

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

EWU STUDENTS CREATE COALITION TO FIGHT FOR MULTICULTURAL CENTER

By Virginia Morales and Jaclyn Archer

The Beginning

It started in early March when Joshua Williams, President of Eastern Washington University's Black Student Union, brought a drawing to the attention of Eastern's BSU members. It was concept art for the Pence Union Building (PUB) redesign, which is scheduled to take place between the summer and fall of this year.

The redesign was paid for by the Associated Students of Eastern Washington University (ASEWU), and thus is quite literally a student-funded project. The new PUB is set to be a true student center, housing the ASEWU government, the Pride Center, and centralizing other student amenities.

Joshua indicated a small square near the bottom of the drawing featuring representations of a single couch, a table, and some chairs. The impression was of a moderately sized living room, and it was labeled "Cultural Lounge."



PUB Redesign Renderings:
<http://access.ewu.edu/pub/pubredesign/pub-renderings>

"Eastern Washington University is alone among Washington State's public colleges in lacking a Multicultural Center or similar resource, despite the fact that students of color make up somewhere between one third and one fifth of the general student body. What was represented on the drawing was clearly not a center, but a random, empty room, that just happened to be labeled 'Cultural.'"

"This is unacceptable," said Joshua. The club agreed.

The lounge indicated in the drawing was apparently a response to cries for a Multicultural Center. A Multicultural Center is commonly understood on higher education campuses to be a functional educa-

tional, presentational, and social space, complete with trained staff.

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up somewhere between one third and one fifth of the general student body. What was represented on the drawing was clearly not a center, but a random, empty room, that just happened to be labeled "Cultural."

It was from this first meeting that initial plans for the Multicultural Coalition were formed. Within a few days other cultural clubs were brought on board, demands were discussed and agreed to, petitions were drafted, and in a matter of two weeks nearly 800 student, faculty, and staff signatures were gathered in support of a multicultural center.

Multicultural Coalition Demands

The current demands from the Multicultural Coalition with regards to the Multicultural Center are as follows:

- The Multicultural Center should be the size of the Multipurpose Room (MPR) that currently exists in the PUB and should include: **Continued on Page 9**

DIVERSE STUDENTS AT EWU POST FLYERS TO EXPRESS ANGER

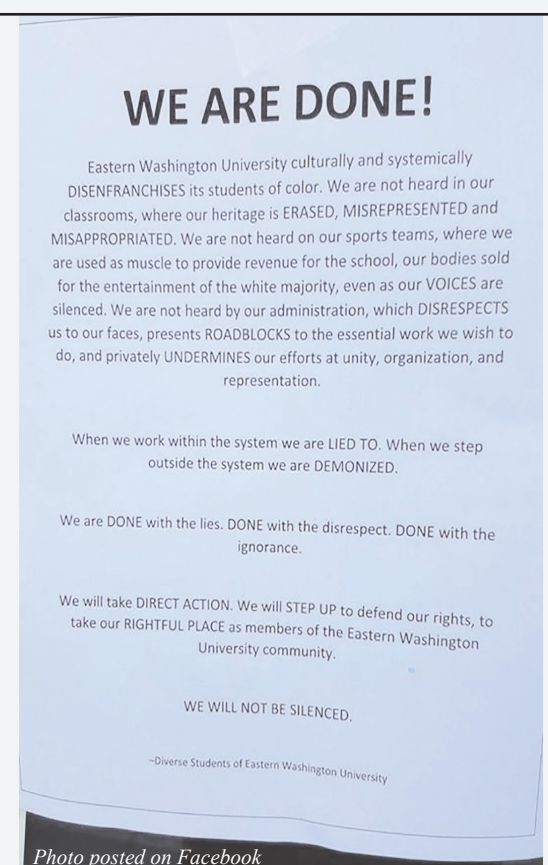
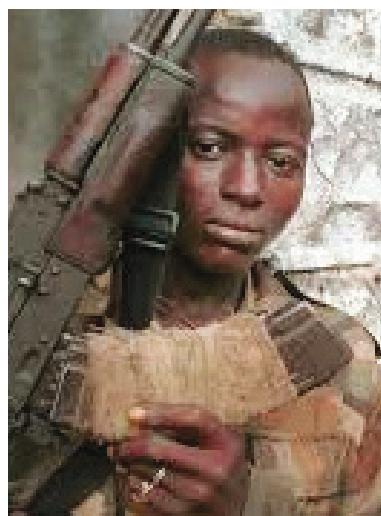


Photo posted on Facebook

Despite a Statement of Diversity and Inclusivity on EWU's website that reads: **"Eastern Washington University is committed to diversity and inclusivity. We recognize that our success is dependent on how well we value, engage, include, and utilize the rich diversity of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni."** The following flyer was posted across campus on April 19, 2016 by a group identifying itself as Diverse Students of Eastern Washington University.

DOCUMENTARY: AFRICAN CHILD SOLDIERS GUARDED U. S. BASES IN IRAQ



Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Global Information Network

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – Aegis Defense Service, a UK firm, may have recruited former child soldiers from Sierra Leone to provide security for U.S. bases in Iraq, according to a new TV documentary to premiere next week in Denmark.

The film – **The Child Soldiers' New Job** – includes testimony from interviewees who said they once served as child soldiers, and documents their employment with Aegis.

A former top officer at Aegis between 2005 and 2015, says that contractors had a duty to recruit from countries such as Sierra Leone, "where there's high unemployment and a decent workforce", in order to reduce costs for the US presence in Iraq.

The officer, James Ellery, a former brigadier in the British army, told the UK's Guardian newspaper, that his company enlisted Africans regardless of their history as child soldiers. "You probably would have a better force if you recruited entirely from the Mid-

lands of England," Ellery told the Guardian. "But it can't be afforded. So you go from the Midlands of England to Nepalese etc etc, Asians, and then at some point you say I'm afraid all we can afford now is Africans."

Aegis hired some 2,500 mercenaries for as little as \$16 a day in order to fulfil contracts to guard U.S. military bases from 2004 onwards, according to the film. "When war gets outsourced, then the companies try to find the cheapest soldiers globally. Turns out that this means former child

soldiers from Sierra Leone. I think it is important that we in the west are aware of the consequences of the privatization of war," the filmmaker Mads Ellesøe said.

The film is sure to raise controversy over the use of private security firms, who received nearly \$100 billion dollars in U.S. contracts, hiring Africans already traumatized by wars in their own countries.

An English-language trailer for the film can be seen at <http://www.madsmedia.dk/childsoldier>.

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

When You Become
a Living Example of
Media Bias

*A strong spirit
transcends rules.
Prince*

There’s an old saying that I used to hear a lot when I was growing up that said if nobody was talking bad about you, it meant you weren’t doing much of anything. I have pretty much accepted that to be the truth over the years and as a result I have developed a fairly thick layer of skin to protect my feelings, but even so, that armour doesn’t protect me from everything, especially the things that attack the integrity of who you are.

I received a message from a friend last month who asked what the heck was going on with an article that he had seen in the Spokesman Review about the Commission on African American Affairs. For those of you who may not be aware, for nearly four years I have served as the Eastern Washington representative on the Commission, which is a Governor appointed, volunteer board that seeks to represent the interests of African Americans across the state and advise the Governor on policy issues.

In the years since 2012, when I was appointed to the Commission, I have not seen a single article in the Spokesman Review about the Commission or the work that we have been doing around the state. That comes as no surprise, since for the most part people of color are ignored by the media unless the story perpetuates a negative narrative about who Black people are, and since as Commissioners, who do not fit into that narrative, the media is not particularly interested in the work that we are doing.

The caption of the Spokesman Review article, which was written by Jim Camden, said in big, bold letters: “Audit: Commission Diverted Funds” and in smaller bold letters, “\$258,000 improperly used by African American Affairs, report says.”

And there it was. Criminal behavior. Finally, the Commission had done something worthy of the Spokesman Review writing about.

Except-- if you kept reading to the end of the article, which I would argue most people did not do, or if you read a copy of the actual audit that was referenced in the article, which I did, you would have discovered that the “improper use of funds” that was mentioned by Camden, money that was “diverted” to a non-profit organization, took place between the years of 2008-2012, from four to eight years ago, and that the person who was accused of the improper behavior has been gone for years, and that the recommendations that were made by the auditor for the Commission to put checks and balances in place, were put into place four years ago. However, you would not have known any of that from looking at the big, bold captions. So the damage was already done.

I was angry, very angry, but after my anger settled down a bit, which took a while, I sent the following letter to Mr. Camden and to Stacey Cowles, Publisher of the Spokesman Review:

Dear Mr. Camden,

I am writing this e-mail in response to your article “Audit: Commission Diverted Funds” (4/15/16), which was forwarded to me by a community member.

I have to say that I am angry and disappointed at how this information was presented in the Spokesman Review. While I don’t have an issue with you covering the release of the audit report, your article was written in such a way as to leave the impression that this is a new issue and that the conduct just happened, not that it is something that happened years ago. Why is that? Would it not still have been news if you had included in your headline that the diversion of funds happened prior to 2012, or if you had included upfront in your article that the recommendations that the auditor made in the report have already been in place for several years, instead of including that information as a throwaway line at the end.

I have proudly served as the Eastern Washington representative for the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs since 2012, ap-

pointed after Director Ed Prince was hired. During that time I have worked tirelessly in Spokane addressing the needs of African Americans and other people of color, attending an endless stream of meetings, serving on boards and task forces and advisory committees, convening community conversations and forums, listening to concerns and complaints from community members and advocating on their behalf, collaborating with local organizations, and much more that I can’t begin to remember, and all of it I have done as a volunteer.

Yet, to my knowledge, neither you nor the Spokesman Review have covered any of that. In fact, in the time that I have served on the Commission, I don’t believe that I have ever seen an article covering the work that we as a Commission, or me individually, have been doing-- until this one. Why is that? My e-mail is listed on the Commission’s website.

There are typically three options for Blacks to be covered in the Spokesman Review-- as criminals, athletes, or entertainers. Very little of anything else. So I am not surprised by your article, but I am disappointed at the lack of balanced reporting. Nowhere in your article is there a mention of the history of the Commission on African American Affairs or why there was a need for it, as well as the other ethnic commissions, to be established in the first place. No mention of the volunteer Commissioners who represent communities across the state. No mention that there is a local Commissioner who is a resource for African Americans and other people of color in Spokane, and most importantly, no mention of the positive work that we have been doing for years without any recognition. I guess none of that is news. But, instead, giving the impression that the Commission is corrupt and that we are a group of Black criminals who “divert” (or in other words steal) tax payer money, better fits the narrative of who Black people are supposed to be, so I guess that is the news.

The negative perception that readers of your article will have of the Commission, and by extension, of me as well, is unfortunate, but never-the-less I will continue doing the work that I have been doing for the African American community and others. I would appreciate, however, if you, and the Spokesman Review, would not make that work any harder than it already is.

Sincerely,
Sandra Williams

In his response to my e-mail, Mr. Camden said that while he regretted that I was angry and disappointed by certain aspects of the story, “I must also say,” he added, “that the story was accurate. It was in no way an attempt to discuss the duties or history of the commission.” Since the audit report had just been released, he said, that made the story news. “It is difficult to convey everything about a story in a headline” he continued, “space is limited and headlines are, by their very nature, short. The main goal of a headline is to get a person to read the story, not to convey every fact in the story.” Camden also noted that his placement of information about the Commission’s response to the issue was intentional. “The commission’s response was not a ‘throw away line at the end’, but a way to give the commission the final word in the story.” he said. “As a writer yourself, I trust you know that the last information with which you leave your reader can be among the most important.”

I agree. So the last thing that I would like to leave my readers with is this, if as a one person operation The Black Lens has the ability to come up with 20 pages of information about the African American community each month that is positive, thoughtful, insightful, varied, and relevant, then I expect that other media sources ought to be able to do more of the same.

