

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

SPOKANE GENEALOGIST DESCENDANT OF GEORGETOWN'S 272 SOLD SLAVES

Little did Patricia Bayonne-Johnson know in 2004, when she set out to uncover answers about her family's history for an upcoming family reunion, that the story she uncovered would land her in the New York Times and the Washington Post in 2016.

It turns out that the President of Georgetown University in 1838, a prominent jesuit priest by the name of Thomas Mulledy, had sold 272 slaves, men, women and children, including Bayonne-Johnson's relatives, to clear the university of its mounting debt and keep the doors of the struggling school open. By today's standards, it is estimated that the sale would have been worth over 3 million dollars, a sum that achieved its purpose, making Georgetown University one of the elite universities in the US today.

The process of uncovering the sale, something Georgetown University had been quiet about for generations, began for Bayonne-Johnson, President of the Spokane Genealogical Society, when she enlisted the help of a professional genealogist in Louisiana by the name of Judy Riffel to research her family. Riffel was an expert on slave sales in the south, and amongst other documents, Riffel's research uncovered a bill of sale that had Thomas Mulledy's name on it. That bill of sale would lead Bayonne-Johnson to records showing the sale of her great great grandparents, along with the other Georgetown slaves, to plantations in Louisiana.

That her relatives had been owned and sold by jesuit priests was a difficult revelation for Bayonne-Johnson, who had



Patricia Bayonne-Johnson holds a photo of her great grandparents and their son, descendants of the Georgetown slave sale.

been raised a Roman Catholic and had a strained relationship with the church already because of her experiences as a child with segregation in her Louisiana church and Jim Crow laws that had forced her family to "sit in the back". Bayonne-Johnson also pointed out that in all of the Catholicism and history classes that she took as she was growing up, "nobody mentioned that the Catholics were involved in slavery."

The revelation of the connection between Bayonne-Johnson's ancestor's and the catholic church "tested the faith" of her family members, she said. Although no one from her family that she is aware of left the church as a result, it did require some soul searching on their part to come to terms with what they had learned.

Georgetown University was also doing some soul searching of its own, as were other universities like Brown, Columbia, Harvard and the University of Virginia, who were finally, publically acknowledging their ties to slavery. In the fall of 2015, students on the Georgetown campus, using the hashtag #GU272 in honor of the slaves who were sold, organized a protest and a sit-in, ultimately forcing the university to remove the names of the Rev. Thomas F. Mulledy and the Rev. William McSherry, the college presidents involved in the slave sale, from two of its campus buildings. Additionally, a Georgetown alumnus by the name of Richard J. Cellini set up a nonprofit called the Georgetown Memory Project. **Continued on Page 14**

WHERE DID ALL OF THE BLACK BANKS GO?

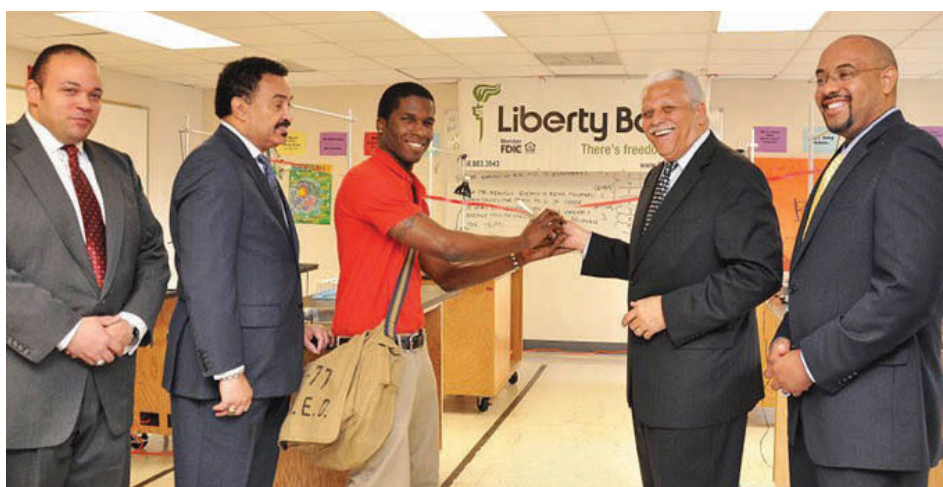
By Patrice Gaines, Urban News Service
(<http://www.urbannewsservice.com>)

America has half as many black-owned banks as existed 15 years ago.

"People assume [Black bankers] don't know what they are doing," said Alden McDonald, CEO of New Orleans-based Liberty Bank and Trust. "Put yourself in these shoes: We are located in communities in which all of the large banks have moved out of because it's not profitable for them to do business there."

The number of Black-owned banks fell 54 percent between 2001 and 2016, according to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Historically, these banks have stimulated and revitalized their communities while also financing customers whom major banks have shunned.

"From 1888 to 1934, African-Americans owned more than 130 banks in the U.S., and the number of black-owned business-



Liberty Bank and Trust CEO Alden McDonald cuts the ribbon at Liberty Bank Sci Academy Senior Science Lab in New Orleans. Photo: Liberty Bank Facebook page

es rose from 4,000 to 50,000," McDonald said at a January ceremony in which the U.S. Treasury Department named an annex the "Freedman's Bank building" after the bank Congress incorporated to help "freed"

blacks transition from slavery. Integration ended that economic boom. Black business districts disappeared as black consumers spent their dollars elsewhere. Many black banks, the institutions that extended loans

for start-ups and renovations, disappeared as well. Today, Black banks are struggling to overcome the ripple effects of the Great Recession, in which they suffered more than larger banks. And only a few Black banks qualified for the federal bailouts that major financial institutions gleaned.

"Even though we are now hearing some good news," FDIC chairman Martin J. Gruenberg said to Black bankers in 2014, "we know that in many of the communities you serve, the pace of recovery is lagging."

Exactly why these banks have disappeared is complex, but Black bankers say the cost of doing business, the financial instability of their communities and counterproductive federal policies have created overwhelming challenges.

While the number of Black-owned banks plunged from 48 to 22 over the last 15 years, Hispanic banks grew from 31 to 39.

Continued on Page 14

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Today, I'm thinking about this poem that changed my life. I'm working hard on being at Chapter 5. Where are you?

An Autobiography in Five Chapters

Chapter 1

I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost... I am helpless.
It isn't my fault. It takes forever
to find a way out.

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in this same place.
But it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I fall in...it's a habit...but my eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

Chapter 5

I walk down a different street.

(adapted from "An Autobiography in Five Short Chapters" from the book *There's A Hole in My Sidewalk* by Portia Nelson)

ART AND HISTORY

by Bertoni Jones (jbaguart@yahoo.com)



The Moors in Spain

In 711 AD, seven-thousand Black-skinned Muslim Moors under the command of General Tarak Ibn Zayad, backed by five thousand Berbers, crossed from North Africa into Andalusia, Spain. Near the Guadelete River they met the forces of Spain's Visigoth King Roderick. Though outnumbered six to one, General Tarak's forces were more war hardened and experienced. Visigoth deserters, including Count Julian of Spain, sided with General Tarak thinking the Africans would take a little Spanish treasure and leave. They were wrong.

Against orders from his jealous African Governor, Mūsa General Tarak broke his forces into three divisions and invaded the major cities of Spain only to find most cities deserted of leadership and nobility. All of Spain was taken with under twelve-thousand soldiers and little resistance.

In his honor, The Rock of Gibraltar is named after this great African General (Gebel Tarak). But unlike other conquerors the Moors did something different. They did not steal, kill, or destroy. Along with Arab influences they incorporated their arts, culture, and sciences into Spain and gave Europe its first taste of civilization.

In the words of British scholar Stanley Lane-Poole: "Art, literature, and science prospered, as they then prospered nowhere else in Europe. Students flocked from France and Germany and England to drink from the fountain of learning which flowed only in the cities of the Moors. The surgeons and doctors of Andalusia were the van of science: women were encouraged to devote themselves to serious study, and the lady doctor was not unknown among the people of Cordova. Mathematics, astronomy and botany,

history, philosophy and jurisprudence were to be mastered in Spain, and Spain alone."

