

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

'BUYING BACK THE BLOCK'

Friends of the Black Lens Raises Over \$80,000 Towards Building Purchase

By Sandra Williams

In 2017, Rapper T.I. started a real estate company that he called Buy Back the Block. His purpose was to rebuild his old neighborhood, which he said had been decimated by drugs. Since 2017, T.I. has spent over two millions dollars to purchase several lots, buildings and according to an interview with Atlanta Blackstar, he partnered with Atlanta Rapper Killer Mike to purchase a business that had closed after serving the neighborhood for over five decades.

T.I. is a part of a growing movement that is spreading across the country and inspiring African Americans, some on their own, some forming collectives, to begin purchasing property and reclaiming overlooked and often forgotten neighborhoods.

Here in Spokane, a small, African American led, non-profit organization, Friends of the Black Lens, has embarked on a similar mission, to purchase and reclaim a building on 5th Avenue in the East Central neighborhood and turn it into a cultural center that will honor the life and legacy of Carl Maxey.



Twenty-one years ago, in July, the city of Spokane lost a giant. Carl Maxey was many things. He was an orphan who became a national collegiate boxing champion. He was Spokane's very first Black attorney and he was a fierce champion of Civil Rights, who fought locally, as well as nationally, to break down color barriers and end segregation. Spokane was changed for the better by the life of Carl Maxey.

Once purchased, the building will become The Carl Maxey Center and the hope is that this center will also change Spokane for the better.

The Carl Maxey Center will be an inspiring, interactive and technologically advanced hub on 5th Avenue in Spokane's East Central neighborhood that will focus on Cultural Enrichment, Economic Development and Social & Racial Justice, with a goal of uplifting and empowering the community from the inside out.

The multi-use design of the Carl Maxey Center will have as its backdrop a mixed media display of Spokane's rich African American history, and will incorporate, amongst other things, an exhibit area to showcase local artists and their work, a



performance space to feature diverse talent, and a designated area for lectures, workshops and programs that will both raise awareness about important issues impacting the African American community and offer a focal point to celebrate achievements and accomplishments.

The Center will offer all of Spokane the opportunity to celebrate the richness of the African American experience and to interact and make connections with each other in an environment that is uniquely African American.

Friends of the Black Lens is in the process of raising \$375,000 to purchase the building and the adjacent lot to create the Carl Maxey Center. As of the print deadline, nearly \$85,000 has been raised in a little over four weeks, all of which will be matched by a private donor. That and additional donations puts the group within striking distance of achieving their goal before the end of August. So, stay tuned.

Make no mistake, what Friends of the Black Lens is proposing will be revolutionary and transformative for the community. For information visit carlmaxeycenter.org.

Spokane Organizations Hold No White Supremacy in Spokane County Rally in Response to Republican Leadership Hosting White Supremacist James Allsup



Local organizations held a rally on August 2 in front of the Spokane County Courthouse to unite the Spokane community against white nationalism.

Organizations participating in the rally included Spokane Community Against Racism (SCAR), Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane, the City of Spokane Human Rights Commission, Spokane NOW, Families Against Bigotry, Fuse Washington, Western States Center, Spokane

Veterans for Peace, Raiz of Planned Parenthood, Greater Spokane Progress, and others.

The rally was in response to an online video which showed key GOP leaders in Spokane County hosting hate group organizer James Allsup at a July event. Allsup is a prominent member of the white nationalist group Identity Evropa and participated in the deadly August 2017 Charlottesville, VA hate rally.

In June, Spokane County GOP Chairwoman Cecily

Wright denied any affiliation with Allsup and stated that his "past statements, affiliations and actions are deeply out-of-step with the values of the Republican Party, as well as the values of the Spokane County GOP and our members."

However, the July 11th video shows Wright hosting -- and praising -- Allsup at a Northwest Grassroots gathering of conservative activists, referencing the term "label lynched" to describe how Allsup was being treated. City of Spokane Valley Mayor Rod Higgins and Spokane County

Treasurer Rob Chase also participated in the event, as documented in a longer video.

Referring to the video, Pastor Walter Kendricks, spokesman and co-founder of Spokane Community Against Racism, said "We cannot take for granted the integrity of our public officials when they denounce white nationalism in the press, while privately endorsing their leaders and values. We can't reasonably assume public officials will uphold our rights when they applaud those who would harm us."



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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams

Sorry folks, I ran out of steam. My brain cells are drained and I don't have the energy to come up with something witty or profound or even just mediocre right now. So, no column this month, but I'll make up for it next month. As always, thank you for your support. It means a great deal!!!



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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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Family Tree: Strong Roots and Strong History

Reflecting on my Family Reunion in South Carolina



By Renika Williams

Family—it’s one of those things that you never get to choose. Sometimes they drive you crazy and sometimes you may even wonder how you could even be related at all—and that’s just your close family. Add to the mix extended family, and things get a little crazier. As the gene pool gets more mixed up and personalities begin to split off into varying versions of offbeat uncle and sassy auntie, you really begin to wonder if you’re related, and somehow you always are.

Family reunions are a melting pot of spirited family antics, funny family stories and rich family histories. My family reunion was all of the above and more.

My grandma, Wilhelmenia, had been working on a visual representation of our portion of the family tree for some time. From sketching a realistic looking tree onto butcher paper, to recruiting family members to send in photos of their loved ones, to figuring out how large a poster Kinko’s would laminate. She worked diligently to show us what our family looked like and where we came from.

It’s one thing to hear about her nine brothers and sisters, and their parents and grandparents, and it’s a completely different one to see it on paper, to see the roots of our family, to see where we come from.

Seeing my great-grandmother and grandfather on that tree, and my grandma’s siblings and their families made something intangible feel real. It made me feel more alive, more connected. The elders exchanged stories about how growing up had been in such a different time (out houses! Eww!) and how they had overcome adversity, racism, and sharing food with ten siblings.

Some of my family had even done the Ancestry DNA, so beyond seeing ourselves and our family visually, we discovered where our ancestors originated (mine mostly came from Togo and Benin in West Africa, as well as Nigeria, while my cousins varied slightly).

Family histories can seem really abstract, as can family. And when you are thrown headfirst into an overwhelming community of siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles, you can forget that all of this—that all of us—came from a pair of people who fell in love over a hundred years ago.

All of these stories are rooted in the past and move us toward the future. So, while family may be something you don’t get to choose, it is the history, the story, and the welcoming community that you can always choose to embrace.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Call Him Principal James!

LeBron Opens Nontraditional Public School In Akron

By Ann Brown
(Reprinted from moguldom.com)

Basketball superstar LeBron James has often talked about the importance of education. And in fact, the NBC player has often supported education initiatives in his hometown of Akron, Ohio, as well as nationwide.

James took a big step forward earlier this week and officially launched a public elementary school he co-founded. The I Promise School is “a joint venture between the LeBron James Family Foundation and the Akron, Ohio Public School system. The school’s inaugural class will include 240 third and fourth-grade students who were selected based on socioeconomic status and educational performance,” CNBC reported.

James, who has many other investments, has also promised that students who graduate from the program will earn free tuition at the University of Akron starting in 2021. The school will focus on low-income and at-risk students.

The I Promise School, which opened in Akron, Ohio in July, has been in the works for a while. It started as a nonprofit “aimed at boosting achievement for younger students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Now the movement has the means to educate these students year-round,” SB Nation reported.

James could have gone the private school or even charter route, but he chose to open a public school, making it more inclusive.

His foundation will supplement the city’s school funding to run the school and its unique programs, that include an emphasis on STEM programs as well as longer school hours.

“I Promise will feature longer school days, a nontraditional school year, and greater access to the school, its facilities, and its teachers during down time for students. That’s a formula aimed at replicating some of the at-home support children may be missing when it comes to schoolwork.

The school has also anchored its curriculum in math and science-based teaching,



dipping into the STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math—curriculum that prepares students for the jobs of the future,” SB Nation reported.

I Promise not only hopes to make a difference in the education of its students but to also help them at home and in their communities.

“To truly provide emotional and psychological services for at-risk children and their families requires well-trained and supported teachers. The I Promise School gives teachers access to psychological services. Every Wednesday afternoon will be reserved for career development. James even hired a personal trainer to work with teachers who want a guided workout,” SB Nation reported.

The school will also get involved with the parents and try to fulfill their needs to create a better home life for the students. “Parents can use the institution’s job and family

services, study through its GED program, or design meals at the on-site food bank to cook at home. There are also counselors on staff to help children deal with the trauma that may arise in their daily life,” SB Nation reported.

Eventually, James looks to expand to a first through eighth grade lineup by 2022.

“We’re going to be on ’em like a school should be because we want them to be successful not only in the school, but successful in life,” James said. “We’re gonna give ’em everything that they need and give them criteria that they all can meet, depending on the individual. But it’s going to be pretty cool to see the kids at the school the first day we open.”

For more information about the Lebron James Family Foundation visit: <http://lebronjamesfamilyfoundation.org>.

(Photo Credit: AP Photo/Phil Long)



Florida A&M Enlists First Female Drum Major

By Kia Morgan-Smith
(thegrio.com)

Cori Bostic was named drum major for the famed Florida A&M University’s Marching 100 band. Bostic makes history in the coveted position as the first time in the school’s 72-year history that a woman has been picked for drum major.

Since being named as drum major, Bostic has been flooded with words of support and praise on social media. Especially from the city of Atlanta where Bostic was a former Southwest DeKalb student. Atlanta Mayor and FAMU alum Keisha Lance Bottoms tweeted: “This is HUGE!”

On Tuesday, FAMU Director of Bands Shelby Chipman made the announcement and on Wednesday she also announced that Joshua Honore and Marquel Bowen will be joining Bostic as new drum ma-

jors as well. Florida A&M President Larry Robinson tweeted: “Congratulations Cori Bostic! You’re marching into Rattler history!”

“This is a historical day, and I am proud to be associated with the university as we welcome our first female drum major!!! Go Rattlers!” said Kelvin Lawson, chairman of the FAMU Board of Trustees. Bostic has also received love from her Delta Sigma Theta sorority where she is a member.

According to HBCU Game Day, Bostic, started as a piccolo player on the band and moved on up to the top position. The FAMU student is a junior broadcast journalism student. She follows in the footsteps of her parents who both attended FAMU too and were former members of the Marching 100.



BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Governor Appoints Regina Malveaux to WA State Women's Commission



In a press release issued by Governor Jay Inslee's office on July 24th, the Governor announced the appointments of nine women to serve on Washington's new Women's Commission, including Regina Malveaux, CEO of YWCA Spokane.

The commission was created to address issues relevant to the problems and needs of women, such as domestic violence, childcare and support, sexual discrimination and harassment in the workplace, equal compensation and job pathways in employment, and the specific needs of women of color.

The appointees were chosen by the Governor with input from members of the state House and Senate and community stakeholders.

The commission will be a valuable resource and provide recommendations and advice to my office, the Legislature and state agencies on issues important to all women."

We are pleased that Regina has accepted this appointment and know she will continue to represent the YWCA in being a powerful voice on the issues that impact the women and families we serve.

ABOUT YWCA SPOKANE

YWCA Spokane is a multi-service non-profit organization whose mission is eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. For 115 years this April, YWCA Spokane has been committed to empowering women in the Spokane and surrounding communities.

Beyoncé Hires Tyler Mitchell to Shoot Vogue Cover

1st Black Cover Photographer in Magazine's 126 Year History

by Lori Lakin Hutcherson
(@lakinhutcherson)

Reprinted from goodblacknews.org.

According to huffingtonpost.com, musical icon Beyoncé received unprecedented control over the cover of the upcoming September issue of Vogue magazine, and in turn hired Tyler Mitchell, 23, to be her photographer. Mitchell will become the first black photographer to shoot a cover in the publication's 126-year history.

Vogue, according to two sources who are familiar with the agreement between Vogue and Beyoncé, is contractually obligated to give Beyoncé full control over the cover, the photos of her inside the magazine and the captions, which she has written herself and are in long-form. Beyoncé is also not granting Vogue a sit-down interview for the September 2018 issue, as is typical of its cover subjects.