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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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Subscription: Delivered monthly by mail - \$45/year
Submission/Advertising Deadline: 15th of the month prior to publication.
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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Bessie Smith - Blues Vocalist

Art and History by Bertoni Jones
(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Bessie Smith could arguably be considered one of the greatest Blues vocalists in performance and recording history. Bessie Smith was born into extreme poverty on April 15, 1894 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She was one of seven children born to William and Laura Smith. Her father, a Baptist minister died when she was just a newborn and her mother and two of her brothers died just eight years later. By nine the rest of the Smith children were raised by an aunt.

Accompanied by a younger brother on guitar, Bessie realized she had a unique voice and started singing on street corners for extra money. By eighteen she was touring with minstrel shows and ultimately ended up with Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and her Rabbit Foot Minstrels. Unfortunately, at this time in American history, touring in minstrel shows was about the only way African-Americans could perform and showcase their talents. The hours were long, the pay was low, and sometimes performing for Caucasian audiences was belittling.

In 1920 the first ever blues record was recorded by Mamie Smith (no relation), which sold over one-hundred thousand copies in just one month. Record executives realized they had something big in what they called "race records" and completely exploited their talent on wax. By February of 1923 Bessie Smith signed to Columbia Records (1923-1931) and laid down her first two tracks entitled "Down-Hearted Blues" and "Gulf Coast Blues".

In her years with Columbia Bessie Smith produced more than one hundred and sixty songs, and unbelievably she sold over one million copies in less than

one year, the first artist in American history to go "platinum" before platinum existed. Recognize that those million copies were part of a limited distribution network in the U.S., not reaching as far and wide as modern recording distribution.

That same year Bessie Smith married Jack Gee. By 1925 the national demand for "The Empress of the Blues" had Bessie touring non-stop from town to town. For touring purposes she purchased a private, custom-made train car for her and her musicians, eliminating customary segregated treatment in rail cars and stops.

At the height of her career Bessie Smith was earning two-thousand dollars a week, an incredible sum of money which in today's standard would be about 25,000 dollars. But with the changing cultural tides in music and the onset of the Great Depression, Bessie's career began to plummet at its height. In 1929 her marriage to Jack Gee ended bitterly and her issues with alcohol increased, a habit acquired from the minstrel tours. She starred in a partially autobiographical film called St. Louis Blues, but the demand for Bessie's style of blues was fading out as Big Band and the Swing Era were ushering in the 1930's decade.

By 1937 a blues revival and Bessie's ability to adapt to Swing revived her unique vocal stylings. On the morning of September 26, 1937, Bessie and a friend were leaving Memphis for a performance in Darling, Mississippi when she was seriously wounded in a car accident. The paramedics responding rushed her to a local hospital that refused to treat her because of her "race". Speeding her to an "all-Black hospital", she bled to death for lack of medical attention.



Bessie Smith was laid to rest in Sharon Hill, Pennsylvania October 3, 1937. Blues Empress Bessie Smith will be always be remembered for her rich, clean tones over lazy, syrupy deliveries perfectly expressing the truest intentions in Blues.

Sources:

Black Heritage Day III – Jamiyo Mack
notablebiographies.com/Sc-Stc/Smith-Bessie.html
pabook2.libraries.psu.edu/palitmap/bios/Smith_Bessie.html

THE GREEN BOOK

Helping Blacks Travel During Jim Crow

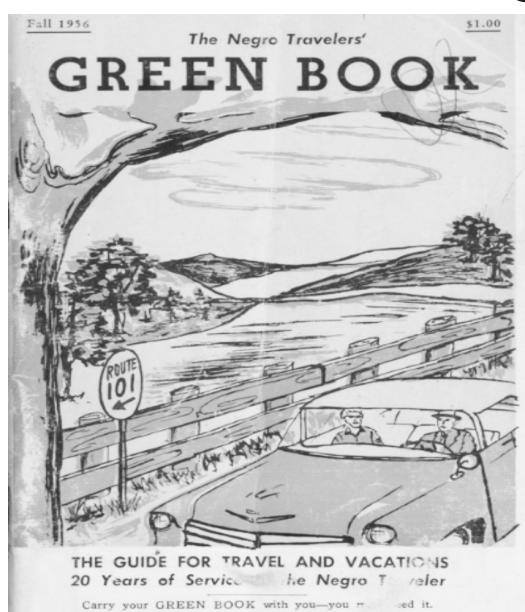
Reprinted from www.BlackPast.org

The Negro Motorist Green Book, popularly known as the Green Book, was a travel guide intended to help African American motorists avoid the social obstacles that were prevalent during the period of racial segregation, commonly referred to as Jim Crow. The Green Book listed businesses that would accept African American customers.

The book was the vision of **Victor Green**, an African American US postal employee from Harlem, New York. The first guide focused on Metropolitan New York. The next year, in 1937, Green expanded listings to other locations. His book would eventually include every state and several international destinations before ceasing publication in 1964. Before its demise the book was the most popular of several tourist guides created specifically for an African American audience.

These types of travel guides were necessary during the Jim Crow era because African Americans were subject to acts of discrimination and occasional intimidation as many businesses refused to accept them as customers. African American motorists, for example were warned to avoid sundown towns which required minorities to be outside the city limits before sundown, hence the name. African American travel could be fraught with risk and guides like the Green Book were an important resource.

The Green Book also provided a service that made lodging reservations for clients. The listings were verified annually to ensure accuracy. In addition to business listings, the books



included travel articles, driving tips, and essays highlighting locations of interest. An important sponsor for the Green Book was the Esso Standard Oil Company, which distributed the books and solicited African American customers through them.

The guide's format varied and early versions listed a variety of businesses such as hotels, tourist homes, restaurants, barber shops, beauty parlors, service stations, and taverns. As the geographic scope of the guide expanded, entry types were reduced. For example, between 1949 and 1959, listings expanded to all 48 states, with

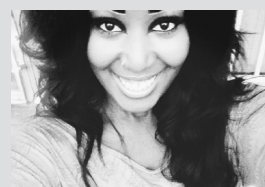
a 13% increase in the number of cities. However, the 1959 Green Book listed only hotels, motels, and tourist homes.

Green wrote that his book would not be necessary "when we as a race will have equal opportunities and privileges." He died in 1960 and the last edition of his guide was published in 1964. The 1956 creation of the national highway system diminished the need for these travel guides because highways minimized contact with local communities, decreasing chances for discrimination against African American motorists. Eventually, the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act made the Green Book and similar publications obsolete, just as Green predicted.

To read more visit: <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/negro-motorist-green-book-1936-1964#sthash.rNu7emwB.dpuf>

SILVER'S TRIVIA

By
Silver
Lewis



QUESTION:

Among the three activist listed below, who said this?
"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

Malcolm X - Minister and Human Rights Activist

Langston Hughes - Poet, Playwright and Activist

Frederick Douglass - Statesman, Writer and Political Activist

I asked some people the question and here were their responses: Willie said Langston Hughes;; Diana said Fredrick Douglass; Michelle said Malcolm X; Danielle said Malcolm X; Erica said Malcolm X; Angie said Langston Hughes; Amina said Malcolm X; Andrea said Fredrick Douglass; Tasha said Malcolm X; Symphony said Langston Hughes.

What do you think? (Answer Pg 17)

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Prince the Businessman as Significant as Prince the Musician

(Source: Eric Easter; urbannewsservice.com)

While much of the coverage of Prince’s death focuses on the artist’s musical legacy, he may have an equally lasting impact on the music business itself.

The Strokes, The Black Keys, Alabama Shakes — the list of popular musicians who cite Prince as a guiding influence is too long to mention. Yet today’s generation of artists, particularly those who have eschewed the old way of doing business, have Prince to thank as well.

His highly public dispute with Warner over ownership of his music, and the use of his stature to educate others about the business of creating and performing, transformed how musicians began to think about control of their own careers. Through his high-profile battles for creative freedom, Prince shed light on the vague details of contract law, the power of copyright, the threat of bootlegging and the illegal usage of recording artists’ images.

In that respect, Prince followed in the footsteps of Sam Cooke and James Brown, who were among the few musicians to make aggressive claims for rights over their work and distribution before it came into vogue. Even his contemporary Michael Jackson, whose quirky public image and quiet demeanor masked a shrewd business acumen, focused on ownership of his own music and that of others.

“There is a reason why your favorite rapper brags about owning his or her masters and controlling their future,” said Kevin Gibbs, a musicologist and rock critic who also served as an executive at the Epic and Def Jam labels.



Prince, international recording artist, musician, songwriter, and producer, passed away on April 21 at the age of 57.

“They learned that from him. Today, every artist coming in the door tries to do contractually what Prince fought to do, but they come with a whole lot less leverage, of course.”

Prince’s decision to change his name to an unpronounceable symbol during the Warner dispute, while widely criticized and joked about, gave the performer powerful legal grounds to record, own and distribute music at his own pace.

With the advent of the internet, Prince pioneered and embraced the concept of using the web for audience interaction (a decade before the creation of social media). As early as the 1990s, the artist sought to bypass the power of music distributors with a direct-sale model for his double-album “Crystal Ball.” Yet his bold use of the

internet also led Prince to predict the web’s devastating impact on music distribution, particularly on how artists can profit from their work. He decried streaming services such as Pandora and Spotify for the small amounts they paid to recording artists, yet eventually acquiesced to the reality of business by offering a small selection of music to a handful of streaming companies, including TIDAL.

Prince also saw YouTube and social media’s increased reliance on unauthorized video, audio and photos as serious infringements on rights. He built a legal infrastructure to combat unauthorized use of his copyright. His concerts famously forbade cellphones in order to save rights to his work, as well as spare audiences from being distracted during the performance.

Most notably, Prince’s independence from record labels shaped a new revenue model from dependence on royalties to direct-to-consumer sales via the internet and live performances. Both models now form the core of how the music business derives most of its income.

After nearly two decades of lawsuits, Prince won back the right to his masters in 2012, an event Warner called “scary,” fearing a possible deluge of releases that, similar to opening a new cache of diamonds, would flood the market and devalue royalties from their own holdings.

“He shed light on many important aspects of the recording business that may have been overlooked by many,” Said Gibbs. “He taught musicians the importance of controlling your brand and having the last say in what you would allow to be done with your music... He sacrificed a lot of potential revenue, time and energy to help others learn how to protect themselves and be true to their vision.”

National Urban League Threatens Court Action Against United Nations Over Alleged Copyright Infringement

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The National Urban League (NUL), among the nation’s leading civil rights organizations, has launched a heated legal battle with an unlikely source – the United Nations (U.N.).

Threatening court action that could result in “embarrassment to the United Nations”, NUL President/CEO Marc Morial has asked U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to intervene in what NUL has described as the U.N.’s “ongoing illegal and unauthorized use of the National Urban League’s trademarked logo.”

In a statement, NUL President and CEO Marc H. Morial said he was “absolutely surprised to learn that the United Nations began utilizing our logo without checking registrations in the United States patent or trademark office and then willfully refusing, despite voluntary requests to comply with our suggestion, to discontinue the use of our logo.”

Morial has also asked U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power for their assistance in protecting the trademark. Since sending a December letter to the U.N., demanding that they stop using the logo, Morial told the Trice Edney News Wire in an email that he has yet to hear back from the international governing body.

“[We] have not heard from the UN,” Morial wrote April 5. “We will press



National Urban League



aggressively to protect our intellectual property.”

According to the NUL release, the National Urban League “has used the equal sign logo, since 1968 and obtained a federal registration for the

logo in 1992.” The logos are in fact strikingly similar. Both have circles and an equal sign in the center. The main difference is the U.N.’s version has a broken circle. The U.N., why goal is to maintain “international peace and security”, is

using it for their Sustainable Development Campaign.

“While we appreciate and commend your efforts, we believe that the use of NUL’s Mark in connection with your activities may cause confusion, cause mistake or deceive the consuming public as to the source, sponsorship, association or affiliation of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development Campaign and serve to dilute the value of NUL’s Mark in violation of our rights under the Lanham Act,” states the NUL letter.

The Lanham Act is the federal “Trademark Act of 1946” which “governs trademarks, service marks, and unfair competition,” the NUL described in a statement.