Lane also states: "...related to the tenth century, when our Saxon ancestors dwelt in wooden hovels and trod upon dirty straw, when our language was unformed, and such accomplishments as reading and writing were almost confined to a few monks, we can to some extent realize the extraordinary civilization of the Moors."

Also never in history had the three major western religions, (Christianity-Judaism-Islam) all found as much harmony and peace living side by side as in Moorish Spain. But by the 1400's Spanish national pride re-emerged under King Ferdinand and Queen Isabel. They gave all "infidels" (Muslim Moors, Jew, and Arabs) the option to convert to Christianity, face execution, or be expelled from the country. This act was called the "Reconquista", or reconquering. With this religious act they smothered the light of multi-culturalism and religious harmony, killed the goose that laid their golden eggs, and have not been a world power ever since.

For nearly eight-hundred years (from 711 AD until the late 1490's AD) it was actually North African Muslim Moors that brought scientific and cultural light to Europe via Spain, which would appear to be a chief reason why American schools cannot afford to teach children who the Moors were, what they gave to the world, and where Europeans "really" derive their knowledge from.

Sources:
Christopher Columbus and the African Holocaust: Slavery and the Rise of European Capitalism, Professor John Henrik Clarke ;
The Log of Christopher Columbus – Robert H. Fuson;
The Story of the Moors in Spain - Professor Stanley Lane-Poole;
Dogs of God – James Reston Jr.

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.

Contact Information:
Square Peg Multimedia, 1312 N. Monroe St, #148, Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 795-1964, sandy@blacklensnews.com

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

Richard Theodore Greener: Harvard's First Black Graduate

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

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Harvard University's first African-American graduate was recently honored, joining the list of luminaries whose likenesses grace the walls of the campus' Annenberg Hall.

Richard Theodore Greener was immortalized in a recently unveiled portrait. A distinguished Harvard student, Greener graduated in 1870 with honors, winning the chief prizes in writing and speaking along the way.

The painting, done by Harvard alumnae Stephen Coit, was commissioned as part of the Portraiture Project, overseen by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural Race Relations. The Project was launched in 2002 to reflect the diversity of persons who have served Harvard with distinction after a survey of the university's portrait collection found that only two of the 750 paintings were of people of color. About 58 portraits were of White women and the other 690 were of White men.

"His (Greener's) portrait represents an important change in the University's history, but don't let this be the last change. Continue the change," said David L. Evans, senior admissions officer at Harvard College, at the unveiling of the Greener tribute.

Evans, himself, was among the first African Americans honored in the Portraiture Project. The son of Arkansas sharecroppers, Evans gained an electrical engineering



Richard Theodore Greener PHOTO: J.H. Cunningham /The Colored American, February 24, 1900, Page 1 [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

degree at Princeton University and went on to work on the Apollo moon project. His portrait was unveiled in 2005 along with those of Archie C. Epps III, dean of students from 1971 to 1999 and Eileen Jackson South-

ern, the first Black woman to hold a tenured faculty position at Harvard.

Greener was born on Jan. 30, 1844 in Philadelphia but was raised from the age of 10 in Boston. Though he initially had to drop out of school at age 14 to help support his family, two of his employers eventually helped him attend preparatory schools before he was admitted to Harvard as part of an experiment in the education of African Americans.

After graduating from Harvard, Greener taught at the Institute for Colored Youth in Philadelphia (which later became Cheney University of Pennsylvania) and later served as principal at the Preparatory School for Colored Children in Washington, D.C.

In 1873, he became the first Black professor at the University of South Carolina, serving during the Reconstruction from 1873 through 1877. While there, he not only taught philosophy and helped reorganize and catalog the library, but he also obtained his law degree.

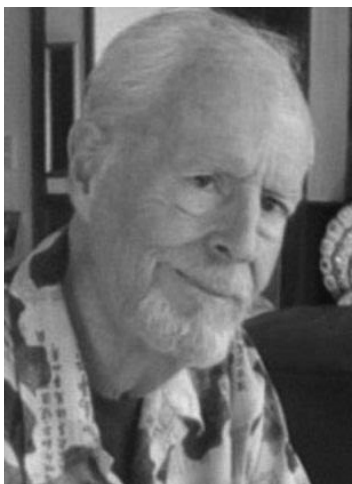
After leaving South Carolina Greener served as: a Treasury Department clerk, professor and dean of the Law School at Howard University, a diplomat for the United States in Vladivostok, Russia, secretary of the Grant Memorial, and he worked in private law practice.

Richard Theodore Greener died at the age of 78 in Chicago on May 2, 1922, according to his biography on the University of South Carolina's website.

American CIA Agent Helped With Mandela's Arrest

Reprinted from Africanglobe.net

By: Chris Pleasance



AFRICANGLOBE — Donald C. Rickard, a former CIA agent, has told for the first time how he led South African security forces to Nelson Mandela on the day he was arrested back in 1962.

Rickard, 88, who was officially working as U.S. Vice Consul in Durban at the time, said he provided the tip-off as part of a

Cold War geopolitical power play because Mandela was considered 'the world's most dangerous communist outside of the Soviet Union'.

The undercover officer learned Mandela would be traveling from Duban to Johannesburg on August 5 and claimed he gave details of Mandela's route to his contacts in the police force, meaning they were able to set up a roadblock, The Sunday Times reported. Mandela's car was stopped en-route and agents recognized him in the back dressed as a chauffeur and took him into custody.

Mandela, who ran the armed wing of the ANC and was advocating open rebellion and revolution against South Africa's racist apartheid government, was the most wanted man in the country at the time. After his arrest he was given a show trial and given a life sentence, serving 27 years before he was released. Mandela went on to become president of a newly reformed South Africa and one of the most influential human rights figures in history.

However, in an interview with filmmaker John Irvin just weeks before he died, Rickard said he had no regrets about having Mandela jailed. The agent firmly believed Mandela was in the pocket of Communist Russia and was planning to incite the Indian population in the Natal region, where he was based, to rise up.

Rickard said, that would have paved the way for a Soviet invasion, setting up a conflict between Russia and America that could have seen the region descend into chaos.

He said: 'We were teetering on the brink here and it had to be stopped, which meant Mandela had to be stopped. And I put a stop to it.'

Rickard, who retired from the CIA in 1978 and spent the rest of his life living in Colorado, passed away just weeks after giving his tell-all account, on March 30. He was born in Rangoon, Burma, in 1928 before being forced to flee with his parents and three brothers in 1942, during the Second World War. The family walked nearly 200 miles from their old home to India, according to The Pagosa Springs Sun, where they settled in Mussoorie for a number of years before moving to San Francisco.

After graduating from Bucknell University with a degree in political science, Rickard went on to a job in the U.S. State Department. According to his obituary, Rickard was never officially associated with the CIA, but instead worked as a diplomat in countries including Pakistan, South Africa and South Korea.

While rumors have long circulated about the CIA's involvement in Mandela's arrest, nothing has been confirmed until now. A retired South African intelligence official, Gerard Ludi, told Newsweek in 1990 that the CIA had a mole inside the Durban ANC branch that was feeding information to agents. The CIA has refused to comment on the rumors, and has also refused to release files it holds relating to Mandela or its activities around the time of his arrest.

In 2014 Ryan Shapiro, a PhD student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, launched a lawsuit attempting to get access to that paperwork, but was denied. While Mandela has been linked to the Communist party many times over the years, he always denied belonging to the party.

Following his death in 2013, the South African Communist party said he was a member of their central committee at the time of his arrest, though this was disputed by his family.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Supreme Court Upholds Affirmative Action Program

(Source: Nikole Hannah-Jones, propublica.org)

In June 23, 2016, in a vote of 4-3, The United States Supreme Court upheld the University of Texas’s consideration of race in admissions. The case had been brought by 23 year old, Abigail Fisher, a white woman who argued she had been denied admission to the university because of her race.

