

THE

BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

MOM PULLS SON OUT OF SCHOOL

Five Year Old Says He Was Thrown In The Dumpster; School Officials Conclude It Didn't Happen



Jeremiah is a friendly and curious kindergartener, with sparkling bright eyes and a wide happy grin, who according to his mother, Melissa Commodore, was so popular at his previous school in Pullman that classmates got in trouble for fighting to sit next to him on the bus for a field trip.

But things seemed to change for Jeremiah when Melissa moved to Spokane to attend the Phd

Program in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University.

She says she noticed right away how few African Americans were in the school when she visited St. Aloysius Gonzaga Catholic School, a K-8 Jesuit school located on Mission Avenue in Spokane, but still figured that everything would be alright and enrolled Jeremiah anyway.

"The first day that he went, my parents and his auntie picked him up and they said he was mad, and he was like, I don't like it," Melissa recalled, and when she asked him what was going on, she says Jeremiah told her the kids were saying some nasty things. That was the very first day and she says, "from there it just went downhill."

Melissa says it was an ongoing problem. "Every day kids were doing stuff to him." Until one

day she says there was an incident in the bathroom with two older white boys making comments about Jeremiah's penis. The next day, she says, Jeremiah came home with his pants all dirty and told her he was pushed to the ground by some boys.

Melissa says she told Jeremiah that it was okay to defend himself and also spoke to his teacher, who she says acknowledged that she had seen some kids getting rough with Jeremiah and was proud of him for standing up to them.

Melissa decided to go to the school to see if maybe she could help Jeremiah get adjusted. She pointed out a group of white kids and told Jeremiah that maybe he could "hang with those kids." She says Jeremiah responded that he could "hang with the Mexican kids, but not the white kids because they were bullies."

When Jeremiah came home again with dirty pants, he told his mother that his head hurt, but would not tell her why. While she was away in Seattle for oral surgery, Jeremiah disclosed to his aunt that some kids had thrown him in a dumpster at school and he had hit his head.

According to Jeremiah, a couple of older boys, said "heave ho" as they tossed him in a green dumpster and closed the lid. He said that he could see through the holes in the dumpster and he saw a "Mexican boy" try to make them stop and a little girl run for help. He says it was the "Mexican boy" and the little girl who eventually helped get him out.

When Melissa returned to town, she and her parents went to the school to try to get to the bottom

of what happened. They spoke with Kellie Rowland, Principal at St. Aloysius for the past sixteen years, who Melissa says concluded that the incident never happened.

Principal Rowland and Angie Krauss, the Advancement Director, who both discussed the incident, said that they felt blindsided by Melissa. "We had no idea of the complaint until Melissa walked in," Krauss recalled. "We did not know that she was unhappy, we thought that she loved it here." Principal Rowland said that Jeremiah's

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THE PRIVILEGE OF INNOCENCE: Assumed White Innocence & Assumed Black Guilt Symptoms of Injustice

by Rachel Dolezal, President, Spokane NAACP



Kenan Adams-Kinard pleaded guilty to first degree murder on January 7, 2015.

The news broke in August 2013 that the Spokane Police Department had arrested a suspect in the brutal beating death of an 88 year old white man who was killed in the parking lot of a pool hall. Only later did we find out that the facts could have sounded more like this: An injured man was found, rushed to a hospital, and died the next day; fingerprints of two suspects were found on his car at the scene.

To play up the drama, though, the press needed sinners and a saint, villains and a hero. So, we heard how the deceased was a veteran from WWII; he had taken a bullet in combat and risked his life for our freedom. Our hearts beat with respect for his valor and grieved for his loss. We heard words of praise from his best friend and learned that people who loved him affectionately called him, "Shorty."

We braced ourselves, waiting to see the suspect's picture on the screen. With no hesitation, the images came. Not one, but two Black teens, were associated with probable cause in this local case. We cringed with awareness that not only were these two suspects headed to trial as adults, but along with them our Blackness, our youth, and all who showed compassion for them or their families would be judged by the jury of Spokane.

The race talk geared up immediately, with words like "thug," "criminal," "animal" and worse. Rounds of expletives were loaded side-by-side like hollow points and fired off in the form of online commentary and every day conversation, aimed to dehumanize and vilify these two young Black boys and others "of their kind."

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

The Color of Fear

"In this country American means white. Everybody else has to hyphenate."

— Toni Morrison

Like a couple thousand others on Monday, January 19, I headed down to the Spokane Convention Center for the annual Martin Luther King March and Community Celebration.

The gathering is kind of like a family reunion of sorts. It's the one time of the year when I get to see people from the Black community that I haven't seen all year. We greet each other, laugh, hug, catch up on our lives, our jobs, our families, and celebrate that we have made it through yet another year.

I enjoy that part of the day the most, and while honoring Martin Luther King Jr. and what he stood for is important to me, as is focusing attention on issues of racial and social justice, it is the opportunity to reconnect with "my people" that keeps me returning to the march year after year.

I had parked at a meter and couldn't remember whether or not MLK Day was considered a holiday from paying, so I looked around for somebody to ask. Walking towards me, at the other end of the block, was a white man, a city employee I presumed from his uniform, collecting coins from the meters. I figured he should know the answer, so I headed towards him.

As I got close enough to talk to him, he looked up, noticing me for the first time, and when he did, I saw the flash in his eyes-- *fear*. I was taken aback and quickly asked him, as politely and unthreateningly as I could, if we were supposed to pay at the meters. Relieved at my question, he relaxed and answered that we did not. I thanked him and went on my way. But for the rest of the day it bugged me. That look in his eyes.

I recalled a conversation that I had with a black male friend who shared that a white woman had locked her car when she saw him coming, and another who saw a woman hold tighter to her purse in response to him, and a black female friend who was perceived as menacing for simply disagreeing.

We were gathered at the convention center on that Monday morning, a rainbow of colors, coming together to celebrate our common humanity, but underneath all of that "togetherness", I wondered how many others in that jubilant crowd would have been afraid of me if they had encountered me alone on the street and not inside of the convention center.

Everyone carries inside of themselves a number of biases, the unspoken and often subconscious messages that we have about other people, which ones are good, which ones are bad, which ones are dangerous, which ones are safe, and which ones are scary. We react to the biases without thinking.

I grew up in Spokane during the time of Aryan Nations. The image of bald headed, gun toting, hate filled white men is etched into my brain. As a result, I have a very strong bias against bald headed, white men. Before I can think, I respond, as if I am in danger. Much the way the meter guy did towards me. The difference though, I suspect, is that I know I have that bias. Most people are not aware of them, and that lack of awareness in the wrong place at the wrong time can be deadly.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

(Or Things You Probably Didn't Learn In School)

DR. ALEXANDER THOMAS AUGUSTA

Article and Art by Bertoni Jones

Alexander Thomas Augusta was born March 8, 1825 in Norfolk, VA. Growing up amongst free African Americans, Alexander learned to read and write while employed as a barber. He applied to the University of Pennsylvania, but his admission was refused, citing "inadequate preparations". Due to his concern that no U.S. medical school would admit him based on his "race", he saved up, applied to, and was accepted to the Trinity Medical University in Toronto, Canada in 1850. Six years later he would obtain his medical degree and become head of the Toronto City Hospital.

When the Civil War broke out, Dr. Alexander offered his services to the Union cause as a surgeon and was commissioned to the rank of Major. This post would make him the first (of eight) African American surgeon/physicians for segregated troops, serving as the Regimental Surgeon of the Seventh US. Colored Troops, and the highest ranking African American officer in the Civil War.

