

CELEBRATING OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY

January 2017

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Spokane's Black Community News Source

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Beyond Viet Nam: The Speech We Never Hear



Editors Note: I originally printed this article in the very first issue of The Black Lens. January 2015. It seems fitting on this Two Year Anniversary to print the speech again. The words feel even more appropriate now than ever.

When Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered and celebrated around the world in January, his famous "I have a dream" speech is the one that is recounted over and over again as his legacy and the primary representation of who he was and what he stood for. A Civil Rights leader.

But when Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, he was there for a march in support of striking sanitation workers. He was not only a Civil Rights leader, he was also a champion of the poor, an advocate for economic justice, and a vocal critic of the Vietnam War and America's foreign policy, although this is not talked about nearly as often.

On April 4, 1967, a year to the day before his assassination, Dr. King delivered what was considered a "controversial" speech against the Vietnam

War and against the principle of war in general.

Speaking at Riverside Church in New York City in front of an audience of thousands, the speech, titled "*Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence*" was condemned by many Civil Rights leaders at the time who felt that King's anti war stance was damaging their cause.

The speech angered many in the United States government, making King a target of FBI investigations. According to the Tavis Smiley documentary "MLK: A Call to Conscience", 168 major newspapers denounced King the day after the speech, and an angry President Lyndon Johnson dis-invited him from the White House. Despite the negative impact of the speech, King felt that he could no longer in good conscious remain quiet about the war and called on others to do the same. The rarely heard speech is considered by many to be one of King's greatest, and still relevant as wars continue around the world.

Following are excerpts from Dr. King's speech:

Continued on Page 21

More Blacks and Other Minorities Getting 'Strapped' Since Trump Election



Stock Photo/Afro

By Zenitha Prince

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from the Afro American Newspaper

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - African Americans and other minorities are arming themselves, fearing a continued surge in hate crimes since the election of Donald Trump in November, according to NBC News.

Four times as many minorities are flocking to gun stores, firearm business owners told NBC News. Additionally, Black gun groups such as the National African American Gun Association say

attendance has doubled since the election. Minorities "feel that racists now feel like they can attack... just because the president is doing it," Earl Curtis, the African-American owner of Blue Ridge Arsenal in Chantilly, Va., told NBC News.

Racial tension in America had already been brewing: The election of President Obama in 2008 was met by cross burnings, racial epithets hurled at African Americans and scrawled on various surfaces, black figures hung on nooses, effigies of the president and the vitriolic rhetoric of the Tea Party.

The racial temperature continued to rise as the unrepentant killing of unarmed Black men and boys by police was answered by nationwide protest and the sparking of the Black Lives Matter movement. Into that maelstrom stepped Trump, whose unabashed disparagement of Mexicans, Muslims, Blacks, women and others seemed to embolden those with bigoted agendas.

Since Trump swept into the White House on a tide of hate Nov. 8, the Southern Poverty Law Center has reported an uptick in hate-related incidents.

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Two Down. And....

I can't begin to express my gratitude for the support that I have received over the past year. I wasn't sure that I would still be standing in 2017, but not only is The Black Lens standing but it is going strong. Thank you for the subscriptions, the contributions, the advertisements, the kind words, the phone calls, the e-mails and for all of the many ways that I have heard and seen and felt support from this community.

2017 is going to be an exciting year. There are many things on the horizon for me and for the newspaper. Starting with The Black Lens Anniversary celebration that will be taking place on January 22 at Chkn-N-Mo from 3-5pm. I want to take the time to say thank you in person and to support one of the businesses in town that has been supportive of me from the very beginning.

There will be more to come in 2017, so stay tuned, and in the mean time, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to bringing you more and more information in year three. My hope is that by the time I reach my third Anniversary, The Black Lens will be a force for positive change in Spokane's African American Community and beyond. Thanks again and I'll see you on the 22nd!

MORNING STAR

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Congratulations to The Black Lens on your Second Anniversary



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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

The Black Lens is a community newspaper, published on the first of each month, and focused on the news, events, issues, people and information important to Spokane's African American Community and beyond.

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Asante Golden Stool

As the European scramble for Africa was in full stride, the Ashanti people of what is now Ghana struggled to preserve their homeland, culture, and lives against British subjugation.

The Ashanti (also Asante) Kingdom was formed in the 17th century by King Osei Tutu I. The legend says that the king's powerful Priest Okonko Anokye magically formed a stool of pure gold that came from the heavens and landed in the lap of Ashanti King Osei Tutu I. The golden stool was believed to hold the soul of the kingdom and its people.

Every subsequent Ashanti King (called asantehene) would become a servant to the spirit of the stool, in harmony with the nation. No asantehene could touch the stool, or sit on it, and it was never to touch the ground. The Asante stool was so sacred it sat on its side atop its own stool.

Ghana, a matrilineal society, or one that is based on kinship with the mother, has since ancient times been known for its large deposits of gold and later Kente cloth. But by the 1800's, the Ashanti found their land and capital city Kumasi under siege by British forces hungry for their land and mineral wealth. By force, the British pushed their way into Ashanti lands eventually setting up colonial government in Kumasi.

In the year 1900 the British Governor of Ashanti Lands, Lord Frederick Hodgson, made this public statement to the defeated Ashanti peoples: "...Then there is the matter of the Golden Stool of Ashanti. The Queen is entitled to the stool; she must receive it. Where is the Golden Stool? I am the representative of Paramount Power. Why have you relegated me to this ordinary chair?"

Why did you not take the opportunity of my coming to Kumasi to bring to me the Golden Stool to sit upon?..."

In his complete lack of respect for the sacred stool and its people, Lord Hodgson demanded to sit on the Golden Stool, something the asantehene himself would never do. The Ashanti were enraged at this sacrilege. Lord Hodgson sent deputy Captain C.H. Armitage from village to village demanding the stool. As punishment for not helping in the mission the Captain ordered his troops to beat the village children in front of their parents.

Pushed to their absolute limits the entire nation volunteered for war against the British under the direct command of one of the bravest women in African history – The Queen Mother of the Ashanti people, Queen Yaa Ashantewaa. From April Fools Day until June 23rd, 1900 the Ashanti undertook an uprising at Kumasi against the Governor and his wife.

British reinforcements and Hausa warriors hostile to the Ashanti helped the governor escape, plundered and slaughtered remaining villagers, and arrested Queen Yaa Ashantewaa, who was exiled to the Seychelles Islands until her death in 1923.

For all of this wanton destruction the British never found The Golden Stool. The surviving members of the Ashanti royal lineage from King Osei Tutu secretly maintain the exact location of The Golden Stool and continue their lineage of rule until this very day.

Sources:
The Horizon History of Africa: Wars of Resistance (Chapter 10) – Stanlake Samkange.
Feelnubia.com/index.php/world-view/sage/113-the-golden-stool-of-ashanti.html



Mary Ann Shadd and The Provincial Freeman

(Reprinted from blackthen.com)

Mary Ann Shadd's newspaper, The Provincial Freeman, was first issued on March 24, 1854 as a specimen. Shadd is thought to be the first Black woman editor and publisher of a newspaper in North America. The Provincial Freeman was devoted to Anti-Slavery, Temperance, and General Literature, and was affiliated with no particular Political Party.

Shadd was a pioneer, abolitionist, a writer, teacher, school founder and principal, a newspaper publisher and editor, the first woman to tour the country giving lectures, the only woman to hold the post of recruit-

ment officer in the American Civil War and the first woman to enroll at Howard University.

"It will open its columns to the views of men of different political opinions, reserving the right, as an independent Journal, of full expression on all questions or projects affecting the people in a political way; and reserving, also, the right to express emphatic condemnation of all projects, having for their object in a great or remote degree, the subversion of the principles of the British Constitution, or of British rule in the Provinces."

She wrote for many newspapers including Fredrick Douglass's North Star and worked

as a subscription agent for his New National Era. In the debate on how to respond to the Fugitive Slave Act, she led the debate in favor of emigration to Canada – a case made by her in the book A Plea for Emigration.

She became a practicing lawyer at the age of 60 and was a leading figure in the woman's suffrage movement in the final twenty years of her life.

She was born in Wilmington, Delaware, America, in 1823, as a free Black person. Her well-off family was active in the abolitionist movement and their home was a stop on the fledgling Underground Railroad. Her parents Abraham and Harriet were in a perilous position: they were free Blacks in a slave state. By sheltering fugitive slaves, they took their lives in their hands every day.

Shadd attended the National Negro Convention in Philadelphia in 1855 and was the first Black woman admitted as a corresponding member. She made a deep impression on those present including Fredrick Douglass. This was reflected in a special benefit organized in her honor.

She seemed to have swayed the majority opinion at the Convention in favor of the argument of emigration, including Douglass, who through his Northern Star had led



the opposing argument in favor of staying in America and fighting to change the law.

Shadd's father, Abraham, became the first Black person elected to public office in Canada in 1858, as a councilor on Raleigh Township Council.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Emmett Till Bill Reauthorized



By Frederick Lowe

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - President Barack Obama has signed legislation permanently reauthorizing a law that expands prosecution of civil rights-era murders after an earlier version of the law failed miserably to live up to expectations.

The President, Dec. 16, signed the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Bill of 2007, which expands the authority of the Department of Justice and FBI to investigate and prosecute race-based murders.

The legislation is named in honor of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Chicago boy who was kidnapped and murdered on Aug. 28,

1955, in Money, Miss., by Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam for allegedly whistling at Carolyn Bryant, a White woman.

The teenager's beaten and horribly mutilated body, tied to a heavy industrial fan, floated to the surface of the Tallahatchie River, where it was discovered by two boys swimming in the river.

An all-White male jury found Milam and Bryant not guilty, but the two admitted killing Till in a Jan. 24, 1956 interview with Look magazine for which they were paid. Bryant operated a store and it went out business after Blacks launched a boycott.

The current Emmett Till legislation was scheduled to expire on Sept. 30, 2017, the end of the government's fiscal year. The legislation was passed in 2008, after being introduced by Congressman John Lewis, a veteran of the civil rights movement. Lewis' bill limited investigations to violations that occurred before 1970.

The original legislation failed to live up to its promise, according to a U. S. Senate review of the law. There has been only one successful prosecution as result of the bill. The Senate also noted other challenges such as the Fifth Amendment protection against double jeopardy and a pre-1994 five year statute of limitations on federal criminal civil rights charges.

"Ultimately, a DOJ report stated that it is unlikely that any of the remaining cases

would be prosecuted," the Senate reported.

The Cold Case Justice Initiative of the DOJ last year closed 115 of the 126 cases on their list, often without pursuing potential witnesses or victims' family members, the Senate said.

Last year, civil right activists testified before the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland, that the DOJ and the FBI have not done enough to solve the murders of civil rights workers in the 1940s, 50s and 60s despite the Emmett Till legislation.

The murders of Black men, women and children have been extensive and almost no perpetrators have been brought to justice.

The Equal Justice Initiative, which is based in Montgomery, Ala., reported that nearly 4,000 black men, black women and black children were lynched between 1877 and 1950.

Many lynchings were extra-judicial but others were either organized or encouraged by law enforcement officials.

Congress passed the expanded Emmett Till legislation on Dec. 13th. The legislation was introduced into the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Senate bill, S. 2854, and House bill, H. R. 5067, require the Department of Justice to reopen and review cases closed without an in-person investigation conducted by the DOJ or the FBI. The DOJ also must

establish a task force to conduct a thorough investigation of Emmett Till Act Cases.

"Perhaps most significantly to us is that the FBI will be required to travel to the communities to do their investigative work, not simply read over old files from a desk in Washington and make a couple phone calls," said Janis McDonald, co-director of the Cold Case Justice Initiative, which is based at Syracuse University.

The DOJ must indicate the number of cases referred by a civil rights organization, an institution of higher education or a state or local law enforcement agency. The bill also requires the DOJ to report the number of cases that resulted in federal charges, the date charges were filed and whether DOJ declined to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a referred case and any activity on reopened cases.

In addition, the law enforcement agencies must coordinate information sharing, hold accountable perpetrators or accomplices in unsolved civil rights murders and comply with Freedom Information Act requests.

The legislation also allows DOJ to award grants to civil rights organizations, institutions of higher education and other eligible entities for expenses associated with investigating murders under the Emmett Till Act.