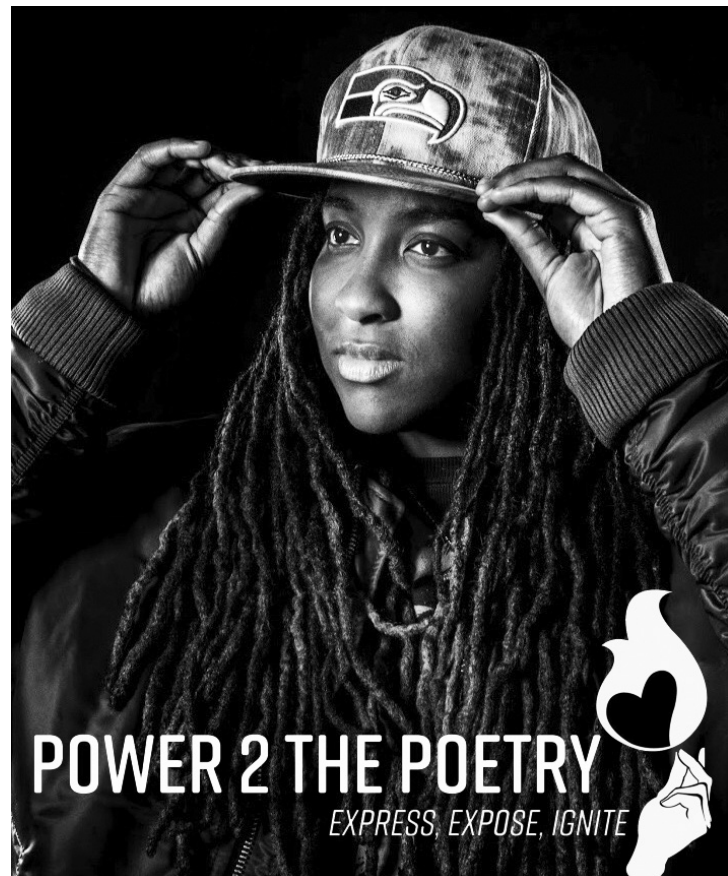
Mitchell, a New York University graduate from Atlanta, quickly became a recognized name in the art world through his work in Cuba and his featured work on Instagram.

The New York Times' "Up Next" series featured Mitchell in December. Huffingtonpost.com writes that 23-year-old first gained attention in 2015 with his self-published book of photos, El Paquete, which focused on Cuban skate culture and architecture. Mitchell captured the book's 108 photos while in Cuba for six weeks as part of a documentary photography program, according to the Times.

Mitchell also photographed Parkland shooting survivors including Sarah Chadwick, Nza-Ari Khepra, Emma Gonzalez and Jaelyn Corin for Teen Vogue's piece on the #NeverAgain gun control movement.



Power 2 The Poetry Receives SAGA Grant to Work with Spokane Schools



The Spokane Arts Grant Awards (SAGA), now in its second year, has funded nine proposals through a competitive process from a pool of 42 qualifying applications.

Grant winners will carry out arts projects and programs that will take place in Spokane over the next twelve months. The nine successful applicants received a total of \$40,000 for projects in film, theater, interactive arts, photography, education, dance, and music.

Power 2 The Poetry was awarded a grant in the amount of \$8,000 to support their after school poetry program with the Spokane Public Schools.

Power 2 The Poetry's after school poetry program will offer a platform for students to learn how to properly channel their emotions, find their voice, and convey their feelings through spoken word. With SAGA support, this three-high school pilot program will be introduced in the 2018-19 school year. The academic year course will culminate in a showcase where students perform their spoken word pieces for the school and larger community. The program will be presented initially at North Central and two additional high schools chosen by the School District. After establishing a presence and perfecting their curriculum, Power 2 The Poetry will extend their classes to other schools in the District.

Other grant recipients include: Quiero Flamenco / Monica Mota, Cherry Street Studios, Stage Left Theater, Counting Coup Media, Jenny Hyde, One Heart Native Arts and Film Festival, Edward Bryan and William Berry, and the Museum of Arts and Culture.

"This round's SAGA applicants presented a wide array of innovation, reflection, and service," said Shelly Wynecoop, Grants Administrator of Spokane Arts. "We are delighted to be able to support the efforts of Spokane's arts practitioners, not only through funding, but also by assisting with promotion, professional development, and improving grant writing skills."

Having awarded \$85,100 in 2017, SAGA will be awarding a total of \$90,000 in grants to the arts in 2018, which will be spread across three grantmaking rounds. SAGA funding comes from the City of Spokane Admissions Tax, a portion of which is dedicated to supporting the arts via an ordinance passed in 2016. This ordinance was passed through the advocacy work of community members and the support of City Council President, Ben Stuckart.

Qualifying applications are reviewed by a panel of six individuals from the Spokane community. This panel is composed of one Spokane Arts Commissioner, one member of the Spokane Arts Board of Directors, and four members of the community with experience in the arts. With administrative oversight from the staff of Spokane Arts, funding allocations are made three times a year. The next round of SAGA grant applications will be due online October 1, for applicants seeking \$10,000. In this final round for 2018, one grant for \$10,000 will be awarded.

To learn more about the SAGA program and our grantees, please visit Spokane Arts at www.spokanearts.org.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

William Dungey Case

Abraham Lincoln worked twenty years as an attorney for the eighth judicial circuit in Dewitt County Illinois. In 1855, five years prior to his bid for president, newly found documents point to a case where Lincoln defended a young man against slanderous racial attacks.

In August 1851 William Dungey, a dark-complexioned man of Portuguese ancestry, married a Caucasian woman in Clinton, Illinois (She goes unnamed in the case). The family was bitterly divided over the union and the brother-in-law, Joseph Spencer, began slandering his new in-law to neighbors publicly referring to him as a “Negro”, and “Black-Bill”.

The legal issue at hand hinged on the Illinois Constitution which demanded to ‘pass such laws as will effectively prohibit free persons of color from immigrating to and settling in this state...’ (Illinois had four constitutions: 1819, 1848, 1870, 1970). Illinois enacted some of the most oppressive immigration laws towards free “Blacks” entering into the state. Called “Black Laws” they were first put into effect in 1819 and later refined by February 12, 1853, a year and a half before Mr. Dungey’s marriage and what would be Lincoln’s forty-fourth birthday.

Reading section 10 of the law it states: ‘Every person who shall have one-fourth negro blood shall be deemed a mulatto.’ Under the labels of ‘Black’, ‘mulatto’ or ‘Negro’ Mr.

Dungey would have legally lost social reputation, marriage rights, voting rights, Illinois residency rights, and ownership of all property titled in his name. Naturally Mr. Dungey’s aim was to avoid a trial under “Black Laws”.

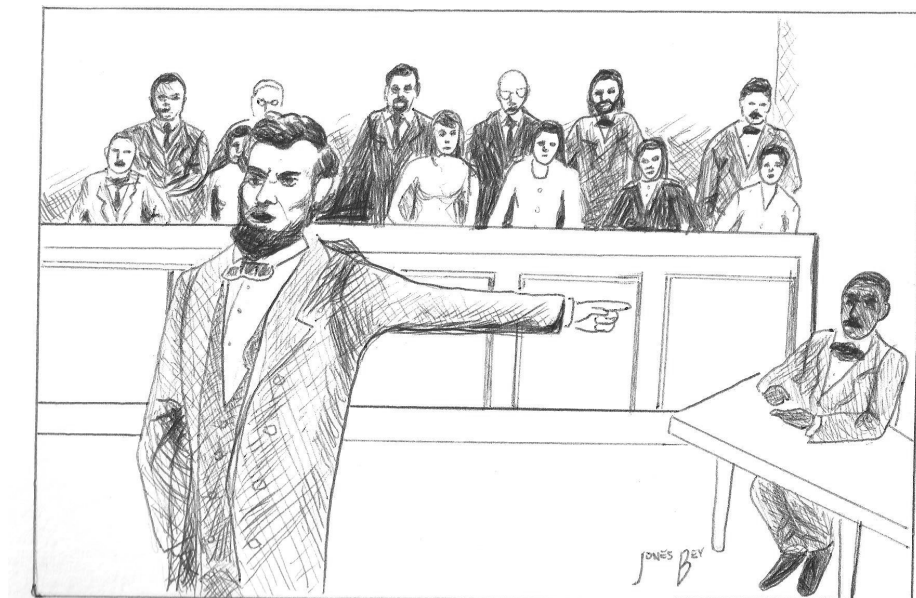
Lincoln filed slander charges against Mr. Spencer in Dewitt County on April 17, 1855, seeking one-thousand dollars in damages. Mr. Spencer was represented by defense attorneys Clifton H. Moore and Lawrence Weldon (both of European descent). The Dungey Case was heard by jury October 1855.

As a skilled attorney, Lincoln went after Mr. Spencer’s character demonstrating to the jury in dramatic tone Mr. Spencer’s bigoted behavior describing him going “from house to house gabbing that William Dungey was a nigger”. Lincoln also used humor to create reasonable doubt about Mr. Dungey’s race.

Lincoln – “My client is not a Negro, though it is a crime to be a Negro—no crime to be born with a Black skin. But my client is not a Negro. His skin may not be as white as ours, but I say he is not a Negro, though he may be a Moore.”

Judge Davis – “Mr. Lincoln”, said Judge Davis with a wry smile, “You mean a Moor – (M-o-o-r) not Moore, (M-o-o-r-e).”

Lincoln – “Well, your Honor, Moor – (M-o-o-r) not Clifton H. Moore,” responded Mr. Lincoln turning towards Moore and Weldon. “I say my client may be a Moor, but he is not a Negro.”



The defense countered with witness statements (depositions) from “neighbors” of the Dungey’s in Giles County, Tennessee stating they considered the Dungey’s ‘negroes of mixed blood’. In Lincoln’s cross-examination, the witnesses confessed that none of them lived within thirty miles of the Dungey Family and at best their testimony should be taken as hearsay.

The trial concluded on October 18, 1855 with the jury reaching a guilty verdict against Mr. Spencer. He was fined six-hundred dollars in damages plus the court fee of one-hundred thirty seven dollars and fifty cents. Lincoln secured a twenty-five dollar retainer and counseled Mr. Dungey to remit four-hundred dollars back to the defendant to release “all errors which may exist in the court re-

cord...”, meaning Mr. Spencer promised not to appeal.

Although the issue of the William Dungey Case appeared to be an issue of complexion, the actual matter at hand was an issue of status in law. The issues we indeed suffer from we believe are issues of skin. But by examining Black Laws/Codes our true issues are actually issues of status and standing in law regarding estates on and for the record, as attorney Abraham Lincoln proved.

Sources: lookingforlincoln.com/8thcircuit/cases.html#top – (Dungey v. Spencer).
hmdb.org/PhotoFullSize.asp?PhotoID=84462
Black Codes of Illinois
Illinois State Constitution (1819, 1848).
Black’s Law Dictionary 4th Edition.

Former Congressman Ron Dellums Dies at 82



By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Ron Dellums, the firebrand former Oakland, California mayor and founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, who vigorously fought on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised, died on Monday, July 30, reportedly after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 82.

Tributes celebrating Dellums political and civil rights activism poured in from colleagues and friends.

“I have known and admired Ron Dellums since I was a child,” former U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice said in a

statement. “He, in part, inspired my interest in public service.”

California U.S. Senator Kamala Harris also expressed her condolences. “I’m deeply saddened by the loss of former congressman and mayor of Oakland, Ron Dellums. His years of service to both the Bay Area and California will continue to serve as a beacon for change and progress,” Harris tweeted.

Minnesota’s Democratic U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison said Dellums counted as a courageous freedom fighter. He remembered Dellums for his “inspiring example, courage, humor and relentless faith in our ability to make a better world.”

Born on November 24, 1935 in Oakland, Calif., Dellums served in the United States Marine Corps from 1954 to 1956 after he was denied the college scholarship he had sought, according to his biography at Blackpast.org.

After service in the Marines, Dellums, with the help of the G.I Bill and an outside job, attended San Francisco State College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. He went on to earn a master’s degree in social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley in 1962.

After teaching at San Francisco State University and at Berkeley, Dellums became a politician. He was elected to the Berkeley City Council, where he quickly became known as the spokesperson for African American community affairs and for his radical political beliefs.

After only three years on the Berkeley City Council, Dellums decided to run for Congress. With crucial campaign assistance from Coretta Scott King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as from Berkeley’s powerful anti-Vietnam War organizations, 35-year-old Dellums was elected to Congress, where he quickly emerged as one of the most radical and outspoken lawmakers in Washington.

Within weeks of his election, Dellums called for congressional investigations into alleged war crimes in Vietnam and co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus. Two years later he began a long campaign to end the apartheid policies of South Africa and in 1986 introduced the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, which called for sanctions against the nation’s government. President Ronald Reagan vetoed the bill, however his veto was overridden, marking the first time a presidential veto of a foreign policy measure was overridden by Congress in the 20th Century.

In 2006, he was elected as the Mayor of Oakland, succeeding former California Governor Jerry Brown. He left office in 2010.

“We mourn the loss of one of the founders of the Congressional Black Caucus,” the CBC said in a statement. “His work for his community and his work for the Caucus will be missed.”

NAACP Board Chairman Leon W. Russell said that, Dellums created space for our voices to be heard.

“It is said that the current generation stands on the shoulders of giants; Ron was a giant who blazed a path to empowerment that we still walk on today,” Russell said.

Dellums is survived by his wife, Cynthia Dellums and his five children. Funeral plans haven’t been announced.