According to Abigail Fisher, “There were people in my class with lower grades who weren’t in all the activities I was in, who were being accepted into UT, and the only other difference between us was the color of our skin,” she said. “I was taught from the time I was a little girl that any kind of discrimination was wrong. And for an institution of higher learning to act this way makes no sense to me. What kind of example does it set for others?”

The claim, however, that race cost Fisher her spot at the University of Texas was misleading. In 2008, the year Fisher sent in her application, over 90 percent of the in state admission spots to were taken by students who entered through the university’s Top 10 program, which automatic admission to any teen who graduated in the top 10 percent of his or her high school class. Fisher did not qualify to be admitted this way, so she had to compete for the remaining 841 openings, and that year the rejection rate for the University of Texas was even higher than at Harvard.

The applicants who did not make the initial cut were evaluated based on two scores. One that distributed points for grades and test scores and the other that awarded points for things like essays, leadership, activities, service and “spe-

cial circumstances.” The special circumstance included socioeconomic status, English as a second language, single parent household, and race. The second score was called a personal achievement index, and that index combined with the first score for grades and test scores, determined whether or not a student would be admitted.

According to court records, Fisher’s grade point average (3.59) and SAT scores (1180 out of 1600) were good but not great, and university officials said that as a result, even if Fisher had received points for her race and other personal achievement factors she would still not have been admitted.

Fisher’s claim that the university offered admission to some students with lower test scores and grades than her was true, however only five of those students were Black or Latino, while forty-two of them were white. That was not talked about by Fisher or her attorney. They also did not talk about the 168 Black and Latino students with grades as good as or better than Fisher’s, who were also denied entry into the university that year.

According to the New York Times, the Supreme court ruling was unexpected. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, the author of the majority opinion, had never voted to uphold an affirmative action plan and had dissented in the last Affirmative Action case that was brought before the court. However in this case, he stated “Considerable deference is owed to a university in defining those intangible characteristics, like student body diversity, that are central to its identity and educational mission.”



Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor joined the majority. The dissent was offered by Justices Samuel Alito, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Clarence Thomas. Justice Elena Kagan, had to be recused from the case because she had worked on it as solicitor general.

The NAACP applauded the ruling and issued a statement that said in part, “Bringing together students from widely varied backgrounds is a critical part of the process of educating a new generation of leaders. Particularly in these complex times when racial and ethnic tensions threaten the core values of our nation, institutions of higher education must continue to produce graduates who understand, appreciate and embrace diversity and difference.”

Marine Imran Yousuf Saves Dozens of Lives During Orlando Night Club Massacre



(Source: <http://tribune.com.pk>, Photo: Marine Corps Times)

Imran Yousuf, a 24 year old bouncer at the Pulse nightclub, was a Marine who had served in Afghanistan. He was on duty the evening that Omar Mateen went on a rampage that left 49 people dead.

In an interview with CBS, Yousuf described his experience. “The initial one was three or four” shots, he said. “That was a shock. Three or four shots go off, and you could tell it was a high-caliber [weapon]. Everyone froze. I’m here in the back, and I saw people start pouring into the back hallway, and they just sardine-pack everyone.”

He said he knew there was a door behind the panicked crowd, but people were too overwhelmed to unlatch it. As everyone stood rooted to the spot, only a few feet away from safety, Yousuf knew there was “only one choice, either we all stay there and we all die, or I could take the chance of getting shot and saving everyone else, and I jumped over to open that latch and we got everyone that we can out of there.” Once the door was open people began pouring out and then ran to safety.

Yousuf’s act of heroism saved many lives that day. Asked how many people left through that exit, Yousuf told CBS that he estimated as many as 60 or 70, but he added, “I wish I could have saved more, to be honest, there are a lot of people that are dead.”

Freddie Gray Van Driver Acquitted of All Charges



(Source: Moses Frenck, <http://www.diversityinc.com/>)

The Baltimore Police van driver who transported Freddie Gray and was accused of giving him a “rough ride” that led to his fatal spinal injury was acquitted of all charges on June 23, including murder, manslaughter and reckless endangerment. Officer Caesar R. Goodson Jr., who had waived his right to a jury trial and opted to have the case decided by a judge, was the third officer to be tried in Gray’s death. He faced the most serious charges of any of the six officers indicted in the case, including second-degree depraved heart murder, three counts of manslaughter, second-degree assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office.

Gray, 25, suffered a broken neck and other injuries while being transported to the police station. Officers had bound his hands and feet, and prosecutors said Goodson purposely failed to secure him with a seat belt that they argued would have kept him from slamming into the van’s metal walls. Circuit Judge Barry G. Williams said in his ruling, that there was no “evidence presented at this trial that the defendant intended for any crime to happen” and that the “state failed to prove the defendant knew or should have known that Mr. Gray needed medical care.” The judge added, “The state had a duty to show the defendant corruptly failed in his duty, not just that he made a mistake.”

In the trials of the first two officers, Officer William Porter was tried by a jury, and a mistrial was declared after verdict could not be reached. He will be tried again in September. Officer Edward Nero opted for a bench trial, like Goodson, and was acquitted in May, also by Judge Williams. Of the six officers indicted, only Goodson did not provide a statement to investigators.

3rd Annual NY Black Expo For Black Businesses and Consumers



Source: Mark Anthony Jenkins, <http://www.blacknews.com>)

New York, NY — The Third Annual New York Black Expo will be held on Saturday, July 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the prestigious Sheraton New York Times Square, located at 811 7th Avenue at 53rd Street in NY.

Small business owners, professional service providers and consumers are expected to converge on the 3rd Annual Black Expo in record numbers. New York City is one of the premier markets in the country to bring consumers together with Vendors comprising of a diverse set of products and services.

Leaders in local chambers, regional chambers, corporate executives, civic leaders, community leaders and advocates supporting the “Buy Black Campaign” of the New York Black Expo will be participating in this year’s business expo. A variety of business leaders will be facilitating seminars, workshops and panel discussions. Industry experts in the area of business, education, health, music, entertainment and fashion will be providing pertinent information for consumers, professionals, service providers, and small business owners in attendance at the expo. The expo will also provide an opportunity for diverse segments of the community to do business with the Black community.

The ultimate goal and mission of the New York Black Expo is to share, to educate, and to uplift one of the most influential market segments in the country. The New York market has significant consumer power and buying power, and the expo is the bridge to Economic Power. Visit www.newyorkblackexpo.com for more information.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Black Farmer Fights To Kill Death Tax

(Source: Avis Thomas Lester, <https://urbannewsservice.com>)

John Wesley Boyd, Jr., lives off the land raising cows and growing soybeans and corn on 400 acres he owns in rural Baskerville, Virginia.

He works alongside his father, John Wesley Boyd, Sr., 75, who farms 117 acres nearby that he inherited from his own father. Together they've faced drought, fluctuating crop prices and encroaching development. Farming isn't an easy life, Boyd, Jr. said, but it's one that he enjoys and hopes to pass down to his own children.

Unless, he said, his family is forced to sell the farm to pay the estate tax upon his death.

"People work hard to get something and make it grow," said Boyd, 50. "Then, when they want to pass it on to their families, they owe the government so much in estate tax that the family has to sell the business to pay it. It's not right."

Boyd, founder and president of the National Black Farmers Association, is among a group of small- and medium-sized business owners who are lobbying for the repeal of the estate tax, which federally is levied on transferrable assets beyond \$5.45 million — double that for married couples. The U.S. Senate soon will consider legislation to rescind the 40-percent federal estate tax. The House of Representatives voted to end it last year.

The estate tax, sometimes called the "death tax," has been widely discussed since the loss of musician Prince Rogers Nelson, aka Prince, 57, who died without a will on April 21, at his Paisley Park Studio complex in Chanhassen, Minnesota. Prince, who died of an opioid overdose, was unmarried, had no children and was preceded in death by his parents.

Under Minnesota law, his sister and five half-siblings will inherit his assets, which are estimated to be worth up to \$300 million. Estate planners believe that Prince's fortune may shrink in half because he departed without directing his assets into charitable donations, trusts or other tax shelters.