'We Shall Not Be Moved' March Aims to Send Trump Message on MLK Weekend

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The march announced by the Rev. Al Sharpton shortly after Donald Trump was elected president is now taking shape for January 14 and will aim to send a clear message to the President-elect in the "spirit and tradition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said a statement from Sharpton this week.

"The 2017 march will bring all people together to insist on change and accountability," said Sharpton. "Martin Luther King Jr.'s struggle for civil rights didn't end with his death, it's a fight we take on each day. The political players may change but our goals stay the same. Donald Trump and his administration need to hear our voice and our concerns."

He continues, "Participants will demand accountability not just from President-elect Trump but from Senate and Congress members who are charged with overseeing the Criminal Justice Reform Act, the Voting Rights Bill, Supreme Court nominations and other Trump political appointments. Our movement, #WeShallNotBeMoved, will send a clear message to those in power that the fight for equal rights and justice for all continues," he states.

The four top concerns outlined involve police reform, mass incarceration, stop

and frisk, the Affordable Care Act, voting rights, education, and climate change.

Sharpton first announced the march on a mid-November teleconference during which he told reporters that he was not fazed by Trump's apparent change of demeanor toward President Barack Obama.

Despite his less vitriolic demeanor, Trump has since surrounded himself with an almost lily White cabinet and advisors, including Steve Bannon, a founder of Breitbart news, the voice of the so-called "alt-right" - White supremacists and racists.

"Whether one whispers or whether one shouts, if the message is the same what does it matter?" Sharpton told reporters on that call. "I think we are mistaking his change in tone with change in content."

That said, Sharpton has organized a march and rally that will include civil rights groups, activists, unions and clergy outside the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in D.C.

Sharpton said the march will include "Americans from every state, race, religion and ethnicity," who will "warn President Trump and Congress that the fight for criminal justice, voting rights, affordable health care, improvements in education and other issues around equality and justice continues."

National Action Network

THE MARCH

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We Shall Not Be Moved

Rev. Al Sharpton invites you to join the march. We can not sit this one out we must protect the dream of Dr. King.

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Mistrial in the Police Shooting Death of Walter Scott, Prosecutor Will Retry

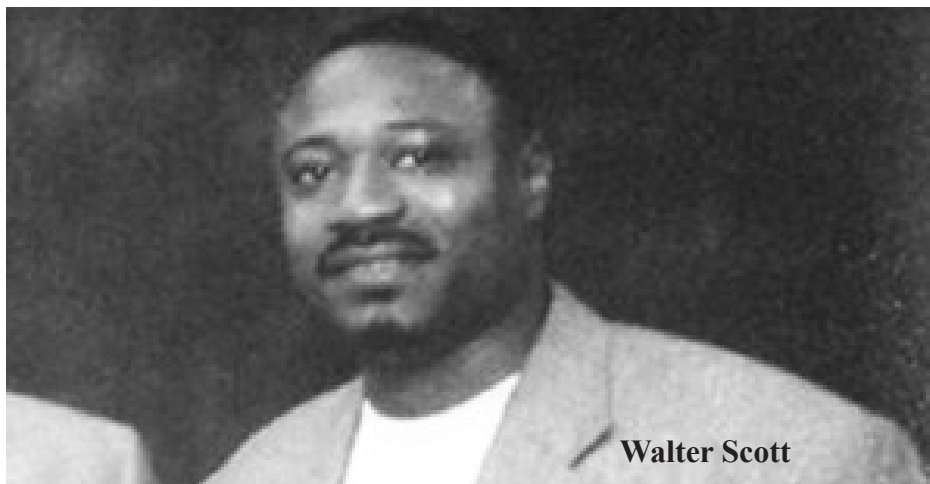
By Frederick H. Lowe

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The prosecutor of a former police officer who killed a fleeing Black man by shooting him the back, in a murder that was captured on cell phone video and shown around the world, said she will retry the cop after the judge hearing the case declared a mistrial because of a hung jury.

Scarlett A. Wilson, solicitor for the Ninth Judicial Circuit in Charleston, S.C., issued a statement, saying she was disappointed by the trial outcome involving Michael Slager, a former North Charleston, S. C. cop who faced state charges of murder or manslaughter in the shooting death of Walter Scott.

"While I cannot overstate our disappointment that this case was not resolved, I commend those who sacrificed so much time, energy and effort to serve on this jury," Wilson said. "We will try Michael Slager again. We hope the federal and state courts will coordinate efforts regarding any future trial dates but we stand ready whenever the court calls."



Walter Scott

Circuit Court Judge Clifton Newman declared a mistrial Monday after a juror, believed to be a white man, said he could not vote to convict Slager. The jury was comprised of five white men, six white women and one Black man, who was the foreman. Eleven jurors voted to convict Slager of murder or manslaughter. The jury began deliberating on Wednesday.

Slager's defense team wanted Judge Newman, who is African American, to declare a mistrial on Friday. The judge, however, ordered jurors to continue deliberating today.

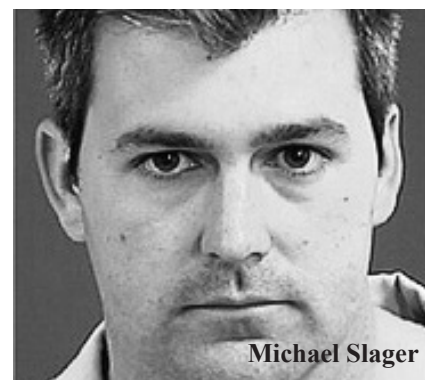
The murder of the 50-year-old Scott, a Coast Guard veteran, was the clearest recent example of a police murder of an unarmed Black man.

Slager stopped Scott's car, citing a broken taillight. Scott jumped from his car and started running. As he ran, Slager fired his pistol, shooting Scott five times in the back on April 4, 2015. Scott crumpled to the ground and Slager handcuffed him, though it appeared that Scott was already dead. The entire deadly shooting, including Slager placing something believed to be a TASER, next to Scott's body,

was captured on cell phone video for the world to see, but it wasn't enough to persuade one juror to convict Slager.

It seemed to observers who saw the cell phone video that Slager's conviction was a slam dunk for prosecutors, but it didn't turn out that way because many people refuse to question the actions of cops, or because ingrained racism against Black men makes questionable or heinous police actions against Black men acceptable or both.

Judy Scott, Walter's mother, told reporters the fight is not over. "Today I am not sad. I know that justice will be served," a tearful Judy Scott said, invoking Jesus' name and shouting hallelujah several times.



Michael Slager

Ghana Picks New Leader Who Promises Jobs

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) - In a surprise upset for incumbent President John Dramani Mahama, voters turned out strongly for opposition candidate Nana Akufo-Addo, whose campaign for the presidency gave hope to thousands of jobless Ghanaians.

Mr. Akufo-Addo earned 54% of the vote, while Mr Mahama took 44 percent. It was the first time in Ghana that an opposition candidate defeated an incumbent President at the ballot box.

"There must be jobs in our country," Mr. Akufo-Addo declared. "That means big investments in viable industries and boosting our agriculture productivity," adding that he was also committed to delivering on a pledge, made five years ago, to ensure that all Ghanaians would have access to free secondary education.

"The lack of jobs, which is the case under (the Mahama) government, poses a threat to the future stability of our country."

Ghana's underemployment rate is 33 percent with 69 percent of the working population in low wage, insecure and informal jobs, according to the online news site Ghanaweb.

According to the World Bank, some 48 percent of the youth between 15-24 years have no jobs. In a press interview, Mr. Akufo-Addo stressed that jobs for this sector would get top priority as rising youth unemployment was a "betrayal of future generations and would create problems down the road."



Unemployment is also higher among women, according to the Bank.

Agriculture, the backbone of Ghana's economy, recorded the lowest average growth rate at 3.9 per cent annually over a period of two decades from 1993 to 2013. The crisis in employment has been called "an unemployment time bomb"

which has forced hundreds of high school graduates to leave the country for better work opportunities.

In a move to build back industry, Mr. Akufo-Addo pledged to build one factory in each of Ghana's 216 districts. He pledged to build a dam in every village to support agriculture.

Along with jobs, the president-elect promised to attack corruption with the appointment of an independent prosecutor. Last year, Transparency International ranked Ghana as second most corrupt African country, after South Africa.

The president-elect will be sworn in on Jan. 7 after a short transition period.

Mr. Akufo-Addo comes from a prominent Ghanaian royal and political family. His father was a Chief Justice, President of Ghana (1970-1972) and member of the "Big Six" who, along with Kwame Nkrumah, spearheaded the transition from colony to independence.

His maternal grandfather was Nana Sir Ofori Atta, King of Akyem Abuakwa, one of the largest and wealthiest kingdoms of the then Gold Coast Colony.

The president-elect's own political career spans more than four decades. Active in political movements in his early 30s, he criticized the military government of the time.

GLOBAL INFORMATION NETWORK creates and distributes news and feature articles on current affairs in Africa to media outlets, scholars, students and activists in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to introduce important new voices on topics relevant to Americans, to increase the perspectives available to readers in North America and to bring into their view information about global issues that are overlooked or under-reported by mainstream media.

NAACP

UPDATE: SPOKANE

http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

Reflections from the Desk of the Spokane NAACP Secretary

By Deborah Rose

As I prepare to enter our local Spokane NAACP office today, I bring my laptop computer and a list of communications that need a response. We are an all-volunteer organization, and almost every day I receive and forward pertinent information to our executive team, including the president, vice-president, treasurer, members-at-large and committee chairs. We stay abreast of happenings on both the local and national scene. We set and achieve goals through dialogue with other NAACP members and community partners. Our goals are designed to help create a community where all people of all colors feel safe and thrive. Our primary focus is the African American community.

Approximately 10% of our active members currently volunteer to serve on our committees. The work we do is important, it forms our focus, and we seek new committee members with the vision, time and energy to get involved. We especially seek young people in a world that is changing – their vitality and fresh ideas are essential to bring forward, especially now in these times. Jim Crow never gives up and we will never give up. And post-election, November 2016, hate crimes both locally and nationally have multiplied exponentially. It will take all of us, people of good will, of all colors, to eradicate this racist malevolence.

Our committees are based on national NAACP game changers – criminal justice, political action, education, health care and socioeconomic justice. The game changers connect in a circle and are also intersectional. Without good health, one has trouble achieving a good education. Without education, one cannot achieve socioeconomic stability. Without socioeconomic stability, one may take a detour into the criminal justice system. Without political action, our current climate is less likely to support laws and select leaders who will champion the issues of all their constituents. We are very passionate about our issues – civil rights and social justice. Future articles in this column will explore each committee and the work we are doing.

In the office, I also receive dozens of phone calls and emails weekly. Many are asking for help in navigating a difficult situation. Some people have been arrested and feel that they have been wrongly stopped by police or county sheriffs, have been unduly harassed at the scene of the arrest or, after arrest, are not being adequately represented by their assigned attorneys. Some people report wrongful dismissal from a job or disruption of a lease – each person expresses a deep sense of being racially targeted. Some parents report bullying and racism within the school system, with teachers seemingly unresponsive to those situations in both the short and the long term. Within each caller and e-mailer,

there is a cavernous sense of hurt, a desire to be heard and supported, and especially to receive justice and retribution.

Holding the time and space for each person to tell his or her story is essential. For many of them, it is the first time anyone has shown the interest or taken the time to really listen. However, with each caller I must also explain that we are a referral agency only, with the primary goals of education and policy development. We are not able to give legal advice or to take legal action (this is a National NAACP mandate, and none of us has legal training). Some people express anger and frustration that we don't have more "teeth", yet I note a palpable shift, nonetheless, in their emotions once they have had a chance to tell their stories and explore options.

The first step for complainants is to work within systems that are already established. Persistent communication and problem solving are usually more effective in the beginning than adversarial picketing and marching.

People with complaints must first do the following – write down a clear, objective description of the incident, including names, places, dates, times. A copy of the Spokane NAACP complaint form is available on our website at spokanenaacp.com, and serves as a template to compile the necessary information. A completed copy of the form must be

sent to our office, where we review for clarity, patterns and solutions. We can then refer the complainant to the appropriate resource.