NUL’s demand to cease use of the logo appears to be escalating as Morial has reached out to the Secretary-General.

“As a historic civil rights organization that serves those of economic and social disadvantage in this country with a focus on African Americans, our organization is well-known and our logo is well-socialized in this nation,” Morial wrote. “I am respectfully requesting your immediate intervention into this matter to avoid an embarrassment to the United Nations as well as to avoid the possibility of contentious and expensive litigation by the National Urban League against the United Nations.”

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Marian Anderson and Sojourner Truth are on the Money

(Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew on Wednesday announced redesigns of the \$5, \$10, and \$20 bills with the image of Harriet Tubman, a Union spy and a leader of the Underground Railroad that led hundreds of slaves to freedom, being placed on the front of the \$20 bill, which circulates 7.9 years, longer than other banknotes except the \$50 and \$100 bills.

Tubman replaces Andrew Jackson, the nation's seventh president, a slaveholder who persecuted Native Americans. His image will be placed on the back of the \$20 bill.

Secretary Lew also announced that the redesign of the \$5 bill will include historical events that occurred at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. These images will include Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivering his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, and opera singer Marian Anderson singing at the top of the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939 before 75,000 people after the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to allow Anderson to sing in Constitution Hall because she was African-American.

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who arranged for Anderson to give a concert at the Lincoln Memorial, will also have her image placed on the back of the \$5 bill.

The front of the \$5 billion will continue to feature President Abraham Lincoln. Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Treasury Secretary, will remain on the front of the \$10 bill due to the outstanding popularity of the musical "Hamilton," which was written by and stars Lin-Manuel Miranda. The musical won a Pulitzer Prize this week.

Lew will put a vignette of suffragettes on the back of the \$10 bill. The new \$10 bill design depicts the 1913 women's right to vote march. Images on the bill will honor Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul for their contributions to the women's suffrage movement.

The Treasury Department worked on the redesigns over the last 10 months and even considered the idea of creating a \$25 bill, according to Lew, who announced the redesigns last June. The final redesigns for the three bills will be unveiled in 2020 and should be available before 2030.



Michigan Officials Charged in Flint Lead Poisoning Investigation

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The Michigan Attorney General on Wednesday filed 13 felony charges and five misdemeanor charges against two state officials and one city official associated with the lead poisoning crisis in the Flint, Mich., a mostly African-American city 66 miles northwest of Detroit.

Attorney General Bill Schuette filed the charges against Stephen Busch of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality District 8 Supervisor. Busch is charged with three felonies and two misdemeanors.

Charges also were filed against Michael Prysby, a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality District 8 water engineer. He is charged with four felonies and two misdemeanors.

In addition, the Michigan Attorney General also filed charges against Michael Glasgow, supervisor at Water Quality for the City of Flint Laboratory. Glasgow is charged with one felony and one misdemeanor.

If convicted of the felonies, the three could spend four to five years behind bars. The men also could be fined \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The high lead content in Flint's water has left 30,000 of city's residents without drinkable water after the town's water supply was switched in 2014 to the Flint River from Lake Huron to save money. Some 99,000 people live in Flint and 56.5 percent are African American.

The residents continue to drink, wash and bathe with bottled water.

Michigan officials insisted it was safe to drink tap water even though an internal memo at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services warned that lead poisoning rates were higher than usual for children under 16.

The state continued to say the water was safe until Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a Flint pediatrician, reported in September that there was an unusually high level of lead found in blood samples taken from Flint children.

Lead poisoning especially affects infants, children and expectant mothers, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Lead poisoning is such a serious national problem, especially among African-American children, the CDC hosts a national lead poisoning prevention week annually.



THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

Get Out And Vote!

By Evelyn Anderton

It took the eventual passage of three constitutional amendments, the 14th, 15th and 24th, before all African Americans could freely vote in the U.S.

Black people historically in this country were not allowed to vote for so long that I have voted in every election since I have been eligible.

Here are some reasons African Americans need to vote:

It's your right. Young people, women and underrepresented groups all fought hard for the right to vote. Even today there are states where people are still fighting for the right to vote. Vote in honor of those who can't. Remember your grandparents, great grandparents, uncles, aunts etc. Now you can decide. Why let other people decide what is best for you when you have a voice: the vote.

Representation. Does it seem as if politicians don't "get" you? Do you want politicians in office who represent

your needs and concerns? Then vote. **More money.** Votes equal cash. Candidates give money to causes you care about: youth programs, the environment, HIV/AIDS or cancer research, to name a few. Find out where the candidates stand on these issues and vote for the ones that agree with you.

To cancel out someone else's vote. Whether it's your neighbor, your teacher, or somebody famous -- you know that someone out there is going to vote the opposite of you.

To bust the stereotype! Some adults think, "Young people are lazy, they don't care about their communities, they don't vote." Prove them wrong. I know President Obama appreciated it. Remember 2008 and 2012.

If you don't vote, someone else will. Our government was designed for citizen participation, so if you don't vote - other people are going to make the decisions for you.

It's all about the money. The county commissioners, governor, state treasurer, legislators, President and members of Congress you vote for will decide

how to spend it. Vote for those that agree with your point of view.

Schools matter. You elect local and state school board members who set public education policy and budgets. They will determine a lot of how your children will be affected in coming years.

You'll need a good job. When you're done with school, you need somewhere to work and you'll want job training, pay equity, fairness in hiring, and workplace safety. Everyone knows someone's family member or a friend who is unemployed, job searching and may be drowning in financial school debt.

Save the world. The air, the land, the water, we need them all. Remember Flint.

It's your backyard. Crime prevention, laws and law enforcement, safe and affordable homes, traffic patterns, schools, parks and recreation all are determined by the representatives you elect. Remember Ferguson, Baltimore, St. Louis etc.

I don't want other people making my choices for me. I want to have a voice in the things that affect me!



African Americans should vote because in many cases we are the ones that are at the bottom of the pole, economically, and on health issues such as prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes and obesity among our youth.

The people we vote for will determine a lot of the issues that will affect African Americans.

So-- Get Out and VOTE.

RACISM IN THE MEDIA

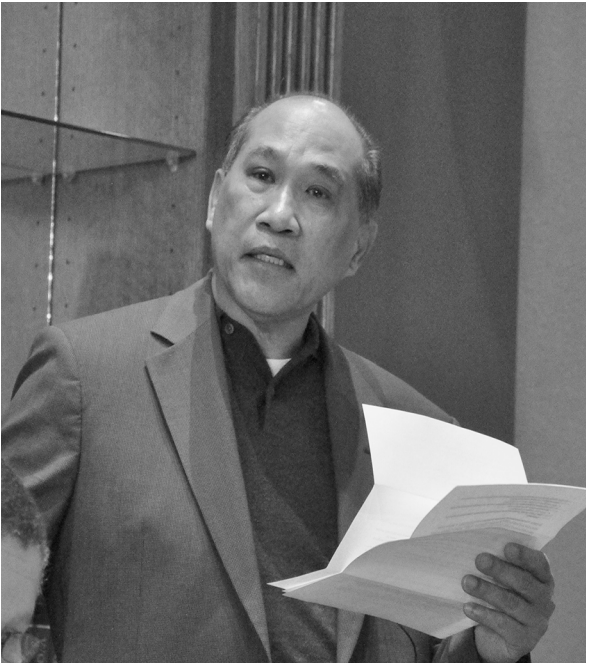
The Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media (NWARMA) hosted a Media Salon workshop on March 25 at the Community Building in downtown Spokane. The purpose of a media salon, as the format is referred to, is for media representatives and community members to gather and exchange ideas on current issues in the media environment. The topic for the March event was Racism in the Media.

Organized by Ben Cabildo of Community Minded Enterprises and Heather Crandall of NWARM, the event was moderated by Dr. Raymond Reyes, Associate Academic Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer for Gonzaga University, and featured panelists who addressed three areas of media bias, representations

of immigrants, muslims, and African Americans. Panelists provided examples of bias in the media and discussed the impact the bias has on impacted communities.

Panelists also offered thoughts on actions that can be taken to address media bias and racism, followed by a lively exchange of questions and comments from the audience, which was punctuated by an audience member's observation that the representatives from the mainstream media, "the ones that really needed to be there," were absent.

For more information about the Northwest Alliance for Responsible Media, call (509)313 – 3578 or visit <https://nwaresponsiblemedia.org>



AFRICAN AMERICANS AND EDUCATION

Looking Back in Order to Move Forward:

A Seven Part Series By Lawrence Burnley, Ph.D.

Part VII: Reconstruction and Deconstruction: Sources for Further Study



On September 22, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln read a second draft of a proclamation to his cabinet. This proclamation was aimed at dismantling the system of chattel enslavement in all states that were in rebellion against the United States of America. The executive order, called the Emancipation Proclamation, would go into full effect January 1, 1863.

For some enslaved Africans, the news of their seemingly endless struggle for manumission was delayed because their owners withheld it. Those enslaved in Texas did not receive news of their freedom until June 19, 1865, nearly two and a half years later. Nevertheless, by the time General Robert E. Lee's Confederate forces surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant's Union Army at Appomattox, July 9, 1865, five million black men, women, and children were no longer bound by the restrictions of nearly three centuries of legalized bondage. During that same year, the Thirteenth Amendment, which legislated the abolishment of slavery in the U.S., was adopted by Congress.

In the North and the South, a great majority of newly Freedpeople were finally exercising their freedom to learn how to read and write. Freedom offered millions of Black people the opportunity to acquire knowledge without fear of reprisal. Freedpeople literally viewed this opportunity as the key to securing a future that had far-reaching spiritual, economic, and political implications for themselves and their progeny.

Black response to this newly secured opportunity was swift, decisive, and often overwhelming. This point is illustrated by Jacqueline Jones who quotes a missionary in Georgia writing in 1870. Jones writes, "A freed person who could read and write would be able to understand a labor contract, correspond with friends and relatives, keep informed of political affairs in the state, and study the Bible. Education was a means of breaking out of the confines of ignorance that served the masters' interest so well, a means of thinking and acting on one's own"

Another example of African Americans' intense desire for education is expressed by a missionary sent by the American Mis-

sionary Association in 1870 who wrote, "Wherever teachers went there were greatly enthusiastic students. In the flush of freedom grandparents and grandchildren surged to the crude schoolhouse to secure the magic of reading and writing. Their demand for training crowded almost every available facility. Families pinched with hunger asked more eagerly for learning than for food."

To understand the intensity of Black agency regarding schooling and literacy development is to understand the relationship between literacy and spirituality among Black people during this period.

In general, Blacks in the U.S. came to accept the evangelical belief that reading the Bible for one's self was an essential part of the process of achieving a "right" relationship with God. The Bible and the Christian religion represented the promise of a better world for many enslaved and free Africans alike.

For some, primary attention given to this "better world" reflected the acceptance of an "otherworldly" theology—a theology preached to them by whites. This theology emphasized redemption and blessing in heaven. It was used as a method to deflect attention from Blacks who wanted to secure a positive socioeconomic and political transformation of their condition in "this world."

Others believed that literacy paved the way to improve radically their condition in both "this world" and the "next world" after death.

Other than a few noted exceptions, agency on the part of African Americans in education reform movements in the postbellum period of United States history was largely ignored or inadequately examined by professional historians during the first three quarters of the twentieth century.

It would not be until the publication of James D. Anderson's seminal book, *The Education of Blacks in the South: 1860–1935* in 1988 that students of the history of American education would be provided with an in-depth and extended inquiry into educational initiatives for black people generated by black people during the Re-

construction and post-Reconstruction eras.

Numerous scholars have acknowledged various aspects of African-American agency in the provision of formal and informal education for their communities, but none have offered an extensive treatment of this critical and neglected aspect of American education history.

Over the years, there have been scholars of church and American education history who have examined the efforts of Northern sectarian organizations to establish institutions of learning for Blacks throughout the South before, during, and after the Civil War. Such scholarship, more often than not, affords limited attention to the views, experiences, and perspectives of Blacks, and gives primary attention to the perspectives of church executives and officers, missionaries/teachers, school administrators, and field secretaries.