Stacy Brown is a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Her work can also be found in *The Washington Informer*, *Baltimore Times*, *Philadelphia Tribune*, *Pocono Record*, and the *New York Post*. Stacy is the co-author of “Blind Faith: The Miraculous Journey of Lula Hardaway, Stevie Wonder’s Mother.” Follow Stacy on Twitter @stacybrownmedia.

This article was originally published at BlackPressUSA.com.

Congressional Black Caucus Introduces the Jobs and Justice Act of 2018



CHAIRMAN

Rep. Cedric L. Richmond



CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS

In May, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) – led by CBC Chairman Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA-02) – announced the introduction of the Jobs and Justice Act of 2018, 1,300-page omnibus legislation that would, if passed, increase the upward social mobility of Black families, and help ensure equal protection under the law.

The CBC hopes the legislation will serve as a guiding light for any White House, major legislative caucus, or member of Congress who claims to care about the African-American community, other communities of color, and rural communities.

Chairman Richmond said: “President Trump and the Republican Party he leads would have you believe that our community is doing well because African-American unemployment is at a historic low, which is the result of policies and programs implemented by the Obama Administration. But the African-American unemployment rate is not a good barometer of our community’s success.”

Richmond continued, “When African Americans were slaves and sharecroppers, African-American unemployment was 0 percent. But I don’t think anyone would say that our community was doing well then. As a result of racism and discrimi-

nation in our country, African Americans still face a number of economic and social barriers that the federal government can and should help our community address since it was, and still is, complicit in building them. Although we have come a long way, we still have a long way to go, and the Jobs and Justice Act of 2018 will help us get there.”

On the campaign trail, then-candidate Donald J. Trump asked the African-American community “What do you have to lose?” in reference to the possibilities of a Trump Administration. When the CBC met with President Trump in March 2017, the Caucus answered his question in the form of a 130-page policy document titled, “We Have A Lot to Lose: Solutions to Advance Black Families in the 21st Century.” President Trump and his Administration never responded to the document. In fact, he and his Administration haven’t responded to 99% of the letters that the CBC has sent them.

Since that time, President Trump has taken numerous actions that threaten the African-American community, from proposing massive cuts to programs that help families in need, to failing to do anything to rebuild the bonds between police and the communities they serve.

Now, the CBC has turned the “We Have A Lot To Lose” policy document into omnibus legislation. In addition to including bills introduced by almost every member of the CBC, the legislation includes the National Urban League’s Main Street Marshall Plan to address economic and social inequities and injustices.

Highlights from the Bill

Jobs

- Invests \$100 billion in public schools for physical and digital infrastructure improvements.
- Includes the 10-20-30 formula to direct additional resources to communities with a history of high poverty.
- Provides tax incentives for hiring young people, veterans, and the unemployed.
- Raises the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour.
- Expands access to the New Markets Tax Credit.
- Creates local incubators for small businesses and startups.
- Strengthens Pell Grant funding.
- Invests in emergency relief to address homelessness and increases access to mortgage financing.

-Modernizes the HBCU Capital Financing Program.

-Provides \$7.5 billion dollars to upgrade water infrastructure systems.

Justice

- Eliminates mandatory minimums for federal drug offenses.
- Establishes a national commission on solitary confinement.
- Bans the box for ex-offenders.
- Gives ex-offenders access to Pell Grants, TANF, and SNAP.
- Abolishes the federal death penalty.
- Ends racial profiling.
- Decriminalizes marijuana and establishes a reinvestment fund for communities negatively impacted by the War on Drugs.
- Makes mid-term and presidential elections federal holidays.
- Restores the Voting Rights Act.
- Provides \$7.5 billion dollars to upgrade water infrastructure systems.
- Clarifies the Dickey Amendment to allow federal research on the intersection of gun violence and mental health.

For information visit: cbc.house.gov

Three African American Men to Be Inducted Into the National Academy of Engineering

The National Academy of Engineering has 83 new members this year. The new members bring the total number of U.S. members to 2,293. The new members will be inducted in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on September 30.

Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to “engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature” and to “the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/ implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.”

The academy does not disclose the racial makeup of its membership, but past JBHE research has shown that

Blacks make up about one percent of the members. According to an analysis of the new membership list by JBHE, it appears that there are three Black engineers among the 83 new members. Two of the three have current academic affiliations.

Lynden A. Archer is the James Friend Family Distinguished Professor of Engineering in the Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He joined the faculty at Cornell in 2000. Professor Archer was recognized by the academy for “advances in nanoparticle-polymer hybrid materials and in electrochemical energy storage technologies.” Dr. Archer is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he majored in chemical engineering. He holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Stanford University.

Gary S. May is the chancellor of the University of California, Davis. He be-

came the seventh chancellor of the university in August 2017. Previously, he was dean of the College of Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Dr. May was selected to the academy for his “contributions to semiconductor manufacturing research and for innovations in educational programs for underrepresented groups in engineering. A native of St. Louis, Professor May is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he majored in electrical engineering. He holds a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and computer science from the University of California, Berkeley.

The third African American in this year’s cohort of new members is **Gabriel C. Ejebe**, the senior project manager for energy trading and markets for Open Access Technology International in Minneapolis.



Fourth of July Reflections from the Balcony of an Immigrant

By Christina Kamkosi

George Erasmus, an Aboriginal leader from Canada, said, "Where common memory is lacking, where people do not share in the same past, there can be no real community. Where community is to be formed, common memory must be created."

This fourth of July, I found myself reflecting on what this day means to those without English ancestry. I also found myself thinking about some parallels of European Colonization to many African Countries including my own. The quote from George Erasmus is powerful to me because I have been struggling to understand cultural differences, and the true nature of colonization in Africa. Where I come from, 90% of the people look like me, compared to 2% in Spokane. I share a history with them different from ethnic groups in the United States.

Now that I have been here a few years, I have a lot of stories to tell. I have experienced a lot of growth, and I have learned a lot of things; standing on two metal strips skiing down the hills of snow and done it again on water during the summer. I also have so many reflections: where do I call home, what's God's calling for Christians, loving those different from me, race, idioms, English spellings, winter and holidays; the fourth of July and it's implications on health outcomes today.

I moved from Malawi, in the South Eastern part of Africa, to go to grad school at Whitworth University. At the time, I thought was coming to Spokane, Washington DC. I was surprised that the State House was nowhere to be seen, but believe it or not, this is a big city compared to my capitol city of Lilongwe. Did you know that Spokane is the second largest city in Washington?

I was very focused on my education and was on track to move back to Malawi in 2014. My drive was to study and go back to my homeland. Now, that is a privilege: to always know that I have the choice to get out. In all honesty, my tunnel vision was due to the fact that I did not want to deal with anything except my MBA in International Management. I did not want to address topics on dimensions of diversity like my age, gender, ethnicity etc. I made exceptions for volunteering, international potlucks, or topics on kindness.

During my first few years, the two subjects I avoided the most were race and my Malawian/African heritage. This could have also been because of my own blind spots. I have my own biases and stereotypes just like most of you. I continue to experience some stereotypes from others.

At the time I had no tools for how to deal with them. Instead, I used to let many things roll off me or play along with some stereotypes. "Your English is very good" "(oh, thank you)," "you are very articulate, (Thank you again, but are people like me always inarticulate?)," "Did you grow up in the jungle or a tree house?" (Yes, I did. In fact, we have a family elephant). The one comment that hurt me the most, "oh that accent is from Malawi, no wonder you are nicer than them" (in reference to my African American brothers and sisters).

You also have to remember that many wonderful things have happened but unfortunately, it is the negative things that stick around.



New opportunities led me to the decision to stay and work in the USA for a few years. Just like most immigrants, I moved here for a better life, but it definitely comes at a price. We pay some heavy emotional taxes. It is difficult enough to navigate a new culture, let alone the discrimination that most minority immigrants face.

At the same time, most immigrants contribute so much to our communities. A recent report shows that 72.5% of immigrants believe that hard work is how you succeed in America and are responsible for half of the total U.S labor force growth over the last decade.

Once I made a decision to stay, I realized that I could not pretend that I was immune to all the microaggressions. I also realized that I could not stay blind to all the injustices that happen around me. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "injustice here is a threat to justice everywhere." I am also a firm believer that life is about helping one another. This has been true for me. I have had so many people pour into my world. These are people from all walks of life and most of them do not even look like me. I have friends who have turned into family and it has been great. I am privileged to walk through life with others.

There are so many holidays my friends in the USA celebrate. Some of them are very new or foreign to me. I did not grow up celebrating Thanksgiving or Halloween. Where I am from, we celebrate other things that might seem foreign to you. For some of the American holidays (especially Halloween), I choose to stay home and let the introverted side of myself kick in. In my opinion, that is more fun than going out and about to be spooked by different kinds of people in costumes.

For Fourth of July, I usually watch the fireworks. I have not gotten the hang of barbecuing.

This 4th of July, reconciliation was on my mind. Malawi's Independence Day is July 6, 1964. This was independence from the British colonial rule as well. As I texted friends from Malawi telling them that today is July 4th and it is America's independence day, one of my friends asked "independence from who or what?" This is where all my thinking and questioning started.

It occurred to me that I have never thought through this. I never made the link between the 1712 European invasion of North America and the 1776 USA declaration of independence. I was very conflicted. I started wondering if I could even say 'happy fourth of July to my Native American or immigrant friends, let alone the African Americans whose ancestors were brought to this land on slave ships.

In my efforts to educate myself about the history of this country and the implications for health today, I see that we repeat history. All the problems with oppressing marginalized groups are rooted in racism. This year in particular I felt very conflicted as to what it is that I was celebrating. I did a Google search and texted with friends to find new ideas.

There are many different perspectives, but they all got me thinking about how this country was built by a set of inhumane and traumatic events. In his opinion piece 'The Dilemma of the Fourth of July,' Mark Charles writes "But the reality is that the United States of America exists because this land was colonized by Europeans who used a Doctrine of Discovery to dehumanize, steal from, enslave and even commit cultural genocide against indigenous peoples from both the 'New World' and Africa."

Truth has to be told even if it is hard. This is our history and healing will only come if we pursue it together. There needs to be an acknowledgment of these deep wounds. Others might say, it is the past, move on, but it is not just as easy as that. These wounds and histories are so deep that it affects multi generations of people. This trauma is present as people living today carry these histories.

Tying these meditations to my professional work at a non-profit, we cannot solve today's toughest social problems without learning from history and the systems of racism that have created. It is very important to understand how historical events and context affect present-day health inequities. Research shows that good health arises long before conception, with the historical, political, economical and social contexts into which we are born (social determinants of health).

I believe that equity should be the foundation of social change. We live in a country that is considered one of the richest nations in the world, yet ranks 30th in life expectancy, with so many inequities for diverse populations. Take a look at the history; we have very bad health outcomes for poor people and communities of color. What are we doing to heal and create a common memory so we can move forward together as a community or nation?

This is my journey. This is where am. I am learning everyday. I hope you will take a minute and think about the implications of historical events in our present day. I hope you will also think about what your role is in creating a common memory. For myself, I am still trying to figure it out. I stand on the shoulders of many of you and I know together, we will make this place better.

University of Missouri Names Building After a Black Woman It Had Rejected for Admission in 1939

In 1939, Lucile Bluford, who had worked as a journalist for several newspapers including the Atlanta Daily World, the Kansas City American and the Kansas City Call, applied for admission into the master's degree program at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Her application was accepted. But when she arrived to enroll, she was turned away because of the color of her skin.

After a two-year legal battle, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled in 1941 that the journalism school had to admit her. But due to an overall shortage of students, the school shut down during World War II.

Bluford never enrolled at the University of Missouri but instead continued her career as a jour-

nalist and civil rights advocate. She worked at the Kansas City Call for 70 years. In 1989, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri.

Bluford, who was a graduate of the University of Kansas, died in 2003 at the age of 91. Now the University of Missouri has named a residence hall in her honor.

"It's fitting that the state honor Lucile Bluford, who fought to provide voice to the voiceless throughout her career," says Lynda Kraxberger, associate dean and professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. "Bluford's persistent advocacy for people of color stands as a monument of truth to power."



Nov. Election - 5th Congressional District

Meet Your Congressional Candidates

How much do you know about the candidates that will be running for office in the upcoming *November 2018 election*? The decisions that members of Congress are currently making and will make in the future stand to have a significant impact on our community. Due to the importance of the upcoming November election for the 5th Congressional District, The Black Lens will be running a monthly column featuring the two primary candidates. I encourage you to read their answers, educate yourself, and vote like your life and your community depend on it. Because they do!