Dr. Augusta was later appointed head of the Freedman's Hospital at Camp Barker in Washington, DC, the first appointment for an African American hospital director or administrator. He experienced many forms of racism during his service, including watching Caucasian doctors reluctant to treat wounded "colored" soldiers coming off of the field of battle, and Caucasian subordinates who claimed that serving under an African American supervisor was an "unnatural situation". In 1863, Dr. Augusta was physically assaulted on two separate occasions by mobs of resentful Caucasians while in full Major's uniform. Three would be arrested for assault.

In 1865 he was promoted and retired with the rank of First Colonel. Dr. Augusta moved to Washington DC in 1868 and was hired by How-



Bertoni Jones

ard University's Medical School, the first ever appointment of an African American faculty member of any medical school in America.

After a lifetime of professional service in medicine and the military, Dr. Alexander Thomas Augusta died December 21, 1890 in Washington DC, where he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery (Section 1, Site 124).

Sources: Arlingtoncemetery.mil, [Black Heritage Day III \(Jamiyo Mack\)](http://BlackHeritageDayIII(JamiyoMack)), Browsebiography.com, Wikipedia.org

HOW DID BLACK HISTORY MONTH GET STARTED AND WHY?

(From the Library of Congress Law Library - www.loc.gov/law and www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov)

National African American History Month, or more commonly referred to as Black History Month, is celebrated in February and recognizes the contributions that African Americans have made to American history.

In 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland co-founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH). Woodson's mission was to raise awareness about Black history and recognize its importance. He believed that publishing scientific history about the Black race would produce facts that would prove to the world that Africa and its people had played a crucial role in the development of civilization, and as a result established a scholarly journal called *The Journal of Negro History*.

Woodson and the ASNLH, which is now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History ("ASALH"), pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week" in 1926, to spread the news about Black history to the general public, as well as to scholars. He selected the week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, which he felt were two key figures in the history of African Americans.

In 1975, President Ford issued a "Message on the Observance of Black History Week" urging all Americans to "recognize the important contributions made to our nation's life and culture by black citizens." In 1976 ASALH expanded the week to Black History Month, and President Ford issued the first "Message on the Observance of Black History Month" that year. In 1986 Congress passed a law which designated February 1986 as "National Black (Afro-American) History Month." In January 1996, President Clinton issued a Presidential Proclamation in observance of the month, and since 1996 Presidents have issued annual proclamations for National African American History Month.

THE BLACK LENS NEWS SPOKANE

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

From Across the Country and Around the World

Rose Parade Queen Allowed to Ride 56 Years After Denial Because She was Black



(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The qualities that led Pasadena, Calif. city workers to choose Joan Williams as Miss Crown City and to ride on their float in the 1958 Rose Parade no longer mattered once they found out she was an African-American woman. As surprised as she was to have received the honor, she was doubly surprised when it was unceremoniously taken away.

But the ride she was denied in 1958 was finally realized in 2015 when she took her rightful place, New Year's Day, on the Pasadena city float by popular demand of local organizations and a rising tide of supporters as her story has become an international headline.

It's the same old story with different players, but the plot always includes a healthy dose of discrimination.

"I never told anybody I was White. I had pictures of my children on my desk. We had just moved to Pasadena and we were settling in," Williams said. And all was well with her designation as Miss Crown City until a reporter came to her house and saw, "My very brown husband, and apparently went back and said, 'Guess what?'"

When Jet magazine came to photograph her, the Mayor at that time refused to be in the photograph. "I was humiliated and embarrassed. One minute I was representing them and the next I wasn't. Nothing had changed in me," Williams said. "The whole thing was the result of their assumptions, not of anything I'd done. I hadn't pulled the wool over their eyes."

Although she could very easily have let this current opportunity go by, she feels it can mean so much at this time in history. "If I'd taken that ride in 1958 it would have been just a 'White girl on a float' for the record," she said jokingly, since they'd made that assumption. But in the light of Ferguson, the ongoing protests and the present racist atmosphere, it can mean so much more. Black lives do matter and this is another way of stating the case. This is not for me, but for the community and to demonstrate that I can be gracious and accept their apology," Williams said.

Williams says she has no regrets and is enthusiastic about the young Black and Brown activists that populate Pasadena now, who demanded justice and an apology on her behalf. "Inspiring Stories" was the theme for this year's parade. "When they told me I would be on the banner float, I thought that was very apropos."

New Poll Says Race Relations Have Not Improved Since Obama Elected President

by Ned Resnikoff (America.Aljazeera.com)



Despite the belief by many that the election of America's first African American president signaled a new era in race relations, a recent poll conducted by Al Jazeera America/Monmouth University found that only fifteen percent of Americans believe that race relations have improved since President Obama took office in January of 2009, and nearly half of all of those polled believe that race relations have gotten worse.

Blacks were split with thirty-one percent both believing things were better and worse. The poll was conducted by telephone in the United States from January 13-15, with 1,003 adults. There is a margin of error of + 3.1 percent.

Eleven Year Old Is Detroit's Youngest Entrepreneur



(reprinted from www.superbusinessgirl.com)

Super Business Girl, **Asia Newson**, is also known as Detroit's youngest entrepreneur. At just eleven years old she makes and sells her own candles and merchandise, selling them through her company Super Business Girl.

Born in Owosso, MI and raised in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood, Asia started Super Business Girl at the age of five years old, learning how to make candles from her father. She has won numerous awards including being named on the Griot's Top 100 list, and has appeared on the Ellen Degeneres Show, America's Got Talent, Disney World's Cinderella Stage, MSNBC, 20/20 ABC News, NPR, and was a keynote speaker for TEDxDetroit.

Asia hopes to open up shop in Downtown Detroit and become the city's "Youth Mayor". She also plans to finish middle school & high school so she can attend Michigan State University.

White House Announces \$25 Million Dollar Program to Promote Cybersecurity Education Programs at Historically Black Colleges



(Journal of Blacks in Higher Education - jbhe.com)

According to the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education, the White House has announced a new five-year, \$25 million grant program of the U.S. Department of Energy to foster cybersecurity education at minority serving institutions. The announcement of the program was made at historically Black Norfolk State University in Virginia, the lead institution of the new program.

The new Cybersecurity Workforce Pipeline Consortium aims to help fill the growing need for cybersecurity professionals nationwide. It is estimated the jobs in the field are increasing at 12 times the rate of job growth in other sectors of the U.S. economy. This effort hopes to ensure that Blacks and other minorities are well represented in this growing field.

In addition to Norfolk State University, other HBCUs who will participate in the consortium are Allen University, Benedict College, Bowie State University, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Denmark Technical College, Morris College, North Carolina A&T State University, Paine College, South Carolina State University, the University of the Virgin Islands, and Voorhees College.

North Miami Police Snipers Use Photos of Black Men for Target Practice



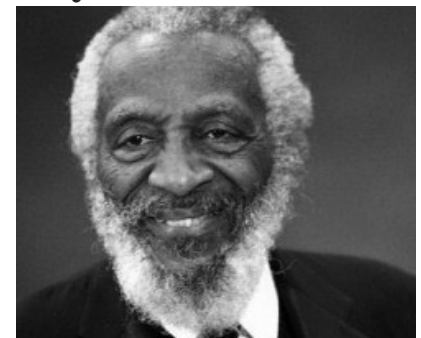
NBCMiami.com News 6 (By Mc Nelly Torres and Willard Shepard)

When Sgt. Valerie Deant, of the Florida Army National Guard, arrived at a shooting range in North Miami Beach Florida for her annual weapons qualifications training, she discovered that the group who had used the range before them, snipers for the North Miami Beach Police Department, had left behind their targets, mug shots of African American men. Even more upsetting than that, one of the photos was of Sgt. Dent's brother, Woody Deant.