Without question, this "top-down" approach of examining the education of African Americans provides historians of education as well as scholars in other disciplines with a critical, albeit incomplete, body of information. What the contemporary historian—with few exceptions—has failed to provide is a more in-depth and critical analysis of the extraordinary efforts and resourcefulness of African-American men and women to establish schools for themselves and their children. There are a few exceptions that give extensive attention to black agency in responding to their own needs for schooling during this period.

As the title suggests, Clara DeBoer's monograph, *His Truth Is Marching On: African Americans who Taught the Freedmen for the American Missionary Association, 1861–1877*, is a salutation of African Americans who, in the face of great danger and who could have made more money elsewhere, remained in the South to teach other blacks attending schools related to the American Missionary Association. Utilizing fifty-one biographies as primary sources, Josie R. Johnson's dissertation, *An Historical Review of the Role Black Parents and the Black Community Played in Providing Schooling for Black Children in the South, 1865–1954*, examines the contributions of Black people in the education of

Black children and the priority Blacks have placed on the education of their children. Noting the lack of knowledge of this aspect of history, Johnson states, "Ignorance of this history affects how Black children are viewed, treated, taught, encouraged, or discouraged in the process of acquiring an education in this society."

Angel D. Nieves's dissertation, *"We Gave Our Heart and Lives to It: African-American Reformers, Industrial Education, and the Monuments of Nation-Building in the Post-Reconstruction South, 1877–1938,"* examines the role of Black women who embraced the industrial model of education as a primary method of uplifting Freedpeople. Noting the neglect of Black women by scholars in the area of "Black educational history," Nieves argues that "race-based" schools established and operated by Black women represent intentional efforts "to help establish the mechanisms necessary for the creation of a Black nation through the difficult transition from emancipation to political self-determination."

In her dissertation, *"Self-Taught: The Role of African Americans in Educating the Freedpeople, 1861–1871,"* Heather A. D. Williams reexamines the autobiographies, memoirs, letters, and minutes from political organizations of Freedpeople who engaged in revolutionary education reform in the South and who have traditionally been viewed as non-actors and objects of white largesse. She argues that these sources "tell a story of African American determination and agency in launching a transformative educational movement for the American South."

Content for this series were taken from my book *The Cost of Unity: African American Education and Agency in the Christian Church, 1865–1914*, (Mercer University Press, 2008). The premise upon which the book and this series was written was that in order for African Americans, and their allies, to effectively address the education crisis disproportionately affecting Black children, a critical examination of the history which has led us to our current situation is crucial. Only by understanding what has taken place that brought us to this point can we chart a path forward.

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HEALTH & MEDICINE

DR. MALLORY WILLIAMS

Professor of Surgery at Howard University

Dr. Mallory Williams, who visited Spokane in March of this year, is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine’s first visiting professor. Dr. Williams, who spoke to faculty and students on the Spokane campus, as well as visiting local high schools, is a Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Trauma and Critical Care at the Howard University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

One of a small number of Black surgeons nationally, Dr. Williams grew up in a small town in Illinois called East St. Louis. His mother was studying to be a public school teacher and completing her Master’s Degree while he attended public school. Despite his mother’s education, Williams says his family still had to move a couple of times to get financial stability because of the economy. They first moved to Hyde Park on the South Side of Chicago, where he attended a school called Beulah Shoemith, the home district of the Obamas and the school where the Obamas cast their vote.

From there the family, which also consisted of his older brother, Quinton, who is deveopmentally disabled, and his older cousin Brantly, who is currently a surgeon in south-east Georgia, moved to Ft. Mead, Maryland, outside of Baltimore.

Williams says, in some ways his mother was very strict as he was growing up and in some ways she was not. “She was very strict in the ways of expecting a lot of me in terms of my academics and my school work,” he recalled, but he says, “she was less strict when it came to allowing me to explore the community and go out and experience things.” As a young child, Williams says, he had the freedom to

roam. “It wasn’t an irresponsible type of freedom. It was just a cautious allowance that understood that probably me being able to explore was a good thing.”

The communities that he grew up in, which were predominately Black, represented the old African American community, Williams says, “where anyone could tell you what to do, and anyone could discipline you. It was a community that was structured. Children had declared responsibilities. It had a collectiveness to it that allowed everyone to strive.” The community cared for one another. and had ambitions despite the challenges, which Williams says, is significantly different from what we might call the African American community nowadays.

People began asking Williams at a young age, what he wanted to do when he grew up. “I would always say dentistry. My cousin would say he wanted to be a dr. and I would say I wanted to be a dentist.” Williams didn’t know why he would say dentistry, he just noticed that people seemed to be pleased when he said it, so he kept saying it.

What was important, Williams says, is that even though he didn’t have a concept of what a doctor or a dentist was at the time, the more he spoke the words, the more he believed them. Speaking those things that are not as though they are. “It turns out, as I grew up, I kind of grew into those words, the words of being a dentist, of being a something, of being a professional.”

But the understanding of what it meant to be a professional Black man didn’t come until Williams attended Morehouse, a historically Black, male university.

Continued on Page 18



Photo Courtesy of WSU Health Sciences Spokane



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YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

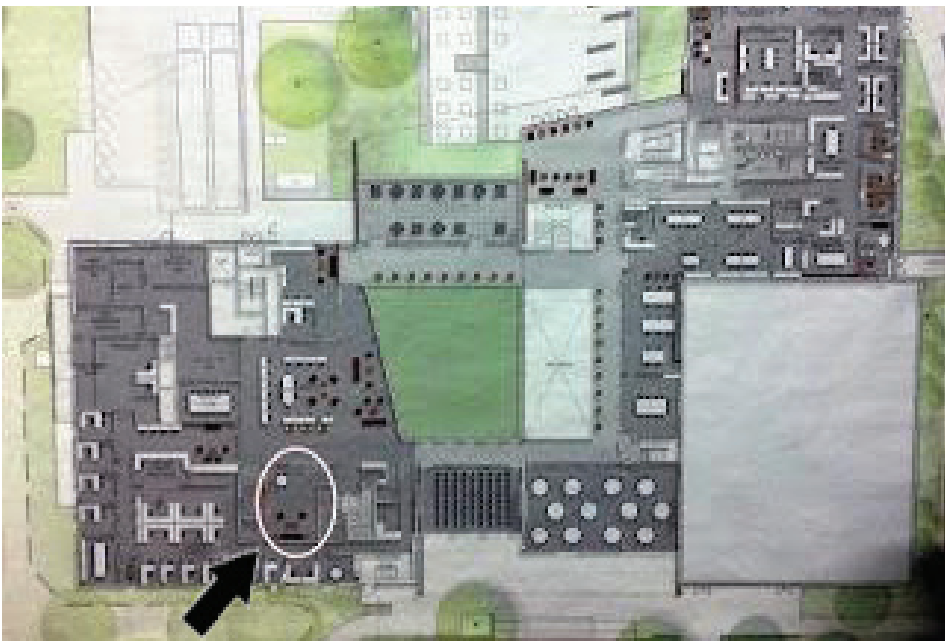
EWU STUDENTS FIGHT FOR MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Continued From Page 1

- a multifunctional classroom/event room
- Resource room
- Main lounge area
- Full kitchen
- 8 rotating office spaces for clubs and orgs like the ones already available in the current PUB building
- The Multicultural center should be overseen by a Director, who will oversee an Assistant Director, a Program Coordinator, Retention Specialists, an Administrative Assistant, and a minimum of two student employees
- Separate from the Multicultural Center Director, EWU should hire a Vice President of Diversity to ensure that the interests of Eastern’s diverse student population are represented at the administrative level.

Without a Multicultural Center, students lack a central point of access for culturally-specific programming and resources. There is currently no office that handles cultural competency or that provides information on the resources available to help students of color stay in college. Clubs are an integral part of diversity programming at EWU, yet students complain that finding space for cultural events is difficult.

Furthermore, many students at EWU face covert and overt racism, microaggressions, and systemic disenfranchisement and do



Student provided concept blueprint drawing that includes proposed “cultural lounge”

not know where to turn for support. For example, undocumented students seeking information from the financial aid office are often sent to Chicano Studies, and Black students are expected to turn to the Africana Studies Program for all of their needs, whether they be educational, cultural, or general support, regardless of their field of study.

Professors of ethnic studies departments at Eastern are utilized as retention specialists,

financial advisers, counselors, advocates, and resource officers for students of color, simply because they may share a common racial or ethnic background with the students that they serve.

The job of the ethnic studies departments is to provide an academic education. To loosely quote an Eastern student commenting on the current system at EWU, “sending students of color to the ethnic studies departments to have all of their needs met

makes about as much sense as it does to send students struggling with their mental health to the psychology department to have their mental health needs met.” Instead Eastern provides Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which is separate from the psychology department for a reason.

Eastern’s failure to provide a central resource and educational hub for students of color, undocumented, and international students demonstrates a lack of investment in diversity resources by the EWU administration, which in turn shows an administrative lack of investment in the diversity of Eastern Washington University.

The Multicultural Coalition was created to help represent the diversity of Eastern, and members believe that their demands are comparable, in that they reflect the resources offered at schools of a similar size; and that the demands are reasonable, in that they reflect the needs of the student body.

The Meetings
On March 16th, student representatives from the Black Student Union (BSU), Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (M.E.Ch.A), Saudi Club, Native American Student Association (NASA), Filipino American Student Association (FASA),

Continued on Page 15

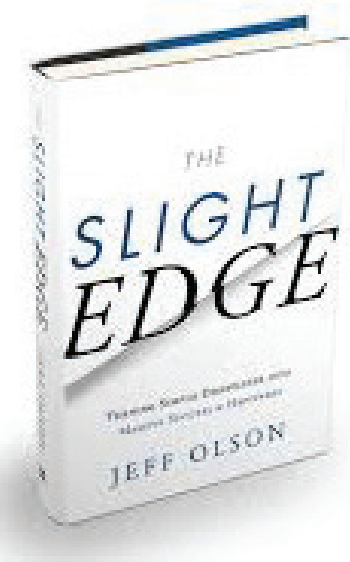
PICK UP THIS BOOK

Book of the Month
By Christian Robinson

Hey to all the readers of Black Lens News,

My name is Christian Robinson. I was born and raised in Georgia. I moved to Spokane to pursue a career with the military on the 4th day of July in 2011.

Someone once said, “If you want to hide something from the black man, then put it in a book.” Shocking, that they would paint that picture of our culture.



I like to read so that I can find the one or two things that may be hidden between the lines. I, firmly believe that there’s no new problem under the sun. So for every problem there is a book that not only acknowledges, but has the answer to yours and my problems. Let’s empower ourselves one page at a time.

Starting this month, I will be recommending books that I have read in the past or that I am currently reading. For the first book of our two-month reading



adventure, I am recommending a book by Jeff Olson called the *Slight Edge*.

Slight Edge summarizes a self evident truth. The truth being that success must be earned one moment at a time. The truth that an overnight success has 5 years of efforts stacked upon more efforts to grow into what you and I perceive as happening overnight.

I’m a firm believer in reading a book over and over to really absorb the information, so I encourage you to read the book over again if you finish before the two months are over. It may make all the difference in it making your life better. The wisdom you’ll gain from this first book will give you a great foundation to stand on for the rest of the year.

Are you all in? Will you commit to reading this month?

Please mail any questions or concerns to Cjnrobinson@live.com. And I want to hear what your thoughts are on this book. Please email in.

Career Opportunities SPOKANE

Long established manufacturing company is seeking energetic and hard-working individuals for laborer positions, machine operators and office staff. If interested, please visit our website at www.SCAFCO.com to fill out an application.