Black Lens June Questions

Topic - Supreme Court Appointment - In response to President Trump's recent nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, the NAACP issued a statement which in part said: "Brett Kavanaugh is a dangerous ideologue whose extreme views on civil rights would solidify a far right majority on the Supreme Court...He has been a strong and consistent voice for the wealthy and the powerful. Over and over again, he has ruled against civil rights, workers' rights, consumer rights, and women's rights. With a Justice Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court, we could see reversals of hard-won gains securing equal opportunity in education, employment and housing. We could see further exclusion of communities of color from participation in our democracy. We could see racism continue to flourish within the criminal justice system. We could see the elimination of effective tools for proving discrimination. We could see the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the guarantee to accessible health care for millions." The NAACP opposed Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation to the D.C. Circuit and has pledged to fight his nomination to the Supreme Court "with everything we've got," telling members of Congress, "This is THE civil rights vote of your career."

Question: How do you respond to the NAACP statement?

Cathy McMorris Rodgers

Q: How do you respond to the NAACP statement?

I respectfully disagree with the NAACP on the merits of Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court. He is a steadfast public servant with the simple, profound desire to uphold the Constitution and the liberties it enshrines.

Judge Kavanaugh is dedicated to preserving the rule of law and faithfully interpreting the Constitution as written. He knows that the role of a judge is not to make the law. He knows that when unelected judges make law for 325 million Americans, they subvert the democratic process. He knows that when judges inject their own morality into the meaning of the Constitution, our republic is in danger. In order to maintain our republic, we must uphold the rule of law and a faithful interpretation of the Constitution. This is why we need Brett Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court.

The Constitution is the bedrock of the rights we cherish as Americans. The Bill of Rights is what has granted us the right as Americans to protest the unjust, to assemble against tyranny, to speak and express our grievances. It's the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights that ushered the civil rights movement into prominence and helped create the change our country needed. The March on Washington in 1963 wouldn't have been possible without the First Amendment. The 14th Amendment guarantees the right to equal protection under the law. These rights give life to the American spirit of equality, inclusivity, and progress. They must be protected and fought for, because they serve as the basis for human value and human dignity.



Brett Kavanaugh's record demonstrates that he is a steadfast defender of these rights. Judge Kavanaugh's record also indicates that he will not inject his own morality into the Constitution, but rather interpret its provisions as the people who drafted them intended.

As a member of the House of Representatives and not the Senate, I won't be asked to vote on Judge Kavanaugh's nomination. However, I can assure you that if he did not support the American values of protecting individual rights and liberties, then I would not support his confirmation. Based on his extensive public record, I firmly believe Judge Kavanaugh will carry out his duties faithfully.

Judge Kavanaugh has devoted his career to public service and respects the rule of law and the Constitution, and I hope the Senate will quickly confirm him to the Supreme Court.

Lisa Brown

Q: How do you respond to the NAACP statement?

I agree with the concerns expressed by the NAACP and other civil rights leaders.

The integrity of the Supreme Court is critical, and many of the cases the next court could face will have significant consequences on the civil rights of communities of color, women, and immigrant and refugee communities. It's even more important given an administration, including a president and attorney general, that's threatening the rights of and liberties of people of color, and Congressional leadership, including Representative McMorris Rodgers, that hasn't been willing to stand up to the president when he's wrong.

A lifetime appointment of a politically-biased justice to the Supreme Court can shape the direction our country takes on not just holding our ground on civil rights, but making progress on the most pressing issues of our time. Because of the decision by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to block President Obama's court appointment, the Trump administration has had the opportunity to place two of its own judges on the bench.

Our next Supreme Court could determine key cases on state voter I.D. laws, voter roll purging, gerrymandering, and other tactics that primarily suppress voters of color from exercising their right to vote.

I'm concerned with Kavanaugh's record on suppressive voter laws. As a judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals, Kavanaugh voted to uphold a voter I.D. law in South Carolina that the federal Justice Department said violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965.



The Justice Department found that law would potentially impact more than 80,000 voters of color in South Carolina. Imagine this impact magnified in cases all over the country, with a justice like Kavanaugh sitting on the bench.

After the Supreme Court dismantled large portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013, we cannot risk replacing Justice Anthony Kennedy - who often acted as a swing vote on the Supreme Court - with a justice who has a record of upholding discriminatory voter suppression laws. Instead, we need someone free of a partisan background whose primary focus on the bench is to rule in favor of our principles of liberty and justice for all.

I hope as proceedings move forward, the Senate heeds the concerns of their constituents and organizations like the NAACP.

Primary Election Ballots Due August 7 by 8pm

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BlackVotersMatterFund.org

VOICES OF OUR NEXT GENERATION

Pursuit of Happiness

By AJ The Wordsmith

Tell me, how am I suppose
to tell you the truth, ironic no
matter how much I dig
I can't find the root,
this messed up world seems to
want creativity to stay dead.
Would you trade
passionate flames for a piece
of bread?
Instead, you starve yourself
just to see how far you can go?

It makes no sense,
why must I forsake common
knowledge to pay rent,
my parents could care less
they can't even afford to pay
attention to me.

Am I ok? The answer will
always be no.

You ask me why? My reply
I placed all my dreams in body
bags. If I close my eyes I can
still hear their bloody cries.
They are the reason Why I
can't sleep at night, I check
my pulse because I feel dead
inside, But that's ok, because
my collateral beauty will be a
wonderful thing.

In my pursuit of happiness
I will not forget who I am,
or where I come from,
even if the men in Black
wipe my mind, my legacy
will always know where they
come from.



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Kate Spade's Designs Enhance Dialogue Across Cultures



By Shari J. Clarke

I had my first encounter with a Kate Spade bag years ago. I was captured by the style and the something unique and different about the bag. I recall being giddy and very excited that I owned a Kate Spade bag. This past year, wanting my family to experience the joy of a Kate Spade bag, I purchased one for my sister, daughter, granddaughter and my grandson's mother. Lots of Kate Spade bags going on!

Like many of you, my recent thoughts have been on Kate Spade and the many gifts and talents she gave to the world. Like many of you after she left us, I went out and increased my Kate Spade collection to include pillows, nesting boxes, earrings, shower curtains, jewelry and of course more of her delicious bags!

Kate Spade's unfortunate death has an unexpected outcome. She continues to bring women together across race, culture, demographics and age. After the tragic loss of Kate Spade, many of us devotees of the woman, the label, the person, banded together to nationally mourn our loss. Our thoughts were of course with her beloved



daughter Frances Beatrix, husband, family and friends.

The unexpected outcome of this tragic loss is not only an increased and much needed awareness and sensitivity to depression and mental illness but of the collective celebration of Kate Spade that touches beyond age, race and culture. I have been approached by multiple strangers on the streets, in the mall, at work, in the Dentist office who have all complimented my Kate Spade Rose Glitter Tote bag embossed with the words 'live colorfully'.

These various women would ask in somewhat hushed tones "Did you hear what

happened to her?" After acknowledging the extreme sadness of this event, her design genius, the unique style that was Kate Spade, we put hands over our hearts and paid homage to Kate.

While the conversations have been relatively short, the reality is that we're talking. There's not a focus on the differences we may share but a focus on the collective celebration of this beautiful person and of her astounding work.

At a time when the country is so polarized, when families are being separated, inequity is rampant, racist, sexist and homophobic actions are the norm, a woman's right

to decide what happens to her own body is being called into question, diversity has been rejected as an American ideal, it is refreshing and affirming to communicate with someone over a simple shared admiration.

This bringing together of women over the chicness and whimsy of her label is euphoric. The Status of carrying a Kate Spade bag- the way it makes you feel inside- is akin to being with your sophisticated, fun, yet very approachable, best friend. You can bask in the attention that beautiful friend receives, it's a warm glow of orangey sunshine. A Kate Spade bag, jewelry, accessory is a status symbol- but one you can relate to. It is not so high it's out of reach, yet it still sits within the constellation among the other designer bags.

Kate Spade's bold colors, unique designs, whimsy with meaning and sheer talent will forever bind women together as we celebrate her legacy across cultural divides with a Kate Spade bag on our shoulder and a hand over our hearts as we remember.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255 or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

Harlem's Lillian Project

Helping Black Women Reclaim Their Lives Through Entrepreneurship

By: Victor Ochieng
(Reprinted from Your Black World, your-blackworld.net)

Black women have come to master the art of overcoming the adversities in the face of overwhelming increase in racial segregation. More and more Black women are fast growing into successful entrepreneurs across the country. Today Black women are the fastest growing group of entrepreneurs in the country, although this hasn't spared them from facing the adversities that come with being a woman of color. And according to a Nielsen report, most businesses by 2015 were at a record 1.5 million Black woman majority-owned.

Despite the fact that women of color have increasingly become entrepreneurs, many of them still face socio-economic barriers that are major obstacles on their going forward. However, a Harlem-based incubator called 'The Lillian Project' is actively on a mission to educate and empower potential women entrepreneurs in the African-American community. The project is designed to help women pursue their dreams and determine their own desired destiny.

The Nielsen report states, "A core tenet of the Black Girl Magic is her perseverance against socioeconomic headwinds, and her gains in entrepreneurship and academic success directly contribute to her being the economic engine of the Black community. This report offers data and insights to Black women's ability to drive product categories and shift culture—and makes it look like magic."



The project has been named after Lillian Harris Dean – a native of Mississippi who migrated to Harlem in 1901 and started her own culinary business, and later went into real estate. The project was launched in 2016 by Harlem Business Alliance and is funded by WK Kellogg Foundation.

On the Lillian Project's site, you find a description of Dean that reads, "Lillian Harris Dean (1870-1929) The Lillian Project is inspired by Lillian Harris Dean aka "Pigfoot Mary". Born Lillian Harris on the Mississippi Delta, Dean migrated to Harlem in 1901. After the first week, Dean invested \$5 she earned as a domestic into her makeshift food stand where she sold south-

ern cuisine out of a baby carriage. Later Dean was able to purchase a steam table and her business continued to grow. Her culinary skills earned her the nickname, "Pigfoot Mary".

For sixteen years she worked tirelessly at her food stand all the while saving her money. Unable to read and write, Dean became one of Harlem's shrewdest business people. She invested her earnings in real estate which paid off in hundreds of thousands of dollars. Dean and her husband retired to California."

The project is a source of hope to women of color- many having a history of non-vi-

olent offenses- making this a chance to reclaim their lives and forge a way forward.

Lillian Project Program Director Gina B. Ramcharan said in a statement, "Our team at HBA has seen confidence boosted, business acumen sharpened and more importantly, businesses come to life right before us. TLP business models range from eco-friendly foot hosiery to technology-based industries."

"The women, many of whom have suffered hardship find their voice and the courage to secure their first deal. The women are encouraged to approach their businesses with the methodology of CRAWL, WALK, and RUN; start small and grow."

MONEY/FINANCE

AME Church and Black Banks Launch New Partnership for Black Wealth



AME Church Bishops pose with Black bankers and business leaders after announcing historic partnership. PHOTO: Klarque Garrison/Trice Edney News Wire

By Hazel Trice Edney

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The Black church, among the most prosperous institutions in America, has long led movements for the spiritual, social and civic uplift of Black people. When the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, he had just launched the Poor People's Movement, which quickly fizzled after his death.

With this historic backdrop, the African Methodist Episcopal Church – with a legacy of leadership in its own right – has announced an innovative economic partnership with Black-owned banks across the country. The partnership aims to be a catalyst to spur business development, homeownership and wealth in the Black community.

“We are now pleased to announce a partnership with the presidents of the nineteen (19) Black banks in the United States, with the goal of increasing Black wealth,” said Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, president of the Council of AME Bishops. “This initiative will strengthen Black banks across the United States and increase their capacity to lend to small businesses, to secure mortgages, to provide personal lines of credit, and to offer other forms of credit to AME churches and our members. This, of course, includes enabling members and their families to become homeowners.”

Bishop Jackson made the announcement during a press conference held during the 2018 Council of Bishops and General Board Meeting in Atlanta June 26. The specific details of a memorandum of understanding are being formulated and will be announced this summer. But the goals are as follows:

- Increase deposits and loans with Black banks;
- Increase Black homeownership to over 50 percent nationwide. This means 2,000,000 more Black homeowners than now exist; and
- Grow the number of Black businesses from 2.6 million to 4 million and total gross receipts from an average of \$72,500.00 to \$150,000.00.

“The spirit in which you all have shared the commitment to the community, to the banks and to what we can do together is outstanding,” responded Preston Pinkett, III, chairman and CEO of the City National Bank of New Jersey and chairman of the National Bankers Association. “Thank you for your willingness to step outside of the

norm to do something that I would say is extraordinary here in America and extraordinary in the world.”

Pinkett says the church-bank partnerships are already beginning around the nation. “It is safe to say that this kind of commitment; this kind of demonstration will go a long way in supporting our banks and the banks to be able to support the community...With God's blessings, we will accomplish great things.”