Sgt. Dent was outraged, as were her fellow guardsmen, and she contacted her brother. "The picture actually has like bullet holes," Woody Deant said, as reported on NBC-Miami.com. "One in my forehead and one in my eye. I was speechless," he added.

North Miami Beach Police Chief J. Scott Dennis "admitted that his officers could have used better judgment, but denies any racial profiling," despite the fact that all of the photos were of Black men.

Dick Gregory Receives Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame



By Zenitha Prince

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Comedian and international human and civil rights activist Dick Gregory achieved Hollywood immortality on Feb. 2 when his star was etched into the Walk of Fame.

Gregory's career, which began in the mid-1950s while he was in the Army, has stood the test of time. By 1962, Gregory was a nationally-known headline performer, selling out nightclubs, making numerous national television appearances, and recording popular comedy albums. Known as the first African-American satirist, Gregory, now 82, broke away from the minstrel tradition and opened the doorways for Black comedians such as Bill Cosby, Eddie Murphy and, most importantly, Richard Pryor.

Over the years, Gregory frequently put his comedic career aside to focus on his activism. During the Civil Rights Movement, for example, Gregory joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and others to fight segregation and disenfranchisement in the South. He joined the SNCC in its voter registration efforts, marched, participated in sit-ins and was even jailed. According to his biography, when local Mississippi governments stopped distributing federal food surpluses to poor Blacks in retaliation against SNCC's voter registration efforts, Gregory chartered a plane to bring in several tons of food.

Over the decades, the comedian-activist has supported a range of causes including healthy living, opposition to the Vietnam War, world hunger, drug abuse, and suspected corruption in the CIA, and he has fought for Native American fishing rights in Canada and the U.S. and sought to change the name of Washington, D.C.'s football team.

GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

Meet Your Commissioners: THE WASHINGTON STATE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The Washington State Commission on African American Affairs was created by State law in 1992 to serve as policy advisers to the Governor, the Legislature and other State Agencies.

The focus of the Commission each year is to make an impact on the legislative process and on the policy makers across the state who create and pass legislation that has an impact on African Americans in Washington State.

The Commission is made up of nine volunteer Commissioners from across the state, one position is currently vacant, and two paid staff, including current Executive Director, Ed Prince, who has been with the Commission for three years. The Executive Director works as a liaison between the Commissioners and the Governor's office and other legislative bodies, and works with the Commissioners as they set their legislative priorities.

"In 2015, two of the biggest issues facing the African American community in Washington are education and relations with law enforcement," says Prince. He adds that the primary objective of his work and the work of the Commission on these issues, and others, is to make sure that African American concerns are raised at the same level as the concerns of other communities. "I always say, if you are not at the table, you are on the menu."

The nine Commissioners vary in background, but bring with them a common passion and commitment to advocate for policies that are equitable in their impact on African Americans.

While some view the legislative work of the Commission as not having much to do with their day to day lives, Commissioner Sara Franklin- who spearheaded a state-wide effort last year that ultimately led

to the passage of the Youth Opportunities Act, which seals most juvenile records at age 18 and stops the state from making a profit from selling the records of our youth and preventing them from getting employment- sees the Commission as having the ability to make a concrete impact in the lives of African Americans.

"I believe the role of the Commission is to identify and actively address issues and

concerns in the African American community through the legislative process, and to advocate and support policies and positions that will lead to substantive, positive, healthy and long term changes."

The Commission on African American Affairs holds public meetings around the state to hear from the community. For more information about the Commission visit www.caa.wa.gov.



Franklin Donahoe
Representing Snohomish County



Sara Franklin
Representing South King County



Al Herron
Representing King County



De'Sean Quinn
Representing South King County



Dr. James Smith
Representing King County



Sheila Reed Trahan
Representing Tri-Cities



Dorian Waller
Representing Pierce County



Sandy Williams
Representing Eastern Washington

NEW REPORT RELEASED: FACING RACE 2015 HOW BUDGET CUTS ARE INCREASING RACIAL DISPARITIES

*"How we spend our money is a reflection of our values."
-Facing Race 2015*

Washington Community Action Network and the Washington State Budget and Policy Center released the Facing Race 2015 Report in January of this year to a standing room only audience at the New Holly Gathering Hall in Seattle.

The report which details how budget cuts have increased racial disparities in Washington State and the legislative agenda of Washington CAN, is endorsed by over 50 organizations and institutions across the state that have a common mission to eliminate inequities for communities of color, "so that all Washingtonians have a path toward prosperity and happiness."

According to the Facing Race 2015 Report, since the start of what has been called "The Great Recession", lawmakers in Washington have cut over \$10 billion dollars from healthcare, job supports and food assistance programs, cuts that have disproportionately

impacted communities of color. As a result, the thirty-four page report offers twenty legislative recommendations focusing on five target areas: Economic Security, Healthy People & the Environment, Education, Community Development and Trust, and Equitable Revenue. An overview of the recommendations include: increasing access to affordable health coverage, increasing the state minimum wage, fully funding McCleary and closing the opportunity gap, adopting racial equity impact assessments, passing the Voting Rights Act, closing tax breaks and enacting a Capitol Gains Tax.

The goal of the Facing Race 2015 report, according to its authors, is to help lawmakers consider how their decisions affect communities of color and encourage them to actively pursue legislation and budget decisions that undo racial inequity.

For more information contact Washington CAN (Community Action Network) at 206-389-0050 and to see a copy of the report visit www.washingtoncan.org.



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Spokane Celebrates MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



Kyle Norbert

Record Setting Attendance at MLK March

Spokane's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Rally and March, held on Monday, January 19, drew a crowd that was estimated to be between 2,000-3,000 people, and was the "largest I've seen since I've been here", according to Freda Gandy, Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center and organizer of the events.

The March kicked off a weekend worth of activities commemorating the slain Civil Rights Leader and focusing attention on his legacy, including a Youth Empowerment Luncheon held at Spokane Community College on January 17, which featured the winners of the Martin Luther King

Jr. Essay Contest, and a Commemorative Celebration that was held at Bethel A.M.E. Church on Sunday, January 18.

This year's Unity Rally included the traditional speeches and songs that attendees have come to expect over the years, as well as the familiar rendition of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech delivered Pastor Happy Watkins of New Hope Baptist Church, a crowd favorite. But this year's rally, also included a very strong young adult presence, with emerging leadership represented from local colleges, like EWU Black Student Union President Satori Butler, and spoken word by Tahlyke Smith-Chenevert.



Kyle Norbert



Kyle Norbert

NAACP INTRODUCES NEW LEADERSHIP AND MOVES INTO DOWNTOWN OFFICE

By Rachel Dolezol, President

As a professor of Africana Studies at Eastern Washington University, one of my favorite moments in African American history is the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The nation's oldest and most influential civil rights organization, the NAACP was founded in 1909 and was famous for launching successful legal strategies that confronted racial injustices across the nation.

Founded by both Black and white individuals, the NAACP sought to educate the public about the need for racial equity. Using the tools of print publications, oral presentations, lobbying and events, this organization swiftly attacked lynching and Jim Crow laws.

Some 106 years later, the mission of the NAACP remains "to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

As President, I am honored to be joined by officers that give breadth and diversity to the leadership

lineup of the Spokane branch of the NAACP.

