

THE BLACK LENSTM SPOKANE

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

MICHELLE OBAMA ELECTRIFIES DNC But Democratic Activists Struggle to Maximize Voter Turnout

By Hazel Trice Edney

(<http://www.triceedneywire.com>) First Lady Michelle Obama was once again the star of the Democratic National Convention with her delivery of an electrifying speech that wowed a convention audience - which was still divided between Hillary Clinton and independent Bernie Sanders.

In a speech punctuated with repeated applause and cheers, the first lady sought to convince a hostile audience - in the arena - and the millions watching by television and Internet, to unite behind former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as the person that must lead America to its next level - instead of her opponent Republican Donald Trump.

"I want a President who will teach our children that everyone in this country matters - a President who truly believes in the vision that our founders put forth all those years ago: That we are all created equal, each a beloved part of the great American story," she said. She sought to describe the difference between Clinton and Trump, known for his name-calling and vitriolic expressions of prejudices. "And when crisis hits, we don't turn against each other - no, we listen to each other. We lean on each other. Because we are always stronger together."

She continued, "And I am here tonight because I know that that is the kind of president that Hillary Clinton will be. And that's why, in this election, 'I'm with her,'" she said to applause as she quoted the popular motto on the thousands of placards, t-shirts and political paraphernalia in the room.



She alluded to Clinton's well-known affinity for public policies that improve the lives of children; praised her choice of former Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as vice president; compared her to the people who lined up to give blood for the victims of the Orlando terrorist attack; and credited her as a woman presidential candidate for "putting those cracks in that highest and hardest glass ceiling until she finally breaks through, lifting all of us along with her."

Michelle Obama then dropped the portion of the speech that drew the most vigorous applause of the night: "That is the story of this country, the story that has brought me to this stage tonight, the story of generations of people who felt the lash of bondage, the shame of servitude, the sting of segregation, but who kept on striving and hoping and doing what needed to be done so that today, I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves and I watch my daughters - two beautiful, intelligent, Black young women - playing with their dogs on the White House lawn. And because of Hillary Clinton, my daughters - and all our sons and daughters - now take for granted that a woman can be President of the United States."

Without using Trump's name in the entire speech, Obama successfully made the contrast - even with his campaign slogan "Make America Great Again." She said, "Don't let anyone ever tell you that this country isn't great, that somehow we need to make it great again. Because this, right now, is the greatest country on earth."

The passion and authority of her voice - plus her widely respected reputation - silenced sporadic protesters and Sen. Bernie Sanders' delegates who had interrupted all other speakers Monday night at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia - including their favored candidate with chants of "Bernie! Bernie! Bernie!"

The faces of many Sanders delegates were streaked with tears as he also endorsed Clinton. He also insisted that they must not allow Donald Trump to be elected.

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DETROIT: WATER SHUTOFFS CONTINUE Nearly 65,000 Residences Shut Off Since 2014 By Democratic Mayor

By: Shannon Jones
(Article excerpt reprinted from www.africanglobe.net)

Two years after the city of Detroit instituted a policy of mass service disconnections of past due water accounts, the city is shutting off some 150 customers a day with no letup in sight. The shutoffs continued through the recent summer heat wave, with temperatures reaching the 90s for days in a row.

At this point about 1 in 13 of Detroit's 175,000 residential accounts have had their water shut off., and water bills average about \$75 a month, under conditions where more than 40 percent of city resi-

dents live in poverty. According to guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency, water bills should comprise no more than 2.5 percent of family income. In Detroit that figure is more like 10 percent.

Since 2014, the administration of Detroit's Democratic Mayor Mike Duggan has shut off almost 65,000 residences. That means that one-third of all homes in the city have faced losing water. However, the city says it does not keep a record of the number of occupied homes that lack water service. The water shutoffs come in the wake of a wave of foreclosures impacting some 110,000 residences. The net



effect of the water shutoffs, foreclosures and mass demolitions has been to depopulate areas of the city, driving out poorer residents. The folding of the municipally owned DWSD into the Great Lakes Water Authority in 2014 was the

first step in the direction of privatization of the system. The move corporatized the DWSD, putting unelected officials in charge of its operations and running it on a business basis. The establishment of the new authority freed the DWSD from control by the City Council, which under provisions of the City Charter had to seek voter approval before privatization.

In October 2014 United Nations experts called on the city to end its policy of mass water shutoffs, calling it a violation of human rights. City officials tout the existence of water payment assistance programs, but the funds available are inadequate and there is a backlog

of 2,500-3,000 households. The funds allocated for assistance with water bills pales in comparison to the \$170 million handed out by the federal government for so called "blight removal" in Detroit. This involves the mass demolition of vacant homes, some habitable, to open up areas of the city for redevelopment by wealthy investors.

The lack of access to safe water in Flint and Detroit, which once boasted among the highest standards of living in the United States, is especially criminal considering that the region is in the middle of the Great Lakes, which hold 21 percent of the world's supply of fresh water.

For full article: www.africanglobe.net

ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

Was it Poor Judgment or Something else?

*****I take very seriously what I print in this paper. There are times when my role as an editor is one that is difficult for me and the decision of whether or not to print something is a hard one. This is one of those times.***

I was approached by a community member during ‘Unity in the Community a couple of weeks ago and asked if I had seen Damon Simmons’ Facebook posts. I’m not on Facebook as much as some people think I ought to be, so it’s not unusual for me to miss something that has been posted there. I told him that I hadn’t seen them, so he pulled them up on his phone. I was troubled by what I saw and decided to take a closer look when I got home.

I don’t know Damon Simmons, but according to his Facebook page, which was public at the time I looked at it, he is a Detective in the Spokane County Sheriff’s office. He was a Police Officer in Great Falls, MT before that, and studied Criminal Justice at The University of Phoenix and Sociology at the University of Great Falls. Hmmm.

I scanned through his page, and there were posts that I found offensive, but, I thought to myself, I don’t have to agree with a person’s perspective to respect their right to have an opinion, even an opinion that I find offensive. I suspect that some people find some of the things that I post on Facebook offensive as well. So, up to that point, as I kept scrolling, my thought was that Damon was simply exercising poor judgment.

But... then I came across this post, (which I have decided to share).

It was dated July 7. One day after the shooting of Philando Castille, two days after the shooting of Alton Sterling, and the same day that the police officers were shot in Dallas. This post made me stop. Damn, I thought to myself, shaking my head.

I don’t know what Damon Simmons was intending by sharing this post, because I don’t know him, but I will share the result of his sharing this post, at least where I am concerned. I would now be very uncomfortable being around this officer and instead

of him being someone that I might look to for assistance, I would now most likely avoid him. I am now very uncomfortable with the idea that this African American officer would be the one to stop any Black males that I care about.

When I spoke at the Black Lives Matter vigil that was held in Spokane in July, I told the crowd that was gathered in front of the courthouse that I know most police officers are good cops. I know that. But the problem is that some police officers are not good cops, and I do not know which ones are which.