Amidst an atmosphere of excitement, the bankers, bishops and supporters of the movement packed into a meeting room in a Downtown Atlanta hotel. Jackson was surrounded by all 20 Bishops of the 231-year-old denomination as well as supporters of the movement. They included principals of the growing economic movement, Black Wealth 2020, which Jackson credited as inspiration for the idea. “This partnership grows out of an initiative formed in Washington, DC in 2015, called Black Wealth 2020 which is providing an economic blueprint for Black America,” Jackson said.

Michael Grant, one of the founders of Black Wealth 2020, presided at the press conference. He connected the new partnership directly with the movement begun by Dr. King.

“The great civil rights movement led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and others has now morphed into a full-fledged movement for economic empowerment,” Grant said. “The offspring of African slaves and their unrewarded labor have catapulted a small Colonial outpost into the greatest industrial giant the world has ever known. Now, as a people, we are turning our efforts toward our own enrichment. We must now create those economic opportunities for ourselves.”

Opening the press conference, Grant underscored the historicity of the moment. “For those of you who are students of history, you would not be surprised that the Church of Richard Allen would be leading an effort to close the wealth gap across the United States of America.” Allen, among America's most influential Black leaders, founded the AME church in 1794. It was the first independent Black denomination in the U. S. “And we do this with malice towards none,” stressed Grant.

Bishop James L. Davis, of the Second Episcopal District, likened the partnership to a marriage – a marriage between a church and its community. “It is a marriage that says a church that is concerned about its people, concerned about the good and the bad, all of the things our people have had to go through.”

The prophetic voices of Black church leaders not only articulate ideas, but strategies.

“In the next decade in the global church and in the AME church and in Black banking, we will see both evolution and revolution. Banks must reinvent themselves, not just to respond to the pressures of the day, but to be flexible enough to adapt to the world of tomorrow. The ecclesia, the church, must also evolve its business knowledge, educational platform, and its missional thrust without losing its stance in the Word of God,” said General Board Chair Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie. “Both of our institutions are dealing with increasing assertive governmental intrusion, higher membership and customer demands along with increasing change in the wider world.”

The announcement of the new partnership was met with applause from national civil rights leaders.

“Thank you and your fellow bishops for making economic development a priority of your denomination,” wrote civil rights icon Georgia Congressman John Lewis in a letter to Bishop Jackson. “Hopefully, your visionary leadership will inspire other denominations to replicate your efforts nationwide.”

National Urban League President/CEO Marc Morial also weighed in with a letter: “I want to express the support of the National Urban League for your leadership and initiative in addressing the challenges of Black homeownership and the need to increase the support, viability and profitability of our African-American businesses,” he wrote.

Morial is among economic leaders who have determined that among the reasons homeownership among African-Americans is disparately low is, in part, because of discriminatory lending practices.

Mortgage Banker Lois Johnson, president/CEO of Salt Lake City-based United Security Financial, said she takes “great pride in our HUD designation as a fair practice lender. We provide loans to all who meet the minimum criteria, especially people of color who have been denied the opportunity to have their own homes.”

Johnson, who is licensed to operate in 49 states, says she intends to travel to each of the AME church's episcopal districts to “create hope and opportunities.”

The principals agreed that the key to the success of the partnership must be mutual respect for Black spending power and mutual support of Black businesses.

Continued on Page 20

Major AIDS Conference AIMS to 'Build Bridges' Where Epidemic Surges

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – The International Conference on AIDS - the largest conference on any global health issue in the world – took place July 23-27 under the title “Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges”

With hundreds of talks and roundtables, AIDS 2018 defined its goal as promoting human rights-based and evidence-informed HIV responses tailored to the needs of people living with HIV, displaced populations, gays, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people, women and girls and young people--and collaborating in fighting the disease beyond country borders.

A two-day event preceding the conference considered practical solutions to funding effective and efficient HIV and AIDS programs and sustain the results considering declining donor funding.

In South Africa, the number of new HIV infections is dropping, but there were still 231,000 new infections in 2017. Condom usage has been decreasing and the number of people having sex before the age of 15 has been increasing, say researchers.

The group where new infections are growing at the highest rate is young men aged 14 to 24.

In East and Southern Africa, more than half of people dying of AIDS related illnesses were men and boys, although they represent only 46% of those infected with HIV in the region, according to UNAIDS’ 2017 Global AIDS update.

Why? Because fewer men than women



get tested for HIV, says the U.N. Studies show that in East and Southern African countries, men are significantly less likely than women to have been tested for HIV and therefore do not know their HIV status.

As a result, fewer men are on antiretroviral therapy and for those who receive

treatment at a later stage, treatment is sometimes less effective.

A different picture emerges in Nigeria where according to the recently released Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS report for 2018, there are more women in Nigeria living with HIV- particularly adolescent girls and young women – than men.

Nigeria now has 1.6 million HIV-infected women in Nigeria in comparison to 1.3 million men in 2017.

Among the announced sessions at the conference is one titled: “We are women with voices, not an HIV diagnosis! Sharing experiences on processes of individual and collective empowerment driven by women’s lives, bodies and creativity”; and the Positive Women’s Catwalk for Power.

Keynote speaker at the conference will be Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization on the topic of “Eliminating AIDS epidemics on the road to universal health coverage.”

WHO will release several new publications, including on the use of dolutegravir in HIV treatment, HIV testing, HIV drug resistance, key populations and HIV strategic information.

Videos of speakers and panels can be seen at www.aids2018.org

A two-day event preceding the conference will consider practical solutions to funding effective and efficient HIV and AIDS programs and sustain the results considering declining donor funding.

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

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Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

“You better stop before you hurt yourself”

If you were raised by a Black woman, at any point in your life those are words that you have heard a million times. The melody of my grandmother’s voice plays in my mind even writing the line on paper. “You better stop before you hurt yourself” back then was usually in response to me jumping on something I should be sitting on.

In fact, just the other day as I watched my 18-month-old grandson Kayden on Facetime standing on his mother’s couch wobbling to get his balance, I too yelled out “You better stop before you hurt yourself”.

Eventually we all grow out of the stage where we hear those words from our elders. We grow older, we take less risks and therefore have fewer chances of falling. Now that we have the likelihood of physically falling out of the way, we can get down to the business at hand.

This month in my own life, I have been faced with some challenges. The near lingering death of the last of my grandmother’s friends has caused me to revisit the deep sadness of losing her two years ago this month. It hurts today, the same as it did the day she passed. I miss her. After all she raised me and loved me like only a grandmother could.

Back to the sadness. Sadness about any given issue if untreated, unresolved or ignored will fester and ultimately lead to depression or worse.



I know this to be true. Luckily for all who feel sadness or suffering, there is another truth. One in which we can move on even when we have suffered a great loss or pain. As I sit carrying the weight of several major decisions in my life, and every day seemingly adding another thing

to my plate of worries, I can hear that melody in my head again “You better stop before you hurt yourself”, only this time I know that what I have to stop is allowing myself to get so down due to situations I have no control over.

Death will visit all of our lives. We will lose people we love. Sadness will be a part of our story. That’s just the way it is. Things don’t always go well. We will face the challenges of this ever-changing world but what is critical is that we control the way in which we mentally handle these challenges. We must take them in stride. One step at a time. We must learn how to experience grief, sadness and pain in a way that maintains our wholeness and doesn’t leave us feeling broken.

More and more people are choosing alternative ways to handle life’s curve balls. There is of course the most common way of masking with drugs and alcohol. There are also those who suffer in silence with their own hurt and feelings going unaddressed.

The bottom line is this, whatever way in which you are processing your pain, if it is unhealthy, I beg of you, hear your Mother’s or Grandmother’s voice. Let the melody ring in your head “You better stop that before you hurt yourself”.

Kiantha Duncan is a Principal Development Strategist with The Duncan Brown Group. She can be reached at 206-225-4736.

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BUSINESS/ENTERPRISE

Five Friends Create Emperors Cut Cigar Line

By Curtis Bunn
Urban News Service

As a young man, Greg Willis bonded with his father by sitting on the front porch with him and smoking a cigar. He cherished that time, and, over the years, gained an affinity for robustos.

Those intimate father-son moments have come full circle for Willis, a Cox Automotive Media Solutions expert in Atlanta. He, and his four business partners, spent the past year developing a new high-quality cigar which they predict will turn heads.

The result is the company Emperors Cut, which produces a medium-to-full-bodied cigar that the group plans unveil in July. They have test marketed their product to cigar smokers of various tastes to resounding praise that has fortified their efforts to push forward. For Willis, it is an ode to his dad, Robert, who died in 1996.

"For sure, my dad would be proud of what we have created—and he would enjoy it," Willis, 54, said.

Each of his four partners, also professional men in their 50s, took different paths to become cigar aficionados. Maurice Holland, who lives in Suffolk, Virginia, enjoyed his first cigar on vacation in Jamaica 20 years ago, he said. Since then, he has traveled extensively, always enjoying a variety of sticks along the way. Darnell Streat met Willis while they were students at Norfolk State University. He started smoking cigars about 15 years ago. Greg Hurt said he has been into cigars since the 1990s and enjoys them as an opportunity to escape the rigors of everyday life. Robert Howard, a Washington, D.C. lawyer, discovered cigars last year, believed in the product and joined the group as an investor. Streat, who connected the partners, had contemplated developing a line for years. Finally, he called Willis. "He believed we could make it happen."

And so, they have. They spent considerable time researching the industry and domestic and international markets - the U.S. is responsible for little than half of the \$20 billion global cigar market. They



also learned about the handful of African-American-produced cigars in the market - including El Primer Mundo, Trilogy and Tres Lindas Cubanas. But the friends are confident their product can find its place, among African-Americans and cigar lovers in general.

They hired a veteran cigar roller in Miami and went through several incarnations of the product, "The beauty of having so many experienced palates is that we could articulate clearly what we wanted to accomplish in a stick and got it right with a few iterations," Holland said.

Their first release is called Natural Pleasure, a puros, meaning the wrapper, binder and filler—the three leaves that make up a premium cigar - are all made from the same country of origin, in this case, Nicaraguan. "It starts with pepper notes and evolves into a very smooth smoke with hints of coffee, cocoa and pepper," Holland said. "It will appeal to the most experienced cigar smokers while its flavor profile appeals to less experienced and new smokers (and) women smokers."

The \$10 price was intentional; they wanted a high-quality but affordable cigar—well, affordable by cigar standards.

But getting where they are has been a journey that tried their patience and resilience, particularly as African American proprietors.

"Imagine the skepticism of Westerners teaching kung fu! Given the art was created by Asians, the perception is they are best suited to advance the art," Holland said. "Apply that (thinking) to cigars and Latin America. We know our product has to be on point to get over the frame of reference hurdle."

Then there were the endless machinations to get licensed. "The U.S. government does not make it easy for new players in the tobacco space. (It also was challenging) getting a seat at the table with smokers," said Holland. "You have smokers who . . . are not open to cigars outside their knowledge zone. We want mind share (to influence experienced, knowledgeable smokers) and that remains our challenge in a mature market."

They were surprised to find that one of the most significant barriers was erected by the Food & Drug Administration. Starting this August, it will begin applying a regulation designed to make sure drugs are safe - called "substantial equivalence," to new tobacco products. This means they cannot market their stogies until the FDA issues an order permitting their sale. Given the backlog in applications, the FDA's permission is not likely to come soon. This process pushed the partners to the brink of giving up, it was so arduous, Willis said.

"The cigar industry is extremely insular; they keep proprietary information close to their vest and are hesitant to new entrants," he added. "We experienced this, but found a strategic partner that helped us navigate the complexity of Substantial Equivalence and other nuanced matters. We understood substantial equivalence was a major hurdle but not insurmountable short-term. We did the due diligence by way of research to stay within the scope of Substantial Equivalence. Our blend does not fall outside the scope of the existing blends of our strategic partner. Yet, our blend remains true to what we intended it to be."

Howard, the lawyer, oversees "compliance with the myriad of laws governing the marketing and sales of cigars."

Willis and Streat are hybrids, serving in various capacities of the business. The friends invested "significant" funds to launch the company, Willis said, and will invest more capital into their marketing campaign, which includes distinctive packaging and distribution through their Nicaraguan partner.

They plan to produce 10,000 cigars to start and will market them through their website emperors-cut.com.

"Emperors Cut is a lifestyle brand," Holland said, "synonymous with good times. The smoker defines the good time; we just want to be their stick they know augments their fun."




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The Who, What, and Where of Responsible Marijuana Use

By now, most people in Washington know that marijuana use is legal in the state. Naturally, this resulted in significant private industry growth, including in Spokane County.

The county is now home to more than 30 marijuana retailers as well as numerous growers and processors. From July 2016 to June 2017, Spokane was second to only King County in sales of marijuana and collected over \$33 million in excise taxes.

It's clear that the industry is booming and there's work to be done to make sure adults who use marijuana are using it responsibly and helping to prevent youth from using it, to protect them from the harms associated with adolescent use.

Most youth in Spokane County aren't using marijuana—this is good news, since their brains are not done growing until they are around 25. However, despite laws that make marijuana use illegal until age 21, some youth do report using marijuana.