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

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HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Carrol Givens



**Happy Mother's Day
To our mother Mrs. Carrol Givens.
We love you and have a wonderful
Mother's Day, Your loving family.**

Alice Moore

THE CHECK
By Natasha Niemi

I don't need money
and I'm not in
trouble again,
Just wanted you to
know,
you're more than my
mom,
You're my friend.
Thanks for your
unconditional love;
You've never failed to
treat me
like your angel from
above.
Thanks for constantly
pulling
my butt from the fire;
You never accepted
poor effort
So I always aimed
higher.



You said this is a
mother's job,
But you never got a
check.
Not even Bill Gates'
bank account
Could cancel such a
debt.
THANKS Mommy,
I love you.

Your loving children-
Monica, Michelle,
Michael, Marie

Evelyn Anderton



On Mother's day, I want to wish Happy
Mother's Day to my wonderful wife;
my friend, my love, a terrific mom, you bring
so much happiness into my life. Love Chuck

Jerrelene Williamson



**Love you madly,
Mom!
Jennifer Roseman**

Rosa Anderson



Happy Mother's Day to my wife
that I have been married to for
almost 58 great years.
From Elmer Anderson

Shirley Tullos



Bless Mother's Day to my SHERO...
If you look into SHERO u see She and
Hero and that was and is my mother
and father... Strong black woman...
Love u mama so much...
You are blessed among women...
Pastor Patricia Ledlow

Maxine Grier



**Happy Mothers Day
to a loving mother and
grandmother,
With all of our love,
The Boyd Family**

Makayla Symone Fletcher



Happy Mother's Day to my daughter
Makayla Symone Fletcher
on her first mother's day with
my lovely granddaughter Zahara.
Love you, your mother Sue Hernandez

Diane Jackson



**You're #1
#1 Mother
#1 Grandmother
Happy Mother's Day!
Mrs. Diane Jackson
Andre, J'Ann, Nezhiah Jennings**

CELEBRATING OUR MOTHERS

Jean Jordan



Happy Mothers Day. You are the best mother around. We appreciate the things that you do for us. You are always there when we need you and you always help people when they are in need. We love you very much, Gloria and Jerry

Wilhelmenia Williams



Happy Mother's Day, Grandma Willie. We love you a bushel and a peck! Love Rachel, Adrian and Renika

Etta Watkins



Happy Mother's Day to a woman who showed her family all about love, hard work, integrity, and togetherness. You are our world, and words could never describe the love that we have for you. Thank you for holding us together. We love you Mother, Grandmother, and First Lady!!!

Stephy Nobles-Beans



Dear Mother, We want to thank you for being a virtuous woman. A woman of patience, kindness and love. Thank you for being a part of our lives and Happy Mother's Day.

To My Godmothers

Godmothers are angels from God looking over his children.
Blessed are the ones with beautiful souls looking over them.

To my wonderful Godmothers, Mrs. Diane Jackson, Mrs. Peggie Troutt, Mrs. Tina Singleton and Ms. Mary Lee Summler.

Happy Mother's Day
Tiffinee Yancey

Tina Singleton



Mama was my greatest teacher, a teacher of compassion, love and fearlessness. If love is sweet as a flower, then my mother is that sweet flower of love. Happy Mother's day from Curt

Peggie Troutt



Mothers hold their children's hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. Thank you for doing both for my family Love Always, The Troutt Family

Ernestine Williams



Happy Mother's Day. To the Superstar of our family. Your loving family, The Williams

Mary Summler



Happy Mother's Day to a loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother from your loving Summler family

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Evelyn Anderton



There has to be a winner somewhere in the world for “Mother of the Year”.
Our Vote is for Evelyn Marie Anderton.
Happy Mother’s Day and may the Lord bless you to see many more Mother’s Days.
Love Stacey, Tiffinee and Tia

Liz McAlpine



To my mom, you are the wind beneath my wings. God has truly blessed me and William with a gracious and forgiving mom.
Thank you for being my mom and William’s mom, we love you.
A’dell and William

Patricia Ledlow



Happy Mothers’s Day
to our grandmother Pat Ledlow.
Love Nakia & Savion Davis

Stephanie Tullos



Happy Mother’s Day
To my mother, my friend,
and my confidant,
Your loving daughter Simone

Yolanda Everette



Happy Mother’s Day.
You are the best!
I love you, Mark

Sandra Williams



To My Mom,
No gift to your mother can
ever equal her gift to you - life
Love You Always, Renika

Fran Hammond



Mom, we love you with all our hearts. Happy Birthday and Happy Mother’s Day.
Much Love, Debra and Tiffany Reed

A Special Thank You

A very special THANK YOU
to Evelyn Anderton for
organzing the Mother’s Day
Tributes to Support
The Black Lens.

Evelyn is now working on
FATHER’S DAY TRIBUTES
for the June Issue.

The deadline is May 20th.
Space is limited.

Contact Evelyn or The Black
Lens to be included:
sandy@blacklensnews.com

Doris Andrews



Happy Mother’s Day
To the love of my life and my best friend.
May the Grace of God be with you today,
tomorrow and forever.
Love Rev. Dr. CW Andrews

GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

DO BLACK CANDIDATES MATTER TO PROGRESSIVES?

By Sharon Kyle, JD
(reprinted courtesy blackcommentator.com)

“The only thing as white as a room full of Republicans is a room full of progressives.”

I’m a progressive. When California holds its primary election, I’m voting for Bernie Sanders.

As a Black woman, Bernie’s unwavering stance on so many issues impacting my life makes this decision an easy one. But, having said that, if I were a Black elected official with superdelegate authority, I suspect my decision would be a lot harder.

Here’s the rub. California, arguably the most politically progressive of the states, doesn’t have a good track record for supporting Black candidates. In its 165-year history, California has sent 548 people to Congress. Only five have been Black men.

Last week, Isadore Hall—candidate for the 44th Congressional District—held a grand opening at his campaign office in Carson. The current representative, Janice Hahn, is vacating the 44th CD seat to run for a position on the L.A. County Board of Supervisors.

Speaking to a packed house, the grand opening emcee, former Speaker of the California State Assembly and current Los Angeles City Councilmember Herb Wesson, Jr., declared that if elected, Isadore Hall will be the first African-American man to represent a California congressional district in more than a decade.

The last Black man to represent California at the federal level was the late Julian Dixon, who died



Assemblymember Mike Gipson, LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, and Congressional candidate Isadore Hall III. Photo: Donna Dymally

while in office in 2000. This “Blue State” has 53 seats in Congress but hasn’t had a Black man win a Congressional election in more than two decades. The state legislature doesn’t fare much better.

The slogan, “Nothing About Us Without Us”—used to communicate the idea that no policy should be decided by any representative without the full and direct participation of members of the group(s) affected by that policy—came to mind as I recalled that we do not have a single Black man representing California in Congress but we lead the nation in the number of Black men in prison—so much so that the United States Supreme Court ruled that the status of California’s prisons violated the 8th Amendment’s “cruel and unusual punishment” protection.

Continued on Page 15

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Spokane Meeting May 20 Focus on Criminal Justice

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

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

The Commission is made up of volunteers who represent various regions across the state, and two paid staff people. Ed Prince, the current Executive Director, works as a liaison between the Commission and Governor’s office and other legislative bodies, and works with the Commissioners as the legislative priorities are set.

Commission members travel to cities throughout Washington hold public meetings, where guests from the local communities are invited to make presentations and Commissioners take public testimony. However, due to budgetary constraints, the majority of the Commission meetings take place on the west side of the state.

This month, the Commission on African American Affairs will be holding its third public meeting in Spokane since 2012. The focus of the **May 20** meeting, which will take place at the **Emmanuel Family Life Center (631 S. Richard Allen Ct. Spokane, WA) from 1-4pm**, is Criminal Justice. The Commission has invited speakers from the Spokane Community to report about the work that is currently being done in this area.

Invited speakers include Mayor David Condon, Sherriff Ozzie Knezovich, Spokane County Commissioner Shelly O’Quinn, and Jim McDevitt, director of law enforcement for the Spokane Police Department.

Commission meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend, meet the Commissioners, hear the speaker presentations, and participate in public testimony.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS IS NEVER EASY

Reflections on the Democratic Caucus and Why I Got Involved

By Phillip Tyler

2016...just another election year right? Hardly. This will go down as one of the most contentious and the most transformative, if not most divisive. It is democrat vs republican. Man vs Woman. Establishment vs Outsiders.

Wait, I know what you’re thinking. President Obama isn’t running again and the constitution prevents him seeking a third term. Surely Ted Cruz would have pointed that out. Again, I will elaborate later.

I want to start by focusing on my involvement and the caucus process itself. It has been an awakening for me...literally and especially after the most recent Legislative District Caucus which lasted into the late hours of the evening. Many were tired, worn out and some disenfranchised. The political process is never easy.

Martin Luther King Jr. once stated... church is the most segregated hour of our lives. Well, the caucus is running a close second. As I sat in an aisle flanked on both sides by Hillary supporters, the row behind us, which was on sight a younger demographic, were obviously feeling the Bern...and letting us and everyone know.

In my party, the Democratic Party, the party of inclusion, on occasions at the caucuses I did not feel it. The caucus, in my observations, can be a place of little inclusion of differing points of views on the candidates. The aftermath, on social media, can be even less inclusive and sometimes vitriol filled.

So why did I get involved in this raucous caucus in the first place? I asked myself that question as my stomach began to suck into my spine from hunger. I went into the caucus with no snacks, assuming it would only last a couple hours.

I wanted to be more than a casual observer or simply one of the many absentee balloters. I wanted, especially in our current political climate, to be instrumental in helping to shape the next four years... for my children, my fiancée, my family and my people.



I sought election to become a delegate and have been successful on two occasions now. I will have the unique and proud opportunity to help decide our local party platform and select our presidential nominee. My individual vote, as my mother had told me for years, will count. I think I like that.

Getting involved in the political process at this level has been very enlightening and has allowed me to, thus far, live out my mantra, “Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution.” If I believe there is a problem in our political process, I will be helping in some small way, to solve it.

I can’t tell you that I have a solution to the lengthy caucus process or even whether the primary system would be better, but what I can tell you is that my experience with caucus goes is the process is one that tends to bring out those with ideo-

logical extremes and those that have time. I feel like I am one of the many functional pragmatics. I look at this process and the big changes lauded by the candidates and they sound great and are gaining popularity! Popularity however is not an arbiter of right vs wrong.

I want something that is more realistic. I want to know and learn the process from the inside. I want know and learn it on my own. I am an individual and not a voting bloc. I am one person, one vote.

As I continued to learn more and more, the importance of becoming a delegate was ever apparent. The process of going about selecting the delegates and their significance to the selection process may not be perfect, but it is the current system and we must abide by it until changes are made.

I know that the enthusiasm, during presidential elections is always high, but if you do not like the process, will you be there to offer solutions during off years? Will the concerns over a primary vs a caucus fade away until 2020?

I plan on being there again and I hope you will as well...provided you have 5, 6, 7 or 8 hours available.

MIDNIGHT BASKETBALL AT EAST CENTRAL

A partnership between the Faith Leaders and Police Alliance Team, the Police Athletic League and the East Central Community Center brought Midnight Basketball back to the East Central Community Center for a few months.

Young men have been gathering on Friday nights from 9pm - midnight at East Central since February, playing under the watchful eyes of Pastor Shon Davis, President of the Faith Alliance, who runs the scoreboard for a series of five-minute match ups. Though tired some evenings, Davis says that he is committed to being there for the men who come each week.

Pastor Davis is also joined each Friday by a representative from the Spokane Police Department, as part of the department's effort to build bridges with the Spokane community, and Michael Bethely, who takes on the role of keeping the players organized in between games.

There is a spirit of competitiveness amongst the 20-30 men that gather in the gym each week, but there is also a spirit of comraderie and friendship that keeps them coming back. In fact, Pastor Davis said, one of the players thanked him for providing an alternative to the clubs. Midnight basketball will be taking a break through the summer, but will be back in in October.