One of the reasons that I don’t know which ones are which is because of actions like this one. Is Damon Simmons simply a good cop that had a lapse in judgment when he shared this offensive post? Or does Damon Simmons actually believe, as this post seems to suggest, that killing an unarmed person simply because they do not comply is a justified action. I don’t know Damon Simmons, so I don’t have the answer to that question. But what I do know is that Damon Simmons is armed and now his Facebook page is private. Right now, both of those things make me very uncomfortable.



WEED to KNOW

Help Prevent Underage Marijuana Use



IF YOU'RE HIGH TODAY
DON'T DRIVE TODAY



The Who, What, Where of Responsible Marijuana Use
SRHD.ORG/WEEDTOKNOW.ASP

YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey

(jbaguart@yahoo.com)

Madam C. J. Walker

December 23rd 1867, two years after the Civil War, poor sharecropping ex-slaves in Delta Mississippi celebrated the birth of their last child. She was the only one of Owen and Minerva Breedlove's five children who was born after the Emancipation Proclamation, technically making her the only free member of the family. But the only real inheritance Sarah Breedlove McWilliams could look forward to was hard work.

Orphaned by seven, Sara and her older sister Louvenia moved to Vicksburg, Mississippi to start a new life. There she married Moses McWilliams at fourteen producing Sara's only child Lelia. When her husband was murdered in 1887 by a group of Southern protestors, Sara took Lelia to St. Louis for a new start and a new marriage to Mr. John Davis, which didn't last. Soon she began dating a local advertising man named C.J. Walker.

All of Sara's life she made her living washing clothes with little time or money for a formal education. Washing folks' clothes by hand was hard work and many washerwomen, Sara included, kept their hair wrapped in turbans. The hard work and heat dried out their scalps stripping hair of essential oils which led to breakage, excessive dandruff, and hair loss. With the stigma of hair loss Sara experimented with chemical compounds and oils in the hopes of at least re-moisturizing her scalp. By day she toiled over washtubs, but at night she worked on a hair formula. What Sarah stumbled upon next would forever change her life, the esteem of Asiatic women everywhere, and revolutionize the possibilities of African-American entrepreneurship.

By 1905 Sara streamlined her formula in Denver with the help of German chemist, E.L. Scholtz and introduced to the nation: "Madam C.J. Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower", along with vegetable shampoos, salves, ointments, her patented iron "straightening" comb, and later cosmetics. Naming the business after her third husband, Sara, her daughter Lelia, and a few helpers were soon mixing, bottling, and labeling her new product for national distribution, modeling her own hair results in

the before and after photos. Her business took off quickly because the products sold themselves and she poured all the profits back into advertising. By offering "free demonstrations in hair culture" Madam Walker didn't just talk it, but demonstrated the dynamic results. She soon realized that she could use other women to give demonstrations in her "Madam Walker Hair Culture Method" if trained properly. She set up a hair college with parlors instructing paying students to become their own independent agents.

For women used to taking orders in menial, low-paying jobs, it created very high-paying jobs and a sense of ownership. For Sara it produced a secondary source of income from the same product base. As the growing business moved headquarters to Indianapolis

Sara tirelessly toured the country in segregated rail cars with boxes of her products. She went from town to town, month after long month giving free demonstrations to women in parlors, private kitchens, and even church basements. But the time apart networking and marketing took a heavy toll on her marriage and divorce proceedings commenced in 1912.

The average yearly salary in America at this time was about \$400. Sara was bringing in about \$3,000 per month. As she broke sales records year after year, she opened the door to new revenue by creating an export company of her products for women in Central, South America, and The Islands.

More and more of Sara's speeches were now going beyond mere business talk and into African-American social issues like racism and anti-lynching campaigns. Outgrowing Indianapolis, she moved to Harlem, New York, purchasing the greatest mansion from "Negro money" in Westchester County. The 34-room, \$190,000 Villa Lewaro was built by the Architect Verner Tandy. She built the mansion from scratch to: "convince members of [my] race of the wealth of business possibilities within the race, to point to young Negroes what a lone woman accomplished and to inspire them to do big things."



By 1919 estimates of Madam C.J. Walker's real estate/property holdings, money, and assets held an estimated value of \$600,000 which today equals more than \$6 million dollars. The constant grinding, traveling, and social engagements took its toll on her health for many years, and she passed away in Villa Lewaro Sunday morning, May 25th 1919 from kidney failure. The last thing doctors heard her say was: "I want to live to help my race."

What made Madam C.J. Walker a great woman and business model wasn't just her dynamic products, Sara created an incredible multi-tiered business model that ensured multiple sources of revenue. Her mail-order business brought in the lion's share of revenue from newspaper advertising. Her free demonstrations led to the

development of national Walker Salons. And lastly, and most impressively, she was responsible for creating more than twenty-thousand, licensed Walker representatives who became financially independent women working for themselves. Their success became her success. She gave her entire self to the causes of her people using her business as the platform. One of the greatest American business models we have ever developed came from a simple, beautiful washerwoman with barely a third-grade education.

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THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Armed ‘All Lives Matter’ Group Protests Houston NAACP

(Source: By Sheryl Estrada, <http://www.diversityinc.com>)

Waving Confederate flags and armed with assault rifles, White Lives Matter supporters stood in front of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s (NAACP) office in Houston’s Third Ward on Sunday, August 21, demanding the organization refute Black Lives Matter.

Scott Lacy, a White Lives Matter member, said in an interview with KPRC-TV the group chose to protest at the location, which is a predominately Black area, because the NAACP is “one of the most racist groups in America.” The protest began around noon with about 20 people. When the crowd began to increase in size, including counter protesters, police arrived on horseback and put up barricades.

“We came out here specifically today to protest against the NAACP and their failure in speaking out against the atrocities that organizations like Black Lives Matter and other pro-Black organizations have caused the attack and killing of white police officers, the burning down of cities and things of that nature,” organizer Ken Reed, who was wearing a “Donald Trump ’16” hat, told The Houston Chronicle. “If they’re going to be a civil rights organization and defend their people, they also need to hold their people accountable.”

The protesters were armed, as Texas firearm laws say it’s legal for a person to carry, either open or concealed, in a non-threatening or alarming manner, a shotgun or rifle. In this case, interpretation of the law may be subjective.

Reed said, however, they weren’t there to “start any problems.”

“We’re not out here to instigate or start any problems,” he said. “Obviously we’re exercising our Second Amendment rights but that’s because we have to defend ourselves. Their organizations and their people are shooting people based on the color of their skin. We’re not. We definitely will defend ourselves, but we’re not out here to start any problems.” According to Reed, holding Confederate flags outside of the NAACP “has nothing to do with racism on our part. We’re proud to be Southern,” he said. “It has all to do about heritage, nothing to do with hate.”

In actuality, the Confederate flag, or “rebel flag”, represents rebellion, not heritage. The Army of Northern Virginia under General Robert E. Lee adopted the Confederate flag. However, it is not one of the three national flags that were used to represent the Confederate nation during the Civil War, with the first one called “Stars and Bars.” The flag was only associated with the Confederacy after the South lost the Civil War.

There was a revival of the Confederate flag in the 1940s and in 1948, the segregationist Dixiecrat Party ushered in the use of the battle flag as a symbol of resistance to the government. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) then used the flag to support its agenda of hate. Though not the group’s official flag, it had a substantial influence on the symbolism of the flag.