Filing complaints is important. They form the first steps for social justice. Spokane has embraced zero tolerance for hate crimes, but it is imperative to start at this level. You have the right to file a complaint regarding your situation. Our office is available to help you sort through complicated websites and locate the agencies most appropriate to advocate for you. You will often be directed to take a second step by filing a written agency complaint within the agency in question. We will be present to advise you at each step, but you must be the one to take the steps. Please phone or email our office for more details (509) 209-2425, spokanenaacp@gmail.com.

The following are links to the most frequently used agency complaint forms:
Spokane City Police Department Complaint – (be sure you get the name of the officer at the time of the incident) <https://static.spokanecity.org/documents/police/accountability/citizen-complaint-form.pdf>.
Spokane County Sheriff's Department Complaint – (be sure you get the name of the officer at the time of the incident) www.spokanecounty.org/DocumentCenter/View/3955.
Washington State Human Rights Commission (for unfair work termination or housing issues) http://www.hum.wa.gov/discrimination-complaint?page_name=complaintProcess
For pest control in rentals - http://www.hum.wa.gov/discrimination-complaint?page_name=complaintProcess

“We are all tied together in a single garment of destiny... An inescapable network of mutuality,... I can never be what I ought to be until you are allowed to be what you ought to be.”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

“Therefore, I appeal to everyone who believes in Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream to make room at the table of brotherhood and sisterhood for lesbian and gay people.”
-Coretta Scott King.



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THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

Stop Tripping

By Evelyn Anderton

Recently I was having lunch at the Valley Mall after attempting to do a little early Christmas shopping for my family and friends.

A mother with three teenagers sat across from me and it looked like they had bought out the stores. Each child had at least four bags, and they were only taking a lunch break.

The mother quietly asked the older child to take some of the bags to the car because they had a little more shopping to do. The young man was on his cell phone and asked the person on the phone to hold on for a moment. He proceeded to yell at his mother and said "don't you see I'm on the phone, you need to stop tripping."

I had a flashback to the 60's and could only visualize me or any of my siblings telling our mother to stop tripping. One thing that I can be assured of is that it would not have been a pretty picture. (LOL) However, the mother replied "I'm sorry I didn't realize you were on the phone."

You may be surprised that I agree with the child. I also suspect many of you may be thinking I have lost my mind or that I may be joking. Neither is the case because many parents do need to stop tripping.

I understand that we are living in a society where times are changing and you either change or get left behind. As a parenting instructor, we always taught our parents that modern life forces parents of all kinds to have the flexibility necessary to accept changes, if such changes protect and provide for the best interest of our children. Parents must first realize that cultural changes are normal and

do not mean cultural loss. As parents, we've been given the opportunity and responsibility to raise our children to be loving, caring and respectful. Those characteristics must start at home.

Stop tripping parents when it comes to modeling and teaching a loving relationship. You are your child's number one role model!

Stop tripping parents and worrying about being your child's friend or worrying about them getting mad. News flash; you are the parent, not the friend, and they will get over it!

Stop tripping parents and making excuses for your child's disrespectful behavior. Children are not born with bad behavior. It is learned behavior, and therefore, it can be unlearned!

Yes, parents you do need to Stop Tripping and Start Parenting!



More Blacks Getting "Strapped" After Election

Continued From Page 1

Of the 701 reported so far, several include school children chanting "Build the Wall" to their Hispanic peers (referencing Trump's promise to build a wall to prevent Mexicans from illegally entering the U.S.) or "White power;" swastikas emblazoned on minorities' homes and public surfaces; minorities, LGBT or Muslim Americans being verbally or physically attacked and more. On Nov. 28, the Council on American-Islamic Relations also sent a letter to FBI Director James B. Comey asking for a formal investigation into a series of letters sent to mosques that threaten the genocide of Muslims across the nation and praises the president-elect.

Philip Smith, founder of the 14,000-member National African American Gun Association told NBC News that his members are buying a range of guns, from Glock handguns to AR-15 rifles to AK-47 semi-automatic weapons to 9-millimeter pistols.

"Most folks are pretty nervous about what kind of America we're going to see over the next 5-10 years," he said, adding that fears include those of an "apocalyptic end result where there's anarchy, jobs are gone, the economy is tipped in the wrong direction and everyone has to fend for themselves."

The increase in gun purchases among minorities after Trump's victory reflect an upswing that has been reflected over the past eight years, according to research.

According to a July 2016 research paper by John Lott Jr. of the Crime Prevention Research Center, the number of concealed handgun permits during President Obama's tenure soared to 14.5 million, a 215 percent increase since 2007. The uptick, he noted, was largely driven by minorities whose permit-holding was increasing about 75 percent more than among Whites.

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WWW.BLACKHISTORY101MOBILEMUSEUM.COM

The Black History 101 Mobile Museum is an innovative traveling table top exhibit depicting Black memorabilia spanning slavery to Hip Hop. The museum has over 5,000 rare treasures among its collection including original documents from historic Black figures whose contributions helped shape the United States.

Artifacts in this unparalleled mobile collection represent items from the categories of slavery, Jim Crow era, music, sports, the Civil Rights and Black Power era, and popular culture.

A few prominent pieces in the collection's archives include a rare slave bill of sale and documents signed by Booker T. Washington, Ralph Bunche, Rosa Parks, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Shirley Chisholm, Dr. Dorothy Height, Alex Haley, Carter G. Woodson, and many others.

Martin, Motown and Michael – 3 M's Exhibit

The Connection: Motown Records recorded and released MLK's The Great March to Freedom speech in 1963. Michael Jackson's life and music was a reflection of MLK's philosophy of an integrated America.

The Exhibit: Rare photos, albums, magazines, posters and other memorabilia the 3M's exhibit celebrates the legacies of three of the most influential icons in American history.

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Open to the Public

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Hixson Union Building (HUB)

300 W Hawthorne Rd, Spokane

For more information contact the Whitworth University Office of Student Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at 509-777-4721 or sdei@whitworth.edu

SATURATE - ARTS TOUR 2017

Celebrating Spokane's Artists of Color: February 3 - 5



Content provided by Spokane Arts.

SATURATE is a city-wide collaboration calling attention to Spokane's diverse yet under-recognized artists that will take place in venues around Spokane from February 3-5, 2017..

For the Visual Arts Tour in February, arts venues large and small will simultaneously feature artwork, curatorial projects, and performances by Artists of Color.

Now more than ever, cultural expression, unique experience, inclusive dialogue is needed in our city. Inequality is not a natural state. It takes effort to create divisions.

Likewise it takes effort to build bridges. There is a myth about Spokane; that the inequality is a matter of population size, that there are simply too few minority voices to matter.

With a little effort, Spokane Arts hopes to dispel that myth by asking artists, art venues, and art goers to seek each other out and share individual stories through art.

The purpose of Saturate is not just to highlight our diversity one time out of the year but to start encouraging established venues to actively seek out and get to know more artists; open the lines of communication for Artists of Color to reach out to venues; to diversify established institutions; to bring attention/more audience members to cultural activities that go under the radar; to create long-term relationships; and to build a culture of pro-active, intentional inclusion in Spokane.

Participating venues so far include: Chase Gallery, Kolva-Sullivan, Marmot Art Space, Richmond Art Collective, MAC, Jundt, Downtown Library, Trackside Studio, Avenue West, Auntie's Bookstore, and more.



Poet Robert Lashley will be performing at Auntie's Bookstore as a part of Saturate.

If you have a venue, there are several ways to participate: hire a musician, invite an artist to show work, invite a poet or writer to perform a live reading, hire a designer for your postcard, a caterer for food. Be creative!

If you are an artist of color, this is an opportunity to share your art with the Spokane community and you are encouraged to participate. If you know an

artist, share this information with them. Whether you are an artist or run an arts venue, help us deepen the conversation on race, identity, and culture in our city and beyond.

To get more information or to participate in Saturate, visit www.spokanearts.org/saturate, or you can call Spokane Arts at (509) 321-9614.

*Congratulations
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Aging & Long Term Care - ADVOCACY. ACTION. ANSWERS

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

Sebastian Evans: Composer

By Sandra Williams

If you pay attention when you are watching a movie or a television program, you will notice that in the background there is music playing, or what is commonly referred to as the score. The score is sometimes subtle and unnoticeable, and at other times it is powerful and dynamic. But always the score is there to enhance and breathe life into the program.

Composers are the ones who produce the music and create the score. Very few of them are Black. Thirty-eight year old Sebastian Evans, currently the composer for the popular animated Nickelodeon series, Teenage Mutant Ninja



Turtles belongs to that small group and he is getting recognition for his work.

Evans was born in Hayward, CA in 1978. His father worked in security and his mother in the medical field. When he was “9 or 10”, his family, including a younger brother, moved to Vacaville, a city in Northern California, located between Sacramento and San Francisco. It was there that he grew up.

Evans says he was a bit of a nerdy kid when he was growing up, one who used to hum music all of the time when he was watching television shows. Quite often, he says, he would “just bust out with theme songs from tv shows,” and his unexpected behavior led people wonder at times if he had some type of turrets syndrome.

When he was seven, Evan’s dad took him to see Return of the Jedi, an outing that would ultimately have a profound impact on his life.

“There’s a part in there where they go into the Death Star and it’s a trap, and the general says ‘it’s a trap’, and the music gets really big. That blew me away. I was like, what is that?” His dad asked Evan if he liked the movie. He said he did, but it was the music that really got to him. “The music was amazing!”

Evans started listening to classical music, and then started piano lessons. He had grown up around music, in a family was always heavily into all types of music, as far as being fans, but no one that he knew of in his immediate family had ever been a musician. It wasn’t until Evans started piano lessons that someone in the family was actually playing music.



Photo Credit: Nickelodeon

“They were kind of just placating me, trying to keep me busy,” Evans said of his family, “but I was actually kind of good.”

In Middle School Evans started picking up instruments. “I just started playing.” He was in jazz bands, marching bands, concert band, orchestra, drum line, choir, music theater. “Everything that had to do with music. Finding any instrument I could. and studying everything.”

Evans was inspired by his piano teacher, Ida Orr. He says he knew how to play things, but he “always added things.”

Continued on Page 17

CONGRATULATIONS BLACK LENS NEWS!



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HEALTH & MEDICINE

LINKS, Inc. and Inland Imaging Host Annual MAMMOGRAM PARTY

Inland Imaging and the Spokane Chapter of the Links, Inc. invite you to their Annual Mammogram Party!!

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States. According to the American Cancer Society article titled, “Report: Breast Cancer Rates Rising Among African-American Women” by Stacy Simon, it accounts for nearly 1 in 3 of the cancers that are diagnosed in women, and the rate of cancer amongst African American women is rising.

A 2015 report published by The American Cancer Society, titled “Breast Cancer Facts and Figure” noted that even though Black women have historically had lower incidence rates of breast cancer than white women, death rates among Black women have historically been higher. In fact, the report says, the Black-white disparity in breast cancer death rates has increased over time, and by 2012, breast cancer death rates were 42% higher in Black women than white women. In fact, Black women are more likely to die from breast cancer in every age group.

Two of the reasons cited in the report for the higher death rates amongst Black women are that Black women are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to be diagnosed at later stages of the disease and therefore have the lowest survival at each stage of diagnosis. Black women are also more likely to be diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, which is an aggressive subtype that is linked to poorer survival.

To combat breast cancer, and to detect breast cancer earlier, when treatments are more likely to be successful, the American Cancer Society recommends that women should begin having yearly mammograms by the age of 45. Yet, despite the risk, many women in the African American community do not follow that recommendation.

In an effort to reach out to Spokane’s African American women and encourage them to get mammograms and breast cancer screenings, Inland Imaging has been partnering with the Links, Inc. to offer Mammogram, or “Mam” parties each year.



Photo Source:
Atlantablackstar.com

“Without the mammogram my cancer would have gone undetected.” -Tamela Richards

The annual mammogram parties, which are spearheaded each year by Faith Washington, a nurse manager at Inland Imaging, started as a part of My Sister’s Temple, which is a non-profit organization that was established in 2008 as a program of The Links, Inc. to serve low income residents and communities of color in Spokane.