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By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35



EWU STUDENTS FIGHT FOR MULTICULTURAL CENTER

Continued From Page 9

Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA), and Muxeristas Nopaleras met with EWU administration, including Dr. Mary Cullinan, EWU President; Amy Johnson, V.P. of Student Life and Dean of Students, and Stacey Morgan Foster, V.P. of Student Affairs, as well as, Dr. Scott Finnie, Director of Africana Education; and ASEWU President, Kyle Dodson, to discuss the Multicultural Coalition’s demands.

This first meeting with the administration was intended to allow student representatives to express their concerns and a list of demands regarding the Multicultural Center. Student representatives were given the impression that they would be respected and listened to by administration, however, the meeting proved quite the opposite.

Prior to the meeting, in front of the student representatives, Amy Johnson and Stacey Morgan Foster openly discussed their ability to obtain restraining orders against students, which left students feeling uncomfortable and intimidated. “It felt like a scare tactic,” one student said. During the meeting, the administration made no effort to record minutes or take notes. When questioned by a BSU student representative about their lack of notetaking, Dr. Scott Finnie, of the Africana Education department, was appointed secretary.

Virginia Morales, one of the student representatives, spoke about her struggles with financial aid and the larger implication that those struggles have on students’ financial stress and overall academic performance. Morales said that the response from the administration was anything but supportive.

Instead, she said that she and other students witnessed smirks, laughing, eye rolling and head rolling as they spoke. Morales said they were also continually interrupted by Stacy Morgan Foster and other administrators as they spoke.

“Our experiences were continually diminished by administration and not one of them expressed genuine interest in the student voices we represented. Rather, we were continually delegitimized as students of color,” said Morales.

The students were also disappointed by what they viewed as a lack of support from EWU President Mary Cullinan.

“What was most alarming to me,” Morales said, “was the lack of leadership and accountability from President Cullinan who not only witnessed the continual disrespect, racism, and lack of professionalism exhibited by members of her staff, but remained silent through their repeated occurrence.”

Students requested a follow up meeting to discuss the administration’s response to the Multicultural Coalition’s demands, which the administration agreed to provide. In the follow up meeting, as in the first meeting, the administration again failed to record minutes or take notes.

Additionally, they did not provide a response to the Coalition’s demands. Instead, according to Morales, “they attempted to fill the time with rhetorical questions and statements about items that were covered thoroughly during the first meeting.”

ASEWU President Kyle Dodson’s only remarks during the first meeting were that he “had failed us as a president”, Morales said.

Dodson expressed an interest in connecting with the Multicultural Coalition after the meeting, yet, failed to attend the second meeting, and as of this writing, the Multicultural Coalition has yet to hear from Dodson, receive any written communication, or receive any confirmation that he has expressed the group’s concerns or demands to the Board of Trustees.

Frustrated by what they viewed as disrespect, disinterest, and unprofessional conduct from EWU administration, student representatives brought their concerns directly to the attention of President Cullinan. “When asked to whom we could appeal,” Morales said, “President Cullinan claimed to be ‘the end decision-maker’, but this in fact is untrue, students have the right to present their claims to the Board of Trustees.”

No progress or agreements were made as a result of the meetings with EWU administration, and no more meetings with administration have been scheduled. The Multicultural Coalition, however, does plan to make their concerns known to EWU’s Board of Trustees at the upcoming May 20 public meeting.

Why We Students Feel Misled and Manipulated

At the last meeting, Stacey Morgan Foster mentioned that she was conducting listening tours throughout the EWU campus to gather student voices about the Multicultural Center that have “not yet been heard.” The reality of the “listening tours” is that only four “focus groups” were planned, and all of them scheduled at times that generally coincide with class time, which would create a barrier to student participation.

The Coalition has several concerns with the “focus groups.” The focus groups were capped at twenty participants, and initial advertising was minimal. Students who participated in the first two focus groups were not allowed to openly discuss their thoughts and feelings, but instead were guided by five narrow questions. Finally, instead of having the opportunity to be actively involved, it was requested that Multicultural Coalition members act as “neutral facilitators” during the focus groups, which left members feeling sidelined and alienated from the process.

Even if the focus groups are attended to capacity, the administration will have gathered only eighty student voices. The implication is that eighty student voices gathered by the administration hold more weight than the eight hundred student voices gathered through the effort of their peers.

Another concern raised by the Coalition is that Nick Franco, facilitator of the first focus group, stated that the focus groups would be recorded. However, when one of the students asked who would have access to the recordings, Franco was unable to respond and said he would ask his supervisors.

At the second focus group, Amy Johnson, who is Franco’s supervisor, was asked if the Multicultural Coalition could have access to the initial recordings. Johnson said the recordings would be unavailable because they were being collected as university research. However, no consent forms were collected from student participants, which is customary when university research is being conducted on campus.

Continued on Page 18

Do Black Candidates Matter To Progressives

Continued From Page 15

Before heading to the grand opening, I talked to a couple of progressive activists about the 44th Congressional District race. One in particular, an environmental activist, told me she was less than impressed with Hall’s record on environmental issues and was throwing her support behind another candidate.

Knowing that she is a serious issues activist, I was curious about her support of Hall during his 10-year career in California politics. She admitted she had not been a supporter. I’ve often wondered if more progressives got behind electeds who seem to be natural fits for the progressive movement, could they get better outcomes in terms of progressive legislation.

I believe that the lack of support is emblematic of a deeper problem within the progressive movement—a problem that is coming home to roost with the lack of Black votes for Bernie Sanders, at least among older Blacks in Southern states.

At least starting with Richard Nixon’s “Southern strategy,” Republicans racialized politics to gain traction and ultimately dominate the southern states. While Republican strategists used race (in a bad way) to leverage an advantage, progressives too often tend to avoid discussions of race—to our detriment. Its obvious that if Bernie Sanders had not lost the Black vote in the Southern states, he’d be the frontrunner today.

Speaking as a Black woman who has been around electoral politics

for dozens of years, all I can say is the only thing as white as a room full of Republicans is a room full of progressives.

Sorry, but it’s largely true. I can’t tell you how many times I’ve been the only Black face in a roomful of my progressive friends. But if we confronted the elephant in the room, head-on, progressives could increase the odds of gaining the support of the younger Black activists who are trying to bring attention to America’s racial problems.

Recently, CNN political commentator Van Jones—who served as President Obama’s Special Advisor for Green Jobs—commented that the Black left is anti-electoral: it loves to protest; it doesn’t love to sign up voters. Speaking on CNN, Jones said, “Right now, the Black left is up against a real challenge. Can it produce votes? Right now it can’t. That’s not just Bernie’s fault.”

So what, you ask, does this have to do with being a Black superdelegate? In a piece entitled, “*How Hillary Clinton Bought the Loyalty of 33 State Democratic Parties*,” Margot Kidder sheds light on Hillary Clinton’s significant lead in the superdelegate count.

Kidder argues that the Democratic National Committee, the Clinton campaign, and 33 state democratic parties agreed to work together in a deal that involved Clinton’s core multi-millionaire and billionaire donors legally giving \$660,000—or \$1.2M for a married couple—over a two-year period to an entity called the Hillary Victory Fund.



According to Kidder, over \$26 million was raised in 2015 using this mechanism. Kidder’s article suggests that “the deal can be sold as a way of making large monetary promises to candidates and Super Delegates” The money raised went to support local Democratic office-seekers—with a taut string back to Hillary’s eventual presidential campaign.

The rise of money in politics makes promises of contributions to a party’s re-election fund enticing to any candidate, but when you consider that African-American Congressional candidates are vying to represent some of the poorest districts in the state where individual contributions represent a drop in the bucket, you have to know that these candidates are up against almost insurmountable odds.

Here’s the conundrum facing Hall and other Black politicians seeking

to represent poorer inner city districts—overwhelmingly the only places they’d likely get elected in today’s America.

No matter how progressive they might want to be—no matter how badly they might want to bring jobs and education and healthcare and safety to the district where they likely grew up—if they aren’t independently wealthy themselves, which mostly likely they’re not; and if their low-income constituents don’t have much spare change to support a campaign, which they don’t; and if wealthier, largely white progressives closer to the beach, the mountains, and the tonier parts of town look the other way, then the candidate will have to turn elsewhere.

And where will that be? To Chamber of Commerce types looking to extract whatever wealth the district might have. To the oil companies who plant their refineries and tank farms in these poorer districts. To transportation companies sending smokey trucks up and down the freeways that run through the district. To developers hungry to gentrify parts of the district. In short, to a bunch of deep-pocketed funders who will be first in line for favors should the candidate win the election. Which will then give the new officeholder a gamey aroma that will keep the progressives far away.

Or the candidate can stay high-minded and progressive, only to see an opponent or two take the money and run right into office. Bernie Sanders and his wildly successful crowd-funding efforts may offer an alternative.

From the start, Sanders has insisted on not taking money from the billionaire class, yet he has been more successful at raising funds than Clinton, even though she just raised over \$15 million at an event reserved for multimillionaires and billionaires at George Clooney’s estate.

Sanders’ phenomenal success demonstrates that the average person still has a shot at participating in this process. It proves that we can still turn this oligarchy into a democracy—if we keep at it. That may be a bright light at the end of the tunnel for candidates like Isadore Hall who may want to be progressive but who certainly want to win their elections.

In a recent fundraising message, Sanders told his supporters that no one can take on the billionaire class alone—that he is going to need progressives in Congress who are willing to fight the billionaire class with him. He then made a pitch to raise funds for three non-establishment progressive candidates—Zephyr Teachout of New York, Pramila Jayapal of Washington, and Lucy Flores of Nevada. All three women have endorsed his presidential campaign. This could be the beginning of a true movement to get big money out and average people in.

(This commentary originally appeared in the LA Progressive)

Sharon Kyle, JD, is the Co-Founder and Publisher of the LA Progressive, an online social justice magazine. For more information on the LA Progressive visit: <https://www.laprogressive.com>.

OUR VOICES

YOU MAY NOT KNOW ME, BUT I AM NOT VIOLENT

By Joshua Washington

As Jim McDevitt would put it, he said “statistics show that African-American males commit violent crimes at seven to ten times the rate of white males.” When a man that is going to be in the leading position for the police department goes into the position thinking like that just because of some statistics, how is that fair to me? I’m going to be judged right off the bat because of the color of my skin, because they are assuming that I am more violent. I find that very wrong and disturbing.



You may not know me, but I am not violent. I have not been in a single fight, and I have not fired a gun because I do not believe in them. The most contact that I have had with the police is over speeding tickets. The statistics that Jim McDevitt quoted do not apply to me, or my family back in Virginia. So to have Jim McDevitt say that the statistics he quoted is justification for racial profiling is wrong. I do not want to be judged by the color of my skin, but by my character and my actions.

I grew up in poverty and with a single parent for a good portion

of my younger life and there were times when my mom couldn’t afford food, but that did not push me to go out and steal or go into crime. Saying that 70% of African American males fall into crime because they are raised in single parent homes is wrong. My family and I am living proof that it is not true. If statistics are all that the police department is going to go off of when police make decisions, we have a very long way to go before it is fair for everyone.

Try walking a day in my shoes, and you will see where I am coming from.

Words of Love

By Joshua Washington

Books, poems, words, and quotes you are the love that I have found in literature.

The words that form a poem I could listen to and get lost in for hours as I am finally able to see that person’s soul, what they were feeling at that point in time, how their mind works, and what has been troubling them for so long.

Books of all kinds, you’re like my own personal movie that only I can see. You bring me into this amazing world of romance, magic, and fantasy. You breathe life into characters I can connect with, and when they are going through trials, I feel for them, because I can relate to a lot of their pain.

So much beauty can come from words written or spoken, can melt the coldest of hearts, warm your soul, and make you see a brighter future when all hope seems lost. So in my opinion, they are the best weapon anyone can have at their disposal.

Words can make a person feel powerful when they have been beaten down. Words draw people to a just cause and unify them to take action against wrong doings. Words you bring about peace and diplomacy and for that you’re amazing and I’m in love with that.

Quotes you have helped me get through some tuff times, with all the inspiration and drive you exude. When a person runs into a problem, they can go back and look for a quote that might relate to their discontent and help them along their path. How could anyone not fall in love with this form of art that breathes so much life into this dead world.