“The Confederate flag throws me off,” resident Quintina Richardson told The Houston Chronicle. “You’re



saying Black Lives Matter is a racist organization but when you’re throwing the Confederate flag up and saying White Lives Matter, are you saying you’re racist?”

On Monday, August 22, NAACP chapter members, community groups and civil rights groups spoke from the NAACP Houston headquarters, condemning the White Lives Matter protest. Dr. James Douglass, the chapter’s president, said the protesters had a right to free speech but affirmed their message is racist.

“While they criticize the NAACP for not denouncing a movement that has been productive in bringing awareness to the racial disparity in this country, they themselves espoused totally racist positions,” Douglass said.

Media Blackout as Thousands of Tribal Members From Across the County Fight to Block Dakota Access Pipeline



(Sources: democracynow.com, <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com>)

There has been almost no mainstream media coverage in the United States of the ongoing battle that is currently taking place in North Dakota, where tribal members and indigenous activists are continuing to protest the proposed \$3.8 billion Dakota Access pipeline, which they say would threaten to contaminate the Missouri River.

Nearly two thousand people from dozens of different tribes across the country have traveled to the Sacred Stone Spirit Camp, which was launched on April 1 by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to stop what is proposed to be a 1,172-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline that will take Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Illinois.

The protests have so far shut down construction along parts of the pipeline. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has also sued the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over its approval of the pipeline. Dave Archambault, chairperson of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe explained, “it’s a private pipeline from a private company out of Dallas, Texas, and so, there’s a big corporation, Energy Transfer Partners and all they see is dollar signs and greed.”

As the protest continues, more and more tribal members and activists from across the country are arriving. Debra White Plume, an Oglala Lakota water rights activist, shared, “Many red nations are here. Many more red nations are coming. We put the call out for water protectors to come, land defenders to come.” The court ruling has been postponed until September 9.

‘Hidden Figures’ Releases Trailer



Source: <http://www.foxmovies.com>)

‘Hidden Figures’ is the untold story of Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughn (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe), three brilliant African-American women working at NASA, who served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The visionary trio crossed all gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big. The film, which is scheduled to open on January 13, 2017, released a trailer in August. To watch the trailer visit: <http://www.foxmovies.com/movies/hidden-figures>.

Larry Wilmore’s ‘Nightly Show’ Canceled at Comedy Central

Source: Cynthia Littleton, <http://variety.com>)



“The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore” aired its last episode on Thursday, August 19 episode. Comedy Central canceled the half-hour series that began as a replacement for “The Colbert Report” on Jan. 19, 2015. According to Variety magazine, Comedy Central president Kent Alterman said the decision was made because the show had failed to gain ratings traction with their “core demographics of young adults, calling it a “business decision”.

In a statement, Wilmore, who was the first African American to host a late night program referenced his coverage of the presidential election, which he had been calling ‘The Unblackening’ of the white house. “I guess I hadn’t counted on ‘The Unblackening’ happening to my time slot as well.”

SF 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick Refuses to Stand for National Anthem, Said He’s ‘Standing With the Oppressed’



Colin Kaepernick, a five-year veteran of the NFL and Super Bowl winning quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, refused to stand for the national anthem during a preseason game with the Green Bay Packers. According to Kaepernick, the move, which has sparked controversy, was to protest of America’s treatment of Black People and people of color.

In a statement issued to the NFL media, Kaepernick said, “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color.” He continued. “To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.”

Recognizing that there might be backlash for his actions, Kaepernick added, “I am not looking for approval. I have to stand up for people that are oppressed.... If they take football away, my endorsements from me, I know that I stood up for what is right.”

In response, the NFL issued a statement saying, “Players are encouraged but not required to stand during the playing of the National Anthem.” A statement issued by the 49ers organization said: “The national anthem is and always will be a special part of the pre-game ceremony. It is an opportunity to honor our country and reflect on the great liberties we are afforded as its citizens. In respecting such American principles as freedom of religion and freedom of expression, we recognize the right of an individual to choose and participate, or not, in our celebration of the national anthem.”

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Black Athletes Bring Home Olympic Medals

Source: Amanda Scurlock, <https://lasentinel.net> and Sameer Rao, <https://www.colorlines.com>

Black and multi-ethnic Athletes represented America in a historic fashion this year during the Summer Olympics which were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from August 5 to August 21, 2016.

Basketball

Men's Basketball Team won the gold medal after beating Serbia 96-66.



Women's Basketball Team won their sixth consecutive Olympic gold medal with a 101-72 victory against Spain.



Boxing

Boxer **Claressa Shields** earned a gold medal, making her the only American boxer to win two Olympic gold medals back to back.



Shakur Stevenson took home the silver medal in men's bantam 56kg boxing.



Fencing

Fencer **Daryl Homer** represented America in individual sabre category and became the first American to win silver in 112 years.



Ibtihaj Muhammad became the first American woman to earn a medal while wearing a hijab. Muhammad earned a bronze medal for fencing in the women's team sabre.



Fencer **Miles Chamley-Watson** earned a bronze medal in the men's team foil competition in his second Olympics.



Gymnastics

Simone Biles earned four gold medals and a bronze in women's gymnastics, including gold in the women's all around and the team all around. **Gabby Douglas**, the all around champion from the 2012 Olympics, earned a gold in the team all-around.



Swimming

Simone Manuel earned two gold and two silver medals in swimming. Manuel earned gold in 100m freestyle, gold in the 4x100m medley relay, and silver in both the 50m freestyle and the 4x100m freestyle relay. Simone is the first African-American woman to medal in the 100m freestyle.



Anthony Ervin won a gold medal in the men's 4x100m freestyle relay swimming event and a gold in the 50m freestyle race.

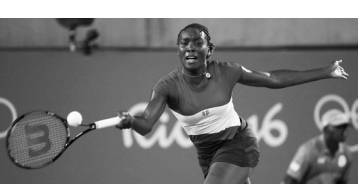


Lia Neal won a silver medal in the women's 4x100m freestyle relay swimming event.



Tennis

Venus Williams participated in the mixed doubles tennis competition with Rajeiv Ram. They earned a silver medal.



Track and Field

All three American runners earned a medal in the women's 100m hurdles: **Brianna Rollins** earned gold, **Nia Ali** silver, and **Kristi Castlin** bronze.



Tianna Bartoletta earned gold in the women's long jump and **Brittney Reese** silver.



Tori Bowie has earned two medals during her Olympic debut, a silver medal in the 100m and bronze in the 200m.



Michelle Carter brought America its first gold medal in shot put. She threw 20.63m. The USA has not received a medal in this event since 1960.



Matthew Centrowitz, Jr. won the gold medal in the men's 1500m



Paul Kipkemoi Chelimo, who was born in Kenya, won a silver medal in the men's 5000m race.



Will Claye won a silver medal in the men's triple jump.



Kerron Clement earned a gold medal in the 400m hurdles with a 47.73-second run.



Aston Eaton won his second Olympic gold medal in the decathlon, tying the Olympic record with 8,893 points and securing the title of world's greatest all-around athlete.



Allyson Felix earned a silver medal in the 400m making her the most decorated American woman in Olympic track and field history with seven career Olympic medals.