The “Mam Parties” break down many of the barriers that keep Black women from seeking medical treatment. The atmosphere is relaxing, and much more like a gathering of sisters than a visit to a medical clinic. There is a lot of laughter and conversation, as the women socialize and catch up with old friends, while enjoying appetizers, desserts and give aways. The party is welcoming, not clinical, and it offers women a relaxing way to get

their annual mammogram screening while enjoying the company of friends.

But despite its social nature, the serious business of screening for breast cancer is also taking place. Forty-three year old Tamela Richards, who reluctantly went to the Mammogram Party with her mother in 2014 was surprised to have cancer discovered during her screening. “Without the mammogram,” she said, “my cancer would have gone undetected.” But after chemotherapy and radiation treatment, Tamela’s cancer is now undetected and she is grateful that she went.

This year’s Mammogram Party is an opportunity for women in the community to join members of the Links, Inc and take care of ourselves.

About the Mammogram Party:

For: Women over 40 who are due for their routine exam around this time. For those aged 35-40 who wish to be screened, we will need an order from your physician. This can be faxed to 509-624-6900.

When: January 24, 2017 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Where: Inland Imaging, located inside of Holy Family Hospital, 5715 N Lidgerwood St, Spokane, WA 99208

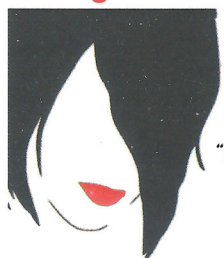
****IMPORTANT: Space is limited!** Please contact your insurance company ahead of time and ask if they will cover the 3D imaging. You will need to know and bring with you the following information: Physician’s Name, Personal ID, Insurance Card. If you have questions about the 3D imaging, call Inland Imaging at 509-363-7799.

It is highly recommended that participants send in the following information PRIOR to coming (to help things run smoother) : Date of Birth; Full Name of your Primary Care Physician / Practitioner; Name of your insurance carrier. Information should be sent to Faith Washington prior to arrival at the party at fwashington@inland-imaging.com. This information will be confidential and HIPAA protected.

We will have staff on hand to provide you with additional information.

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FROM BOB'S LENS

By Robert Lloyd www.4comculture.com



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~Elaine Tyrie

Arius Esiwini, 9 Years Old**I Have A Dream:**

That white people and Black
people who get along and be
respectful to another even
if they don't have the
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December 2014



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The Spokane Chapter of
The Links, Inc.
Congratulates and Salutes
the Second Anniversary
of the publication of
The Black Lens &
Editor in Chief, Sandra Williams.
~Teresa Hemphill, President.

IN THE SPIRIT

Faith-Based Producer Inks Big Deal With Major Network

Under the multi-year pact, Franklin will Produce and Develop Film Content for 20th Century Fox

By Carolyn M. Brown

(Reprinted from Black Enterprise Online: <http://www.blackenterprise.com/lifestyle>)

Hollywood power broker **DeVon Franklin** has inked a deal with 20th Century Fox. Under the multi-year pact, Franklin will produce and develop film content for the studio through his Franklin Entertainment banner, where he serves as president and CEO.

A producer, preacher, and New York Times best-selling author, Franklin works on both Black-themed and mainstream projects. His career string of box-office hits includes *The Pursuit of Happyness*, *Hancock*, *The Karate Kid* remake, *Heaven Is for Real*, and *Miracles From Heaven*.

“We’re excited to welcome DeVon Franklin into the Fox family,” Stacey Snider, chairman and CEO of 20th Century Fox Film said in a statement. “He has great taste and a real feel for inspirational stories.”

“I am deeply committed to producing inspirational content of faith that reaches audiences all around the world,” added



Franklin in a released statement. “This is why I’m so excited to join the Fox family. I am incredibly grateful for the support for my vision of creating uplifting content for the masses.”

The 38-year-old filmmaker skyrocketed from an intern at Will Smith’s Overbrook Entertainment to a senior vice president at Sony Entertainment. A man of the cloth—he’s ordained—Franklin had his hands in developing and supervising movies geared toward the urban and faith-based markets

for Sony Pictures divisions, Columbia and TriStar Pictures.

Prior to launching Franklin Entertainment, Franklin served as a Senior Vice President of Production at Columbia TriStar Pictures—making him one of the highest-ranking African American executives in Hollywood’s studio system, as well as one of the youngest to reach that rank. Among the movies he has shepherded through production, distribution, and marketing are *Not Easily Broken*, *Jumping the*

Broom, and the *Sparkle* remake; all three films were produced by Bishop T. D. Jakes. Franklin most recently developed and produced the hit faith-based film *Miracles From Heaven*, which starred Jennifer Garner and Queen Latifah. According to Franklin’s camp, the film, which reportedly received a rare A+ CinemaScore, was made for a modest \$15 million and has earned more than \$73 million at the worldwide box office, making it one of most successful faith-based films to date.

Franklin remains at the forefront of the movie-making machinery as he is currently working on several projects, including the high-profile reboot of *He-Man* and the *Masters of the Universe* franchise. Also in development is the highly anticipated remake of the 1975 classic film *Cooley High* at MGM.

Franklin recently released his second book, *The Wait*, which he co-wrote with his wife, actress Meagan Good. The book became a New York Times bestseller, selling more than 125,000 copies to date. Additionally, Franklin reportedly has amassed more than 1 million followers on social media through his daily inspirational posts.

Tongues of Fire By Beverly Spears

The Fierce Urgency of Now

I enter 2017 with heightened anxiety, and deep uncertainty as a result of the presidential election, and the state of the nation. Millions of other people share this anxiety. However, I also enter into it with resolve to resist any normalization of the -isms and the phobias of hate-filled rhetoric and actions—the violation of civil and human rights, the rape of our planet, and the power and insatiable greed of the dominant European-American culture. A dear friend often reminded us in his sermons that the world cannot afford our despair. I would add that neither our nation, nor our world can afford our silence and complicity.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. inspired the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s with what he called *the fierce urgency of now*—the immediate need for people to come together and put their lives on the line for justice, through non-violent direct action. African-Americans, and allies of the Movement did indeed put their lives on the line. Among other atrocities, they were beaten by police, savaged by attack dogs, and blasted with water from high-pressure fire hoses. Racist whites bombed the homes and institutions of Black people. Too many lost their lives in service to the greater good, including, of course, Dr. King.

Justice did finally prevail. Between 1963-1966, the nation saw passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts, establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, the War on Poverty, national investments in education and infrastructure, and groundbreaking environmental and consumer protection laws. However, as William Faulkner said, “The past is never dead. It’s not even the past.” Many of these legislative achievements, as well as the laws that followed and strengthened them, are being dismantled, weakened, or are under attack.



Peaceful resistance is alive throughout the world and in our nation, and the response to non-violent direct action is still too often brutality. Consider the protest at Standing Rock in North Dakota, where members of the Sioux Nation, and other indigenous people and allies from throughout North American, have been gathered since spring of 2016. They’ve proven incredibly resilient in protesting continued construction of a crude oil pipeline near the Reservation, under the Missouri River, posing a threat to the tribe’s drinking water, and desecrating lands held sacred by the indigenous people. Several weeks ago, the world watched as police, in an effort to disperse the crowd, shot them with rubber bullets, sprayed them with tear gas, and in freezing nighttime temperatures turned fire hoses and a water cannon on protesters.

Still, Grace breaks out in the most unexpected ways. Over a thousand US military veterans from across the nation arrived at Standing Rock as allies of the Tribe against the pipeline. As one of their actions the veterans stood on the front lines of the protest prepared to take the first hit of tear gas and water from the high-pressure hoses.

Later, Native Americans conducted a Forgiveness Ceremony giving the veterans an opportunity to atone for military actions and atrocities taken against native tribes throughout our country’s history. In a sincere act of contrition the veterans, led by Wes Clark Jr., son of retired US Army General and former NATO Commander Wesley Clark, knelt before the tribal elders.

These were the younger Clark’s words: *We came. We fought you. We took your land. We signed treaties that we broke. We stole minerals from your sacred hills. We blasted the faces of our presidents onto your sacred mountain. We took still more land and then we tried to eliminate your language that God gave you, and the Creator gave you. We didn’t respect you. We polluted your Earth. We’ve hurt you in so many ways, but we’ve come to say that we are sorry. We are at your service and we beg for your forgiveness.*

Clark Jr., who said he had been fueled by Spirit to come to Standing Rock, bowed his head, weeping. Chief Leonard Crow Dog laying hands on Clarks head, offered forgiveness and urged world peace. Those in the room broke out in chanting and prayer. It was a Holy Moment.

As the new year unfolds, may the fierce urgency of now compel us to reject silence and complicity—to resist government-sanctioned actions of hatred and greed—to fight against economic oppression, to protect the environment, and to stand in solidarity with those persecuted because of race, faith and ethnicity. And may we find Holy Moments in the struggle.

To be continued...

Rev. Beverly Spears is an ordained American Baptist minister, teacher and preacher of Evolutionary Christianity.



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Jesus Christ being the Chief Corner Stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord.
Eph. 2: 20-21

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THE LAW & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Wanted: Innocence Project for Misdemeanor Offenders

A Three Part Series

By Francis Adewale

Part One:

The success of the Innocence Project in exonerating people on death row and those serving life sentences is well-known. Prison wardens often say they fill more requests for stationery by prisoners to write to the Innocence Project than any other commissary request.

The reputation of the project is well-earned. From the moment the project won the first DNA exoneration in 1989, the organization has spread its gospel to 37 other states where 215 African Americans, 105 Caucasians, 25 Latinos, and two Asian Americans have regained their freedom. My call in this piece is a demand for similar freedom for those serving life sentences in our county and municipal jails in increments of thirty days or ninety days at a time.

I am a public defender that takes special pride in winning cases at trial. I love trials! Did I say I love trials? I meant the ones I win! It's why I went to law school. I enjoy crushing my opponent, even when I get bruises (losses) here and there. I assume it's due to the fact that my clients did not tell me the whole truth or the jurors were biased. It is never my fault. Call it hubris, ego, or chutzpah, I am guilty as charged.

When I go to trial I wear the white hat. I am the only one with that hat. I fight for freedom for my client. It's war to me. I know my client's freedom totally depends on me. I am the only thing standing between them and the governmental machinery set in motion when the 911 call is made or when the officer informs my client he cannot leave the scene of the incident.

This is where I was six years ago, after 15 years of misdemeanor criminal practice. I had won some, and lost some; I was literally having the time of my life. Yes, I don't get paid much and I have a huge caseload, but at least I thought of myself as the last frontier of freedom for the masses and the hoi polloi from "the pernicious government prosecutors who are all out to persecute, but not prosecute, my clients."



I remember distinctly my "Damascus road" experience. Not because there was a "shining light" from heaven on my path but because of a rude shock and awakening I had.

It was Christmas time and I had gone along with other members from my church to feed and provide warm clothing for the homeless at Catholic Charities' Homeless Shelter in Spokane, Washington. As we walked into the entrance to the dining hall, a notice board on the wall caught my eye. As I drew closer, my mouth went ajar. The piece of paper glued to the board contained the list of the homeless folks who died in my city that year. Out of the dozen people on the list, I had represented four or five of them in one form or another.

When I inquired the cause of death for one of them, an individual I believed I got out of jail on numerous occasions by pre-trial motion victory, outright victory at trial, or sometimes with a credit for time served guilty plea, I broke down and wept when they told me that he died of complications from frost bite and a cancerous liver, exacerbated by Korsakoff alcohol-induced dementia.

The saddest part for me is that I knew about his serious health concerns months before his death, as he usually brought me the paperwork from his numerous emergency room visits. It was on one of those papers I learned more about Korsakoff syndrome, but I didn't do anything about it. I told him to go see a doctor. His response then was that when he needed to see a doctor he'd go to the ER as he has no primary care physician.

His ER papers clearly stated that Korsakoff syndrome is a chronic memory disorder caused by a severe deficiency of thiamine (vitamin B-1) and that Korsakoff syndrome is most commonly caused by alcohol misuse, but certain other conditions also can cause the syndrome.