So books, words, poems, and quotes, you are the love that I have found in literature.

BLACK-ON-BLACK COALESCENCE (Part One)



By James Clingman

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Coalition-building is the best way for Black people to make the kind of progress we need to make in this country, especially when it comes to economic empowerment. Some have posited that Black people are swiftly becoming obsolete.

From the agricultural economy to the industrial and mass production economy, Black folks, in some cases, had it going on. Many individual Blacks did quite well with jobs and businesses in those areas. As

Are Black people as a group becoming obsolete? Someone said, “All the shoes have been shined and all the cotton has been picked,” which suggests that Black people are no longer needed by white folks, therefore, if we do not change our ways when it comes to business and job development, we will indeed become obsolete.

- James Clingman

we moved through the technology/information economy and now into the knowledge-based economy, the rules for survival have changed.

Are Black people as a group becoming obsolete? Someone said, “All the shoes have been shined and all the cotton has been picked,” which suggests that Black people are no longer needed by white folks, therefore, if we do not change our ways when it comes to business and job development we will indeed become obsolete.

Frederick Douglass, Booker T., and Garvey spoke of a time when we would have to consider the question of Black obsolescence if we did not awaken from our deep sleep and refuse to be dependent upon the lar-

gess of others for our sustenance. The strength we gain from coalescence (*to unite so as to form one community*) will bring about this much-needed change, and one major step is to reach out and connect with other likeminded people of African descent. This should be done on a national and an international level, the closest area being just south of our country—the Caribbean.

One of the greatest Africans in modern history was born in Jamaica. Of course, that would be Marcus Mosiah Garvey, who founded the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

Look across the Caribbean and you will find other Blacks who knew and followed through on solutions; they

took action rather than merely talk about their problems. They stood up against aggression, ignorance, and oppression. They understood and followed through on the value of educating their people, and they subscribed to the lessons their elders left behind.

Haitian history shows us strength and refusal to submit to enslavement; it also shows us resolve and a willingness to help others, as in the case of Haitian soldiers going to Savannah, Georgia to fight against the British in the Siege of Savannah on Oct. 9, 1779, during the U.S. Revolutionary War. We also remember the irrepressible Toussaint L’Overture, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, and Henri Christophe, Haitians who led the only successful slave revolt in the western hemisphere.

Many Black people came to the United States from the Caribbean and brought with them the same spirit, the same dedication and drive, and the same resolute character that causes men and women to seek for themselves, as Richard Allen taught back in 1767. *Continued on Page 17*

OUR VOICES

HARRIET TUBMAN - ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTER

By Julianne Malveaux



(TriceEdney-Wire.com) When Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced that Harriet Tubman would grace the new \$20 bill, my heart sang hallelujah. Additional changes to the currency

were also announced. The back of the \$10 will now recognize the five leaders of the women’s suffrage movement and the back of the \$5 bill to recognize civil rights leaders, and honor historic events from the Lincoln Memorial. The faces on our money will no longer be all pale and male, and that’s progress.

It is especially fitting that Harriet Tubman grace the \$20, since she was an economic freedom fighter. She is credited with ushering more than 300 people out of enslavement, many of them family members from the state of Maryland. She hit slaveholders in the pocketbook, costing them billions of today’s dollars. If the average enslaved person sold for \$1000 (which is about right for 1860), then the 300 she freed cost \$300,000 in 1860 dollars, or about \$8.8

As exciting as the currency design is, it is a symbolic, not a substantive change. Real change would close the income gap between men and women. Real change would close the racial economic gap. Real change would take a look at the reparations issue. -Julianne Malveau

billion in today’s dollars. That’s quite a blow for a slaveholding society to absorb. Every time an enslaved person ran away, they struck a blow for freedom, and a blow against the economic stability of the South.

Enslavement was at the root of the development of contemporary US capitalism. Black lives were the collateral that plantation owners used to purchase more land, to purchase more slaves, to purchase equipment, to expand. Enslaved people were, in many ways, a form of currency. Harriett Tubman gracing the \$20 makes perfect sense.

The new \$10 is supposed to be available in 2020, nearly four years from now. The new \$20 may not be available until 2030. The design and production schedule have to be approved by the Federal Reserve Board.

That shouldn’t be much of a challenge – Fed Chairman Janet Yellen has hailed the decision to put Harriet Tubman on the \$20, and many have applauded the other elements of currency design. Perhaps the

Fed can be lobbied to speed the production schedule up. I can’t wait to cash a check and ask for my money in “Harriets”.

As exciting as the currency design is, it is a symbolic, not a substantive change. Real change would close the income gap between men and women. Real change would close the racial economic gap. Real change would take a look at the reparations issue.

In this last year of his Presidency, President Obama could use his executive order to appoint a commission to look into issues of racial economic justice. He could make an amazing, if belated, contribution by bringing the reparations issue to the economic forefront. The Black Lives Matter community has raised the reparations issue with both Democratic Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. President Obama would do his successor a favor by starting the public work on this key issue.

I suppose we have to reconcile ourselves to progress at a snail’s pace, to symbolism, not substance. Still, the image of our economic freedom fighter on the twenty-dollar

bill will be inspirational for all of us, especially for the young people who don’t know all of the sordid details of our history of enslavement. I hope that as we talk about Harriet Tubman on the money, we also talk about the economic impact she had on the institution of slavery by freeing those 300 people. This is part of the history we must never forget, and Tubman’s presence on the \$20 will help us to remember.

The most exciting thing about the presence of Harriet Tubman on the \$20 is the way the change came about. The public was engaged. Hundreds of thousands of people signed petitions, and participated with some of the online polls that various groups sponsored. The Treasury Secretary asked for public input, and he got it! He says he was surprised about the amount of input that he got. He should not have been. Both women and men were passionate about changing symbols of supremacy, ridding the currency of Andrew Jackson whose role in the oppression of Native Americans was shameful, and including women on the currency. Perhaps this passion of symbolism can be converted into passion for substance. Perhaps we can use currency change to trigger a substantive movement for economic justice.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist in Washington DC. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available at www.amazon.com and www.juliannealveaux.com.

Black-On-Black Coalescence

Continued From Page 16

Our Caribbean brothers and sisters have come with the determination to do for self, to rely on self, to cooperate with one another, and build an economic system within their own ranks. This article is written in an effort to celebrate our people and establish relationships that will engender cooperation among our people.

Marcus Garvey instructed us to do one thing prior to taking on economic empowerment initiatives. He told us to “Organize!” He shared with us the truth about economic empowerment over political empowerment and how we should seek economics first. He said, “The most important area for the exercise of independent effort is economic. After a people have established successfully a firm industrial foundation they naturally turn to politics and society, but not first to society and politics, because the two latter cannot exist without the former.”

Lessons from Garvey and others have led a precious few of us to implement strategies that, in fact, will lead to economic empowerment; we need many more. One such effort is the One Million Conscious Black Voters and Contributors (OMCBV&C), which was established on Garvey’s words, “The greatest weapon used against the Black man is disorganization.” The OMCBV&C movement is underway, actively recruiting that critical mass of Black people who will take action rather than merely talk about problems. The One Million will leverage dollars and votes to obtain reciprocity in the marketplace as well as in the public policy arena.

In the tradition of Marcus Garvey, the One Million is organized, cooperative, and supportive of one another. It is entrepreneurial in its philosophy regarding ownership and control of income producing assets. The One Million is molded in the very practical notion of using our own resources to help ourselves and our children. We are committed, dedicated, sacrificial in our giving, and unapologetically Black as we pursue our ultimate goals of economic and political strength—in that order.

Black people, no matter where we were born or where we live, must appreciate the fact that we started out in the same place and our differences emanate from our experiences in the nations where our ships docked in the western hemisphere.

James E. Clingman is a national writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His weekly syndicated newspaper column, Blackonomics, is featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, and newsletters.. For more information visit: <http://www.blackonomics.com/>

SILVER’S TRIVIA

Continued from Page 3

The answer is Fredrick Douglass.
“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

Frederick Douglass was an escaped slave, a leader of the anti-slavery movement in the North, editor of the abolitionist newspaper The North Star and, after the Civil War, a diplomat for the U.S. government. This excerpt is from an address on West India Emancipation, delivered August 4, 1857.

Read more at (<http://herb.ashp.cuny.edu/items/show/1245>).

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WHAT IS THE TRANS PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP?

By Stacy Cossey

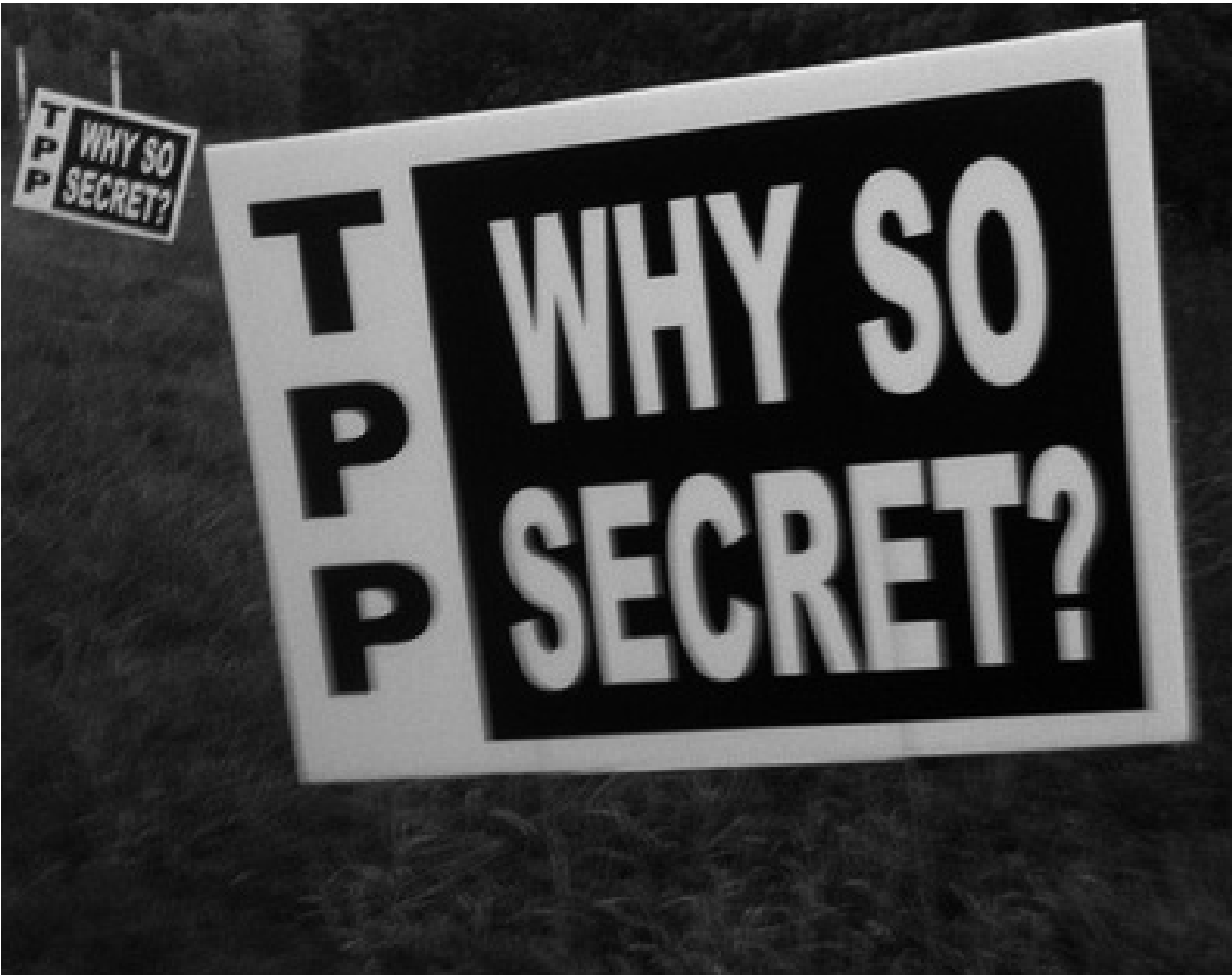
The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is an important trade agreement currently before the United States Congress. It has attracted the concern of the American public because this 12 nation agreement was written in secret by the same corporations who plan to benefit from it, without input from the citizens who will be affected by it or the governments they represent.