Justin Gatlin earned a silver medal in the Men's 100m, coming in second at 9.89s to Usain Bolt's 9.81s.



Jeff Henderson won gold in the men's long jump with a jump of 27'6". This was the first time an American has earned a gold medal in the event since 2004.



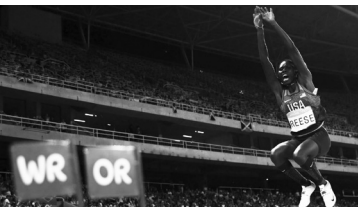
LaShawn Merritt earned a bronze medal for the 400m



Dalilah Muhammad became the first U.S. woman to win the 400m hurdles with a time of 53.13s



Brittney Reese earned a silver medal in the women's long jump.



Ashley Spencer earned a bronze in the women's 400m hurdles.



Christian Taylor defended his gold medal in the triple jump and now has two gold medals.



English Gardner, Allyson Felix, Tianna Bartoletta and Tori Bowie brought home the gold in the Women's 4x100 relay



Courtney Okolo, Natasha Hastings, Phyllis Francis and Allyson Felix brought home the gold in the Women's 4x400 relay.



LaShawn Merritt, Gil Roberts, Tony McQuay, and Arman Hall brought home the goal in the Men's 4x400 relay.



Volleyball

The women's volleyball team won a bronze medal.



Water Polo

Ashleigh Johnson is the first Black American to compete in Olympic Water Polo. As goalkeeper, she helped bring home the gold.



HEALTH & MEDICINE

PUBLIC HEALTH 3.0

A Black Lens Conversation with Dr. Karen DeSalvo

Acting Assistant Secretary for Public Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

On July 11, Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) officials joined the Acting Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, as well as approximately 125 local, state and national leaders for a day-long community dialogue. The event, referred to as *Public Health 3.0*, was held at Gonzaga University and it focused on the ways that public health advocates in the region are working to build partnerships to improve local health outcomes.

During a break in the day’s events, Dr DeSalvo sat down with The Black Lens to discuss the importance of public health efforts for the Black community.

What is it that Black people in particular need to know about Public Health 3.0? Why should Black people care about this?

Public Health is the collective actions of a society to ensure the conditions in which everyone can be healthy. Embedded in the idea is that its going to take everyone’s involvement to advance the community’s health, and that it’s going to take a lot more than what we in this country often think of as the solution to health, that health care is the way that we get people healthy.

Health care is good and important, but it’s only about ten percent of a person’s health outcomes. The rest of it is where we live and learn and work and play, and other social and non-medical determinants.

Included in the list of key social determinants of health in particular are some of the things that I mentioned today, like housing (which is a really strong predictor of good health outcomes), education, economic opportunities, public safety, and racism (including institutional racism). Those are all

factors that are known biologically and otherwise to effect people’s health.

What modern public health or Public Health 3.0 communities are working toward is a model that thinks about improving health, not only through the lens of prevention, in the form of things like vaccinations, or clean water, or addressing chronic or non-communicable diseases like diabetes, but thinking more broadly about how do you collectively bring the community together to make improvements in health. They are finding ways to do that collaboratively and with attention to equity, using data to tease out where there are important disparities, whether that’s along the lines of color or geography, and attending to those.

We know that in communities where there are less disparities along any lines that you might draw, but in this case particularly lines of color, everybody is healthier. So when you narrow the gap, everybody’s health improves, and that’s why it should matter to everyone, no matter your income or where you live.

It’s frankly pretty imperative that we are attending to all of this because in the U.S. for the first time in generations we’re starting to see life expectancy level off and the gap between high and low income populations and across race and ethnicity is widening.

So I hope your readers as members of a broader society and of their own community will really think about and understand how important their voice is and how important their vote is to make sure that this (improvements in health at the community level) is done with an eye on equity and an eye on all of the broader determinants of health.

Continued on Page 15



Michelle Obama

Continued From Page 1

“We need leadership in this country which will improve the lives of working families, the children, the elderly, the sick and the poor. We need leadership which brings our people together and makes us stronger – not leadership which insults Latinos, Muslims, women, African-Americans and veterans – and divides us up,” Sanders said. “By these measures, any objective observer will conclude that – based on her ideas and her leadership – Hillary Clinton must become the next president of the United States. The choice is not even close.”

The endorsements of Hillary Clinton that launched the weeklong convention came as Democratic activists struggled to keep the peace and convince delegates to unite behind her. Many were angered by news that broke only days before the convention, revealing that staffers at the DNC had engaged in email conversations that apparently undermined the Sanders campaign when the DNC was supposed to have been impartial. The revelation came from Wikileaks.

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz was forced to resign behind the issue. And her voice was silenced during the convention. Ohio Rep. Marcia Fudge, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus,

presided as chair over the convention after it was called into order by DNC Secretary Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore. Longtime Democratic Activist Donna Brazile will become interim chair of the Democratic National Committee, replacing Shultz.

At a meeting of the Democratic Black Caucus early in the day on Monday, Brazile profusely apologized to Sanders supporters for the emails; then issued a written apology the same day.

“On behalf of everyone at the DNC, we want to offer a deep and sincere apology to Senator Sanders, his supporters, and the entire Democratic Party for the inexcusable remarks made over email. These comments do not reflect the values of the DNC or our steadfast commitment to neutrality during the nominating process. The DNC does not - and will not - tolerate disrespectful language exhibited toward our candidates. Individual staffers have also rightfully apologized for their comments, and the DNC is taking appropriate action to ensure it never happens again.”

Whether the apologies will be enough remains to be seen. Many prospective voters are already disaffected. Some have vowed not to even vote in the Nov. 8 election charging unfairness in the system. Not only angry Bernie Sanders supporters, but some young people are disillusioned by politics after the continued unwarranted police shootings of Black people.

At a meeting of Unity 16, a coalition of Black-led organizations that met during the convention, dozens of leaders sought answers to the possible backlash of non-voters. Daniel C. Bradley, Black Youth Vote national coordinator, says he is having to work hard to change minds as he organizes young people.

“There’s a big disconnection with this generation between understanding the power of their vote because they are feeling like their vote doesn’t matter and doesn’t count. And so, why vote at all?” he said. “And so the work that we’re doing now is to make sure they know that their vote not only matters and does count, but also making them understanding that [they] are by not voting still voting. You’re voting for another candidate.”

He continued, saying the key is to explain the significance and strategy behind the act of voting. “And so we’ve been asking people what kind of American do you really want?” He said at Black Youth Vote, which is under the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, “we try to make them understand that all politics is local. That it’s not only important to vote in their presidential election, but voting the whole ticket and being engaged in the whole ticket.”

He said they explain to young people that they can make a difference in criminal justice for voting for their choice of a state’s attorney and in the educational system by voting for a school board representative...

If you want to see components of your life change, that’s how you do it. You vote.”

On a broader level, that is the very goal of the Democratic Convention, which comes on the heels of the Republican Convention, held in Cleveland, Ohio. Blockbuster speakers were lined up, including former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday, President Barack Obama and vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine on Wednesday and culminating with the acceptance speech by Hillary Clinton at the end of the convention on Thursday night.