Unlike now, there was no Affordable Care Act, and he had no health insurance. He only visited the hospital emergency room when he was seriously sick. Numerous times he would tell me he wanted to attend alcohol treatment, but he couldn't afford it; and no insurance covered an addiction recovery program at that time. So I fought tooth and nail to make sure no treatment conditions were imposed on his probation, but when the court did, despite my several protestations, and he came back on probation, I reminded the court he could not afford to pay for it, so I got the least punitive sanctions, 30 days credit for time served, instead of the maximum 90 days for a simple misdemeanor.

I felt terrible that I couldn't do more to help my client. I was distraught at the end of that trip. As an immigrant from Africa, I believed no one should die the way my client died, helpless and without dignity, in the greatest nation on earth. I was mad at myself and mad at the system that perpetuated such injustice against my client. I felt deeply that the criminal justice system punished my client for being poor. Especially when I recalled the times some of my clients had to either use their meager earnings from Social Security Disability to pay for the cost of alcohol evaluation mandated under their probation, or had to donate blood at the plasma center to get money for treatment.

I left the House of Charity that day, determined to get out of the misdemeanor criminal practice. I was sick of it all.

To be continued....

NETFLIX

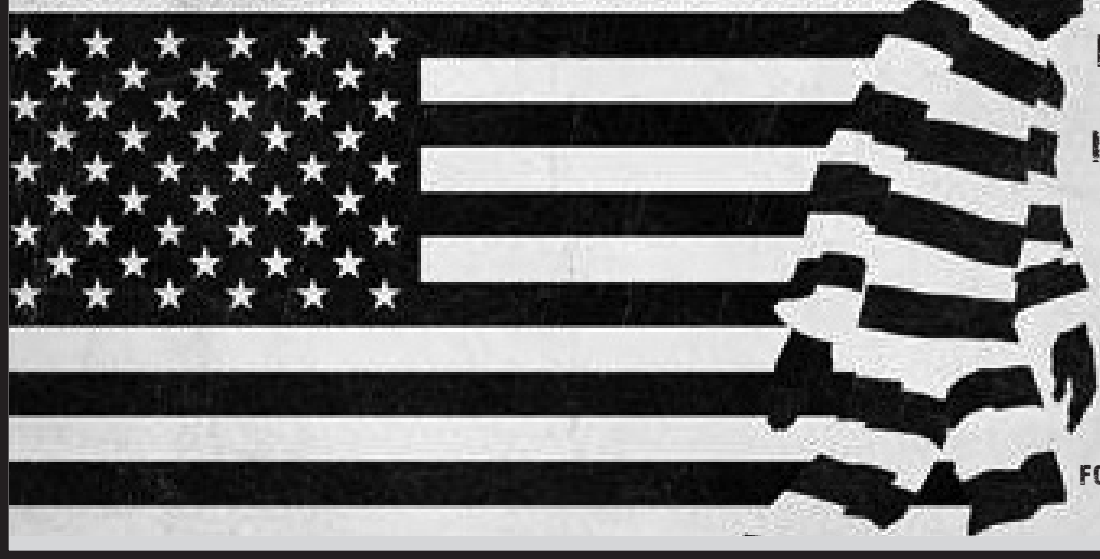
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FROM AVA DUVERNAY

DIRECTOR OF SELMA

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10AM -- 1PM

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Sebastian Evans: Composer (Continued From Page 10)

During the six years that he took lessons from her, Evans says Orr embraced his style and he felt that she understood his way of ‘adding things.’ “She didn’t try to correct it,” he says, “she just kind of let me be my own creative person while I was playing classical standards.”

Evans’ Middle School Band Teacher, Bruce Tipton, also embraced his unique style which helped him grow as a musician. “He didn’t make me stick with any instrument. I kind of went there and he was like, okay who plays what? I said I want to play some other stuff and he was like okay, what do you want to play, and I said, uh drums, and he said okay, now play drums. He really embraced me being able to move around the orchestra a lot and I really appreciated that.”

After High School, Evans “worked at Target for a while.” But music and his desire to be a composer was calling out to him, so he moved to Los Angeles, and once again Star Wars would have an impact on his life. He was standing in line to see the movie ‘Phantom Menace’ when he met some people who were working in the entertainment business.

“I met some really cool people that were actually doing some really cool things, and I started passing out my demo. I guess about 4 years later, one of them called me up and said that he had a show that he was doing for Disney and he wanted me to try out for it. I got a try out and I got that job.”

Prior to the ‘try out’ with Disney, Evans had been doing odd jobs and creating music around the work he was doing. He was a delivery person for a while, worked at Target, worked for a multimedia company, and sold rap beats for money. Evans also got a small job composing music for a pilot program for Warner Brothers, called ‘Cartoon Monsoon’.

“They got all of these creators and they would do a pilot in flash and post it on line, and the pilots that got the most votes would be greenlit to make a pilot for tv. I was able to score all of those. I think there was something like twelve cartoons, and that was how I was able to develop a demo that was predicated towards cartoon music. So when I had that demo, I got some tractions inside the industry.”

But it was the call from Disney that would finally launch Evans’ professional career. “I was always making music, but it wasn’t until I got that call (from Disney) that I was doing it professionally.”

Evan says the experience at Disney, working on an animated series called ‘Super Monkey Robot Team Hyperforce Go’ was scary for him “because it was a real show.” He had never composed music for an actual program before. Evans says he talked to Producer, Ciro Nieli, “and I said, dude, I have to let you know, I don’t really know how to do this. I know how to make



reels.” Ciro’s response was simple. “I heard your stuff. I like your stuff. I already know you’re good. So just write it down. Just do it. Just do the job. You’ve got to start somewhere.” And, Evan says, “that’s how I got started. Just doing it, I guess.”

Several projects followed that first one, including an animated Transformers, and some more work for Warner Brothers. Then eight years later Evans got another call from Ciro to say that he was working on a new animated version of ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’ and he wanted to know if Evans wanted to score a pilot.

“So I did that, I scored the pilot, and they really liked it a lot and they asked me to do the series.”

To say that he was excited is an understatement. The Ninja Turtles had been a huge part of Evans’ childhood, so he was beyond excited to have the opportunity to work on the show. “To work on something that was from my childhood. I already did it for Transformers and then to work on Ninja Turtles, that’s an even a bigger part of my childhood. I couldn’t even contain myself.

What Evans has brought to this incarnation of Ninja Turtles, he says, is a difference in the style of the music. “Mine has a little bit of a Hip Hop edge to it. Music has always been a huge part of the Ninja Turtles franchise in general, it always had a sense of the time that it’s set in. Like when it came out in the 80s you could really hear the Rock sound, and then you can hear the Metal sound as it progressed through the 90s, and this one has more of a classical Japanese Hip Hop mesh, depending on the episode. A Hip Hop edge and more of a classical foundation.”

Evans’ style emerges through the process that he uses to compose his music. “Usually I start with a meeting with the Executive Producer or the Director or sometimes both, and I kind of want to pick their brains as to what they want to get

across or what’s needed, in either the episode in general, or maybe a particular scene. Then basically it’s me just watching it (the scene) over and over again. I usually will watch the whole thing probably about 10 or 11 times and I won’t do anything. Then I’ll walk around like a moron humming to myself. Conducting an orchestra that’s not even there. Then I’ll just start tackling scenes. Basically I’ll try to compose it in my mind, and then I start writing it down. Around the 4th or 5th time, a score starts coming together out of the ether, and starts putting itself together in my head as I’m watching it.”

Ninja Turtles recently aired its 100th episode and Evans has “done all of them.” The most challenging thing, he says, has been the deadlines. There are twenty-six episodes per season and the turnaround time is about a week and a half to two weeks per episode. “To really get the best out there, you really have to hunker down and work hard to see if you can do the best work in that time frame.”

The show itself is also challenging, Evans says, because each episode is so different from the next. “From episode to episode the mood and style and feel is completely different. Like one episode can be a horror episode and then it can go straight into a huge action episode in NY and then it can be in Japan or somewhere else the next episode. So really keeping up with the stylistic changes, with instrumentation and my template are huge challenges. And I’ve actually never had to deal with that before on another show.”

The hard work is worth it though for Evans because he is living his dream. He says, being a composer is all he ever thought about. “I would sit at my piano with my boom box and make up stuff to movies that I liked to watch. I would do that for hours. I would watch a movie, like ‘Back to the Future’ and I would go like, that’s an awesome score, now what I would do is this,

and I would do a multi-track where I had two tape decks, and I would push record on one and rewind it and play it in the background and push record on the other one. I was really good at it.”

Evans says he hasn’t really had any challenges as an African American composer, although he acknowledged that it was challenging growing up without having role models.

“As a kid it kind of starts messing with you when you grow up and you’re listening to all of this music and then you start seeing that all of the musicians are old white dudes. So I guess as far as messing with your head a little bit, maybe, but after you actually enter into the field, I have never perceived any kind of barriers as far as me being African American. Maybe one of the reasons could be that no one sees you. I’m in post production, behind the scenes. But everyone is super cool and no one actually cares.”

If he had a chance to go back in time and speak to his younger self, Evans says, he would tell himself the most important lesson that he has learned along the way is to embrace who he is. “I always spent a lot of time on demos doing things to try to prove that I could do what other people would do or sound like how other people would sound, but it wasn’t until I put together things that I just do naturally that I got any traction.”

For young people, or anyone, interested in the field of composing, Evans says “first things first, learn music theory.” Music Theory, says Evans, “is the language of music. The notes and how music is communicated. The structure of music on paper. The scales and modes, and basically the foundation and language of music.” He says, “pick up an instrument and learn music theory.”

Second, Evans’ says, if you really want to get to the point where you can make music your profession, “you’ve got to go where it’s happening. Like I moved to LA, from a small town, Vacaville. I don’t see how I could possibly have ever done this without doing that.”

Finally, he says, “you have to develop your own style, because I feel like the more you stand out with something that’s your own, the more likely it is that you will get traction in the industry.”

When asked why he thinks he has been successful, Evans’ response was, “I don’t know.” How successful he might be, Evans feels, is subjective, but he hopes to have more of it. Upon reflection, though, he added, “I work really hard. I have a really good work ethic. I work really hard to try to get the best product that I can get out in the shortest amount of time.” And, he says, he just loves the work. “I’ve always wanted to do this, and once you get to do what you’ve always wanted to do, it kind of doesn’t feel like work. Maybe that’s it, I just enjoy it so much. It’s kind of just like having a good time.” I guess that’s why music is always in Sebastian Evans’ head.

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OUR VOICES

We Have Convicted White Supremacist Dylann Roof But America is Still Guilty

By Rev. William Barber

(Excerpt reprinted from an interview with Amy Goodman on Democracy Now)

AMY GOODMAN: I wanted to ask you about news from your neighboring state, South Carolina. Jurors in Charleston found white supremacist Dylann Storm Roof guilty of 33 counts of federal hate crimes for shooting nine people dead at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Church on June 17th, 2015. Roof embraced white supremacist views, was shown in photographs posing with a Confederate flag and pistol, and is now facing the death penalty. Can you talk about Dylann Roof, as well as the rise of white supremacy that we're seeing in the so-called alt-right? And your thoughts on him getting the death penalty?

REV. BARBER: Well, you know, it's a complex conversation. Let me give a shout out to my good friend Dr. Lonnie Randolph, who's president of the South Carolina NAACP, who has been fighting issues in South Carolina for a long time, and the people down there.

This is a very Shakespearean moment. You know, he was guilty. We know he was guilty. He confessed to being guilty. And now he's been found guilty. And that is certainly a certain relief for the families.

But then, the irony of it is we've come through this campaign, this Trumpism, with all of this overt racism and othering, you know, at the same time we're convicting Dylann Roof. We have a candidate, you know, who is now president-elect, who began his movement on birtherism and demeaning and denouncing the very birthright of our president. We have policies being proposed. We've got Jeff Sessions, who attempted to prosecute civil rights leaders for participating in registering people to vote, who is against voting rights and civil rights, who now will be possibly the attorney general. We have alt-right, or I call it alt-wrong, and Steve Bannon



and white supremacists in the heart of the Oval Office. We haven't seen that, at least that blatantly, since 1915, when Birth of a Nation was played in the Oval Office by Woodrow Wilson. And by the way, Dylann Roof was captured in Shelby, which is the hometown of the playwright who wrote the movie and the script for Birth of a Nation.

And now we have this alt-wrong in the Oval Office, 100 years later, exact almost to the date. We've gone from Birth of a Nation in the Oval Office to alt-right in the Oval Office.