According to the Washington State Healthy Youth survey, among 10th grade students, 16% of youth reported using marijuana in the past 30 days and among 12th grade youth, this number rose to 25%.

Most youth in Washington (83%) aren't using marijuana and there are resources to help youth make informed choices about marijuana use, like <https://www.youcanwa.org>, the Washington State Department of Health's youth marijuana prevention campaign.

Whether you use marijuana or not, it is a good idea to understand the laws and talk with kids about use.

One tool for finding information is the Spokane Regional Health District's Weed to Know campaign, which focuses on preventing underage marijuana use by educating adults about responsible use. The campaign, found at srhd.org/weed-to-know highlights six prevention messages using catchy poems. We also post the messages to social media, in print advertising, and in retail marijuana stores. The main take-aways focus on who can use marijuana, what adults need to do to protect youth, and where marijuana use isn't allowed and includes these messages:

- It's illegal to use marijuana in view of the general public.
- Recreational marijuana use is unsafe and illegal for anyone under 21 years of age.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana can lead to a DUI.
- Talk early and often about the risks of youth marijuana use.
- Put marijuana securely away from youth and those who are under 21.
- Marijuana can be addictive. Concerned about yourself or someone you care about? Call the Washington State Recovery Helpline at 866-789-1511.

There's other ways to learn about the laws, like visiting the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board website at <https://lcb.wa.gov>. Adults who want to learn more about preventing youth substance use can visit <https://www.starttalkingnow.org>, a site operated by the Department of Social and Health Services that highlights information about how to talk to youth about substance use.

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July Marked 150th Anniversary of 14th Amendment That Declared Blacks U.S. Citizens

By Frederick H. Lowe

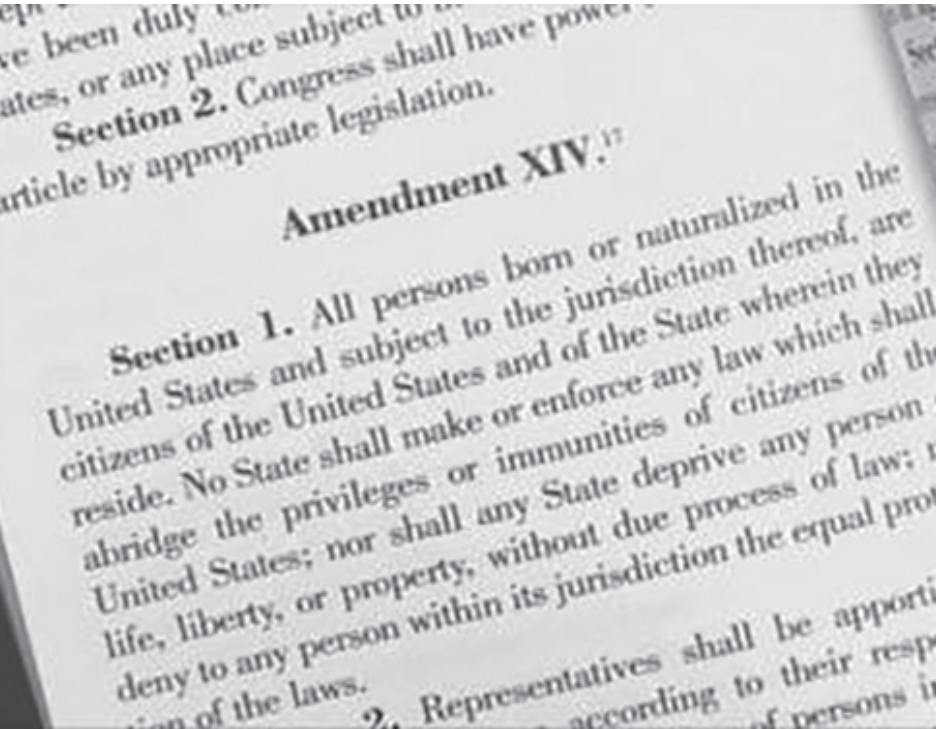
Special to the Trice Edney News Wire
from NorthStarNewsToday.com

(TriceEdneyWire.com) — July 9 marked the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting American citizenship to former Black slaves following the Civil War.

The 14th Amendment, one of the Reconstruction Amendments, was adopted on July 9, 1868, after being bitterly opposed by states that were former members of the Confederacy. The states were forced to ratify the amendment to regain representation in Congress.

The amendment's Citizenship Clause nullified the U.S. Supreme Court's 1857 decision concerning Dred Scott v. Sanford, which the court ruled that Americans who descended from African slaves could not be United States citizens.

The Amendment also prohibits states from denying persons equal protection of the laws or depriving them of life, liberty or property without due process of the law. The first section of the Amendment is the most-litigated forming the basis of U.S. Supreme Court decisions such as 1954's Brown v Board of Education and Roe v. Wade in 1973.



The Reconstruction Amendments are the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth amendments to the United States Constitution

They were adopted between 1865 and 1870, the five years immediately following the Civil War. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery and the 15th Amendment made it illegal to deny individuals the right to vote because of their race.

In the South, the 14th Amendment made one of its biggest legal impacts.

Members of the Klu Klux Klan in cahoots with a sheriff's deputy shot to death civil rights workers Andrew Goodman, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner and buried their bodies in an earthen dam in Nashoba County, Mississippi. The murders occurred in 1964. While the FBI hunted for Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner, they found

the remains of eight other Black men who the Klu Klux Klan had murdered. Only two of the Black men were identified.

U.S. District Court Judge William Harold Cox, a known segregationist, who sat on the court in the Southern District of Mississippi, dismissed 241 charges against the 18 alleged killers. Cox, who was appointed a federal judge by President John F. Kennedy, ruled that Sections 241 (conspiracy against rights) and 242 (deprivation under color of law) of the federal code were enacted to protect federal rights not the rights given by states to their citizens.

The case then went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In majority opinion written by Associate Justice Abe Fortas, he ruled that the indictment against the mob must stand because they denied Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney due process guaranteed under 14th Amendment. A jury found eight members of Klu Klux Klan guilty of the murders.

This was the first case in which whites who participated in what the law described as a lynching were convicted and sentenced to prison.

This article originally published in the June 25, 2018 print edition of The Louisiana Weekly newspaper.

BOOKS/LITERATURE

Medical Apartheid

By Dr. Jeanne Baynes

Medical Apartheid is the first and only comprehensive history of medical experimentation on African Americans. Starting with the earliest encounters between Black Americans and Western medical researchers and the racist pseudoscience that resulted, it details the ways both slaves and freedmen were used in hospitals for experiments conducted without their knowledge—a tradition that continues today within some Black populations.

Moving into the twentieth century, it shows how the pseudoscience of eugenics was used to justify experimental exploitation and shoddy medical treatment of Blacks. Shocking new details about the government’s notorious Tuskegee experiment are revealed, as are similar, less-well-known medical atrocities conducted by the government, the armed forces, prisons, and private institutions.

Some experiments are explained below:

The Manhattan Nuclear Weaponry Research

In 1945, the first known injection of plutonium into a human occurred at Oak Ridge National Laboratory to a 53 year-old African American patient Ebb Cade, a cement mixer at a construction company who had been hospitalized at the Manhattan Project Army Hospital. He was in general good health except for several sustained fractures from a recent automobile accident. After receiving an injection of 4.7 micrograms of plutonium in salt form, he was continuously monitored with regular urine and stool samples collected for over a month.

Several years later, a number of teeth were removed and analyzed for plutonium levels. It was years before late radiation effects such as cancer were expected to develop. At the time of the injection, scientists were perfectly aware of the serious negative effects associated with radiation — since they had conducted numerous radiation experiments on animals and recorded the severe adverse effects.

Cade died in 1953 of heart failure. Ebb Cade was first but not the last to be injected without his consent or knowledge.

Weaponized Mosquito Experiment

In the early 1950’s, the United States government conducted an experiment to see if mosquitoes could be weaponized. The CIA and the U.S. military released nearly a

half million mosquitoes carrying yellow fever and dengue fever viruses into several Black communities in Florida. In the predominantly Black community of Avon Park, dozens of Black people became ill, eight dying as a result of this government-issued mosquito attack.

Radiation Experiments on African Americans

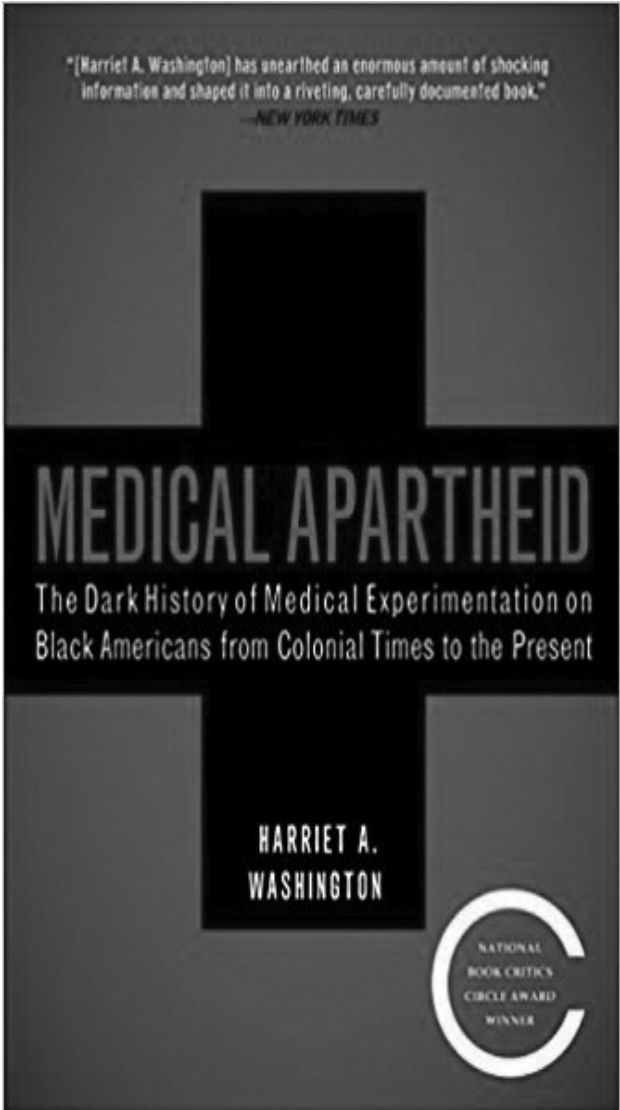
From 1960 to 1971, Dr. Eugene Saenger, a radiologist at the University of Cincinnati, led an experiment exposing 88 poor and Black patients with cancer to whole body radiation. By this time, the use of whole body treatment had already been discredited as cancer treatment for the patients. The patients were not asked to sign consent forms, nor were they told the Pentagon was behind funding the experiment. Patients were told that they were being given treatments that might possibly help their condition. Patients were exposed, in the period of one hour, to the equivalent of about 20,000 x-rays worth of radiation. Nausea, vomiting, severe stomach pain, loss of appetite, and mental confusion were the results. A report in 1972 indicated that as many as a quarter of the patients died of radiation poisoning.

Infants Injected With Test Drugs In Los Angeles

In June 1990, more than 1500 six-month old Black and Hispanic babies in Los Angeles were given what seemed to be a standard measles vaccination. The parents were not told that this particular vaccine, Edmonston Zagreb measles vaccine (EZ), was still in its research phase and not approved by the FDA. The EZ vaccine already had a reputation in Senegal, Guinea Bissau and Haiti, triggering an increased death rate among infant girls, most not living past the age of two. The Center for Disease Control would later confess that the infants were injected with an experimental vaccination without their parent’s knowledge. Presently, it is believed that many of these families are still unaware that their babies were used as guinea pigs.

The Toxic Sludge Experiment of Baltimore and St. Louis

In the year 2000, federally funded researchers from John Hopkins University, the EPA, HUD, The Kennedy Krieger Institute and Department of Agriculture spread sludge from a sewage treatment plant on the lawns of nine low-income families, and a vacant lot in Baltimore and East St. Louis. The families and residents were told the sludge was safe and not informed about the toxic mixture of human and industrial waste the sludge contained. The research



was conducted to see if the toxic waste absorbed into the water supply could effectively reduce lead levels in children.

CDC Study of Experimental MMR Vaccines

Earlier this year reports emerged that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was hiding results from a test of experimental measles vaccines that actually increased the likelihood of Black children developing autism. Back in September, Dr. William Thompson, who has been with the CDC for more than 10 years, told The Examiner that the authors of the study manipulated and hid data that proved Black babies were more than three times more likely to develop regressive autism if they were given the vaccine before the age of 3. Parents of the Black babies who were receiving the vaccines were not made aware of the risk of their child developing autism.