Our Vice-President, **Charles Thornton**, is a retired Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineer who worked in Aerospace for 30 years and served 20 years in the US Air Force. He worked 10 years with Northrop Grumman as a program manager and developed the Department of Defense Space Transportation System to include the west coast space shuttle landing site activation.

Serving as Second Vice-President, **Andre A. Dove** is the Lead Pastor at Restoration Church and has worked in Career College Education for the past sixteen years in various capacities, from Medical Program Director to Dean of Students. He is a veteran of the US Air Force and has authored the book, *iThink: Transforming your thoughts into Godly behaviors*.



Kyle Norbert

As Third Vice-President, **Naima Quarles-Burnley** holds her Juris Doctorate from District of Columbia School of Law in Washington, D.C. and participated in the Ecumenical Monitoring Program on South Africa, conducted by the World Council of Churches during the election of Nelson Mandela.

Our Treasurer, **Dorothy Webster**, received her Bachelor's degree from Tuskegee University and her Master's Degree from Washington State University. She taught high school at Pasco High School, was a Financial Aid Director at Colum-

bia Basin College, a Minority Affairs Specialist at Spokane Falls Community College and a Public Administrator for the City of Spokane, a position that she retired from in January, 2012. She has been the treasurer for the NAACP for the past two years.

Finally, our Secretary **Ariel McMillan**, received her A.A. from SFCC and is currently attending EWU majoring in Communications with an international focus, and will be minoring in ESL and Africana Studies before moving on to get her Master's and Doctorate degrees in Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Social Justice.

The premier qualifications of the NAACP Members-at-Large and Committee Chairs are also outstanding. They include the Vice President of a local university, an Epidemiologist, the CEO of the Spokane YWCA, scholars and community members.

I am confident that this leadership team provides the type of depth needed for effective and sustainable growth. Above all, the renewed excitement of our youth and college communities give me added courage and determination as we face a year equally full of challenge and possibility.

As Mary McLeod Bethune wrote in her Last Will & Testament, "We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

January 19 also marked the grand opening of the new NAACP office. The NAACP is now located in downtown Spokane, inside the Saranc Building, 25 W. Main Street, Suite 239.

Monthly NAACP meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7pm in the Lobby of the Community Building (next door) at 25 W. Main Street. A carpool service is available to bring NAACP members from the Emmanuel Family Life Center to the downtown meetings.

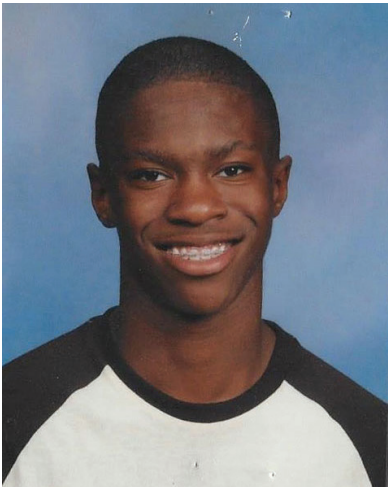
Contact the NAACP for information at SpokaneNAACP@gmail.com or (509) 456-2760. Twitter: @SpokaneNAACP, Instagram: @SpokaneNAACP.

YOUTH VOICE

TO BE YOUNG AND BLACK IN SPOKANE

Students participating in the South Perry Learning Center Neighborhood Networks Program were asked to write about their experiences being young and black and living in Spokane.

Keandre Harris



Being Black in Spokane is not easy because we get picked on at school and sometimes get bullied. Spokane is not a culturally diverse city. Even though we are different in race, culture, the way we dress, the way we are raised up, religious beliefs and moral values, we should still treat others with respect and kindness.

I have read that many people fought for equality before me, such as Martin Luther King and

Rosa Parks, and the list goes on and on. We remember what our past was like and try not to bring the past to the present.

Life is too precious to see only color. We need to instead see the person for who they are, instead of what they look like. The bible states that we should love thy neighbor as thyself. It starts with us. Together we could end racism, but we must all do our part to change ourselves.

Salicia Williams



There are tons of struggles being African American in Spokane, WA. First, people will judge you by your skin color because when they see you are a person of color, they will think badly or lowly of you. When I first moved to Spokane, people were giving me weird looks and talking bad about me when they didn't even know me, and were already judging my future.

Second, people call you really bad names all of the time. One time when I was in the mall with my friends, we all walked past a group of elderly Caucasians. After we passed them, we heard them say, "there are too many niggers in this city." It hurt my feelings when they said that, but I didn't react. All I did was keep walking because I couldn't believe that they would be that bold to say something like that when my friends and I just walked past.

There are many more struggles, but the point is to prove them wrong.

Next, there are a lot of difficulties that I have to face. One of

the major difficulties is school, because school is so important for everybody. It is a real struggle for me as an African American. I go to Lewis and Clark High School, and it's a good school, but you just have to work really hard to get the good grades. One teacher there pulled me aside and told me "if I don't fix my grades, I'm going to be pregnant by my junior year and live off welfare and food stamps." I thought that was messed up. I told my grandmother and she reported it. No teacher should say that to a student period! Also, it was a teacher that helps with African American students. All I can do is work really hard to be what I want to be and not listen to negative comments.

Lastly, the most important thing is hard work. Hard work is the most important thing because you have to do a lot of work in school and in life to succeed. It's not easy at all and on top of that you do it for yourself, so everybody that doubted you or put you down, you can prove them wrong.

What I think it's like to be African American in Spokane, WA is really tough because there are struggles, difficulties, and hard work to be done.

Also, people don't trust everybody the same as they are supposed to. What I mean is that I was raised in the Black church and in the bible it says "treat people how you want to be treated." At the same time, I can use all of the difficulties, struggles and hard work for an advantage because I can just prove to everybody that I made it and I proved them wrong.

Hebron Shanko



Being Black in Spokane is not that big of a deal, if you have the right mind set on life and your future. Yes, you are different from most of the population. Yes, you are looked at differently because of skin color. Yes, we don't have the same opportunities as others, but these reasons shouldn't hold us back, even if our road to success is a little steeper. Spokane is a great place to raise a family. It doesn't matter if you are black, white or pink. Spokane is a great place compared to other places in the U.S.

I moved to Spokane in 2007 from Ethiopia to have a better life and future. In a million years, I never thought my being black would effect my future. Being from Ethiopia where everyone is the same color and mostly in culture, and com-

ing to Spokane where it differs and varies and has many different ethnic groups is a very different feeling. In the last seven years I've learned being Black can effect your life if you let it.

In conclusion, Spokane is a great place to live in no matter what color you are. Just because I am black doesn't mean that I am so different than anyone who doesn't look like me. I can think of as many positive reasons for being black as being white. it doesn't matter as long as you know who you are and where you want to be.

I moved to America to have a better life, not to be judged by my skin color. I look at Spokane as a place where anyone can attain the American Dream and live life.

I Am

By Anonymous

I am the Black girl that tries to hide in the crowd
While others shout
I'm Black and I'm proud.
To be a Black girl you need to be brave
While I am just too afraid
To come out of the shadows
that I love to stay in
While everyone else is just soaking it in
I am trying hard not to get rid of it
And be proud of my heritage.
Trying to find the light that everyone sees
But it is so hard I can't even see the beam
Trying and trying I am
To find the blackness within.

I am the Black girl that didn't know what being Black really means
Trying to be white was the way to me
Trying to change my color to fit in
But all it did hurt me within.
Becoming more confident in who I am
Figuring out that, yes, my Black is beautiful.