We have a rise in white supremacy, but we also have a rise in systemic policy. We have people being put in place that are going to do what I call destruction from the inside. Price over HHS, Health and Human Services, who I believe will do great damage to the Health and Human Services, will hurt many black people—and many white people.

And we've come through this election where people have been divided by race and fear. You know, Donald Trump is not the first white man who has used racial division to be elected. This is not the first time America has dealt with a racist president. But what we should be surprised about is the ease at which he was able to use it in the 21st century

and the way in which people bought the con and bought this racism and othering that we have seen now. So we're in a troubling time.

And while Dylann Roof has been found guilty, South Carolina is still guilty. My frat brother, Reverend Pinckney, who was killed, fought for more money for public education. The South Carolina Legislature has not passed more money for public education in his name. He fought against voter suppression. Nikki Haley supported voter suppression. And now she's going to be an ambassador to other nations. He fought for the pulling down of the Confederate flag. The flag did not come down until nine people were killed, which, in an eerie way, sends the signal that only black death matters. You know, he fought for a living wage. He fought for health-care expansion that would help black and poor white people in South Carolina. South Carolina is still guilty of not expanding healthcare and not raising their living wage and still having right-to-work laws, which are actually right-to-discriminate laws that keep labor unions out of the South.

So, yes, we have convicted Dylann Roof, but South Carolina and America are still guilty of systemic policy racism. And the only way we're going to get at it is to have a massive fusion, moral movement in this country, particularly out in the South. On December 31st, we're having a national watch night, Moral Revival Poor People's Campaign Watch Night Service at Metropolitan AME Church in Washington, D.C., calling people to stand up against extremism, calling for a race-class audit that we will release on April the 4th, the anniversary of Dr. King's death, and calling for, lastly, not a remembrance, but a re-engagement of the Poor People's Campaign in 2017, 2018, all across the nation.

Reverend Dr. William Barber is president of the North Carolina branch of the NAACP, <http://www.naacpnc.org/president>. For more information about Democracy Now visit <https://democracynow.org>.

What Can We Learn From Kanye West's Melt Down?

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Kanye West is melting down. He didn't perform to expectations at two concert dates, declaring, at one, that he would have voted for Donald Trump for President, and generating boos for his statement. In a subsequent concert he performed just a couple of songs, and abruptly ended a performance that should have lasted at least an hour. A couple of days later, he was hospitalized in a "psychiatric hold". Some say he is simply exhausted, sleep-deprived and stressed. Some say it is more. His mother, Dr. Donda West, died in November 2007. Nine years later, is he especially vulnerable to outbursts and erratic behavior on that anniversary? In any case, even as many of us have admired Kanye West as a boldly audacious entertainer, we are also concerned about his very public meltdown and its implications.

African American people don't pay enough attention to the challenges that mental health issues face. We are more likely than whites to experience mental health challenges, but far less likely than whites to seek help. We minimize mental health challenges, laughing and calling those who are challenged crazy and cray-cray (I confess, I do this from time to time). We don't respond to their very public cry for help. Yes, Kanye West was crying for help. His inappropriate public behavior could have been interpreted as an ask for someone to take him, hold him, comfort him, hear him. Instead, he had a challenging concert schedule, a schedule that would have brought him millions of dollars. Canceling the schedule may have saved his health but it has cost him millions of dollars. Imagine the pressure he must have felt — can I go on and save the day? Must I step aside and take a hit?

Most African Americans who face mental health challenges face some of the same concerns Kanye West must have. If you share your mental anguish, you are cray-cray, the object of jokes and ridicule. If you hide it, you are eaten



alive by an anguish that forces you to say "fine", or "OK", when people ask you how you are doing. Just like we tell people to take an annual physical, to feel their breasts for lumps, to get the prostate check, we need to encourage folks who are a bit erratic to check in with their doctors about their mental health.

We don't do that and, indeed, many health plans limit access to mental health professionals. But the mental health status of African Americans too often collides with the law enforcement system when "erratic" behavior on the part of some African Americans is seen as simply criminal. People who are mentally ill and need help are too often incarcerated or killed because some police forces lack the tools to manage a mental health crisis that is likely growing.

Consider the case of Anthony Hill, a naked and unarmed Atlanta Air Force veteran who was acting erratically in his apartment complex in early March. Someone called 911 because a naked man was knocking on doors and "acting deranged". When DeKalb police Robert Olsen encountered Hill, he asked him to stop, and when he did not, he was shot twice. Mr. Hill didn't have a weapon, and

anybody who is hanging out naked is clearly mentally impaired. Meanwhile Officer Olsen had a Taser, but he chose to use his gun, but he chose to use his gun against a naked, weaponless man.

Olsen was charged with murder and indicted and, in October, was ordered to stand trial. The trial may begin late their year or early next year. Meanwhile, it is significant to note that Anthony Hill was believed to be bipolar, and suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. He served our country in Afghanistan, and tried unsuccessfully to get an appointment, and some help, from the VA hospital in Atlanta. Might the outcome of his erratic episode have been different if mental health professionals, not a trigger-happy officer, were deployed to intervene?

Should mental illness be a death sentence? It was for Anthony Hill, and for many others who don't get the help they need. Even as the incoming President attempts to reverse some aspects of the Affordable Care Act, conscious health advocates must insist that mental health coverage is as important as physical health coverage. It is disgraceful that a veteran should be shot because his mental illness got the better of him. It is disgusting that dozens of others who are unarmed and mentally ill are shot because people untrained to manage mental illness are sent to communities, gun ready, and oblivious to alternatives.

And it is disturbing that Kanye West is melting down in plain sight, drowning his pain in angry vitriol. When can we, African Americans, talk about the mental health crisis that exists in our community? It isn't going to get better, as hate crime escalates and swastikas begin to adorn our city walls. Some of us will want to fight, and others will be driven to despair. We must speak of mental health and healing, and we must speak of it often. One of Kanye West's colleagues, 9th Wonder said, "Been knowing the brother upwards of 13 years. Mental healing is a serious thing, no matter what. Stay strong Kanye West." Ashe'.

OUR VOICES

Power to Power! Bob Johnson's Meeting With Trump

By James Clingman

(<http://www.blackonomics.com>) One post-election highlight for me was the meeting between Donald Trump and Bob Johnson, founder of BET. Billionaire to billionaire. Democrat to Republican. Black to White. Businessman to businessman. Capitalist to capitalist. Meeting on a relatively even playing field to discuss some of the “what now issues” was intriguing to say the least. After the meeting, Mr. Johnson wrote a press release and did several interviews to disclose the particulars of that meeting.

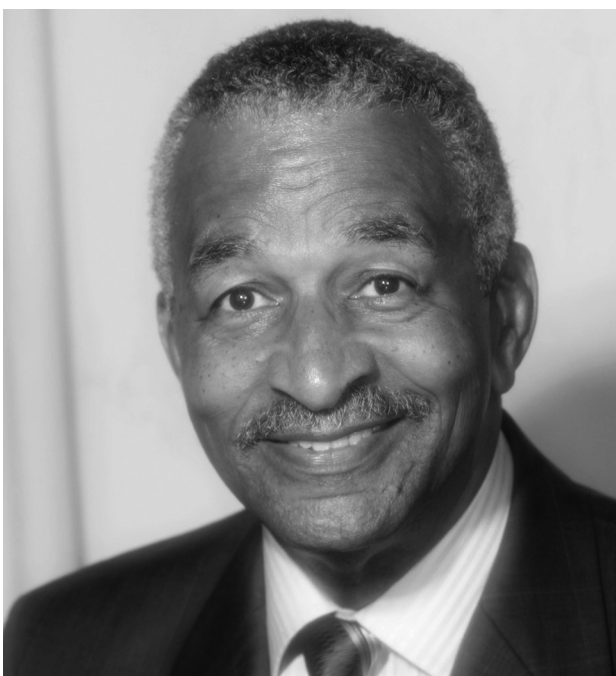
While the press summed up Johnson's comments in one sentence, “Let's give Trump a shot,” there was much more to it than that. How do I know that? I'm glad you asked. Mr. Johnson graciously agreed to allow me to interview him as well, and during our nearly one-hour conversation he spoke openly about his political position vis-à-vis the election of Donald Trump, and his thoughts, recommendations, and reflections on a Black strategy moving forward.

One of the main things Johnson discussed is our penchant to vote as a bloc for one party, in this case the Dems, without reciprocity. His words brought to mind similar words by Carter G. Woodson and Malcolm X on that same point. Mr. Johnson recommended that Black folks should be independent and bloc-vote only for candidates who support our interests, locally and nationally, regardless of their party affiliation. “Amen!”

Bob Johnson, based upon what he called a “Seismic Shift” in our politics, said we must follow what former U.S. Representative William “Bill” Clay, Sr. told us: “Your political philosophy must be selfish and pragmatic. You must start with the premise that you have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.”

My follow-up question was, “Then would you recommend that Black voters register as ‘Non Party Affiliated’ at their local Boards of Elections?” His answer: “Absolutely yes.” Bingo!

Remember when Donald Trump was asking Black folks, “What do you have to lose” by voting for him? My imme-



“Your political philosophy must be selfish and pragmatic. You must start with the premise that you have no permanent friends, no permanent enemies, just permanent interests.”

-Former U.S. Representative William “Bill” Clay, Sr.

diately answer to his question was another question: “What do we have to gain?” Without my leading Mr. Johnson in any way, during their conversation Johnson shared his message to Trump on that question by saying, “You should be telling Black people what they have to gain by voting for you.”

Johnson cited some very basic business principles, which he has put into play via his conglomerate of ventures, for instance, an equity fund to assist mid-level businesses.

I asked if he thought Blacks should form a similar collective fund for start-ups and micro businesses, and why we don't have such a fund now. He agreed that we should have a fund,

but on why we don't have one, he simply said, “That's a head, problem, Jim.” In other words, the only thing stopping us from doing that is our lack of consciousness and willingness to sacrifice for and support one another. Again, that's much of what I have written and spoken about for twenty years—Psychological Enslavement.

By that time in our interview I was on cloud nine because Robert L. Johnson, owner of numerous businesses and donor of millions of dollars to political campaigns, was confirming the work and philosophy of THE One Million Conscious and Conscientious Black Contributors and Voters (OMCCBCV), <http://www.iamoneofthemillion.com>.

I never mentioned our movement to him during our conversation, but his answers to my inquiries definitely substantiated the direction THE One Million is taking to move Black people from our current status to our highest potential.

There was so much we discussed, and Mr. Johnson's responses, insights, and directions are just what we need to do NOW. We cannot afford to wait, to analyze, to meet, to hold a convention, or continue to theorize the future and lament the past. We can shape our future; we can determine our destiny simply by doing what not only Bob Johnson said but what many of our elders have said over the years. We simply need to ACT.

My entire Q and A with Bob Johnson will be published soon at <http://www.blackonomics.com>, but I wanted to let my readers know about it now, so that we can start moving immediately to leverage our dollars and our votes against the two systems that run this nation and the world: Economics and Politics. The OMCCBCV has already planned to kick-off one part of that strategy in February 2017. Stay tuned.

Please watch for my entire interview with Bob Johnson and start planning for major changes in the way we play politics and the way we use our economic clout to build a strong foundation for our children and grandchildren. What Mr. Johnson shared with me is not esoteric or proprietary, and it's certainly not new. However, sometimes with our people, the same message can come from different sources and depending on the messenger our people will follow it. I am grateful that Mr. Johnson chose to speak out on these issues. More to come.....

The Kwanzaa Season and Economics



By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill, PhD
(<http://www.blackcommentator.com>)

Kwanzaa is an African in America celebration based on African agricultural/harvest celebrations and collective principles which contribute to the unity and development of our community in the United States. This is the 50th anniversary of Kwanzaa and the 47th year of its celebration in Chicago.

Kwanzaa was created to introduce African people in America to new values. Kwanzaa is a seven day celebration that is held from December 26 to January 1. These new values, called the Nguzo Saba or the seven principles of Blackness, “if practiced would give them (us) a set of priorities and commitments which would enhance their (our) human possibilities and lead to their (our) liberation and a higher level of human life.”

