

# GUEST COLUMNIST



**Ade Sawyer**

**W**ow! Another good story, the recent PSI report would have us believe. Ethnic minorities are doing well in Britain. They are assimilating into the host population, intermarrying and yet retaining their religious identity. OK, so Africans are not included. They are insignificant and not very homogeneous as a group, but the report is glad to note that African Asians are doing just fine.

How do you feel as an African when you are once again marginalised? The only images that the media portray of you are what we see on the news in this country - viz starvation, massacres, coups d'état, bad government etc. You feel like you want to hit back!

## Study

A study of ethnic minorities cannot be called comprehensive if it ignores a significant 10 per cent of the target group. We are either part of the ethnic minority statistics or we are not. No ethnic minority grouping is homogeneous; there are the rich and the poor, the educated and the uneducated, the religious and the non-devout, so why exclude Africans? One would have thought that the whole point about a minority member conducting this minority survey was in order to make it all-inclusive. So this time around it is a black brother who is excluding us.

## Educated

Africans are probably the most educated minority group and our children are doing well. We do not go cap in hand begging from borough to borough for cash to take care of their elderly or young; we have our traditional languages but do not demand translation services; we practise our culture with some pomp; we sort out our social problems without recourse to state funding and support. So I say to Africans: we now need to start asserting the positives of being African, to remind the whole world of the origin of human species, culture as we know it, the start of religion, civilisation, politics and science.

Let us all start telling other ethnic minorities that we Africans are proud of our continent.

**Ade Sawyer is partner of Equinox Consulting, a black-led consultancy, training and research organisation; he is also chairman of the Ghana Union.**

## There's no such thing as a black Briton



Dear Editor,

I would like to reply to the article in your Pope Fiction column of 7 July entitled An Unfortunate Case of Mistaken Identity.

I agree Britain is a great help to blacks from Africa and the Caribbean. But to deny one's blood ancestry simply because of a dole cheque or because one can find a menial job in England is childish. A lot of white Americans in America still refer to themselves as Irish Americans, or Italian Americans or Jewish Americans. I am one person who appreciates

the opportunity Britain creates for blacks. But begging white people to accept you as British shows you have given up hope that your ancestral home of origin will never improve economically, and politically. People should integrate into the ethnic society they're born into but still recognise their blood origin. Remember, you can be rejected by the true owners of this country at any time. If the economy and social life improved in Africa and the Caribbean islands, many blacks would be on the first plane out of England.

*Chindo Dixon  
London*

## Ban Tyson for life

Dear Editor,

I firmly believe that Tyson committed a violent criminal assault when he bit off a portion of Evander Holyfield's ear in their recent boxing match.

Tyson stepped outside the regulations and rules of boxing and should therefore be severely punished.

There have been recent cases of sportsmen from rugby and football being charged with criminal assault and grievous bodily harm.

Tyson is a bad role model for black males, fulfilling the stereotypical image of the black male the eurocentric press of being bad, mad and possessing no intellectual ability. A much better role model is Lennox Lewis who has donated considerable sums to fund an institution of learning in London.

I urge *New Nation* to strongly condemn Tyson's criminal behaviour in the Tyson v Holyfield without any equivocation.

I vehemently believe that Tyson should be banned from boxing, life, any less a punishment will mean he got off lightly for will and premeditatedly biting off a portion of Holyfield's ear.

**BAN TYSON NOW.**

*T Johns*

*London South*

## Up & Coming: a good job well done

Dear Editor,

I read your Up & Coming column with great interest. It is particularly refreshing to read about black men who are creating value with their lives. It's not that there are not a lot of them out there

# Up & Coming

## Your weekly guide to the next generation of movers and shakers

**Annette Fisher**

**A**rchitecture is a frustrating career. You could spend seven of the most fun years of your life huddled behind a drawing board in college, hope to qualify and build the next Empire State Building but wind up designing lift shafts.

Not so Annette Fisher, a Chelsea-ite who runs her own design business, Fisher Associates Ltd. At 37, this Nigerian-Sierra Leonian Brit has a daughter of seven and is a capable professional who competes successfully on merit, with a lot of style.

**What would you have liked to do if not architecture?**

Portrait and landscape painting in the south of France. I need the sunshine.

**Would you ever live in Nigeria or Sierra Leone?**

Nigeria Yes. Sierra Leone no. Not after the carnage that's happened there lately.

**What is your favourite book?**

*The Bourne Identity* by Robert Ludlum. I love the international intrigue in his books.

**If you had the pick of any man who would you date?**

Pass. He's divine, works for a big company and I think he'd be embarrassed.

**What would you like your daughter to be in future?**

Whatever she wants, but it has got to pay her a decent living.

**Who is your hero or shero?**

Billie Holiday. She had so much talent, but struggled against adversity all her life. I can relate to that.

**What is the biggest project you've worked on?**

A £10m luxury flat complex for Shell International in Ikoyi, Nigeria.

**What is your biggest failing?**

Impatience. I suffer fools very badly.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

As a person of integrity.

**What would you most like to change about society?**

The attitude to women in the professions. People suspect we are not as capable as men and they're wrong.



**Fisher: needs sunshine**