John Wesley Boyd, Sr. (left) and John Wesley Boyd, Jr., President of the National Black Farmers Association. Photo: Fred Watkins

Business owners who oppose the tax say it burdens heirs with generating cash when most of the decedent's assets are tied up in their operations. The federal tax is due nine months after the death, but probate attorneys say the IRS will let heirs pay over several years.

Fifteen states — including Minnesota — and Washington, D.C., also assess estate taxes, and seven states levy inheritance taxes, according to Kiplinger.com. The website said several states have increased their exemptions in recent years, including Maine, thus reducing the number of people subject to estate tax. Tennessee dropped its tax this year.

But Richard Phillips, a senior policy analyst for Citizens for Tax Justice, said the tax only affects 2 percent of the wealthiest Americans. He challenged claims that the estate tax threatens small businesses.

"The estate tax is a crucial tool for curbing the worrisome growth in wealth inequality over the past couple decades," Phillips said via email. "Rather than hurting small busi-

ness, the estate tax helps ensure that we have the public resources that allow such businesses to flourish."

The House passed the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015 that April 16, 240-179. Congressmen Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-Georgia) and Kevin Brady (R-Texas) championed this bill.

"The Death Tax represents all that is unfair and unjust about the tax structure in America because it undermines the life work and life savings of Americans who want only to pass on to their children and their grandchildren the fruits of their labor and the realization of their American Dream," Bishop told Urban News Service via email.

The first estate tax was levied in 1797, to bolster military services in response to a perceived French threat, according to IRS.gov. It re-emerged in 1862, to help fund the Civil War and returned in 1898, to finance the Spanish-American War. It always was repealed. Today's tax was passed in 1916 — 100 years ago — a year before America entered World War I. It has remained ever since.

John Boyd, Jr.'s assets, like those of many farmers, are tied up in his land and crops, he said. He and his wife Kara, 46, have traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for estate-tax repeal. He said the tax is always a hot topic at the National Black Farmers Association's annual conventions.

The Boyds gained a foothold in the middle class because of land ownership, John, Jr. said. John, Sr. — known as "The Boss" — inherited his acreage from his father, Thomas Boyd, who purchased a large parcel when land ownership eluded many blacks.

Upon Thomas Boyd's death, the property was divided among his 15 children. John Sr., the youngest child, and his brother, Benjamin (who lives in New York) are their generation's last surviving siblings.

"Land is the most powerful thing that we can possess," John Boyd, Jr. said. "Eliminating this tax would directly help a lot of farmers keep their land ... That would help families now and for generations to come."

LandMark Victory for South African Gold Miners With Lung Disease

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Global Information Network

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — For years, the dust in South Africa's gold mines has been accumulating in the lungs of black miners, choking them with silicosis, tuberculosis and other fatal conditions.

Yet courts there have refused to hear their cases as a class, forcing their legal teams to take them into the courtroom one by one.

Now, in a huge victory for sick workers, thousands of gold miners will be able to proceed with their claims against 30 gold producers as a class. Among the employers who face prosecution are AngloGold Ashanti, HarmonyGold, Gold Fields, Anglo American and African Rainbow Minerals. Dependents of deceased miners will also benefit from the new ruling.

"As miners we were not helped and protected even though our employers knew we were going to get sick. I am happy and relieved that the court's decision is in our favor," said Mthobeli Gangatha, a former gold mine worker living in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape. Gangatha is a class representative in the litigation who has been diagnosed with silicosis.

According to the suit, some 30 gold mining companies, who owned or operated 82 different mines from 1965 to the present, knew of the dangers



Attorney Charles Abrahams, one of the lawyers representing mineworkers

posed to miners by silica dust for more than a century but willfully ignored and/or failed to execute almost all of the steps mandated in regulations and legislation designed to protect miners from the deadly dust.

The suit further claims that the mining industry was able to profit, for decades, at the expense of employees' health. The miners are from South Africa and other countries including Mozambique, Lesotho, and Swaziland.

South Africa is one of the world's largest gold producers, dating back to the 19th century when mineral riches in southern Africa turned hundreds of immigrants into millionaires. Among them was Cecil Rhodes, a white supremacist and an architect of apartheid, whose statue was finally removed from the University at Cape Town last year after a "Rhodes Must Fall" campaign by student activists.

"I'm very happy with this judgment," said Vuyani Dwadube, 74, who listened from a back bench in the courtroom. He and other former miners walked out of the court building with their fists raised in victory, while supporters sang and danced on the street outside.

"We've been suffering for a long time, and that's why it's so important to us," he said. "The judgment gives us the right to stand up in court and get our rights."

The court cited testimony by former miners about dangerous working conditions and widespread abuses by their employers, including mining companies giving them ineffective masks and telling them to wear the masks only when inspectors were visiting.

"It was really hurtful that the employers didn't want this case to go ahead," Mr. Dwadube told the Globe and Mail newspaper. "But the way the judges intervened gives me great comfort."

NAACP

UPDATE

NAACP SPOKANE
http://www.SpokaneNAACP.com

Collaboration, Communication & Capacity-Building: Reflection on a Year of Leadership



By Naima Quarles-Burnley
Outgoing Spokane NAACP President

It has been my honor to serve the Spokane NAACP as President since June 15, 2015. After leading the Spokane NAACP for a little over a year on June 20, 2016 I submitted my letter of resignation. My family and I are moving to Dayton, OH where my husband will assume the role of Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion at the University of Dayton.

As I reflect on this past year, it was a tumultuous beginning, but we have worked hard to reestablish the integrity of the Spokane NAACP which has been ensuring Civil Rights and eliminating racial barriers in the Spokane community for 97 years. We are stronger today than we were a year ago. I have worked to establish some important organizational principals that would carry us through the year and establish a solid foundation upon which we can build. The three core principles of my leadership have been collaboration, communication and capacity-building.

Collaboration involves teamwork, being willing to work with other organizations, recognizing that we are stronger together, that our outreach can be more effective and our influence multiplied by banding together. We do not lose part of our selves by joining with others. We can play different roles on the same team and complement each other's work. When we work in collaboration we can take the lead on some issues and in other instances we can support the efforts of others. Much can be accomplished if we don't care who gets the credit.

Under my leadership, the Spokane NAACP has worked collaboratively with the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane (PJALS) to highlight the Black Lives Matter movement and involve students in the area. We have worked with Smart Justice Spokane (SJS) to educate the community about issues related to Criminal Justice reform and the McArthur grant. We have held forums to solicit community input on criminal justice reform and encouraged participation in informational sessions held by the City and SJS. We have established a partnership with Greater Spokane Progress to undergird our efforts to register voters and educate them concerning a wide variety of initiatives.

We joined forces with several other organizations to form the Every Child Counts Alliance (ECCA) an education advocacy group that is addressing the disproportionate impact of the current discipline practices on students of color and students with special needs. The ECCA is working with the Spokane Public Schools (SPS) to develop alternatives to suspension and expulsion in addition to advocating for training of staff to understand how cultural competency and implicit bias may impact their decisions of who they discipline.

I have sought to work collaboratively with the Eastern Washington Representative for the Governor's Commission on African American Affairs (CAAA) to demonstrate our concerns about the use of force decision in the Hayes case, the continuation of the position of Director of Multi-cultural Affairs, and the appointment of the Law Enforcement Director who wrote an Op Ed affirming racial profiling. The Spokane NAACP took the lead with the CAAA, and some other community organizations to address the fact that the Police Chief Search Committee had been named but no one was designated to represent the African American or the Native American Indian community. Our collaborative efforts resulted in two new appointments to the Police Chief Search Committee to represent these impacted communities that were not previously represented.

The importance of Communication was another core principle that I endeavored to embed in my leadership of the Spokane NAACP. We communicated regularly with the membership, sharing opportunities to get involved. We made sure we shared the committee activities through regular reporting at our meetings. As the President, I shared in detail crucial issues of concern to our community and the actions I was taking on our behalf to advocate for justice.