The United States economy is suffering from the arrogance of centuries of brutal exploitation of the world's resources and its people. This era of United States history demands that African people in America place a greater degree of emphasis on our collective economic salvation. Once again, the old truth that “Black people are the last hired and the first fired,” is surfacing itself throughout the major employment centers in this country.

Given this economic crisis, the Kwanzaa season helps us place the question of economics on the agenda of our struggle. The eradication of our economic slave condition must continue to be a major challenge in the twenty-first-century. It cannot be stated enough that we are far too dependent on Europeans and Asians for our food, clothing and shelter.

The principle we commemorate during the Kwanzaa season that speaks to this issue is Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics). This principle encourages African people in America “to build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.” On the fourth day of Kwanzaa, Thursday, December 29th, this principle is celebrated.

In this regard, it is important, once again, to state Malcolm X's economic philosophy of Black nationalism. Malcolm said:

“We must be re-educated to the importance of controlling the economy in which we live by owning and operating the businesses in the

communities we live in and developing some industry that will employ our people, so we won't have to boycott and picket other people in other communities to get a job. We must understand the importance of spending money in the community in which we live.”

Malcolm went on to say that, “The neighborhoods in which you spend your money become richer and richer and the neighborhoods in which the money is taken out of becomes poorer and poorer. This creates slums- all the wealth leaves.”

Finally, speaking on the topic of economic philosophy of Black nationalism, Malcolm continues by pointing out:

“Even when we try to spend money in our own community we don't. Business is controlled by outsiders who don't live in the community because we don't know the importance of owning and operating businesses ourselves. So money leaves the community in a basket at sundown. We must control our own economy.”

One important activity African American people should practice during the Kwanzaa season is doing business with each other, thus continuing this practice throughout the year.

In the next to the final chapter of Dr. Chancellor Williams classic book, Destruction of Black Civilization, he addresses the issue of “Organizing A Race For Action.” Dr. Williams explains that organizing for racial action should have as

a major component, “The Division of Economic Planning and Development.” He explains:

“The Division of Economic Planning and Development should be the foundation of the organized efforts and a principal source of support and promotion of the most important activities of the whole race. A guiding principle should be that all promoted community enterprises shall be cooperatively owned and controlled by the people of the community and that each enterprise have highly trained management and competent service personnel.”

In this connection, Dr. Williams makes this observation: “The second great understanding should be that economic activities are so fundamental in any truly upward movement, so clearly indispensable at this stage in history, that it should be unnecessary to state it even.”

If we are ever to become a free and independent people, we must organize the race for action.

Dr. Conrad W. Worrill, PhD, is a columnist for BlackCommentator.com, the National Chairman Emeritus of the National Black United Front (NBUF), and Professor of Inner City Studies Education (ICSE) in the Department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies (EICS) as well as the Director of the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). For more information visit <http://www.drconradworrill.com>.

POLITICS IN BLACK AND WHITE

BY AUSTIN WASHINGTON

MICHAEL SLAGER WAS VIDEO TAPED SHOOTING WALTER SCOTT IN HIS BACK 5 TIMES. A JURY OF 11 WHITE CITIZENS AND ONE BLACK CITIZEN FAILED TO COME TO A UNANIMOUS DECISION, RESULTING IN A MISTRIAL. WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE ALL WHITE JURIES OF THE LYNCHING ERA, SURE, IT'S PROGRESS.



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Dorothy Webster

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. - Beyond Viet Nam Continued From Page 1

I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continued to draw men and skills and money like some demonic, destructive suction tube. So I was increasingly compelled to see the war as an enemy of the poor and to attack it as such.

We were taking the black young men who had been crippled by our society and sending them eight thousand miles away to guarantee liberties in Southeast Asia which they had not found in southwest Georgia and East Harlem. So we have been repeatedly faced with the cruel irony of watching Negro and white boys on TV screens as they kill and die together for a nation that has been unable to seat them together in the same schools. So we watch them in brutal solidarity burning the huts of a poor village, but we realize that they would hardly live on the same block in Chicago. I could not be silent in the face of such cruel manipulation of the poor.

I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today: my own government. For the sake of those boys, for the sake of this government, for the sake of the hundreds of thousands trembling under our violence, I cannot be silent.

I cannot forget that the Nobel Peace Prize was also a commission to work harder than I had ever worked before for the brotherhood of man. This is a calling that takes me beyond national allegiances. But even if it were not present, I would yet have to live with the meaning of my commitment to the ministry of Jesus Christ. To me, the relationship of this ministry to the making of peace is so obvious that I sometimes marvel at those who ask



me why I am speaking against the war. Could it be that they do not know that the Good News was meant for all men—for communist and capitalist, for their children and ours, for black and for white, for revolutionary and conservative? Have they forgotten that my ministry is in obedience to the one who loved his enemies so fully that he died for them? What then can I say to the Vietcong or to Castro or to Mao as a faithful minister of this one? Can I threaten them with death or must I not share with them my life?

Here is the true meaning and value of compassion and nonviolence, when it helps us to see the enemy's point of view, to hear his questions, to know his assessment of ourselves. For from his view we may indeed see the basic weaknesses of our own condition, and if we are mature, we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition.

Increasingly, by choice or by accident, this is the role our nation has taken, the role of those who make peaceful

revolution impossible by refusing to give up the privileges and the pleasures that come from the immense profits of overseas investments. I am convinced that if we are to get on to the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin, we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

The Western arrogance of feeling that it has everything to teach others and nothing to learn from them is not just.

A true revolution of values will lay hands on the world order and say of war, "This way of settling differences is not just." This business of burning human beings with napalm, of filling our nation's homes with orphans and widows, of injecting poisonous drugs of hate into the veins of peoples normally humane, of sending men home from dark and bloody battlefields physically handicapped and psychologically deranged, cannot be reconciled with wisdom, justice, and love. A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

To view the complete text or listen to the audio of this speech visit American Rhetoric at <http://www.american-rhetoric.com/speeches/mlkatimetobreaksilence.htm>

CHILDREN, RACE AND POVERTY



By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdney-Wire.com) - The U.S. has one of the highest rates of child poverty in the developed world.

Of 35 wealthy countries studied by UNICEF, only Romania has a child poverty rate higher than the 23 percent rate in the U.S.

A child is deemed to be living in relative poverty if he or she is growing up in a household where disposable income, when adjusted for family size and composition, is less than 50 percent of the median disposable household income for the country concerned.

Black children are more likely to live in poverty than children of any other race. The poverty rate among Black children is 38.2 percent, more than twice as high as the rate among whites. The poverty rate for Hispanic children is 32.3 percent.

The longer a child lives in poverty, the tougher it can be for them to climb out later in life. According to an analysis by Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty, 45 percent of people who spent at least half of their childhood in poverty were poor at age 35. Among those who spent less than half of their childhood in poverty, just 8 percent were poor at age 35.

In Pennsylvania, 37.6% of Black children, and 41.6 percent of Latino children live in poverty as of 2010. Fifty-three percent of Black children raised in the bottom fifth of the income distribution will remain there as adults compared to only 32 percent of White children raised in similar economic circumstances.

Compounding the poverty issue for children is the issue of homelessness.

Homeless children: Experience food insecurity, with one-third reporting that they skip meals; are more than twice as likely as middle-class children to have moderate to severe acute and chronic health problems; and are twice as likely as other children to repeat a grade in school, to be expelled or suspended, or to drop out of high school.

Living in a neighborhood with a high poverty rate is associated with a learning loss equivalent to a full year of school among Black children and high school graduation rates that are as much as 20 percentage points lower than those in more-advantaged communities.

In 2010, one in nine children – 16 million in total – lived in households struggling to afford the food they needed to ensure their children would not go to sleep or to school hungry. One out of 77 children went without enough food at least once.

Twenty-two percent of children who have lived in poverty do not graduate from high school, compared to six percent of those who have never been poor. Thirty-two percent of students who spent more than half of their childhoods in poverty do not graduate.

Compared to more affluent children, children on Medicaid may be less likely to live in neighborhoods where they can play and exercise safely outdoors, and their caretakers are less likely to have access to supermarkets selling fresh, healthy foods.

This is as much about poverty and race as it is about health.

A 2012 Annie E. Casey Foundation study examined the relationship among family income, high school completion and third-grade reading on a national level:

- About 16% of children who could not read proficiently by the end of the third grade do

not graduate from high school on time—this is four times greater than the rate for proficient readers.

- This percentage rises to 26 percent for children who have been poor for at least a year of their lives and who could not read proficiently by the end of the third grade.

- This statistic climbs to 35 percent for children who are poor, who live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and who could not read proficiently by the end of the third grade.

Inadequate school attendance is another problem for poor children. Research indicates that poor children tend to miss four times more school than their more affluent peers. Studies have found several reasons to explain this problem, including hunger, asthma, anxiety, fear, insufficient funds for school supplies or books, and a lack of quiet places to read or study.

Without high-quality early childhood intervention, an at-risk child is: 25 percent more likely to drop out of school; 40 percent more likely to become a teen parent; 50 percent more likely to be placed in special education; 60 percent more likely never to attend college; 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime; and thirty percent of poor children score very low on early reading skills, compared to only seven percent of children from moderate- or high-income families.

Our lack of quality childcare and after-school programs puts these kids at risk and endangers the nation's future in a knowledge economy. Our lack of support for flexible work arrangements and Social Security credits for caregivers puts these parents at risk.

Some of us have the luxury of getting in our cars and going to our local grocery store where there is a plethora of opportunities to buy vegetables, fruits and other food that

is healthy for our bodies. Sure, the grocery stores are all stocked with food and snacks that are bad for most of us as well, but with a little strength we can ignore those aisles.

What if those opportunities were not as available to us as they are now? What if we lived in what's called a "food desert", where we are surrounded by fast food and cheap grocery stores that offer fatty snacks, drinks with pounds of sugar and cheap highly processed foods? People who live below the poverty line in large cities have more opportunities to eat unhealthy and it has hit epidemic proportions.

When it comes to educating children, and them growing into healthy and productive adults, poverty matters. While we're still in the "holiday" spirit...remember the children...

Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan.

Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. A health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics, Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. Listen to Glenn, every Saturday at 9:00am (EST) on www.900amwurd.com, and Sundays at 8:30am (EST) on www.wdasfm.com. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



HR BUSINESS PARTNER/ GENERALIST

Salary: DOE (around the 50 – 60K)

Duties: Under the direction of the HR Director, will create, implement, and maintain HR Programs for a newly acquired section of the company.

Will be responsible for outreach, recruiting, orientation, and maintenance of a staff of around 140 people.

Requirements:

- Looking for a minimum of 4 – 5 years of experience in HR.
- Ability to maintain positive outlook in the midst of a changing organization
- Ability to promote the positive aspects of change.

ACCOUNTANT

Salary: DOE (Around 50 – 60K)

Duties: Responsible for all accounting functions, including AP/AR, Payroll, and general ledger. Payroll is done through an HRIS system.

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree in accounting or related field
- 4+ years of experience preferred

To apply for either of these positions contact:

Jeff Toney, Sr Recruiter
Humanix
15920 E Indiana Ave Ste 100
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
Direct: 509.789.4012
Mobile: 509.850.5966



AMERICORPS POSITION

Transitions' TLC/EduCare continues to look for a 900 hour Americorps to oversee the youth mentoring/after school program. This is a **FULL TIME** position for approximately 5.5 months.

Please contact M. Nelson at mnelson@help4women.org if you are interested.

JOB TRAINING PROGRAM

New Leaf Bakery Café: ending poverty and homelessness has never tasted so good.

Transitions' New Leaf Bakery Café job training program provides women in need with opportunities to develop personal and professional skills for employment in the food service industry.

You can support trainees in their efforts to learn new skills by visiting our café at 12 E 5th (Mon-Thurs) or by ordering catering.

More information is available on our website at www.help4women.org or call (509)496-0396.



Are you looking for a new and challenging career?

There are many unique career opportunities for you to make a difference and serve your community by becoming a Police Officer, Corrections Office, Fire-fighter, or 911 Dispatcher!

There are numerous openings for these positions throughout Washington State, including many around the Spokane area!