Ugandan Inventor Wins Major Prize for Malaria Detector

(TriceEdneyWire.com/GIN) – Ugandan inventor Brian Gitta, 24, has scooped a major prize for his device that detects tell-tale signs of malaria – the leading cause of death in his country.

In fact, Gitta developed the device, called “Matibabu” after blood tests failed to diagnose his own malaria.

It took four blood tests to diagnose Mr. Gitta with the disease, said Shafik Sekitto, part of the Matibabu team in an interview with the BBC.

Matibabu is simply a game-changer," said Rebecca Enonchong, a judge for the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation and Cameroonian technology entrepreneur.

Matibabu, which means "treatment" in Swahili, clips onto a patient's finger and does not require a specialist to operate. Its red beam can detect changes in the color, shape and concentration of red blood cells - all of which are affected by malaria.

The majority of global deaths caused by malaria - usually transmitted by the bite of an in-

fectected Anopheles mosquito - occur in sub-Saharan Africa. His team hopes the device can one day be used as a way to better detect malaria across the continent.

Matibabu still has to go through a number of regulators before being available in the market, Mr Sekitto told the BBC. In the meantime, the Matibabu team has been approached by international researchers offering support, and are currently performing field trials on the device.

The prize, which was set up in 2014, provides support, funding, mentoring and business training to the winners, the Royal Academy of Engineering said in a statement.

Mr Gitta has also been awarded £25,000 (\$33,000) in prize money from the Royal Academy of Engineering.

"The recognition will help us open up partnership opportunities - which is what we need most at the moment," Mr Gitta said in a statement.



The Price of Ignoring High Blood Pressure



By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - After discovering that my blood pressure has risen, with me knowing it, to levels that put me at great risk for a stroke, I am happy to report that I have gotten my own high blood pressure down to a steady 127/76!

If you're African American, there's a good chance that you, a relative, or an African American friend has the disease, which is also known as HBP or hypertension. Not only is HBP more severe in Blacks than whites, but it also develops earlier in life. It is believed that this is due to higher overall rates of obesity and diabetes in African Americans, placing them at greater risk for high blood pressure and heart disease.

Researchers have also found that there may be a gene that makes African-Ameri-

cans much more salt sensitive. This gene is thought to increase the risk of developing HBP. In people who have this gene, as little as one extra gram (half a teaspoon) of salt could raise blood pressure as much as five points!

Do you ever wonder if all the talk about high blood pressure is really relevant? The unequivocal answer: Yes!

High blood pressure is called “a silent killer” because there are generally no symptoms even when your blood pressure is high and uncontrolled. Unnoticed and untreated, high blood pressure can kill you. Many people assume you will get a headache or some other kind of signal when blood pressure is high. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case. Often, the first sign of unknown or untreated high blood pressure is a stroke, a heart attack, or kidney disease.

Approximately 30% of the American adult population has high blood pressure - equivalent to 65 million Americans. Estimates are that 90% of all American adults are at risk for elevated blood pressure during their lifetime. According to the American Heart Association, more than 40 percent of non-Hispanic blacks have high blood pressure.

People with high blood pressure can feel fine for years before symptoms arise – that's why it's called the silent killer.

In fact, high blood pressure is one of the leading causes of kidney failure. This is because high blood pressure makes the heart work harder and, over time, can damage blood vessels throughout the body. If the

blood vessels in the kidneys are damaged, they may stop removing wastes and extra fluid from the body. The extra fluid in the blood vessels may then raise blood pressure even more. It's a dangerous cycle.

Every year, high blood pressure causes more than 25,000 new cases of kidney failure in the United States. As many of you, unfortunately already know, dialysis becomes necessary when the waste products in the body become so high that they start to become sick from them.

In case that's not enough of a wakeup call, uncontrolled blood pressure, leads to an increased stroke risk that is three times larger for African Americans than whites, accounting for a 300 percent increased risk of stroke for African Americans aged 45 to 64.

So, when was the last time you had your blood pressure checked? Were you told you have high blood pressure? Was it greater than 140/90? And if so, what does that mean?

A lot of people are confused about which one of the numbers to watch? Both the top and bottom numbers are important to watch.

The top number is called systolic blood pressure - the pressure exerted by the heart when it squeezes to pump blood to the rest of the body. The bottom number, diastolic blood pressure, is the pressure in your vascular system (blood vessels) during the phase when the heart is resting. You want to make sure the heart only pumps as hard as it needs to pump to get blood out to your body, and you need to control the pressure

exerted against the heart when it is trying to rest. Therefore, both numbers are important. The number that generally guides medication management is the top number, or the systolic blood pressure.

Make sure you understand how to take your medicines and make sure you take them on a regular basis. It is estimated that almost half of all prescriptions written by providers are not filled once an individual walks out of a health care visit.

If you have any concerns about medications that you have been prescribed, talk to your provider: Blood pressure medication can be life-saving! If your doctor has told you that you have high blood pressure and you're tempted to just ignore it. That's a bad idea.

At some point, you've got to decide, “do I want to live, or do I want to die?”

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

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. The reader should always consult his or her healthcare provider to determine the appropriateness of the information for their own situation or if they have any questions regarding a medical condition or treatment plan. Glenn Ellis, is a Health Advocacy Communications Specialist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. A health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics, Ellis is an active media contributor on Health Equity and Medical Ethics. Listen to Glenn, every Saturday at 9:00am (EST) on www.wurdradio.com, and Sundays at 8:30am (EST) on www.wdasfm.com. For more good health information, visit: www.glennellis.com

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OUR VOICES

Separating Children from Their Families is Part of America's Legacy



By David A. Love, JD

(Blackcommentator.com - CNN) The fact that only six of the 2,000 migrant children who were separated from their families at the US-Mexico border have been released is upsetting (as of the writing of this article), especially when we have seen the conditions that these children are being held in.

People react to the fenced-in detention centers for children and babies and say this is not America. But sadly, they are mistaken; this is very much America, the America that always was. Throughout its history, America has created psychological trauma by abducting and imprisoning children, and separating families for their race, color and nationality.

During slavery, when Black people were property and had no rights even with regard to their own children, children were snatched from their mothers and sold down the river as a matter of course. With emancipation came the long, painful journey of searching for family.

As a solution to its so-called "Indian problem," the government forced tens of thousands of Native American children into boarding schools, where they were separated from their family and culture, language and belief systems. This forced assimilation was a form of ethnic cleansing, an effort to "kill the Indian...save the man," as Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, the founder of the first Indian boarding school, infamously said.

During the Great Depression, a climate of racial scapegoating resulted in the deportation or "repatriation" of one million Mexican nationals and those of Mexican descent. Sixty percent of those forced to leave were US citizens. Among them

were American-born children, who were told that they could not speak Spanish in school and were punished for doing so. Denied their cultural identity in America, they emerged in Mexico -- a country that was foreign to many of them -- where they were regarded as outsiders. During World War II, nearly 120,000 Japanese-Americans (half of them were children) were forced from their homes and thrown into internment camps.

While Trump has reversed course on family separations through an executive order, the policy may resume, as Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) suspects. The administration has asked the Pentagon to prepare 20,000 beds for migrant children on military bases, and the prosecution of undocumented adults on the border continues, with families detained for an indefinite period of time, and asylum seekers imprisoned in violation of international law. The government recently released a plan to eventually reunify families, but some parents already have been deported, forced to leave their kids behind.

To make matters worse, in a number of lawsuits filed by advocates, there are allegations of children facing abuse, being drugged, and neglected. Last year, a female youth care worker at a Florida center was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being convicted of "attempting to coerce and entice an unaccompanied alien minor to engage in illicit sexual activity."

The allegations are gut wrenching, and we don't know how many children may have or continue to face these conditions.

Understanding how America arrived to such a cruel and sadistic place -- acts of gratuitous violence and, according to the president of the American Association of Pediatrics, "government-sanctioned child abuse" -- requires we identify those who champion these horrific policies.

Stephen Miller, White House senior policy adviser and architect of the Trump family separation policy, has been accused by Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) of trying to implement an anti-immigrant agenda.

Richard Spencer, the white nationalist who helped organize last year's deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, claims to have mentored Miller while they were both at Duke University. But Miller has denied Spencer's claims, saying that he has "absolutely no relationship with Mr.

Spencer. I completely repudiate his views, and his claims are 100 percent false."

Jeff Sessions' zero-tolerance policy of criminally prosecuting all people who cross the southwest border has its origins in the "Undesirable Aliens Act," as Pro-Publica reported. Enacted by President Hoover in 1929 and originating in World War I, the statute -- which makes it a crime for foreigners to come into the country through an unlawful entry point -- enjoyed critical support from eugenicists and white supremacists who believed in the superiority of the Nordic race and viewed immigrants as criminals, vermin and bacteria, and subhuman mongrels.

Five years earlier, the government already had passed harsh restrictions with the Immigration Act of 1924. The law established an immigration quota, discriminated against Southern and Eastern Europeans and favored people from Northern and Western Europe, and banned Asian immigrants.

In fact, Adolf Hitler found inspiration in these racist US immigration laws. "At present there exists one State which manifests at least some modest attempts that show a better appreciation of how things ought to be done in this matter," Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf* in 1925. "It is not, however, in our model German Republic but in the U.S.A. that efforts are made to conform at least partly to the counsels of commonsense. By refusing immigrants to enter there if they are in a bad state of health, and by excluding certain races from the right to become naturalized as citizens, they have begun to introduce principles similar to those on which we wish to ground the People's State."

Many people, who would like to think that we have come a long way from America's past, are reacting with outrage when they view the images and hear the sounds of crying children as they are separated from their parents. While some have said it is "un-American," not only is this part of our past, this is present-day America.

Today, America has the world's largest prison population at 2.3 million, according to the Prison Policy Initiative -- with 10,000 young people incarcerated in adult prisons on any given day -- and a foster care system of over 400,000 children, according to a 2014 report from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting

System -- both systems comprised of mostly black, brown and poor. It is no wonder Trump -- who recently tweeted that immigrants "infest our country" -- would criminalize migrant children and their parents with punitive measures such as detention centers and zero tolerance prosecution.

And the Trump anti-immigration plan is about racial hostility, but also profit and greed. The private prison industry, which houses three-quarters of immigrant detainees, contributed heavily to the Trump 2016 presidential campaign and the PAC for Vice President Mike Pence. Private prison stocks soared after the 2016 election, and US military contractors have also profited from the warehousing of these children.

Last year, the Department of Homeland Security found 20,000 beds for the planned indefinite detention of families seeking asylum, a 500% increase from existing capacity. We are witnessing another shameful moment in US history, in which a president is placating his base of supporters who fear an America in which white people no longer rule. "Make America Great Again" is the clarion call of white people who believe they are an endangered species due to immigration, civil rights protections and programs of racial inclusion.

Jailed migrant children are not attending summer camp or boarding school, as Laura Ingraham so callously put it.

Children are being taken away from their parents and placed into what can only be described as internment camps. Let it sink in for a moment, and realize the Trump presidency must come to an end and Trump must no longer be president, whether through resignation or impeachment. Whether democracy survives depends on our capacity to acknowledge and learn from this horrible legacy, and our will to not repeat it.

This commentary was originally published by CNN.com

David A. Love, JD serves BlackCommentator.com as Executive Editor. He is a journalist, commentator, human rights advocate and an adjunct instructor at the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information based in Philadelphia, and a contributor to theGrio, AtlantaBlackStar, The Progressive, CNN.com, Morpheus, NewsWorks and The Huffington Post. He also blogs at davidalove.com. Contact Mr. Love and BC.

AME Church and Black Banks Partnership

Continued from Page 13

"We hear about Black folks have a trillion dollars in spending power," said Ron Busby, president/CEO of the U. S. Black Chamber, Inc. and co-founder of Black Wealth 2020. "But that's usually White folk talking about our dollar and how can they get their share of it. We came together to say how can we deal with the Black wealth, the gap of it and really to move our agenda forward inside our own community."

Busby pointed to the USBC's new AP called the USBC Mobile Directory with 109,000 Black-owned businesses in order to help consumers make targeted purchases inside the Black business community.

Robert James, CEO of the Carver State Bank in Savannah discussed how the movement will be sustained. "There was a time that no church got financed in Savannah Geor-

gia unless we financed them at Carver State Bank," James said to applause. "This program will get us back on the path."

James says he knows the relationship can be sustained because the bishops have authority to oversee and encourage AME church leaders to do business with Black-owned banks. "We can talk to the Bishops about those local churches. And you can talk to your elders and your preachers," he said.

Bishop Jackson underscored the fact that the U. S. partnership is only the beginning. He indicated that the movement will also expand abroad. "The possibilities extend throughout the Diaspora. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has over 4,000 churches in Africa, the Caribbean, West Indies and Europe. These churches and members can also benefit from this partnership," he said.