We encouraged discussion of issues related to the Ombudsman selection process, disproportionate minority contact with police, over-incarceration of people of color, the Police Leadership Advisory Committee, disproportionate discipline of students of color and many more. It was important to me that we helped the membership understand the issues, who the key players are and where they stand on issues. I also needed to hear from the membership so as

I sat at the various tables with decision-makers, I was able to articulate the concerns of the membership.

Communication is essential to Capacity-Building. When people are able to communicate their understanding of the various issues they can begin to advocate for justice. I sought to broaden the table for leadership by encouraging others to lead. I walked alongside the blossoming leaders introducing them into the circles of influence.

We need people from all walks of life to take part in the process of advocating and representing the NAACP on committees or commissions, before City Council, at demonstrations, in the many public venues. We need more people to express their viewpoints in writing as well. It does not take away from me as a leader to have many articulate advocates for justice working together.

We need many voices joining in the discourse to promote justice. In order grow the movement; we cannot concentrate leadership in the hands of a few. We have to develop leaders in order to build the capacity of our organizations. Capacity-building is essential to growth.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to lead the Spokane NAACP as President for the last year. I have learned a great deal and hope and pray that I have sown some seeds that will continue to grow and strengthen our branch. We have pushed the envelope. We have moved the needle for justice. We have edged closer to equity as we have worked together. Spokane will forever be in my heart! Thank you for trusting me to lead and supporting me as I did.

The mantle of leadership is transferred as I pass the baton to the capable hands of Phillip Tyler!

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Fashion Talk

By Renika Williams

Weaves vs. Natural Hair: The New Light-Skinned vs. Dark-Skinned?



The Black Woman. She is strong and regal, beautiful and powerful. From the tips of her copper toes to the top of her... 22 inch, light-blonde, Euro-Straight weave?

Black people have historically been taught over centuries to pit ourselves against each other based on the shade of our Blackness. We all know slaves were treated differently based on their color, and during segregation, a lighter skin color could help you pass or give you privilege in white society.

The light-skinned versus dark-skinned argument developed out of our oppression and has now evolved into a way to categorize and punish each other, for trying to “pass” for white or for being “too” Black. These days the media helps to perpetuate this divide, but with much more subtle devices than the brown paper bag test that was used in my grandparent’s day.

Today it’s celebrity influencers and advertising that are creating the divide. Loreal make-up has gotten flack for lightening their Black models’ skin in ads to make them seem more palatable to consumers. Nene Leakes, and many other famous Black actresses, have admitted to getting nose jobs to “streamline” their images.



A few years ago, the “Black female celebrity” wouldn’t have been seen in public without extensions, long and straight, sleek and smooth. (You might have noticed that Beyonce’s hair got straighter and lighter and significantly more “European,” the more famous she became.)

But with the Natural Hair movement making its way into the mainstream at a back-breaking pace, a new division is brewing in the Black community. Real hair vs. Fake hair. This arbitrary and mainly self-inflicted segmenting of the

“reals” vs the “fakes” has become the new point of separation for Black women, just as light-skinned vs. dark-skinned once was.

As pride in and for the Black community and Blackness itself swells, the Natural Hair movement continues to grow. Beautiful women all over the world are shedding their weaves and extensions and showing their true locks and curls. Wearing natural hair has become the symbol of pro-Blackness, an act of self-love, and extreme “Natural-ists” contend that weaves are a sign of “racial insecurity”. To the naturalists, hair extensions have simply become one more way for some Black women to try and “pass.”

But I ask, in the grand scheme of Black culture, does straight hair actually make you any less Black, or is buying hair any different from growing it? Or are we simply using hairstyles in the same way that our oppressors used color, to divide us and prove one’s supremacy over the other?

We as Black women have hairstyles as diverse as our skin tones, some are long, some are short, some are kinky and others are fine, but what they all have in common is that they are beautiful and they are BLACK. My hope is that we will not lose sight of that.



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SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

BIOTECH PIONEER HOPES TO HEAL WITH HONEY



By Luis Vasquez-Ajmac, Urban News Service (<https://urbannewsservice.com>)

Show Kayla Rodriguez a jar of honey, and she will tell you it's medicine.

Against the odds is one way to describe the young, Latina entrepreneur in the predominantly white, male-dominated, global biotech industry. Kayla Rodriguez, a 28-year old of Puerto Rican descent, co-founded SweetBio, a start-up biotech company that uses honey to heal the body.

Rodriguez started the Memphis-based company with her brother Isaac, 31, who holds a Ph.D. and is CEO and chief scientific officer. Marsalas Whitaker, 25, also a co-founder, is chief marketing officer. Together, they are pioneers in adapting an ancient remedy into an oral-medicine treatment.

Honey has been used for thousands of years because of its wound-healing and antibacterial properties.

Medical patients already enjoy the benefits of manuka honey. Hospitals use it to treat burns, cuts and ulcers. Manuka honey even may be effective against MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus), an antibiotic-resistant bacterial infection that sometimes plagues hospitals and kills patients.

SweetBio, which launched in 2015, is the first company to introduce honey into the practice of dental surgery. The epiphany came to Isaac who knew that skin cells are similar to gum cells and if honey can work on skin, why not on the mouth? SweetBio soon was born.

Heart and respiratory problems are some of the risks associated with gum infections. "This technology will help fight infections. It will decrease your chances of getting heart or lung disease," Kayla Rodriguez said. "I want everyone to know this is a natural remedy."



Dr. Martin Green, director of the University of Tennessee's graduate periodontal program, agrees. "This will help grow back jaw bone structure, help people live a more fulfilled life, smile and eat better," he said.

SweetBio's product is designed to be easy to use and pain-free. The SweetBio membrane device is like a Listerine strip. It's placed in the mouth after oral surgery. It helps one's mouth heal correctly and dissolves on its own. This device can also be used after a tooth has been pulled.

The Food and Drug Administration has yet to greenlight SweetBio. This government-approval process can take months to years. Related FDA fees can cost from a few thousand to a quarter million dollars. Still, SweetBio hopes to be in market next year.

Kayla Rodriguez says her grandmother, Lluminda Ro-

driguez, inspired her entrepreneurship. "She left her kids in Puerto Rico to start a better life in New York," Kayla Rodriguez said. "She worked hard at a sewing factory. At a young age, she embodied the entrepreneur spirit of passion, persistence and self-awareness by making smart decisions to turn your life around." Based in Puerto Rico today, Lluminda Rodriguez now owns one of the largest bridal chains in the Caribbean.

"Our community has helped to open doors for SweetBio," Kayla said. "Unfortunately, because we are young, we get the door shut on us a little sooner than I like... Just because we are incredibly positive, that does not mean we are not aware of the prejudice, and we don't feel these rejections. We live them and use them to empower us. I want young Latinas to know they can do this and not have to settle for less."

"What appeals to investors about SweetBio and specifically about Kayla is her authenticity," said Katie Milligan, director of Small Business and Entrepreneurship with the Delta Regional Authority. "In any pitch or any conversation, she loves her company, her team and she is always engaged in her community and wants to support other entrepreneurs."

"It's important for others in the medical field to see the journey of a young entrepreneur," said Dr. Elena Rios, president of the National Hispanic Medical Association, which co-sponsored an event where Kayla Rodriguez recently spoke.

"If you are thinking about starting a business, do it now", said Rodriguez. "You will never be ready, and there will never be a perfect time in your life. If you have a good idea, go talk to 10 people and see if there is a market. You need to see if someone else wants your product or service. If you find the interest of 100 people, you have something going."

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GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

WASHINGTON STATE TOP TWO PRIMARY

What is a Top 2 Primary

Washington is the first state in the country to establish a Top 2 Primary election system, rather than a party nominating system. A Top 2 Primary narrows the number of candidates to two. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary advance to the General Election, regardless of their party preference.

Candidates

Each candidate for partisan office may state a political party that he or she prefers. A candidate's party preference does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the party, or that the party approves of or associates with that candidate.