I am the Black girl that wanted to change.
To become white was the idea
To fit in the society that I am accustomed to.
Praying, and praying is what I would do
To become as beautiful as the people I viewed.
Hiding was the only way to survive
All through the years of my life.

I am the Black girl that suffocates
in her own life
Figuring out that being Black is always a fight.
Starting to see what being Black really means
But getting pushed back from what
I am supposed to be
Act white and make your family proud
Or I will be pounded
Until I see that white is the way
But now I am stepping away
To become my own girl.

I am Black
I am a woman
I am a Black woman
I say to myself
And I am proud

I am the Black girl that used to try to hide in the shadows
Now I am the Black girl that sees who she truly is
A Black woman who is proud to be.

IN THE SPIRIT

CALVARY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

Washington State's Oldest African American Church Invites Spokane Community to Join the Celebration Feb. 7 & 8

Calvary Baptist Church and Rev. C. W. Andrews are inviting the Spokane community to join them as they celebrate their 125th Anniversary on February 7th and 8th of this year.

Founded on February 16, 1890 by Rev. Peter Barrow, who was born a slave, Calvary is not only the oldest black church in Spokane, but the oldest black church in the state of Washington, and it is currently under consideration for recognition by the Washington State Historical Society.

The church was first located on the corner of Pines Street and Fourth Avenue, moved to 168 S. Howard St. in 1895, then to 426 E. Third Avenue in 1897,



and finally to 203 E. Third Avenue in 1912, where it is currently located. Calvary's current pastor, Rev. C.W. Andrews, first came to Calvary in 1974 and celebrated his 40th anniversary last year.

The theme for this year's Church Anniversary Celebration is *"This is our Season for Grace and Favor - Ecclesiastes 3:1"*, and events will kick off on Saturday, February 7 with a Praise Worship and Dance Service featuring Minister Patricia Hairston of Grace Temple Church, Seattle WA. The music ministry will begin at 6pm and last "until the spirit says it's over."

On Sunday, February 8, Reverend Dr. Samuel B. McKinney, Civil Rights leader and Pastor Emeritus of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Seattle, will be bringing the message during the morning anniversary service at 10am.

At 3pm on February 8, Rev. McKinney will again be bringing the message as a part of Calvary's main anniversary event which will include Spokane dignitaries, local pastors, and Calvary's Youth Color Guard, who will be presenting the colors for the first time. Rev. Andrews will also be honored during the afternoon service and Calvary will crown the King and Queen of Calvary.



Rev. C.W. Andrews, Pastor

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 203 E Third Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202. For more information about the 125th Anniversary Celebration contact Carolyn Johnson at 509-443-0121.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION: A FAITH COMEBACK

By Pastor Andre Dove
Lead Pastor, Restoration Church

On September 14, 2014 at approximately 5:30pm, I sat down to watch one of the most exciting NFL games I've seen in a long time. The Chicago Bears vs. the San Francisco 49ers. I know that doesn't mean much to those of you who are diehard Seahawks fans; however, since I'm a transplant from the Chicago land area; I say with no hesitation, I AM A BEARS FAN 4 Life!! Now that we have my personal public service announcement out of the way, let's continue.

Like many of you, I'm on the edge of my seat during a game; analyzing, critiquing, yelling, posting comments on Facebook, and flailing my hands in utter disappointment when my team makes a mistake that could potentially cost us the game. Moreover, on this particular afternoon, things didn't seem much different. The Bears couldn't get it together and honestly, I didn't think they were going to win. In the first few minutes of the first quarter, the 49ers scored a touchdown. A few football minutes later they scored a field goal. The score was 10-0 49ers.

The second quarter roles around and the bears score a touchdown. Now, I'm breathing a little easier and the excitement returns and I'm saying to myself like we all do, "I believe we might be able to do something with the 49ers." All of a sudden, my hopes and dreams are dashed... San Francisco scores again. It's 17-7 at halftime.

And you know what happens during halftime; we're communicating as if we're the coach, noting the adjustments



which need to be made, while trying to boost our own mental confidence and allegiance to the team. So we come out of halftime with renewed vigor and a new hope.

The third quarter begins, and the 49ers score a field goal which makes the score 20-7. And I must say, my mood changed instantly to feeling defeated and frustrated again; notwithstanding, my blood pressure was through the roof.

As the third quarter ends and the fourth quarter begins; I'm ready to turn off the T.V. assuming I know what the outcome is going to be, but I watch the rest of the game anyway with a seemingly sad disposition. To my surprise the momentum

shifts. Jay Cutler and Brandon Marshall connect for three touchdowns in the fourth quarter to win the game. The final score was 28-20. The Bears pulled off one of the greatest comebacks this year.

Like the Bears, you may be feeling as if your life up to this point has been a series of defeats, disappointments, frustrations and pain, while also believing that God has abandoned you. Beloved, I want you to know. God has not forgotten you and your fourth quarter comeback is going to be amazing to you and to those who thought you would never be anything or accomplish anything.

The great architect of the universe is your coach and he says to you just as he said to the children of Israel in Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

God is using these trials to position you in a place where he can get the most glory out of your life. Now is not the time to abandon your faith. You must refocus, you must believe, and you must endure. Child of God these trials will not last always; Psalms 30:5 declares *"For his anger is but for a moment and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning."* Be encouraged in all you do.

Pastor Andre is the Lead Pastor of Restoration Church located at 2815 W. Sunset Blvd. Spokane, WA 99220, visit www.rchurchspokane.com. He is also the author of a newly released book entitled: *iThink: "Transforming your thoughts into Godly behaviors"* www.ithinkwithadove.com.

New Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Happy Watkins

409 S. Greene Street, Spokane WA 509-535-1336

11am Sundays www.NewHopeSpokane.com



BUSINESS / ECONOMICS

Racial Economic Warfare: Why Other Groups Get It, And We Need To

By Romeal Watson, Internship Coordinator; Career Advisor, EWU

"Racism is a power relationship between groups based upon color. It is a group concept that occurs when one group has so much power that it can force another group to do what it wants. Its purpose is the uneven and unfair distribution of power, privilege, land and wealth to Whites."¹

To further understand racism, the way it was intended, it is important to begin in 1472 (not 1619), when the seven colonies [Portugal, Spain, Britain, Belgium, France, Italy, and the Dutch] began their economic race to decide who would become the next superpower. Predicated on the spoils of African land and labor, we've experienced 50 years of free/cheap indentured servitude, 255 years of slavery, slave codes, the influx of over 14 million European immigrants between 1880-1920, the Naturalization Acts which ethnically cleanse immigrants into "White", Plessy vs. Ferguson, White's only Labor unions, 80 years of Jim Crow destruction of Black Wall Street, and the assassination of Black leadership.

One would deem it ironic that many of our White citizens now suffer in a nation centered on credit-based servitude. To that, many of us simply say...welcome aboard. It is with this brief skim of historical perspective that we begin



to redefine our commitment to the Black community.

"...on the eve of the Civil War, records indicated that all free blacks collectively held less than one-half of one percent of the nation's wealth...A century later, in the 1960s, an era considered by many as "great decade for blacks," more than 55 percent of all the blacks in America were still impoverished and below the poverty line. And now, blacks barely hold one percent of the nation's wealth."²

This isn't to say that despite the socio-economic disadvantages, some Black folks weren't able to endure, and move on to become some of the most successful economic entities. But to say that, if racism is defined as a collective group phenomenon, then perhaps we should measure our collective success as well. *Continued on page 10*



18th Rainbow PUSH Wall Street Project Economic Summit Held in New York, January 13-15

Rev. Jesse Jackson's Rainbow PUSH Coalition held its 18th Wall Street Project Economic Summit from January 13 - 15 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel in New York city.

