014.

Today big-time college sports is one of a handful of activities in which blacks can be controlled for profit. Young black men follow directives from modern-day robber barons who dictate the terms and conditions of play.

Black on Black slavery is part of history, so the irony of the title question is not unprecedented.

My take on Mr. Smith's opinion:

"...the masses of young black males who reside in deprived settings obtain fewer resources and 'get what they paid for' by receiving a marginal education through no fault of their own."

If young black males spend the same amount of time preparing for the academic rigor of college as they do for their sport of interest, they would gain more from their college academic experience. And even uneducated black teens understand the game that is currently played with their high school "education" and college "education" *vis-a-vis* sports and they choose to focus on sports, not academics.

What child focusing on sports hasn't heard the remote odds of making it to the pros, and if they do make it, keeping the money they're paid? Name them so we can interview them.

At some point, personal responsibility is a contributing factor in their lives.

Anybody who has ever watched a college basketball or football game and hasn't noticed that black youngsters are disproportionately represented on basketball and football teams is blind. And if you have indeed noticed this event over the approximate last half century, why are you so late to the obvious plantation environment of higher education? What else have you missed or didn't care about with regard to what's going in higher education?

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