With a regular election record of at least 90 percent Black support for the Democratic Party, the leaders are apparently taking nothing for granted. First Lady Michelle Obama, who also rendered a spellbinding speech in the 2012 convention for the re-election of her husband was clear this week on what the election of Hillary Clinton will take:

“In this election, we cannot sit back and hope that everything works out for the best. We cannot afford to be tired, or frustrated, or cynical,” she said. “Hear me. Between now and November, we need to do what we did eight years ago and four years ago: We need to knock on every door. We need to get out every vote. We need to pour every last ounce of our passion and our strength and our love for this country into electing Hillary Clinton as President of the United States of America. Let’s get to work.”

OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE SERVICES PROGRAMS

Emmanuel's Summer Teen Workforce Development Program

While many teens in the East Central neighborhood spent their summer months hanging out and killing time, a small group of teens spent their days instead at the Emmanuel Family Life Center as a part of the Summer Teen Workforce Development program.

The program, located in the South Perry Learning Center, brings teens, ages 13-17, together to participate in a wide range of activities designed to promote their educational and career development.

The teens have the opportunity to experience things that they might not otherwise get to experience, according to Program Director, Charles Williams, including visits to colleges and businesses, an SAT Test preparatory course, a Responsible Renters Class, technology training, the Spokane Police Department PAL Program, mentor opportunities, community service, field trips and a healthy youth initiative program on "Making Proud Choices."

The camp, which was free to participants, ran on weekdays from June 20 - August 2, starting at 9:30 in the morning and lasting until 4:00 in the afternoon. The teens' days were filled with activities designed to have a positive impact on them, and Charles noted that this year's camp had an important impact on the teens who participated.

"One of the big things this year was that a lot of the kids didn't know if they wanted



to go to college and they didn't know what it took to get to college, but after we did a lot of the college tours, most of them are really wanting to go to college now."

The teens went to Spokane Falls, Spokane Community College, Gonzaga, and Eastern Washington University. "They really loved the tours and the fact that there are people that are helping them get into college," and Charles noted that between the college tours and the SAT prep program,

which he says the students all did well in, they were able to get "a little taste of the college experience," and he says the positive exposure really changed their minds.

Because he knows how valuable the camp is to those who participate, Charles is always on the look out for teens who might benefit from the program. "There were a some boys that were just outside. They were new to the area and didn't have anything to do. We didn't want them to get into

trouble, so I said do you guys want to join the program that I'm doing and they said yes. There were four of them and now they love the program. In fact, they are actually going to come to the after school program as well."

The summer camp started in 2007 and has been going every summer since then. But Charles says that what he would like is to see the program expand.

"I really want to get more youth and teens involved," he said. "Once we get more funding, I'd like to have it not just be for kids from this area, but for it to be open to kids from all over Spokane, to give them an opportunity to come, and it's free, so parents don't have to worry about paying. We just want the kids to come and get the experiences that many of them cannot afford."

Now that summer is over, Charles will be heading up the After School Program at the Emmanuel Family Life Center, which began this week. Like the summer camp, the after school program is also free of charge. It operates Monday - Friday from 3-5pm (except holidays), during the school year, and is for students in grades K-12. An application is needed to participate in the program.

For more information about the Summer Workforce Development Program or the After School Program, contact Neighborhood Network at 509-535-9681.

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THROUGH BOB'S LENS

Photos from the Democratic Convention



Photos on this page are courtesy of Robert Lloyd who traveled to the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia as a photographer for The Black Lens.

To see additional photos from the DNC please visit <http://4comculture.com>

The Black Lens will feature more of Bob's DNC photos in upcoming issues.



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VOICES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

The Democratic National Convention, which was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from July 25 - July 29, 2016, brought together thousands of Democratic elected officials, delegates, volunteers, visitors, activists and protesters, in a process that would determine the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. During the week, I randomly stopped and interviewed people that I came across. I interviewed delegates, volunteers, workers, activists, and even a guy that was sitting in a food court having a political debate with a stranger. It was for me the best part of the convention. Here are excerpts from those interviews.

BRUCE CARTER Black Men For Bernie

Where did the idea for Black Men for Bernie Come From?

When my seventeen year old daughter asked me who I was going to vote for, I said nobody. I told her I wasn't interested. She told me that she would vote for Bernie Sanders. I said, who is Bernie Sanders? She educated me. We did some research and then I was excited. I owned a marketing company and I decided, I'm going to make sure people know who Bernie Sanders is.

How has doing Black Men for Bernie impacted you?

It's made me very conscious of the political process and that we (Black people) have been political slaves and we can't have that any more. Our goal should be to make sure that Hillary Clinton does not get in the White House because that's the only justification for the bad behavior that took place

What do you say to the people who say if you don't vote for Clinton you're going to get Trump?

Trump doesn't scare me. I've had forty-three presidents before that were white men and I survived them all, so what am I afraid for? I know how to deal with them, but what I don't know is how to deal with those who you think are there with you when they aren't.



What do Black people need?

Black people need to be informed and educated. I believe if we are informed and educated, we will make the right decisions.

My goal is to register 20 million young Black males and Latinos before October 28 and then we will decide who we vote for. We don't have to belong to a party. Whoever is going to give us what we need to move our community forward, that's who we'll vote for. I don't care if you are Republican, Libertarian, Green, if you can give us what we need, we will vote for you. And then if you don't, in the next election we'll vote for somebody else.

We are working to set up a thousand barber shops around the country. We have 300 already and then we'll have our Barbers do the work for us. Eventually our goal is to take every young Black man and give him a voice.

For more information on Black Men for Bernie visit: <http://blackmenforbernie.com>

BABARA A. SIMMONS Convention Volunteer

Barbara Simmons was born in New Jersey and grew up in Philadelphia. She is currently living in Liberia.

What is the perception of people outside of this country about our election process?

I can only speak from my limited experience, but people could not believe that someone like Donald Trump could actually get as far as he has gotten.

Have you always been politically engaged?

I was involved in so many political campaigns, that at one point there were some people saying that they would sponsor me to run for office. I was living in Cleveland at the time and when I was ready to come back to Philadelphia some of my mentors said they would run me for office here, but I said no. I want to be like you. I don't want to be the king or queen, I want to be the king maker or queen maker.

In 1988, I was in Atlanta for the convention and I'm proud to say that in 2004, I



was in Boston on the floor when Barack Obama gave his speech and I actually have a Barack Obama for Senate button and Christmas cards that I got from them. I also used to be a member of the Cleveland and then the Ohio Black Political Assembly.

People see our political process as increasingly fractured, where do you see us going?

There's always been the question of whether or not there should be a third party and I'm not opposed to that idea, except not in this election, we don't have time to get together a viable third party because the stakes are too high in this election. I know they all feel like the stakes are high, but this election it's really a critical time.

KEVIN "COACH" CHRISTIE

Vermont State Representative
Bernie Sanders Delegate

Kevin Christie was born and raised in Hartford, CT. He is a State Representative for the State of Vermont.

How did you get involved in politics?

I got disenfranchised with public service and decided to go into business for myself. I opened a service station and did that for 7 years, then got sucked back into community service. A lady came up to me and said we heard you were a music major in school, would you like to start a music youth group? The next thing they come up and ask, you'd be really good working with the kids, would you help us out with our track team? So, I started volunteering as a coach for track, then it goes on from there.