The 2015 conference theme was "Where Wall Street, Main Street & Silicon Valley Converge," and it featured a day long youth summit to introduce high school students to opportunities and careers in finance, retail, entrepreneurship, and technology, as well as workshops that included Access to Capital, The Business of Hip Hop, Strategic Partnerships, Athlete Deal-makers, Minorities in Energy, Faith Based Economic Leadership, Africa Economic Opportunities and How to Succeed on the Web, as well as an

Access to Capital Awards Luncheon, and a Wall Street Project Fundraiser Reception.

Panelists included executives from Microsoft, Intel, Coca Cola, McDonalds, Comcast, General Motors, Black Enterprise Magazine, and Wells Fargo Bank, amongst many others.

The Wall Street Project was founded in 1996 by Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Citizenship Education Fund, and officially launched by Rev. Jackson and minority business owners on January 15, 1997, Dr. King's birthday. The Project works to assure equal opportunity for diverse employees, entrepreneurs, and consumers.

www.rainbowpushwallstreetproject.org

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Charles Williams: Unsung Hero

When Charles Williams graduated from Eastern Washington University with a B.A. in History, he imagined that he would be a history teacher, sharing his love of history, particularly African American history, with his students. Little did he know that he would be teaching history and so much more in his role as the head of both the South Perry After School Program and the South Perry Summer Teen Program.

The South Perry After School Program, currently housed in the Emmanuel Family Outreach Center, has been operating since 2007, offering homework assistance, computer access, mentoring and tutoring in subjects like math, science and english to low income students from kindergarten through 12th grade in the surrounding area.

Despite the fact that many of his students struggle in school,

Charles is committed to helping them know that they can succeed. "They feel like nobody looks like them," he says, "so its hard for them to relate to the teachers and its hard for the teachers to relate to them." Charles says the students also do not see much that relates to them culturally, something his program tries to address.

In a community with a disproportionately high drop out rate for African Americans, Charles is proud that this year he has four students graduating from high school and considering college. He challenges his students, encouraging them to take Honors and Advanced Placement courses to be better prepared for higher education, and he assists with both college and financial aid applications to make the process of applying to college less intimidating for families who have never experienced it before.

For teens interested in improving their odds of getting a job, the South Perry Summer Teen Program focuses on job readiness. Charles teaches resume writing, conducts mock job interviews and takes students to visit companies around spokane that he hopes will eventually be their employers. He also provides opportunities for Community Service to instill the desire in the students to give back.

Although he still has a love for History, Charles has shifted his focus to business and is currently working on a B.A. in Business Management at Ashford University, which he expects to complete in 2016. His goal is to start a non-profit organization to work with at-risk youth to teach them about technology

For information about either program, call Charles Williams at 535-9681 or email charlesl.williams84@yahoo.com.



OUR VOICES

The Need to Learn, Understand and Tell “Our-Story”: Reflections on Black History and the Education of African American Students

By Lawrence Burnley, Assistant Vice President, Diversity/Intercultural Relations, Whitworth University

“[Schools] are places where [Black youth] must be convinced of their inferiority. . . . This crusade [teaching African American history] is much more important than the anti-lynching movement, because there would be no lynching if it did not start in the schoolroom.”

-Dr. Carter G. Woodson, ca. 1923

I’ve had the privilege and honor of engaging extraordinarily bright African American college students throughout the United States. Each was from institutions noted for their provision of quality education and academic rigor. In order to be considered “well educated” these students were required to be exposed to and familiar with the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. They were well versed – through Eurocentric interpretive lenses – in the explorations of Christopher Columbus, Ponce De Leon, and Sir Frances Drake. They were thoroughly exposed to the literary contributions of Shakespeare, Twain, and Brackenridge. They were conversant on the thinking of John Locke, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. Each student shared an awareness and appreciation of European composers – reserving the term “classical” to music from that part of the world. Thoroughly exposed to the great thinkers of the Western rationalist tradition, these students were “well-educated” and they had the grade point averages, scholarships and degrees to prove it.

Interestingly, but not surprisingly, the large majority of these students knew nothing of the great pre-colonial African nation-states and cultures of Songhai, Ghana, and Mali, and other civilizations. Products of institutions ostensibly committed to academic excellence, these students were not required to study the rich legacy of African resistance to chattel enslavement from its inception. They were not required to examine, appreciate and critique the beauty of African/African American history and culture or those of other marginalized groups. Martin Delany, Anna Cooper, Countee Cullen, Charles Drew, Ida B. Wells, Henry Highland Garnet, Robert Smalls, Frances Harper, Maggie Walker, Carter G. Woodson, Marcus Garvey, James Baldwin, Alain Locke, Ralph Ellison, Fannie Lou Hamer, Madame C. J. Walker, Garrett Morgan, Earnest E. Just, Zora

Neale Hurston, and Lewis Latimer are all giants of history in their respective fields. Yet, they, and untold others, were virtually unknown.

These students knew very little about the role of the church in creating and sustaining chattel enslavement for over three centuries, as well as the church’s role in abolishing this demonic system; the genesis and function of the “Black church”; the socioeconomic conditions of the Reconstruction Era which laid the foundation of education reform, mass migrations and the creative genius of artistic expressions fueled by human suffering and the struggle for justice; the function and impact of Black Codes; Jim Crow; lynching; the emergence of African American organizations in response to unbridled violence aimed at thwarting Black advancement and freedom; the dynamics of gender constructions, sexual orientations and how they influenced these movements; local, state and federal legislation, corporate policies – de jure and de facto – which systematically prevented Black people and others from accessing quality education, employment, housing, healthcare, and Constitutional protection.

All of these have shaped and informed the socioeconomic disparities tied to multiple social identities that confront us today. Yet these students, deemed “well educated” by U.S. standards, knew very little about any of these historical giants or movements.

The importance of any people telling their “own story” cannot be overstated. I’m not talking about a romanticized story created in isolation for the purpose of dominating another group or groups, but a story that is informed by critical reflection, analysis, and honesty, and takes into consideration the feedback of how those outside their group experience them.



The realization of self-love and empowerment that is crucial to overcoming the nihilistic threat confronting African Americans cannot be achieved if we do not name ourselves and interpret our historical and contemporary reality for ourselves.

In the spirit of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of what is now known as African American History Month, Black people must create and control mechanisms for the purpose of teaching our youth the truth of their history. It is only through a correct and more accurate understanding of our history that our youth will be able to engage in a more accurate analysis of our current situation, thereby creating the possibility of plotting a life-giving course for our future.

Telling our own story, recovering the truth of our past – our achievements and our failures – is an indispensable component for the production of self-love. Without self-love, becoming an empowered people with the capacity to overcome the challenges we face is simply not possible. Perhaps the leadership of the All Africa Conference of Churches said it best when they reminded us at their 1997 Assembly that an empowered people are “[a] people who interpret their own history and transmit the story of their people to their children.” Herein lies the very core of a truly “higher education.”

In Paris and Abuja - Did We Forget the Nigerian Girls?

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Phd, Black Commentator Editorial Board

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One could not help but be impressed by the millions that turned out in Paris to stand against the Islamist terrorists who killed workers at the French satirical magazine, Charlie Hebdo

and four others at a kosher grocery store. Two law enforcement officers were also killed, bringing the total to 17. About forty heads of state and more than a million others thronged to Republique Square; even more rallied around France. In total, it is estimated that 3.7 rallied for freedom. They wore shirts and carried signs that said, “I am Charlie”. Some said, “I am Muslim and Charlie”, or “I am Jewish and Charlie”. Those crowds who rallied crossed race, religious and political lines.