To augment this expansion, Her Excellency Dr. Arikana Chihombori-Quao, ambassador for the African Union, spoke to the Bishops the day before the press conference, promising to encourage Africans in America to also put their deposits in Black banks. She stressed the need for Black-owned institutions to unify, cooperate and not turn on one another.

"I hope we will all come together and support the idea of putting all of our money in Black banks. I have already taken the initiative and listed all of the Black banks in the country on our website. I'm already encouraging all Black people when I do presentations to say we've been stupid for too long. We drive past Black banks to give our money to people who don't give a hoot about us. And they take our money so they can get rich; not only here, but in Africa. We've got to change this."

OUR VOICES

It's Not Just About Roe

By Julianne Malveaux

(TriceEdneyWire.com) Senate Republicans hope to get Brett Kavanaugh, President Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court, confirmed before October 1, when they will reconvene. Senate Democrats hope to hold on to any vote until after the November election when Democrats have the possibility of taking a majority in the Senate and giving Republicans a dose of their own medicine.

Bravo to Senate Democrats who have not yet scheduled meetings with Kavanaugh. Dems are treating him slightly better than Republicans treated Justice Merrick Garland, President Obama’s choice for the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, with a Republican majority in the Senate, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) can schedule a hearing without Democratic concurrence.

If Republicans stick together, and if the calendar is favorable, Kavanaugh can be voted in without any Democratic support. Most of the scrutiny of Kavanaugh has focused on the possibility that he would vote to overturn Roe V. Wade, the legislation that guarantees abortion rights. Kavanaugh has assured all who will listen that he honors judicial precedent.

While he isn’t likely to vote to overturn Roe, he is extremely likely to rule in favor of limiting abortion rights. This might persuade Senators Susan Collins (R-ME)

and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) to vote against his confirmation. Several women’s organizations have weighed in against Kavanaugh, largely because of his perceived positions on Roe.

Depending on how he answers questions in a hearing, Kavanaugh might lose the support of moderate Republican women Senators. Abortion rights aren’t the only rights on the line if Kavanaugh is voted onto the Supreme Court, and I’m frustrated that so many women have so narrowly focused on abortion rights.

What about voting rights? In 2013, the Supreme Court trashed Title 4(b) (and thus also Title 5) of the Civil Rights Act. Chief Justice John Roberts, who naively believes that the way to stop racism is to simply stop mentioning it, would trash the entire Voting Rights Act, and affirmative action, too, if he had his way.

He does not believe that disparate impact means discrimination and would likely oppose any state action that made adjustments to prevailing practice because African Americans or other people of color are getting the short end of the stick. Laws that prevent discrimination, according to Roberts, are unconstitutional. Kavanaugh is likely to follow Roberts in voting against any legislation that is "race-conscious."

Not only is Kavanaugh likely to threaten voting rights and civil rights, but he is also

expected to threaten consumer protection. Already the Consumer Financial Protection Board has been under attack. When Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) led the office on an interim basis, he did everything he could to render the agency inefficient, including submitting a zero budget for the agency.

Now, President Trump has nominated Mulvaney’s assistance, Kathy Kraninger, to replace him as CFPB leader. Kraninger, a Georgetown University law graduate, has absolutely no background in consumer protection or financial services. Kraninger should not be confirmed to lead the CFPB, but the agency may be short-lived if Brett Kavanaugh becomes a justice. He has ruled that the CFPB is “unconstitutional” and “a threat to individual liberties.” Through his rulings, predatory bankers have been able to avoid paying millions of dollar of fines. He is on record opposing regulation and consumer protection and will make life much more challenging for everyday Black folks.

Brett Kavanaugh has been a strong proponent of presidential power, and would likely cover for Trump in individual lawsuits, and prevent government agencies, or others, from bringing lawsuits against Trump. He has stated that he would put “a nail in the coffin” of the independent counsel statute, and would probably prevent investiga-



tions of presidents while they are in office. But if we wait until 2020 to pin the tail on the Trump elephant, we will have been annexed by Russia, reimposed segregation, and more!

The white women who consider their top issue in vetting a Supreme court justice the abortion issue are being extremely short-sighted. There are plenty more reasons to be adamantly opposed to this nominee. Perhaps Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) the lone Black Republican in the Senate, will be swayed by the Kavanaugh position on voting rights. Maybe other Republicans will grow a conscience.

Or perhaps Schumer can hold the line on a vote until November. In any case, abortion rights aren't the only rights on the line if Kavanaugh makes it to the Supreme Court.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com.

Amazon Prime and Prejudice:

It’s Time for Closer Scrutiny of the Online Retailer’s Practice Of Selling Hate

By Barbara Arnwine

(Founder/President, Transformative Justice Coalition)

Amazon claims to be a company that values inclusion and diversity, but a recent report reveals that this façade masks a darker side, as the company profits from selling White supremacist and other hateful products. Progressive lawmakers in Georgia, where earlier this year conservative lawmakers punished Delta for cutting ties with the N.R.A., should take a stand of their own by punishing Amazon for promoting hatred and bigotry.

The report, jointly published by the Partnership for Working Families and Action Center on Race & the Economy, details the startlingly vast array of White supremacist products and goods available on the Amazon marketplace. This includes everything from costumes featuring lynching imagery to burning-cross onesies and Nazi swastika pendants. Amazon was even discovered to be allowing the sale of more contemporary symbols of hate such as Pepe the Frog memorabilia, the symbol of the alt-right movement, which promotes explicit racism.

It begs the question: is Amazon failing miserably to police its platform or is the tech giant willfully overlooking the sale of bigoted products?

Georgia communities in particular should be aware of the hate-mongering taking place on the Amazon marketplace. One of the prominent products cited in the report and still available for purchase on Amazon is an “old” Georgia state flag featuring Confederate imagery alongside the state of Georgia seal. Just a half-century removed from the struggle for equality, this is an affront on the hard-fought battles of Georgia civil rights leaders like Representative John Lewis.

But the marketplace is not the only Amazon platform that has seen White supremacist offerings. Amazon Kindle, which controls nearly 83 percent of the online book market, was found to offer 226 books from publishers that the Southern Poverty Law Center identified as hate organizations. With such a dominant market share, Amazon is failing its responsibility to keep our communities safe from this type of bigotry and hate speech.

This is not the first time that Amazon has been found profiting from these appalling business practices. Earlier this year, the company was caught selling apparel and other items emblazoned with the phrase “Slavery Gets Sh*t Done,” which included children’s T-shirts and bibs. Only after human rights organizations such as Anti-Slavery International condemned the company did Amazon pull them from their online shelves. Meanwhile, the tech giant’s German marketplace was revealed to be offering modified Lego-style Nazi German soldiers for purchase. The toys were reportedly being marketed to children as young as seven years old, sparking an online petition and groundswell of opposition protesting their sale.



Since Amazon clearly has a long and alarming history of allowing hatred on its platforms, it is time that Georgia lawmakers take swift action to protect communities of color and other minorities. Beyond denouncing this clear violation of ethical conduct, lawmakers should consider whether it is time to introduce regulations that force Amazon to reject profiting from the sale of products that promote hate.

Civil rights leaders have bravely fought for decades to keep burning crosses and other symbols of bigotry off the lawns of Georgia communities. Now they must prevent Amazon from allowing them to be delivered to the front door.

Civil rights leader Barbara Arnwine is the founder and president of the Transformative Justice Coalition and a lecturer at Columbia Law School. She served as the executive director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law from 1989 until 2015. Follow Barbara on Twitter @barbs73.

Image 7 Cross burning baby onesie for girls



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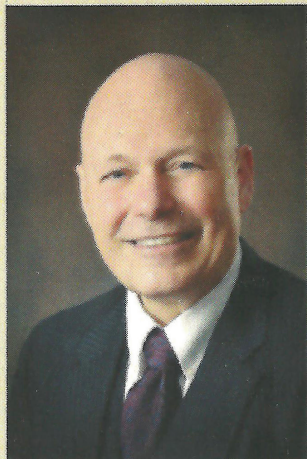
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Career Opportunities S P O K A N E

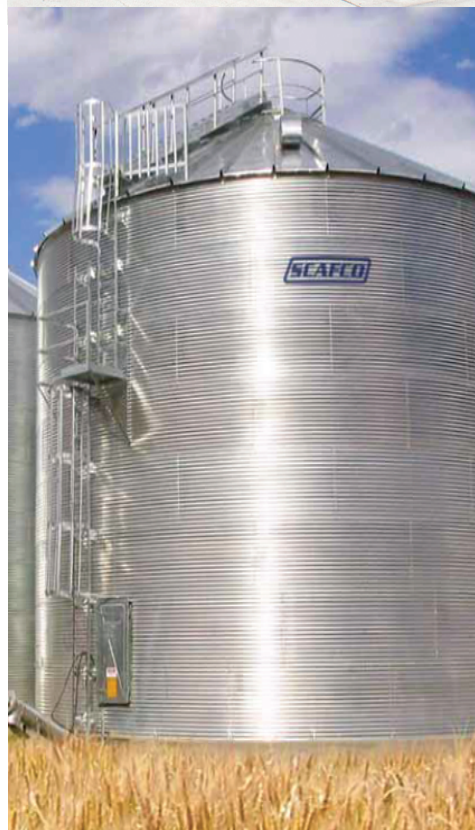
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Niche Co-working: Saranac Building 3rd floor, August and September special at \$100/month for rotating open desk space with locker, includes co-working perks and access to free networking events.

For more information contact summer@community-building.org

AUGUST EVENTS

AUGUST 11

SPOKANE EASTSIDE REUNION (SERA) COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Come joins us for free hot dogs, drinks, games, awards & more.
12pm (Noon) - 4pm
Underhill Park
2910 E Hartson Ave, Spokane, WA 99202
For more information visit spokaneeastidereunionassociation.com/events

AUGUST 16

SPOKANE COUNTY DEMOCRATS COMMUNITY FORUMS

Community members are invited to come learn about their local political scene, and ask questions of local leaders. The Forums--often held as a BBQ or potluck--have been taking place since April and take place every month in different places around Spokane County.
5:30-7pm
Cheney Library
610 1st St, Cheney, WA 99004
For more information contact vicechair@spokanedemocrats.org
The next form is September 15 at the Mirabeau Park Gazebo

AUGUST 18

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Celebrating 24 Years "Collaborate, Connect, Celebrate"
Unity Parade at 9:00 am, downtown Spokane
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Location: Riverfront Park
Cost: Free
For more information visit www.nwunity.org. School supplies for K-8th grade are given out on a first-come, first serve basis. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and child must participate in the Culture Villages experience by visiting all of the booths.

Send information about upcoming community events to sandy@blacklensnews.com.

AUGUST 20

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting.
7:00pm
Saranac 3rd floor - Learning Center
25 W. Main Street, Spokane WA
For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 (ext 1141) or visit the website at <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

AUGUST 24-26

2018 GATHERING AT THE FALLS POW WOW – 26th ANNIVERSARY

Time: Friday evening 7:00 pm Grand Entry
Saturday 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm Grand Entry
Cost: Free
For more information, visit their website at <http://www.gatf-powwow.org/> or email GATFinfo@gatfpowwow.com.

AUGUST 27

SCAR (SPOKANE COMMUNITY AGAINST RACISM) GENERAL MEETING

Working to end racism in Spokane, WA
6pm
Morning Star Baptist Church
3909 W. Rowan Avenue, Spokane WA 99205
For more information visit scarspokane.org.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 3

39th ANNUAL PIG OUT IN THE PARK
Free concerts on three stages and 47 food booths, 3- adult beverage gardens
10:00 am – 10:00 pm
Riverfront Park
Cost: Food and drink items available for purchase, otherwise free. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.spokanepigout.com/>.

SAVE THE DATE

127th Session of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference
Spokane, Washington
August 7—11, 2018



Bishop Clement & Supervisor Alexia Fugh—Episcopal Leaders
Host Presiding Elder
The Reverend
Spencer F. Barrett

Host — Pastor Mitchell and the Bethel Spokane Congregation!

Host Hotel Information
Double Tree by Hilton Spokane City Center
322 N. Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99221
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**August 11th**
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Underhill Park

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For more info or if your business or organization would like to have a booth visit our webpage at
<http://spokaneeastidereunionassociation.com/events>

24TH Annual
UNITY
in the
COMMUNITY
SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, August 18th · Parade 9 am ~Event 10am to 4pm
Riverfront Park, Downtown Spokane

The Region's Largest Multicultural Celebration
Cultural Village · Live Entertainment
Free K-8 School Supplies & Kids Helmets
(while supplies last)
Unity Parade *(register to participate)*
Career, Education and Health Fair
Activities for All Ages
Senior Resource Area

Unity Parade
(register to participate)

Career, Education and Health Fair

Cultural Village

Activities for All Ages

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

nwunity.org

Live Entertainment

Free K-8 School Supplies

Free Kids Helmets
(while supplies last)

Senior Resource Area

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August 25, 2018

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Lake Coeur d’Alene Resort Cruise