I ended up becoming a school principal and in my quest to get opportunities for the students, they started saying why don't you get involved in some of the local government stuff. I ended up doing a lot of work for the local party. I ran for the State Legislature in 2006 and I only lost by 235 votes. I ran again in 2008 and lost by less than 100 votes. I



ran again in 2010 and the third time is a charm. I am a State Representative and I just finished my 6th year. I'm up for re-election this year.

What are the important issues?

It starts with fairness. When you start there, there isn't too much that isn't an issue of concern and responsibility. We know that our healthcare system isn't fair. We know that the legal system isn't fair. We know the education system has its issues. All of those things being said, I find myself advocating especially for kids and families in any of those areas.

Why are you a Bernie Delegate?

It was the movement, not so much Bernie, it's his movement and his movement is the movement of a lot of folks that were important to us. Dr. King, Kennedy, Mandela. They all carried that banner of social justice, fairness, equality for folks, and not being cheated.

SARAH THERMILUS Youth Action - Vendor

Sarah Thermilus is 19 years old. She was born in Haiti and moved to the United States with her mother when she was 6 years old. She was staffing a table as a part of the resource fair.

What brought you to the Convention?

Youth Action brought me here. I'm an alumni and they asked me to come down and staff this table.

Tell me about Youth Action.

We're a non-profit organization, based in Philadelphia. We inspire young teens about leadership and community service and how not to be scared to actually stand up and make a change in their community.

We have three programs. Jr. Youth Action, which is for middle school - 6-8th grades. We build a year round curriculum that breaks down the steps of what it's like to be a community leader, and we use a lot of local leaders. After you learn the foundation of leadership and service you move on to...

Inspiring Leaders which is the continuing of Jr. Youth Action. We build up confidence, how to budget a service project, how to facilitate a service project properly. We have 20-30 students and we break them up into teams and we fund their project. They can pick whatever issue is important to them and then they have to create a service project out of that issue and we help them.



The third program, Youth Action, is for high school and college. We go around the neighborhood and talk about things that are important and do service based projects.

What did you get personally from the program?

I learned a lot of things from Youth Action. I started in eighth grade. The first two years I was just a member. After that I got a scholarship to go to Los Angeles, to the Tavis Smiley Foundation. After that I got another scholarship to go to a leadership camp. After that I became the Co-Director of Jr. Youth Action and then Director the following year.

I'd say it looks good on your resume and great on college applications, but to me it was more than just looking for something that would look good on my resume and my college application. Growing with this organization, it became a part of me. I am Youth Action. It's one of the biggest things that I am proud of.

VOICES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

RANDY KELLEY

Clinton Delegate - Alabama

Randy Kelley was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He is the Vice Chairman of the Alabama Democratic Caucus and the Black Caucus Chaplain for the DNC.

What was it like growing up in Alabama?

Growing up in Alabama was probably like growing up anywhere else, but from my observation, more conscious of social justice issues than others, due to the fact that Martin Luther King Jr and a lot of the great Civil Rights icons came out of Alabama including John Lewis, who is very active today, and they are constantly back in and out of Alabama.

Were you always interested in Politics or was it something that came later?

I was interested in Civil Rights and politics was an outgrowth of that. I'm primarily interested in social justice and been I've been very engaged most of my life in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as well as the NAACP

What would you say is your primary issue right now?

I guess my primary issue would be dealing with racism on all levels. Racism is multi-layered, social structural, institutional, interpersonal and it's intrapersonal. The intrapersonal racism is an aspect that we're not talking about much. This is internalized racism or self hatred. We have an issue on both sides with the killing (of Blacks). As African Americans, we're killing each other. A lot of that comes from not knowing who we are.

What do you think it's going to take for this country to stop being so polarized?

I think that the country has always been polarized, you just have more factions today. But I do see, even the polarization is transcending race. When I look at a lot of these young people in the Black Lives Matter movement they are Black and White. But the problem that I see with them, if I was going to give my critique, is that they are missing something.

What is the movement missing?

When we look at the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement they were people that came out of the Black church. We have never had a movement that was not been grounded in the church. Whether it was the Garvey movement, Booker T. Washington, Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, all of them were religious, and they did it with the bible as a weapon. Harriet Tubman with the bible in one hand, a 45 piston in the other and a rag on her head. So they were religious people. And the driving force of the movement of the sixties was religious. So, there's a disconnect there.

There is a disconnect between some of these young people and the church and there is a disconnect with the church reaching young people, because the church in a lot of instances is not the same social justice church that has made the gains that Black people have. A lot of the church now is what I call 'Church-a-tainment'. We come to church to get pacified and the preacher feels that it's his job to pacify, but until we have social



conscious preachers, we're not going to connect with the discontented crowd in the streets. We have a lot of bougie folks in the church and it's looking like a senior citizen's home, but children are out there in the streets protesting because they are in poverty. They are in social structural poverty. So there's got to be some bridge if we're going to make any progress.

And the problem is on both sides. When I was in the Republic of Korea, they had a saying, "like people, like preach." When the people want a social justice leader, they're going to start calling for them in these Baptist churches, but now if the people are complacent, if they are afraid and terrified about making a change or impacting the world, then we're going to always be a day late and a dollar short every time.

What do you think happened to us as a people?

The Civil Rights Movement was our strongest movement in the modern era, but it had a weakness. The strength was that it was so effective, but because it was so effective, that's where the weakness was. And then we forgot to tell our people, our younger generation, the story. Dr. Chancellor Williams talks about it in his book 'The Destruction of Black Civilization', that a people die because they've lost their story.

The movement was 14 long years, longer than the Civil War and the American Revolution combined, but it's not taught in public schools because the prevailing culture doesn't want African Americans to know the story of the struggle, and if the young folks don't know the story of the struggle, how can we continue the struggle?

In our integrated society, we really don't have control of the educational system, and even though a lot of times the schools look like they're all Black, the curriculum and the consciousness are not Black. When we had a Black consciousness, we had Black business districts all over the south, like Black Wall Street, and like the Negro Baseball League, where they had a whole economy based around baseball. They had transportation systems, hotels, restaurants. They manufactured their own t-shirts, and all of that. So the consciousness has got to be instilled in these young people.

I think Black people are on the right track with protesting. In the south we have a song, 'Don't get weary children, cause there's a great camp meeting in the promised land.' and so we continue to raise this issue, for when we go back to sleep, white America normally goes back to business as usual, but there's no time now for us to go to sleep.

NICOLE FULLER

Union Representative

Nicole Fuller is from Philadelphia by way of Michigan. She was staffing a labor union table at the resource fair.

Share your view on politics.

My view on politics is that I don't really like politics. I'm in the union and politics is just a part of being in the union. What's going on here is that we are trying to get the first female president elected, but I'm not too enthusiastic about either convention personally. I just want it to be over. I want to just get this done and let it be over.

So what are the issues that are important to you?

Working families. Keeping jobs here in America. Keeping our working folks working. Building up the middle class again.

Do you have any feelings about the Trade Agreement (TPP)?

No, I don't.

What about other issues affecting working families?