President Obama got mixed feedback because he didn’t attend the solidarity rally, and because Am-

bassador to France Jane Hartley, considered someone with much less status, attended to represent the United States. Critics said he could at least have sent Vice President Joe Biden, and that Attorney General Eric Holder was in Paris and could have attended. The President may be doing something much more substantive, convening a summit on world terrorism at the White House in February.

I wonder if these conversations will address terror in Nigeria, where the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram abducted 276 girls, and still holds 219. A hashtag

campaign, #BringBackOurGirls was joined by First Lady Michelle Obama, former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, British Prime Minister David Cameron and others. Few of the many who rallied in Paris have ever mentioned the abducted girls and those terrorists who took them. Indeed, the abducted girls have all but disappeared from the headlines and then, from the public consciousness.

The girls were abducted on April 14, 2014, about nine months ago. Since then, our attention has been riveted by other news from the African continent, as the Ebola

virus killed thousands (but we in the US were mostly focused on our handful of casualties), and as ISIS has escalated its activity around the globe. While some have forgotten about the Nigerian girls, many have not. Obiageli Ezekwesili, a former Nigerian government official who is now Vice-President of the World Bank’s Africa Division has been among those continuing to focus attention on the girls.

People fear that Boko Haram, may have sold the schoolgirls into slavery, forced some into marriage, or killed some.

Continued on Page 10

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MOM PULLS SON OUT OF SCHOOL Continued from Page 1

story did not seem plausible as it was told to her. She said she spoke with the two students that Jeremiah mentioned, as well as staff, but all denied that the incident happened.

She also discounted Jeremiah's claim that the dumpster he said he was thrown into was on the school's playground, because she says it is a city dumpster that is parked on the street and is too heavy to be moved.

Additionally, Jeremiah claimed that medical staff had treated him and put a bandage on his head, but the teacher took it off before his mother got there. According to Rowland, there was no evidence that anything like that happened. So his story, Rowland says, "didn't have any sensibility in my head." When



Community members protest in front of St. Aloysius School to support Jeremiah.

asked why she thought Jeremiah would lie about what happened, Principal Rowland responded, "I have no speculation."

Melissa disputes the conclusion that was reached by Principal Rowland, saying that the students "looked scared and intimidated" when the principal was talking to them and that the staff statements seemed "rehearsed",

a claim that Rowland denies. Melissa also took her case to the Superintendent of the school, but was told there was nothing that could be done.

Frustrated, Melissa has contacted the NAACP and the Center for Justice, who are both looking into the matter. In the meantime, Melissa has decided to home school Jeremiah.

THE PRIVILEGE OF INNOCENCE

Continued from Page 1

Conversations got tense at work and school, where colleagues let racist statements slip before filtering and kids repeated the monologues they heard at home. Local organizations associated with Black populations, such as the NAACP, received hate mail. Letters attacked our morality, denied our humanity, and demanded that Black women be sterilized because it is in our children's nature to be criminal. Violence must run in the bloodstream of Blackness, like cancer without a cure.

We know better than to believe the hype, but the feeling of being judged as guilty until proven innocent and even guilty by visual association is palpable. I can't imagine the challenges the families of the two suspects have faced in the past year, or the fear and torment that the two young men have been subjected to while awaiting trial. Is a fair jury trial even possible in Spokane?

Several NAACP members and local pastors surrounded the family of Kenan Adams-Kinard during the January 7th hearing as he plead guilty to murder in the first degree. Our hearts were heavy as mothers and fathers of Black teens; we wondered what pressure brought him to this decision and what could we have done better as a community to support this young man before he engaged in this life-altering tragedy. The repetition of "Yes sir," the clanking of chains, and the beating of our hearts became a rhythm of dread that reminds us of the fragility of freedom, the distance of justice, and the fading of hope for one of our children.

The same year as the news of Mr. Belford's death hit the scene, 600% more white-on-black homicides were deemed justifiable than white-on-white homicides. The value of Black life that year was not even 3/5 but 1/6 of white life in America.

Being Black is as synonymous with guilty as apple pie is with America. Black youth shot in 2013 and 2014 had their corpses examined in search of "evidence" that might implicate them in sharing responsibility for the crime. Black bodies are put on trial for their own murder, while we rarely hear what the autopsies of white victims reveal about their moral character.

What happens to the memory of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, John Crawford, Ezell Ford, Oscar Grant, and so many other Black victims of direct brutality? After an all-out media onslaught on their character as they lie motionless in their graves, does anyone care about the loving moments of their final days or the acts of courage or kindness they committed before their demise?

Likewise, can we spare any compassion for the two accused teens, in the case of Mr. Belford, or do we have to hide our care and connection for the families of the two young men in order to care-take white emotions and avoid hostile encounters? Did the justice system ever give Kenan and Demetrius a chance to be innocent until proven guilty, or is that a privilege reserved for their white counterparts?

RACIAL ECONOMIC WARFARE

Continued from Page 8

As of 2015, 43 million Black folks are said to generate over 1.1 trillion dollars a year.³ While this is great news, the unfortunate twist is that 95% of our income is spent in non-Black institutions. "Blacks have made every race and religion prosperous and rich in America...except their own."⁴ As stated by head of The Harvest Institute, and former financial advisor to President Jimmy Carter, Dr. Claud Anderson. He goes on to further drive his point that Black folks do not understand the rules of racism and are not playing as a team.

"When you get money hold on to it. How long after getting money does it stay in the community? Hispanic money bounces 7 times, White money bounces 8 times, Arab money bounces 13 times, Jewish money, 18 times. Black money doesn't even bounce once."⁵

When money circulates in other communities, they are able to leverage those assets in and invest in issues pertaining to them. They can make political contributions to sway legislation, they can finance community development projects, even provide scholarships to young professionals. Yet when Black folks gather funds to organize in our communities, not only do we come up short, other communities are not so willing to help.

While I am not sure whether we have implicitly bought into the myth that our tea isn't sweet enough, it might be appropriate to suggest that we need to reevaluate our understanding of equality, and just what's in it for us these days.

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DID WE FORGET THE NIGERIAN GIRLS? Continued From Page 9

Given the fact that Amnesty International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the UN Security Council have decried the Islamist militant terrorist group, it is alarming that the world community has been so indifferent to the plight of the abducted young girls. Some of the indifference does not start with the world, but in Nigeria. Will Goodluck Jonathan, the Nigerian President who is running for reelection, mention the girls at all before February, when voting takes place? Or has the fate of 219 kidnapped girls been forgotten?

Demonstrations have taken place daily in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, despite the fact that the police have ordered these demonstrations to stop. Meanwhile, Boko Haram continues its terrorist plundering in Nigeria, destroying villages and towns in the north-

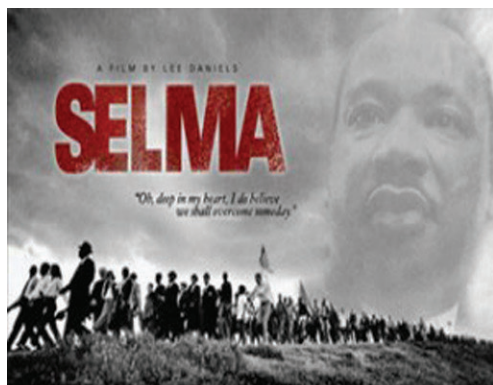
east part of the country and killing thousands. It is estimated that they have destroyed more than 3700 structures – homes, churches, and public spaces. Tens of thousands of Nigerians have fled to Chad, at the border, because they fear for their lives.