Voters

In each race, you may vote for any candidate listed on the ballot. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the Primary advance to the General Election, regardless of their party preference. Washington voters do not declare party affiliation as part of voter registration.

Political Parties

Political parties do not have a guaranteed spot on the General Election ballot. The two candidates who advance to the General Election may prefer the same party, different parties, or not state a party preference. Parties are free to conduct their nominating procedures according to their own rules, at their own conventions, caucuses or meetings. This frees parties to develop their own criteria for nominations, endorsements, and other public declarations of support.

REMEMBER
TO VOTE
WASHINGTON
PRIMARY
BALLOTS ARE
DUE AUGUST 2

PRIMARY CANDIDATES

There are a record number of candidates running this year during the primary election. Unfortunately, way too many for The Black Lens to be able include in this issue of the paper.

I will post links to the voter guide and information about the candidates in the coming weeks on the Black Lens website. If you do not have access to the internet, please give me a call at 509-795-1964 and will I assist you with getting the information. This is an important primary election, so please make a point of informing yourselves and taking the time to vote.

REGISTERING TO VOTE

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day;
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order; and
- Not under Department of Corrections supervision for a Washington felony conviction.

Citizenship

You must be a citizen of the United States. If you have questions about citizenship, contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Residency requirements

You must be a resident of Washington State. Your voting residence is your permanent address or a transitional address where you physically reside.

Felons and voting rights

If you have been convicted of a felony, your right to vote is restored as long as you are not under the authority (in prison or on community custody) of the Department of Corrections. Once your right is restored, you must re-register to vote in order to receive a ballot.

Mental competency and voting rights

Only a Superior Court can declare a person ineligible to vote due to mental incompetency. A guardian may not vote on behalf of the person under guardianship, and power of attorney does not extend to voting.

REGISTERING TO VOTE ONLINE

VOTE.ORG

<https://www.vote.org>

You can:

- Register to vote (*You'll need a Washington State Driver License or ID)
- Check your Voter Registration Status
- Get an Absentee Ballot

REGISTERING TO VOTE IN PERSON

SPOKANE COUNTY ELECTIONS

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elections@spokanecounty.org

Website: <http://www.spokanecounty.org/Elections>

You can contact the County Elections office to request a ballot or other voting materials; file for a local office, get help after a deadline, make a change to your voter registration

DATES & DEADLINES

PRIMARY ELECTION

July 4, 2016-----Deadline for voter registration, address change and other updates (marriage, etc)

July 15, 2016----Start of the 18-day voting period (through the Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting units (AVU) are available at voting centers

July 25, 2016----Deadline for new Washington State voter registration (in person only---(in Spokane at the Spokane County Elections office 1023 W. Gardener Ave. 509 477-2320)

August 2, 2016--Primary election

GENERAL ELECTION

For the General Election which includes the top two finalists for each position and Initiatives/referendums:

October 10, 2016-----Deadline for voter registration, address change and other updates.

October 21, 2016-----Start of the 18-day voting period (through the Election Day). Ballots are mailed out and Accessible Voting units (AVU) are available at voting centers.

October 31, 2016-----Deadline for in-person new Washington State voter registration (in-person only)

November 8, 2016-----General Election

OUR VOICES

OUR LARGEST BARRIERS

By Michael Brown

I think one of the largest barriers we face as a Black community in Spokane is an identity struggle and common apathy. Which is a lack of interest from our Black people for whatever reason.

I think, especially among young people, there is a lack of knowledge of our history as a people and the history of the institutionalization of racism that still exists today. If we don't know what the struggle is and the insidiousness of structural racism, how can we band together to dismantle it? And if we don't identify as Black, and even worse, if we don't want to identify as Black, we are even more challenged in our ability and desire to challenge hegemonic narratives that shadow the fuller histories of the Black experience.

We need to be empowered to know our histories. Be proud to be Black, have the sincere desire to see and seek the success of your Black community, and challenge structures of privilege that oppress us all. What we need to understand as a people is that our past affects our decisions and actions today and these in turn will affect the future.

There are lessons to learn and errors to avoid repeating. We need to remember, no we must remember, that part of the success of our past will be measured by what we do with it now and how well we use it to prepare for the future. Please allow me to give an example that may help readers understand where I am coming from. Reasons why Blacks struggle with unifying and working Together.

The Conspiracy of the "House Negro & The Field Negro"

History has proven that the best way to overthrow a nation is to cause it to turn against itself. Even the bible teaches that a house divided against itself cannot stand. The slave master embraced this theory and implemented it as a way to keep slaves from realizing the power of unity. Therefore, the slave master would take the light



skinned slaves and put them into the house to serve in conditions that were more favorable. These were classified as the "House Negros". The dark skinned slaves he kept in the fields to serve in more strain full conditions. These were called the "Field Negros".

The slave master was intentional in establishing this kind of structure in order to create discontent, hatefulness, and jealousy from the field Negroes against the house Negroes. Knowing that these feelings would divide them, and turn them against one another and weaken their ability to unite and create strength in numbers.

So it is today. Though it is not being forced upon the African American today. It has been embedded within the culture of the African American community to despise the appearance of success or favorable conditions of another African American, as though they have compromised their Blackness in order to achieve their level of prosperity or convenience.

It is a deceptive illness within the Black community that identifies the prosperity and success of another Black

man/woman as one that is rubbing elbows with and our sleeping with the perceived enemy (White People) in order to gain special privileges that are not generally available for Black people.

This illness has produced hatred, feelings of ill will, and hoping for failure rather than success, all hidden under the disguise of jealousy. Thereby, watering the seed of the enemy and producing division rather than unity, keeping the conspiracy alive.

If only we could see the success of another Black man/woman as a symbol of hope, progress, not for one but for all. A position of access and not a gate keeper of control. If only we could see it as favor, elevation from God and not man. Something to celebrate rather than to hate.

If only we could see the "House Negro" as favor that benefits the "Field Negro". To see them as having access to the one that has the power to change conditions and lessening the rigor of the labor of the "Field Negro". If only we could see that the "House Negro" is not against me but for me. If only we could see the need to remove our own pride and stop trying to do for ourselves what God has appointed another to do.

Why are we using aggression, protest and activism to kick in doors that God has positioned people to open for us? Why are we continuing to contend with those that we are called to commend. If only we could see that the price of unity will only be birthed through the willingness of humility. It is only there that we will begin to see that we have become our own enemy!

Quote: "I must get under what God has placed over me, in order for me to get over what God is placing under me."

It's time to break the curse of Divide and Conquer. Of turning the "House Negro" against the "Field Negro" and become the "Proud Negro" that compliments and not competes.

AMERICAN GANGSTER

By Marlon Rufino

So I guess all my heroes sold keys 'a dope,
Pimped women,
Had shootouts with cops,
Dealt with Columbians,
For stacks 'a money, fast cars, and 2 gold chain ropes.

Went platinum,
Ran a 4.2 40',
Or had a 48" inch vertical leap.

How about Adam Clayton Powell,
He baptized my Grandma,
And desegregated 125th street.

Thurgood Marshall became the highest judge in the land,
No helping hand.
Was so independent and free,
He denied the law school at the university of Maryland.
They refused him admission,
Solely on account of his race.
But he wasn't trippin'
Just saddled up,
And rode on over to Howard Law
And there he claimed his stake.

J.A. Rogers taught me, how to battle intellectually,
In Superman to Man.
MLK Jr. took stones and rocks to his face,
And it's because of men like him I can stand.

Brother Malcolm taught me the power that comes from
resisting all forms of evil.

And though he initially refused,
True Islam,
Taught him to seek out the good,
in all colors of people.

Stand for what's right and be honest,
And I can be a perennial All-Star.

No need to run fast, jump high, dunk,
or catch touchdowns,
To be a positive role model for my kids par'.

Be a man or woman your kids can proudly look up to,
Yeah that's real, gangsta'.
And then and only then,
Will that falsified idol of the Black American Gangster
be through!

Read a book or two, maybe even a few,
And soon it will be plain to see.
To be a crook or an athlete
is far from my only successful destiny!