We have been working with the local 'Fight For 15' here in Philadelphia. So,



I'm all for raising the minimum wage because a lot of our folks that are working and making minimum wage are taking care of families and you can't do that on the current minimum wage.

Where do you see the country headed?

That's a good question. Honestly, I don't know. I try to be optimistic but it's going to be a long road before we get back to a good spot. We've got a long way to go. A long way. It seems like we take a step forward and then we get kicked or tripped and fall two steps backwards.

What do you think it's going to take for us to get back to a good spot?

It's going to take a good leader. Donald Trump is not the person that I see leading us to where we need to be.

AHLMAHZ NEGASH

Bernie Delegate - Washington

Ahlmahz Negash (pictured left) was born in Los Angeles and raised in the small town NE of L.A. in the mohave desert. Her mother is from Texas and her father is an immigrant from Ethiopia.

How did you get involved with the Bernie Sanders campaign?

I'm not political at all, at all!!! But my dad and younger sister follow politics and my younger sister (two years younger) told me about Bernie Sanders. I was actually in Norway completing my PhD in electrical engineering and as I was coming back, I was talking to a guy in Amsterdam, he said, "I feel really bad for you, you are going home to an America that you didn't leave." By that time the political rhetoric had gotten nasty. It was the nastiness, so much so that a perfect stranger had to say, I'm so sorry for you that you have to go back. At that point I decided that I not only wanted to be involved but I wanted to run to be a delegate.

What are your perceptions of the political process after the convention?

It's been eye opening. I've been devastated. We all believed that there is some hypocrisy and dirty work in politics, everybody expects that, but just seeing it first hand, part of me wants to stay involved, because Bernie tells us to stay involved, and I've been inspired by him, but another part of me doesn't want to get my hands dirty. Because it starts off dirty first before it gets clean, and I don't even know if I want to be around dirty.

What do you say to people who ask why you support Bernie Sanders?

I'm not political, I'm a humanitarian actually, and he (Bernie) spoke to my



human values. It wasn't even about politics, Democrat or Republican, it was human values.

Tell me about your family.

The part of my family that I love the most is the diversity. My mom was from Texas. She's American. My dad is Ethiopian. He has two brothers and all three are Orthodox Christian. My oldest uncle married a Jewish woman. My dad married a Muslim woman and my dad's youngest brother married a Christian, but outside of Orthodox Christianity. So all of the spectrum is in my family.

What did you learn about Islam and Christianity when you were growing up?

My mother is a convert, she became Muslim at the age of 19. She taught both, Islam and Christianity, and stressed similarities. She made sure that we understood that we are all worshiping the same God. We grew up learning bible verses right along side verses from the Qur'an.

What is one thing that is similar between the two religions?

God. A belief in God. And the Golden rule. You are not a Muslim until you want for your brother what you want for yourself, and that's also a core value in Christianity, do unto others. We have the same golden rule. I wish everybody lived by that

VOICES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

JAMIAN SMITH & CARLOS HICKMAN

Clinton Delegates - Washington

Jamian Smith was born and raised in Nashville, Tennessee. She moved to Seattle for work and now owns her own business. Carlos was born and raised in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He moved to the Seattle area two years ago for business opportunities.

How did you get involved in the delegate process?

Jamian - It's my first national convention, but I've been in the political process for ten years or so. I worked on the Kerry/Edwards campaign and in 2008 on the Obama campaign. I was a state delegate for Obama. I started in August 2015 with Hillary.

Carlos - It's my first national convention, actually my first anything. Growing up in Jackson Mississippi, my parents were involved in the Civil Rights movement, and when I was growing up, it was drilled into you, 'you cannot complain if you do not cast a vote'. That's why I got involved.

What are your thoughts about the convention?

Jamian - So far I'm having a great time. This is so much more fun than what the RNC looked like. I'm a Hillary supporter and I'm glad to see her become the first female nominee. I missed Obama becoming the first Black nominee, so I wasn't going to miss this. Just having a good old time.

Carlos - The optics are that we are not getting along, but it's really only that we disagree on the way to go about the solutions. It's never really that we have



these opposing views. So, I've been having a great time. People have been very friendly. Philadelphia has been very hospitable and they've gone above and beyond, especially with the heat.

Why are you supporting Hillary Clinton?

Jamian - I was for Obama in 2008. I was actually torn between Obama and Hillary, but then when Obama did the race speech, that's when it turned around for me. So, I thought Hillary was great, but she just didn't have everything that I needed, like foreign policy experience. I don't see being a first lady as adequate experience. But then she went back and became Secretary of State and she had that amazing concession speech at the DNC, which showed me her character was like wow. It takes a lot to take that L and go back and work for the person who won. So this year, I was like, I'm ready for Hillary. With Bernie, the how just wasn't there for me.

Carlos - Solutions aren't binary. There's a lot of gray and there's a lot of experience that's needed. Who has done more than that's not the president? She has the experience. She has the foreign policy. She knows everyone. And she has an amazing sense of self and she's confident.

BOBBE KEEZ

Philadelphia Resident

Bobbee Keez was born and raised in Philadelphia. I came across him having a very lively political debate with a vendor while I was in a food court looking for lunch.

What is your opinion about politics in this country?

My personal opinion is that we've had a whole lot of stuff going on in America and it's like the same thing all the time, promises, promises, promises, but when you really look at it, it's a whole bunch of stuff that's going on that I think the higher ups, the Presidents and the Vice Presidents and the congress don't look at the smaller guys down here. Now the only person I heard that spoke about us smaller people was probably Bernie Sanders and a few other presidential candidates.

What do you want in a candidate for president?

My assessment is this, I want a candidate that's in there, that's going to promise the small things for small people, not necessarily the big things for big time bureaucrats. Because that's what it's all about, all about the mighty dollar, and not us small people who are maybe people on public assistance.

To me, it appears that if it isn't something that the government can benefit from, we get nothing from it, like schools, daycare for mothers, all of this stuff is important and I have yet to hear any candidate talk about that first.

Lets talk about the small fries. We aren't talking about the potato factory, we're talking about the fries.

How do you think we fix that?

It's going to take we the people to determine who we want in office and if we put them in there, then they've got to promise to do what they say they're going to do. If you're promising me a chicken in every pot, then I want my chicken. That's what it boils down to. Don't give me chicken wings. You're



feeding me a chicken wing when you said I'd get a whole chicken.

And nobody's saying anything about the stuff that happened to us when we were slaves. We were promised 40 acres and a mule. We didn't get none of that. So be it, life goes on, but don't put a candidate in there that's making a whole bunch of promises and isn't sticking to what they say. Give me candidate that sticks to what they say.

What do you think about Hillary Clinton?

Hillary's fine, I have no problem with her. I would love to see the first woman president. If everybody else can be president so can she.

What about Trump?

I believe that he's just like everybody else. Everybody makes a whole bunch of promises. I'm not mad at Donald Trump. His issues are way far fetched out there, but then again, could it make a difference, and the difference could be, okay we've been having this same old stuff going on for some time. What about if this guy comes in here and does something spectacular? Starts looking at the small fry. Starts bringing jobs back. You see a lot of companies take their companies out of the US, and that's where the jobs go. So if you have a promise that's warranted, then I'm with you. If you've got some stuff that's far fetched and I know you ain't really reaching for it, then it ain't nothing.