Americans are concerned because NAFTA, the last trade agreement, shipped one million jobs to Mexico and Canada, so companies could take advantage of lower wages and environmental standards. With the TPP, American companies would have the added possibility of moving operations to countries like Vietnam where the hourly wage is 60 cents an hour.

While the TPP addresses trade, the agreement contains so much more. In fact, only six of the twenty-nine chapters of the agreement address trade. Citizen watch groups have analyzed the 5500 pages of content and have published some of the following conclusions:

- Economically the TPP is a pivot away from China, and a clear means by which to ship U.S. jobs overseas to Vietnam where wages are half that of China.
- Politically and economically the TPP places corporations and their tribunals above the people and their governments.
- Militarily the TPP uses trade to militarize the South Pacific and shipping lanes.
- Environmentally the TPP allows for broad based pollution and destruction.
- Even the conservative Cato Institute says the TPP raises serious questions about democracy, accountability, checks and balances, and separation of power.

In addition, the TPP allows for the creation of a corporate tribunal by which a handful of attorneys, sympathetic to corporations, decide trade disputes.



The TPP also has important significance for communities of color. Because of higher rates of unemployment, African Americans are the least likely to switch jobs and tend to have the longest tenure with their employers. This can make them more vulnerable when jobs are shipped overseas because they are less likely to find a new replacement job with the same income. Job training programs may provide skills for a new job, but it takes time to make up for lost income.

The TPP is heavily opposed by many labor unions, as they see it as a threat to American jobs. The key metropolitan areas projected to be most affected by

the TPP are Milwaukee and Chicago, which have an important share of Black manufacturing workers, and the heavily Latino communities of Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Diego. Generally, if it is a threat to American jobs, it is an intensified threat to communities of color.

There is still time for your voice to be heard. *Spokane Against the TPP and TTIP* is actively working to educate citizens and inspire our Congressional delegation to vote no on the TPP. Meetings are on the first and third Monday at 4:00 at Spokane Downtown Public Library, third floor conference room.

DR. MALLORY WILLIAMS

Continued From Page 8

“College was the most liberating experience I have ever had,” Williams recounted. “It was there that I saw all shapes, sizes, and different varieties of myself, and began to learn how successful I already was, and how successful I could become through the lens of other men who looked like me.”

Black male role models was not something that Williams had an abundance of in his family, he says, and not an abundance of in the public school system either. “Morehouse was the place where I had an overabundance of African American role models who took a deep and abiding interest in my success.”

“So for me, I often say Morehouse and my mother are the great launching points for me becoming anything. Because my mother kind of kept me on the straight and narrow, so that I would be eligible to have the experience of Morehouse. She kept me inquisitive, she kept me very learned, very literate, very ready for that experience. Then Morehouse embraced me and took me to the next level of being able to have that experience and go forth from there.”

“So college was absolutely essential, it was absolutely inspirational. I met men like Andrew Young and Maynard Jackson. I met great African American leaders in our community who had years of service to the community and to the country.”

The experience at Howard, Williams says, gave him the awareness that not only could

he become something, but that he had to become something. “It wasn’t just that this was possible, there was an obligation to fulfill that potential. To be always cognizant and ready to open doors and uplift others who could also fulfill their potential who looked like me.”

The message that Williams shares with the students that he meets in his travels is grounded in the lessons that he has learned along the way.

Williams says, it starts with an idea. “For that specific person who I might be speaking to, who may not be fully conscious of where or who they are, they first have to start with the idea that they are someone, which is not something that we should assume that all African Americans have. The idea that they are someone is where it starts, and once they go on that journey, of fully having self awareness, then it becomes more of an awakening and a reality that the challenges that I am facing, I can overcome them because of an ancestral lineage that I come from.”

After self awareness, Williams tells students, then we need the optimism to know that we can achieve our goals and an understanding that despite the challenges that we face, “which are formidable and indisputably there,” we can transcend those challenges with the knowledge of who we really are.

Williams' visit was in conjunction with the National Library of Medicine Exhibit: "Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons."

EWU Multicultural Center

(Continued From Page 15)

The stated purpose of the focus groups was to gather student opinions, however, according to participants, the first meeting was primarily attended by administrators who were “required to be present.” Students also noted that the questions that were asked seemed to “dilute the importance of the multicultural center’s function by referring to academic programs as ‘academic cultural centers’, and suggesting that academic programs are responsible for or already capable of providing the resources that are needed.”

A subsequent survey, released by ASEWU compounded the problems of the focus group by enlisting students in defining the functions of a Multicultural Center, a resource with an already accepted definition and function at higher education institutions across the country.

Meanwhile, the Multicultural Coalition says that they have been denied access to the architect, and the administration appears to be moving forward with the design of the PUB despite the concerns raised by the Coalition. As one Coalition member put it, “it is entirely possible that by the time the focus groups have finished, the necessary contracts will already have been signed, without regard for the information the focus groups were intended to provide.”

Finally, EWU administrators have expressed their intent to move forward with the hiring of a Diversity Officer, yet de-

spite repeated requests from students for a voice in the decisions that affect them, no plans appear to be in place by the administration to enlist meaningful and substantive input from the Multicultural Coalition and the students they represent.

Moving Forward: The Multicultural Coalition

The Multicultural Coalition believes it has a duty to represent all students of diverse backgrounds, even if they haven’t signed a petition or gotten involved in the movement. Eastern Washington University touts itself as a diverse school that is “committed to diversity and inclusion,” but from the perspective of the Multicultural Coalition, it does little to protect and nurture that diversity.

The Coalition plans to move forward in any way it can. This includes distributing information about the cause, speaking to media, raising student awareness, and cultivating allies both at the university, and in the community. We have a Facebook page: “Multicultural Coalition of Eastern Washington University,” and a Twitter account: @MCCoalitionEWU. We invite anyone who believes in the cause to join us.

You are also encouraged to express your opinions about the Multicultural Center to the EWU Board of Trustees directly at boardoftrustees@ewu.edu or to EWU President Dr. Mary Cullinan at president@ewu.edu.

MAY EVENTS

MAY 5

EWU AFRICANA EDUCATION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

The impact of race related stress on African American's mental and physical health with Dr. Gloria Baynes

6-8pm

East Central Community Center
Conference Room 1

500 S. Stone Street, Spokane

FREE and open to all. (No credits)

For information call (509) 359-2205 or e-mail rwondimu60@ewu.edu.

MAY 6

NATIVE PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Join the NATIVE Project for their annual Open House, celebrating 27 years of serving the community. Longhorn BBQ, facility tours, meet providers, Native American arts and crafts.

10am - 4pm

NATIVE Project

1803 W Maxwell Ave, Spokane

FREE of charge.

For information call (509) 325-5502.

MAY 6

NAACP SPAGHETTI FEED & SILENT AUCTION

Join the NAACP for the 12th annual spaghetti fundraiser.

6-8pm

East Central Community Center

500 S. Stone Street, Spokane

Cost - donation (suggested donation \$10 adults and \$7 children under 12 years)

Dine in and Take out available

For more information, phone (509) 209-2425.

MAY 6

HARLEM AMBASSADORS VS THE KIWANIS KRUSHES

A Harlem Globetrotter-style of comedy basketball featuring slam dunks, games with kids and an eclectic group of local leaders and celebrities.

7pm

University High School

12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley

Tickets - 10 adults, \$7 students and seniors, children under 12 years FREE

For tickets and information, call 509-309-5257 or 509-220-0635

MAY 12

DEFEATING RACISM TODAY: WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

Eva Abram talks about the history of racism and how it affects specific groups in our society today. She explores how the painful experiences of Jim Crow laws and slavery might ultimately support the pride and achievements of contemporary generation of Africa Americans.

7:00 pm

North Spokane Library

44 E. Hawthorne Road

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information visit <http://www.sclcd.org>

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

MAY 12

EWU AFRICANA EDUCATION: COMMUNITY SERIES

Does immigration status predict college success? with Dr. Kassahun Kebede

6-8pm

East Central Community Center
Conference Room 1

500 S. Stone Street, Spokane

FREE and open to all. (No credits)

For information call (509) 359-2205 or e-mail rwondimu60@ewu.edu.

MARCH 14

OPEN MIC NIGHT W/ SESSIONZ

Poetry, music, comedy, spoken word, Door prizes, contests, great talent.

Doors open at 7:30pm

(Performers please sign up by 8pm)

The Gathering House

733 W. Garland Avenue, Spokane

Free Entry. Family Friendly. Donations collected will benefit World Relief Spokane

Presented by Michael Bethely Entertainment

MAY 16

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for monthly meeting

7-9pm

For more information contact the

NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

MAY 18

STEPHEN PITTERS PRESENTS: POETRY, MUSIC PROSE

The third event in the series features: Zan Deery (Poet), Heather Villa (Music, Sinder) and Cindy Hval (Prose - War Bonds: Love Stories from the Greatest Generation)

6:30-7:30pm

Barnes and Nobles Bookstore

Northtown Mall

For more information contact: Stephen Pitters at 509-979-0671 or stephenpitters@gmail.com

MAY 19

POLICE COMMUNITY FORUM

"The Police and Faith Leaders Alliance are coming together on a monthly basis to "bridge the gap" between the Spokane Police Dept. and the community.

6pm

Spokane Community College (SCC)

Auditorium

1810 N Greene St, Spokane

For more information contact: Kathy Armstrong karmstrong@spokanepolice.org*

MAY 20

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS SPOKANE PUBLIC MEETING

Invited speakers include Mayor David Condon, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, County Commissioner Shelly O'Quinn, and Jim McDevitt, Director of Law Enforcement for the Spokane Police Department. There is also an opportunity for public testimony

1-4pm

Emmanuel Family Life Center

631 S. Richard Allen Ct. Spokane

visit <http://www.caa.wa.gov>



HARLEM AMBASSADORS
VS
KIWANIS KRUSHERS
(an eclectic group of local leaders and celebrities)

May 6, 2016 at 7:00pm
University High School

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Adults \$10, Students & Seniors \$7
Children 5 & under FREE
For Tickets & Information Call:
509-309-5257 or
509-220-0635

*A Harlem-style comedy basketball show
featuring high-flying slam dunks, games with the kids,
and hilarious comedy!*

*Meet the Harlem Ambassadors after the show
FREE autographs and photos*

DO YOU KNOW A WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT?

**NOMINATE A WOMAN OF IMPACT
IN OUR COMMUNITY TODAY.
DEADLINE JUNE 15TH
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Impact
/ make a pact to act.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  HEALTH SCIENCES
SPOKANE

Spokane MESA Director

The Spokane MESA Director manages the daily operations and strategic objectives of the Center's program, and is responsible for developing, managing, implementing, and assessing middle and high school programs in the Spokane/Cheney area. The focus for each program is the student, with the primary interest to provide mathematics, engineering and science programs for students traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields. For position requirements and preferred qualifications please see the job posting.

Deadline is May 8, 2016. Salary DOQ. For a complete position description and to apply visit www.wsujobs.com.
WSU Spokane is a tobacco free campus. WSU is an EO/AA/ADA employer and educator.



12th Annual Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction



Salad, bread, dessert and beverage

Friday, May 6, 2016, 5:00 – 8:00 PM

East Central Community Center, 500 South Stone, Spokane

Cost – By donation

(suggested donation \$10 adults \$7 children under 12 years old)

Dine in and Take out available

For more information, phone (509) 209-2425

Special Guest Matt Santangelo

Visiting and speaking throughout the evening

Executive Director of Hoopfest

Gonzaga University Basketball Point Guard

Starting 5 for Elite 8, 1999