- City of Spokane Police and Fire Departments
- Spokane County Sheriff's Office and Dispatch
- Spokane Fire District #8
- Spokane Valley Fire Department
- Ferry County Sheriff's Office & Corrections
- Lincoln County Sheriff's Office & Corrections

Public Safety Testing tests for more than 180 different agencies in Washington & Alaska. For information on testing dates and locations, or to register for your exam, please visit www.PublicSafetyTesting.com and click the "Sign Up" link at the top of the page to begin registration.

**For more information
Call 1-866-447-3911**



Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane is continually recruiting for positions on the Spokane campus.

WSU Health Sciences Spokane was recently recognized by the Journal of Business and the Inland Northwest Society for Human Resource Management as one of the Best Places to Work in the Inland Northwest.

If you are interested in employment at WSU please go to www.wsujobs.com and select 'Spokane' under location to review current open positions.

WSU offers competitive pay and a generous benefits package.

WSU Health Sciences Spokane is a tobacco free campus.

Washington State University is an EO/AA/ADA employer and educator.

For more information or to place an employment advertisement contact The Black Lens at 509-795-1964 or sandy@blacklensnews.com. For price information visit the website at www.blacklensnews.com and click on the advertising tab.

AGING AND LONG TERM CARE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Planning and Management Council (PMC) of Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington to represent seniors and adults with disabilities residing in Spokane County.

PMC volunteers assist in planning, advocating, and administering funding of programs that help seniors and other persons with disabilities remain at home and in the community.

Applications are online at <http://www.altcew.org/get-involved/volunteer/>, by emailing action@altcew.org, or call (509) 458-2509 for more information.

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Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for management, sales, office, machine operators and laborer positions. To view all of our current openings, please visit our website

www.SCAFCO.com and/or CWalla, our authorized distributor of SCAFCO products www.CWalla.com to fill out an application.

You can also send your resume to SCAFCO at 2800 E Main Ave Spokane, WA 99202.

Benefits Package Includes:

Medical, Dental, Vision Insurance, Vacation, Excellent 401(K) and Profit Sharing.



JANUARY EVENTS

JANUARY 7

MLK CENTER SECOND ANNUAL BENEFIT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Come celebrate the life and legacy of the great Dr. King and the work of Spokane's very own Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Outreach Center.

9-10:30am

Gonzaga University

Hemmingson Center - Grand Ballroom

730 E Desmet Avenue, Spokane, WA 99202

Tickets: \$25.00 per person

Please RSVP at (509) 455-8722 or visit www.mlkspokane.org

JANUARY 12

CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS - RACE AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Hosted by University High School Students. A community member forum about real issues pressing Spokane.

5 - 8pm

University High School, Commons Area

12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley, Washington 99216

Food provided - Questions and conversation encouraged!

JANUARY 14

13TH - DOCUMENTARY VIEWING AND COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

The Black Lens and the Spokane Minister's Fellowship are teaming up to host a viewing and discussion of the documentary 13th. The thought provoking film, directed by Ava DuVernay, features scholars, activists and politicians analyzing the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom.

10am - 1pm

Emmanuel Family Life Center

(Next to Bethel AME Church)

631 S Richard Allen Court, Spokane, WA

Free and open to the public.

JANUARY 14

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. GALA

Presented by the Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

H.R.E.I. Center

414 Millan Rd, Coeur d'Alene, ID

For more information and cost call 208.765.3932 or visit <http://www.idahohumanrights.org>.

JANUARY 16

MARTIN LUTHER KING ANNUAL MARCH AND RESOURCE FAIR

10am - 2pm

Spokane Convention Center

334 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane

For more information contact the MLK Center at (509) 455-8722 or visit www.mlkspokane.org

JANUARY 16

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokane-NAACP.com>

JANUARY 16 & 17

BLACK HISTORY 101 MOBILE MUSEUM

An innovative traveling table top exhibit depicting Black memorabilia spanning slavery to Hip Hop. Artifacts in this unparalleled mobile collection represent items from the categories of slavery, Jim Crow era, music, sports, the Civil Rights and Black Power era, and popular culture.

1/16/17 - can van be viewed before, during, and after the MLK March and Resource Fair, at the Spokane Convention Center, Downtown Spokane

1/17/17 - 10:00 am-3:00, lecture at 4:00 pm, be in the HUB MPR on the Whitworth University campus

Cost: Free, open to everyone

For more information contact David Garcia at 509.777.4572 or visit their website at www.whitworth.edu. The exhibit on the 16th is in partnership with the MLK Center.

JANUARY 20

THIRD ANNUAL INLAND NORTHWEST FEMALE SUMMIT : UNBREAKABLE

The 3rd Annual Inland Northwest Female Summit (INWFS) is a free leadership program serving all young women, specifically first-generation, low-income, and multicultural women populations in the greater Inland Northwest.

9AM - 3PM

Eastern Washington University, Hargreaves Hall

526 5th Street, Cheney, WA 99004

For more information contact Randy Corradine at rcorradine@ewu.edu or 509.359.4879.

JANUARY 22

BLACK LENS SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We made it to our second year!!! Join The Black Lens for cake, punch and some yummy appetizers as we celebrate our 2nd year of publishing and look forward to year number three.

3-5pm

CHKN-N-MO

414 1/2 W Sprague Ave, Spokane, WA 99201

Cost: No charge

For more information call The Black Lens at (509) 795-1964 or sandy@blacklensnews.com

JANUARY 24

SPOKANE PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Join us for this public event All are welcome. Representatives will be available from various departments. On site interviews available for current job openings. Job seeking seminars will be provided.

5 - 7pm

Ready to Serve Ministries

404 N. Argonne Road, Spokane Valley, WA

Cost: No charge

For more information call (509) 354-7265 or visit www.spokanschools.org

JANUARY 24

LINKS ANNUAL MAMMOGRAM PARTY

Hosted by Inland Imaging and the Links, Inc.

For for women over 40 who are due for their routine exam or those aged 35-40 who wish to be screened.

While you wait for your mammogram, enjoy refreshments, a relaxing massage, and assorted gifts.

5:30 - 7:30pm

Inland Imaging

Located inside Holy Family Hospital

5715 N Lidgerwood St, Spokane, WA 99208

****IMPORTANT: Space is limited!** Please contact your insurance company ahead of time and ask if they will cover the 3D imaging. You will need to know and bring with you the following information: Physician's Name, Personal ID, Insurance Card.

It is highly recommended that participants send in the following information prior to coming (to help things run smoother) : Date of Birth; Full Name of your Primary Care Physician / Practitioner; Name of your insurance carrier. Information should be sent to Faith Washington prior to arrival at the party at fwashington@inland-imaging.com. This information will be confidential and HIPAA protected.

JANUARY 28

2017 EASTERN WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Taking Responsibility: Acting Together in Faith, Featuring a panel on Poverty.

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

St Mark's Lutheran Church

316 E. 24th Avenue, Spokane WA

Organizers include The Fig Tree, Catholic Charities Spokane, the Faith Action Network and the Inland United Methodist District.

To RSVP: Send suggested donation of \$20

To The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane WA 99202 call (509) 535-4112 or email info@thefigtree.org

For information, call 535-1813 or email mary@thefigtree.org. Fliers are available at thefigtree.org/FigTreeEvent.pdf.

Please send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com or call 509-795-1964.

THANK YOU SPOKANE

SANDY :)

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THE
BLACK LENS
NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

RACE MATTERS IN EDUCATION

Disparities in Discipline Rates Impacting African American Students

A LOOK AT THE PROBLEM

Excerpt from the Kwan Institute Issue Brief "Racial Disproportionality in School Discipline: Implicit Bias is Heavily Implicated" (February 2014)

Research shows that African American students, and especially African American boys, are disciplined more often and receive more out-of-school suspensions and expulsions than White students. Perhaps more alarming is the 2010 finding that over 70% of the students involved in school-related stress or referred to law enforcement were Hispanic or Black (*EducationWeek*, 2010).

A 2009-2010 survey of 72,000 schools (kindergarten through high school) shows that while Black students made up only 18 percent of those enrolled in the schools studied, they accounted for 31 percent of those suspended once, 46 percent of those suspended more than once and 39 percent of all expulsions. Over all, Black students were three and a half times more likely to be suspended or expelled than their White peers (*Lawrie*, 2012).

IN SPOKANE

The Seattle Times published an article in June of this year, titled "Race dramatically shapes discipline, even in elementary school". It was an in-depth look at the disproportionate rates of discipline in Washington state and included a breakdown of discipline rates by school district and ethnic group.

SPOKANE SUSPENSION/EXPULSION RATES	
White	6.1%
Black	15.2%
Hispanic	8.4%
Asian	1.7%
Multi-Racial	9.8%

The Kwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is a nationwide, non-disciplinary research institute that works to deepen understanding of the causes of—and solutions to—racial and ethnic disparities worldwide and to bring about a society that is fair and just for all people. (www.kwaninstitute.com)

To read the full brief visit: <http://blacklensnews.com/edu-implicit-bias-race-disproportionality>.

A LOOK AT SOLUTIONS

In January of 2014, The U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights issued a national "guidance" to assist public elementary and secondary schools in meeting their obligations under Federal law to eliminate student discipline without discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

Amongst other recommendations, the guidance listed interventions that can be effective in reducing and eliminating racial bias in the application of school discipline, they included the following:

- provide in-service training that exposes all teachers and school administrators to information about the causes and consequences of implicit racial and ethnic bias, especially in the form of "cultural deficit thinking";
- facilitate meaningful relationship building between teachers and all of their students by ensuring that all undergraduate teacher certification and Bachelor degree programs include substantial training in "cultural competency";
- implement "Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support" (PBIS) practices and interventions in all schools. Schools that successfully implement PBIS have teaching and learning environments that are less reactive, aversive, dangerous, and exclusionary, and more engaging, responsive, preventive, and productive;
- implement "Restorative Justice" practices in all schools;
- as an alternative to out-of-school suspensions, implement in-school disciplinary measures that temporarily separate serious offenders from the general student population but keeps these students in school;
- Apply zero tolerance policies only in cases where this magnitude of action is warranted.

To read the full guidance visit: <http://www.spokane.gov/sites/default/files/rev/14sep/2014/01/08/84.pdf>

IT HURTS ME TO SAY: A LETTER FROM A SPOKANE STUDENT

By Ephraim Watkins (age 11)

Dear Black Lens,

As an African American male it hurts me to say that I can't walk down the street with a hoodie on because it makes the Caucasian population think I will rob them, or rob a store, or that I am simply a thug and up to no good.

I was called a nigger last year in my 3rd grade year at school and the teacher tried to justify it by saying that the kid was speaking Spanish, but the kid was not Spanish and he did not know how to speak Spanish.

I was called a nigger last year in my 5th grade year by a kid that got mad because I was beating him in a game of four squares.

Myself and two other African American kids received notes on our desks at school last year that said we will die. We took that as a racial threat because it was only put on the African American's desks. These incidents have really hurt and ticked me off because the Spokane School District did nothing and the principal stopped investigating a couple weeks after the threat incident saying "there is no way to prove the land writing." I wanted the principal to keep investigating so that nobody would die or end up hurt and in the hospital.

I feel like people don't give African American people any credit for who we are and what we contribute to society. We are taken as a threat especially being an African American boy.

I play sports and I am aggressive like other kids, but I get called out of my name or parents say "get that big kid off the court, he can't be the size of my kid." I do the same things or better than Caucasian kids, but I get treated. They get told "well done" or "good job" and I get told "don't play so hard next time" or I get told "give you got 15 points in the game, but don't play so hard because parents are scared of your aggressiveness."

The confidante tag means diversity, and when Black people try to say in wrong to have it hanging at the courthouse in Columbia S.C., people just say the flag is history and it's not bad. A lot of racist people say racist chat, and I don't feel that it is cool at all. We all have two eyes, two legs, and two hands. That means we're the same as God's eyes.

God said all men are created equal, but some Caucasian people don't feel that way. I know I can't speak for all Caucasian people because I have some very good friends that are Caucasian and they treat me very well.

I always see people online going on

rumors about how stupid Black people are and how we can't do anything right. It saddens my heart to see that stuff, but this is America. You can say what you want and don't go to jail or anything like that, but we need to take a step back and think about how this will hurt people and maybe not say it. Thank you for reading this message! -Ephraim Watkins

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