Gangsters end up in prison or dead,
Even MJ's ball skills, with age, were eclipsed.
Kobe retired, LeBron's losing his hair,
So know, Black child,
The measure of your life's success
is way more than NBA Championships.

No hate,
If you got game,
make those millions while you can,
be all you can be.



But know, Black Child,
Gangsters, Athletes, and Entertainers,
Are far, very far, from the only Black greats.

Know your full history,
And the role models who paved the way
from which we come.
But you don't have to shoot,
A ball, gun, or rap,
To be Black,
And get things done.
Yeah,
That's Gangsta!

OUR VOICES

JUST BECAUSE WE'RE MAGIC DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE NOT REAL

Jesse Williams - BET Awards Acceptance Speech

Jesse Williams, activist, model and actor on ABC's hospital drama, Grey's Anatomy, was awarded the Humanitarian Award at the BET Awards in Los Angeles on June 26. This is a transcript of his acceptance speech.

"Peace. Peace. Thank you Debra. Thank you, Nate Parker. Thank you, Harry and Debbie Allen, for participating in that. Before we get into it, I just want to say I brought my parents out tonight — I just want to thank them for being here and teaching me to focus on comprehension over career. They made sure I learned what the schools were afraid to teach us. And also, thank you to my amazing wife for changing my life.

"Now, this award, this is not for me. This is for the real organizers all over the country. The activists, the civil rights attorneys, the struggling parents, the families, the teachers, the students that are realizing that a system built to divide and impoverish and destroy us cannot stand if we do. All right? It's kind of basic mathematics. The more we learn about who we are and how we got here, the more we will mobilize.

"Now, this is also in particular for the black women in particular who have spent their lifetimes dedicated to nurturing everyone before themselves. We can and will do better for you.

"Now, what we've been doing is looking at the data and we know that police somehow manage to deescalate, disarm and not kill white people every day. So what's going to happen is we're going to have equal rights and justice in our own country or we will restructure their function in ours.

"Now, I got more, y'all.



"Yesterday would have been young Tamir Rice's 14th birthday. So, I don't want to hear anymore about how far we've come, when paid public servants can pull a drive-by on a 12-year-old playing alone in a park in broad daylight, killing him on television and then going home to make a sandwich. Tell Rekia Boyd how it's so much better to live in 2012, than it is to live in 1612 or 1712. Tell that to Eric Garner. Tell that to Sandra Bland. Tell that to Darrien Hunt.

"Now, the thing is, though, all of us in here getting money, that alone isn't going to stop this. All right? Now dedicating our lives to getting money just to

give it right back. To put someone's brand on our body when we spent centuries praying with brands on our bodies and now we pray to get paid with brands for our bodies. There has been no war that we have not fought and died on the front lines of. There has been no job we haven't done. There's no tax they haven't levied against us. And we pay all of them. But freedom is somehow always conditional here. You're free, they keep telling us, but she would have been alive if she hadn't acted so free.

"Now, freedom is always coming in the hereafter, but, you know what, though, the hereafter is a hustle. We want it now. And let's get a couple of things straight here, just a little sidenote. The burden of the brutalized is not to comfort the bystander. That's not our job. All right, stop with all that. If you have a critique for the resistance, for our resistance, then you better have an established record of critique of our oppression. If you have no interest in equal rights for Black people, then do not make suggestions to those who do. Sit down.

"We've been floating this country on credit for centuries, yo. And we're done watching, and waiting while this invention called whiteness uses and abuses us. Burying Black people out of sight and out of mind, while extracting our culture, our dollars, our entertainment like oil — Black gold. Ghettoizing and demeaning our creations then stealing them. Gentrifying our genius and then trying us on like costumes before discarding our bodies like rinds of strange fruit.

"The thing is, though, the thing is, that just because we're magic doesn't mean we're not real. Thank you."

May 18, 2016 . A Day That Shall Live in Infamy.

By Ronald Smalls

The movie Hoop Dreams had just ended. The sound was turned off, as the credits still flashed on the screen. Class was coming to a close and many of the students were packing up (by the way instructors dislike this, they think it's rude to pack up before the class has officially ended.)

The instructor asked "are there any questions or comments," referring to the film. Almost immediately a guy in the front row responded with his declaration "I think the coach acted like a greaseball." I couldn't hear anything that was said beyond greaseball. Let me get this right, a student used a derogatory term to describe another human being.

For those of you who are unaware, the term greaseball is a disparaging word used to describe someone of Latin or Mediterranean descent. (As defined by Webster Dictionary.)

Let's give this young white male the benefit of the doubt, maybe he doesn't know what the term means. I was told as a child, "If you don't know what a word means, you shouldn't use it". Maybe his parents never had that conversation with him.

Is this what is acceptable or condoned in Spokane? Why would a student in pursuit of knowledge use such a term in class so comfortably, or worse, no one seemed to care that a racist term had just been used to describe another human being. Is this what academia has become?



I raised my hand and when called upon and I said "the term greaseball is an offensive term and not something that one should use to describe another human being." I can only imagine what that student says about Blacks, Latinos Asians, or Jews when we aren't present.

I have to admit that it was a bit of a culture shock to arrive on campus the first day of class, and to be greeted by a huge rebel flag flying from the back of a pickup truck. But to openly use a racist term in class was a bit much to say the least. (And not one of my fellow students, some Asian, some Native American, seemed to care.)

When I was sworn into this great nation's military, I didn't swear to uphold the rights of just one race or politi-

cal party. But for all races and all political parties. I'm not totally sold on Spokane at this point. Now this is when those short sighted little minds say "go back to where you are from." I'm an American and as the Temptations say "wherever I lay my hat is my home."

After class instead of heading over to register for summer classes, I walked to my car and wondered if SFCC is a place I'd want to continue to further my education. (The jury is still out on that one.)

I believe it starts with you and me. We must challenge tyranny, oppression and racism when it raises its head. We have a responsibility to challenge those that will invalidate our very existence by using derogatory words to describe and dehumanize us. That ignorance must be replaced with knowledge and compassion that shall light the way for future generations. If not America is in danger of becoming a breeding ground for hatred. As I drove the poem by Pastor Martin Niemoller came to mind.

First they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Socialists and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.

Food for thought my fellow Americans.

GEORGETOWN SLAVES

Continued From Page 1

The goal of the Georgetown Memory Project is to try and locate the descendants of the slaves that were sold by the college. Georgetown had long asserted that there were no descendants of the 272 slaves, but Cellini wanted to know for sure. So he raised money, hired genealogists and connected with Dr. Rothman, a historian at Georgetown, who had several students also working to trace the descendants of the slaves, in an effort to put to rest what the Georgetown Memory Project called “University folklore” that all of the slaves had “perished without a trace.”

Bayonne-Johnson, had been ahead of the curve in making the connection between the 272 slaves and Georgetown University, and uncovering the connection to her great-great-great-grand parents, Nace and Biby Butler, who were a part of the Georgetown sale. Long before the public attention that resulted from the Washington Post and New York Times articles, Bayonne-Johnson had already published an article back in 2008 about the discovery she had made about her family’s connection to Georgetown University. As a result of that article, she came to the attention of Cellini and Rothman, and is now one of the genealogists working with them, along with a small group of dedicated volunteers at the Spokane library, including Barbara Brazington, Dolly Webb, Mary Holcomb, Patricia Ayers, Carol Anderson, Jannette Birch and Juanita McBride.

The Spokane team is specifically working to trace Bayonne-Johnson’s line, including her maternal great-grandmother, Rachel Scott Hicks, who was sold to a plantation outside of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1853 along with her grandfather, Nace Butler. The research is slow and painstaking work, but it is

important, Bayonne-Johnson says, “to make sure that their history is not forgotten.”

In response to the student protests and the heightened attention that the national articles generated, Georgetown President, John J. DeGioia, assembled a panel of faculty, students and alumni which he is calling the Working Group on Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation, to address how the school should acknowledge its past connections with slavery.