I don't know if it would be effective for world leaders to rally in Abuja to pressure Boko Haram to return the girls. I don't know if t-shirts or signs saying "We Are the Nigerian Girls" would do much more than direct attention back to these young students whose hopes and dreams have been stomped on by irrational terrorists. I don't know if it would make a difference if Nigerian communities all over the world came together to demand return of the girls. I don't know the efforts of feminists around the world would make a difference.

I do know that about 219 Nigerian girls are gone, and a terrorist group is responsible for taking them. I know that they are reputed to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda and with ISIS. I know that while the world has rallied to show solidarity in the fight against terrorism in France, there has been no such gathering to show solidarity in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria. I don't know (and I might be misinformed) if offers to help contain or eliminate Boko Haram have been made by the world community.

The war against terrorism has been embraced in Paris, with millions there, and thousands in the rest of the world, taking it to the streets to express their outrage. Where is the outrage for the more than 200 Nigerian girls? Nine months after they were snatched from their school, who remembers? Who cares?

FEBRUARY EVENTS



WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
FREE MOVIE SCREENING

AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 AT 2:30
AMC THEATER, RIVERPARK SQUARE

Seating is limited, call 509-777-4238 by 2/7 to reserve your seat

FEBRUARY 2

African American History Month Kickoff Ceremony

4pm

Cavalry Baptist Church, 203 E. 3rd Avenue

FEBRUARY 3

Art Show by Anthony Stevenson (Feb 3-28)

Spokane Public Library, 906 W. Main

Bywords: The Spoken Word Revolution

3pm

Randy Corradine, Michael Bethely & Jerod Grant

Tawanka A, B, & C, EWU

FEBRUARY 4

Africa: Cradle of Life, Riches and Culture

1pm

Dr. Scott Finnie & Dr. Jerry Galm

Tawanka A, B, & C, EWU

FEBRUARY 5

Leadership in the Black Community with Gary Cunningham

9am

Showalter 109, EWU

Discussion with Gary Cunningham

1pm

Tawanka A, B, & C, EWU

Film – Africans in America: America's Journey Through Slavery

5pm

Weyerhaeuser 107, RTT, Whitworth

FEBRUARY 6

Film – Slavery By Another Name

7pm

Jundt Auditorium, Room 110, Gonzaga

FEBRUARY 7 & 8

Calvary Baptist Church 125 Year Anniversary

2/7 - 6pm - Praise and Worship Service

2/8 - 10am - Morning Worship Service

2/8 - 3pm - Anniversary Celebration

Calvary, 203 E Third Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203

For more information call 509-443-0121.

FEBRUARY 8

Selma - FREE Movie Screening Followed by Community Dialogue and NAACP Voter Registration Drive

Sponsored by Whitworth University

2:30pm

AMC Theater, Riverpark Square

Downtown Spokane

Seating Limited - Reservations Required by 2/7

Contact Rhosetta Rhodes 509-777-4238

FEBRUARY 10

Black Women's Strength, Resilience and Dedication with Fetlew Gebreziabher

3pm

Monroe 205, EWU

Ebony and Ivy: Race, Slavery, and the Troubled History of America's Universities by Craig Steven Wilder

5:30pm

African American Book Club

South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry Street

FEBRUARY 11

Women Musicians in the South Africa Freedom Struggle, Dr. Sheila Woodward

1pm

Tawanka ABC, EWU **The Role of Religious Activists in**

Civil Rights in the Northwest, Dr. Dale Soden

7pm

Weyerhaeuser 107, RTT, Whitworth,

FEBRUARY 12

Never Broken: The Evolution of the Black Family, Dr. Gloria Baynes & Dr. LaToya Brackett

1pm

Tawanka ABC, EWU

Film – More Than a Month

7pm

Spokane Academic Center, Room 147, WSU-Riverpoint

FEBRUARY 13

Gospel Explosion

7pm

Whitworth University Chapel

FEBRUARY 14

Sankofa Youth Programs, Delta Academy, Delta GEMS Institute & EMBODI:

Careers and Black History The Links'

Key to Success: STEM and Black History

6pm

Emmanuel Family Life Center (\$30)

FEBRUARY 15

Black History Music Tribute to Andre Crouch In Loving Memory of the Father of Gospel Music

10am

Word of Faith Christian Center, 4001 N. Cook Ave.

For additional information call 509-891-5253

FEBRUARY 17

Film – Slam

11:30am

SUB. Bldg. 17 Conference Room, SFCC

Black is Beautiful: Afrocentric Hair & Fashion, Professor Rachel Dolezal

3pm

Monroe 205, EWU

Why Ferguson Matters: The Importance of Black History to Us All, Dr. Tobin Shearer

7pm

Weyerhaeuser 111, RTT, Whitworth

FEBRUARY 18

My President is Black: Tribulation in the Eye of Adversity with Dr. Scott Finnie

1pm

Tawanka ABC, EWU

FEBRUARY 19

The Black Student Union in the state of Washington and the larger Black Power Movement with Marc Robinson

7pm

Weyerhaeuser 111, RTT, Whitworth

FEBRUARY 19

Community Relationship Awareness Forum: Bridging Gaps in the Spokane Community

Presented by King's Consulting Services

Moderated by Dr. Scott Finnie; Panelists

include: Mayor David Condon, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich,

Rachel Dolezal, Lori Hunt, Kitara Johnson, Ezra Kinlow,

Rev. Dr. Todd Eklof, Liz Moore, Julie Schaffer, Martin

Meraz-Garcia, and Tommy Williams

6pm

Red Lion Hotel, 303 W North River Drive

FEBRUARY 20

Film – The Littlerock Nine

7pm

Weyerhaeuser 107, RTT, Whitworth

FEBRUARY 21

BSU Dinner

5:30pm

Globe Room, Cataldo Hall, Gonzaga

(\$5/Person or \$40/table of 10)

FEBRUARY 24

Guest Speaker - Tim Wise

12pm

Showalter Hall Auditorium, EWU

The Color of Fear: 20th Anniversary with Victor Lewis & Hugo Vasquez

7pm

Wolf Auditorium, Jepson Hall, Gonzaga

FEBRUARY 25

25 Keepers of the Dream: Awards and Recognition Ceremony

3pm

Tawanka ABC, EWU *(RSVP Required)*

FEBRUARY 26

Film – Spinning Into Butter

11:30am & 6pm

Lair Student Center, Auditorium, Bldg. 6, SCC

Exhibition – Expressions and Representations of the Harlem Renaissance

1pm

Tawanka ABC, EWU

FEBRUARY 27

The Harlem Renaissance Ball

7pm

Hixson Union Bldg., MPR, Whitworth

(\$7 General Public, \$5 Whitworth Students)

FEBRUARY 28

Film – Akeelah and the Bee

7:30pm

Spokane South Hill Library, 3324 S. Perry St

Sankofa Jubilee

7:30pm

Lincoln Center, Monroe Ball Room

1316 N. Lincoln St

(\$25)

Please send information about upcoming community events to events@blacklensnews.com.

You Are Welcome to Join Us for a
Black History Music Tribute to:

Andrae Crouch

In Loving Memory of the
Father of Gospel Music



DATE: Sunday, February 15, 2015

TIME: 10 AM

LOCATION: Word of Faith Christian Center
4001 N. Cook Ave, Spokane

for additional information call 891-5253