Additionally, on June 13, Patrica Bayonne-Johnson became the first of the Georgetown slave descendants to meet with Georgetown President DeGioia. The meeting, which took place in Spokane, included a 45 minute meeting between DeGioia, Bayonne-Johnson and her team of genealogists, followed by a brief private meeting with Bayonne-Johnson alone to discuss her ancestors. DeGioia also has plans to meet with some of the other descendants in the coming weeks.

Bayonne-Johnson is still hoping to access the archives at Georgetown University to have the opportunity to research the lives of the slaves before the sale in 1838. This summer she is also planning to travel to Louisiana to visit the plantation where her ancestors lived out their lives. That trip, Bayonne-Johnson says, will be a continuation of the story, and she looks forward to sharing it. In the mean time, Richard Cellini estimates there could be between 12,000 and 15,000 living descendants of the 272 Georgetown slaves, so the work continues.

For more information visit the Georgetown Memory Project at <http://www.georgetownmemoryproject.org> or the Georgetown Slavery Archive at <http://slaveryarchive.georgetown.edu>



PICK UP THIS BOOK

Book of the Month

By Christian Robinson

Hey Black Lens Readers, As I’ve often read around, I’m my own favorite topic to talk about. So, if you’re just joining us for the first time at book of the month club or you’ve been with us for the last 3 issues, please allow me to introduce myself.

I’m Christian Robinson. I’m an enterprising, young man and I’ve developed a challenge to read every day for the rest of the year! I’m looking to help everyone go from darkness to light, from skeptic

to faith, by having your eyes opened to the abundant side of life, as I try to do the same for myself.

Last months book, *The Millionaire Next Door* was a great book to include in our lineup. The reason I enjoyed it is simple. It shed my old perspective on wealthy people. It let me know truly what caused certain people to become wealthy.

The truth is that it is never how much money you make, but what matters most is how you manage your money. I can, certainly, use a lesson in money management. If you’ve got that completely figured out, then I’d love to take the time to pick your brain.

Now, this month we’re going to crack open, *“No Excuses”*, by *Brian Tracy*. What can I tell you about this book without spilling the proverbial beans?

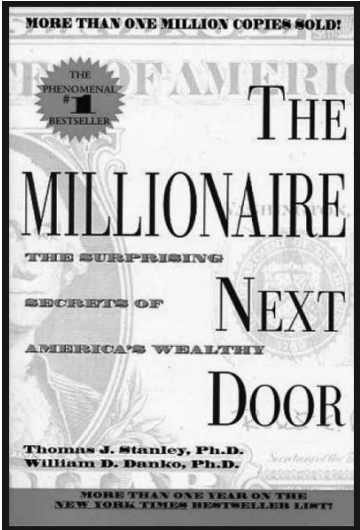
You can understand, that the reason we read is to find the golden nuggets of wisdom of



ages past. No excuses isn’t even about excuses. That was shocking to me. It was more about doing things in a certain way so that its value adds to your life. It’s about doing the right thing, and not the Spike Lee joint but, your real life story.

Until next month.

Tell me what you think. Email me anything at cjnrob-inson@live.com



Black Banks

Continued From Page 1

Asian institutions grew from 69 to 78, and Native American from 14 to 18, according to an FDIC report. Overall, the number of non-minority banks dropped 37 percent, from 2001 to 2016 — 9,549 to 6,020.

“It was very unfortunate that major financial institutions, big banks, received a large portion of the TARP money, when institutions like Capitol Bank received none or very little,” said George Andrews, former CEO of Capitol Bank & Trust in Atlanta, which closed in February 2015. “To add insult to injury, big banks received TARP money after they played a large part in creating the downturn in the economy with the unscrupulous lending practices they engaged in.”

The Troubled Asset Relief Program, nicknamed TARP, empowered Washington to purchase assets and equity from financial institutions to strengthen that sector. Few Black banks qualified for these funds. A Harvard Kennedy School study found last year that smaller banks also lost substantial market share after 2010’s Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, designed to prevent the collapse of major financial institutions. Meanwhile, larger banks dramatically increased their market share.

Dodd-Frank adds compliance costs to black bankers’ day-to-day operations, they say. “But I would say it’s the overall impact of the economy that has hurt black banks most,” said Michael A. Grant of the National Bankers Association. Black bankers also say some federal policies have created an environment in which Black banks are losing business to larger, more stable institutions.

Grant cites the Treasury Department’s New Markets Tax Credits program. It has given tax credits as incentives to invest in underserved neighborhoods since 2000. But larger banks swoop in, make investments, then receive tax credits, Black bankers say. Meanwhile, their own applications get rejected, never mind their service to poor communities. Some \$3.5 billion in New Markets Tax Credits were allocated to 76 entities across America, Black Enterprise reported last July, but “no funds were awarded to the nation’s minority banks.”

If these tax credits were issued “in a more fair and equitable way, it would cause millions of dollars to flow to these [Black] banks,” Grant said.

“Meanwhile, my expenses are twice as much because I have to do more counseling to my borrower,” said a frustrated McDonald of Liberty Bank. “I may have to have guard service because I am in a high crime area. My deposits are much smaller.

“We have tried speaking to everybody we could, but no policy changes have been made. I don’t want lip service and talk about I’m doing a good job. Help me do a better job and I can help twice as many people,” McDonald said.

JULY EVENTS

JULY 18

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>

JULY 20

STEPHEN PITTERS: POETRY, MUSIC, PROSE

Dennis Held (Poet), Lyle Morse (Blues Guitarist)

6:30-7:30

Barnes and Noble

Northtown Mall

For more information contact Stephen Pitters at 509-979-0671

JULY 20

THE WAILERS

Together with Bob Marley, the Wailers have sold in excess of 250 million albums worldwide. Reggae music has never stopped evolving but for millions of people from around the world it's still defined by the songs of Bob Marley and the Wailers. Today the Wailers' line-up combines old school know-how with lead vocals from one of Jamaica's most exciting new singers. Now and for the very first time, The Wailers visit Sandpoint and play The Hive!!

7pm

The Hive

207 N 1st Ave, Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

General admission tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, Show is 21 and up (IDs checked at the door)

Tickets currently onsale online: <http://ticketswest.com/venues/the-hive/4010>; Tickets ALSO on sale at local outlets: 7B Boardshop, Evan's Brothers Coffee Roasters, and Eichardt's

ZUMBA CLASSES

Zumba classes are held each Monday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Emmanuel Family Life Center near Bethel A.M.E. Church., 631 S. Richard Allen Ct, Spokane, WA 99202

Classes are \$5.00 each session and the instructor Kathy Armstrong, is a certified Zumba.

Come join the ladies who are all ages and are enjoying the class.

NOTICE: THE BLACK LENS WILL NOT BE PRINTING AN AUGUST ISSUE. SUBSCRIBERS WILL HAVE THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS EXTENDED BY ONE MONTH. THE PAPER WILL BE BACK ON SEPTEMBER 1. ENJOY THE SUMMER AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

Spokane Arts Commission OPEN CALL for submissions for the Chase Gallery

Deadline: September, 16 2016 - 5 PM PST

Spokane Arts Commission is seeking work from Artists of Color for the Winter exhibition schedule (January through March.) The reception will take place on the February Visual Arts Tour.

Identities of race and culture are fluid, ancient, or new. Whether your work directly addresses your cultural experience or not we believe it is important to share it with a wide audience.

The artwork will be selected by a diverse panel of jurors from the community and Spokane Arts Commission. Work will be selected based on the following criteria: strong concept, originality, and craftsmanship.

Please indicate in your statement if you are submitting for the WINTER exhibition.

Applications are online at <https://www.callforentry.org>

Artists should provide:

- Resume of art exhibits and related experience
- Portfolio of images of exemplary works
- Artist statement or description of what is proposed

For more information contact: Ellen Picken, Program Manager Spokane Arts Fund
ellen@spokanearts.org or 509-321-9614

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

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JAZZINTHEVALLEY.COM

2016 Photography/Poster Art by Rob Fraser, Graphics by Barb Goll