RUSSELL ASHTON

Clinton Delegate - Massachusetts

Russell Ashton is seventy-four years old. He was born in Boston and still lives in Massachusetts.

What got you interested in politics?

Getting ready for politics is different from my realization of wanting to go to a national convention. Let's start with the national convention first, because I think the cart came before the horse.

What happened is as a little kid, growing up in Everett, I would come home from school and the conventions would be going on, and I would just sit on the floor and watch them for days. Whether it was the Republican or the Democratic, it was really exciting hearing the people brag about their community, "from the great state of...", and then they would go on with all of these great things they have. It was really exciting. A little bit different back then because there was no diversity. We've come a long way.

What has been your experience the convention?

I've been a delegate since 2000 and each convention has been something different. It has progressed more and more, and is more equitable to people of color as a whole, so the texture has changed. I think it (the convention) is a fantastic process that we can get together, the whole entire country, into this one spot.



This is the only place that most people have access to the legislators of the whole entire United States without any barriers or walls between them, whether they be Black, white or Asian. So, this is one of the only times that you can do that without the legislative walls that are built up. And the other part of is the array of speakers that come in to speak and who you see in the corridor that you would never see.

After you leave here, what will you do next?

I got together with a hang out buddy of mine on the Vineyard and 'we're giving a function to bring people from all around to make sure that they know we have a person running for president and we want to make sure that they're going to vote. We've got to step up as people of color because if that other man gets into office, we don't have a chance. We've got too much to lose.

SEUN BABALOLA

Staff

Seun Babalola is an eighteen year old who traveled from New York to Philadelphia to work at the convention.

What are your thoughts on the upcoming election?

Well obviously, I'm at the DNC so I'm a Hillary supporter. I'm not too fond of Trump. I'm pretty positive about Hillary's prospects to win.

What are the issues that are most important to you?

Camaraderie between police and African Americans and making the economy work for everybody. That's definitely what's important to me.

What is it about Hillary Clinton as a candidate that you like the most?

I think her overall experience with people and government. She's really open to a lot of different people and the gov-



ernment, she's been a Senator for eight years, she was a first lady four years, so she's really, really qualified. She's for the people.

Are you friends or your peer group interested in politics?

I don't really think so. A lot of people know what's going on, but don't really go out to vote. Voter outreach is a really important because it's one thing to get people to know what's going on, it's another to get them to vote.

VOICES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

BEVERLY AARON & GERMAINE KORNEGAY

Clinton Delegates - Washington

Beverly Aaron is from Chicago, but has been in Seattle for six years. She has lived in L.A, Atlanta, and France. Germaine Kornegay was born and raised in Philadelphia. She was brought to Washington by the Navy.

What is it that got you interested in Politics?

Beverly - What got me interested in politics was that I faced a very large increase in my rent at the end of 2014, while also facing a health emergency. The way that the laws were written, there was nothing that I could do to stop the rent increase even though it was impossible for me to respond to it. The law was on my landlord's side, and none of our representatives could do anything. That process made me realize that everything is political. People are making decisions about policies that will impact every part of our lives, whether its your mortgage, rent, electricity or how clean your water is. So I ended up getting involved with the tenants union.

I had never been through the caucus process, but I thought maybe if I'm a delegate I can meet legislators and people who are making policy and talk to them about the issues that are important to me. I thought it would give me access to the people who are making decisions. And yes, it did give me access. But I don't know what that access is worth or how it's going to play out. I've met a lot of people, but what I'm learning now is you can't just run up to people and say you need to change this because they're going to shut down. You have to get to know those people on a personal level.

Germaine - On a smaller level, I was doing stuff in the community. I live in the community and things come up, and you should do something or you really have no reason to complain. So there was that, but I also had the background of growing up in Philadelphia with a politically active mom. I used to watch her watching the president's speeches and she was very involved. You have to look for places. You can't do it all, but you find a little niche here and a little niche there that you can make a difference, something that you're passionate about. One of the issues that was a local issue



was environmental, zoning laws, so I got involved with this woman and we got started working on campaigns. She reminded me a lot of my mother, so we had a bond and she came to my house one day and said, come on we're going to caucus. I didn't know what a caucus was. That was in 2008. So I went there. I caucused for Obama. I became a PCO (Precinct Committee Officer) in 2009, caucused again and went to the 2012 convention that was in Charlotte.

This one, I was excited about because I do a lot of stuff with women's rights, because I grew up with a single mom, a single African American mom, who was working poor. I grew up coming home with the electricity shut off. I didn't realize that there was a reason we were sharing bath water, you don't think about it, because all of your friends are just as poor. She (my mom) helped me understand why I should keep doing what I'm doing. So I've been really advocating for the poor and for women especially.

What are your thoughts about the Democratic Convention?

Beverly - It was huge and I felt like it was more about promoting the Democratic party and getting people to vote for the nominee, like it was for the television audience. I guess I didn't know that. But it was an excellent production and experience, and beyond the actual floor experience all of the classes and workshops and caucuses were amazing and I got a lot out of it.

Germaine - It was a lot more work than I thought it would be, this time I was actually a whip (*a person who coordinates the distribution of information to delegates*) and I would never do that again, because I didn't get to enjoy the convention at all. I missed a lot of the speeches. Every time I saw a picture of myself I was on my phone, I wouldn't do that again.

NICOLAS HYACINTHE & JARED HICKS

Bernie Delegates - Massachusetts

Nicolas Hyacinthe (pictured left) is originally from Haiti, but moved to the U.S. when he was ten and lives in Boston. Jared Hicks (right) was born and raised in Boston.

Were you always interested in politics?

Nicolas - I've always been interested in politics. I think all Haitians are interested in politics on some level because of history, our place history and the way that the rest of the world interacts with us because of that history. But even though I was always interested in politics, I never wanted to get involved in politics. I felt that my contribution to a better world was charity work, and also I'm an artist and I wanted to make art that was uplifting and that would get people to think beyond the veil that society drapes over them.

Then all of a sudden came this Jew from Brooklyn, that made me feel like wait a minute, you can create change with integrity and with some compassion for your fellow man. It compelled me to work for him and volunteer for him. I've been through most of New England volunteering for Bernie Sanders.

Jared - I was always interested in politics. I've been a history buff my whole life and a political junkie, but I was an armchair political junkie before the Bernie Sanders Campaign and I love Bernie Sanders. He represents everything that I've ever cared about. He says everything that I've ever wanted a politician to have the courage to say and do and act



upon. He had the courage that others in the progressive movement did not have, and that's the virtue that I admire most in politicians, bravery. To do things even when they're unpopular. When they're being challenged. When they're isolated. When they're alone. When it's not politically expedient. Not lucrative. It's not great for their career. But they do it because they know it's right. They have that trustworthiness and integrity and they are being honest with people by telling them the truth. Which is usually hard and unpleasant. This campaign I said I have to put my money where my mouth is. I have to get involved, I cannot sit on the sidelines. If I really believe in progressive values, and this agenda and if we want a person as good as Bernie Sanders, as decent as Bernie Sanders, then we need to work.

Now that the Democratic National Convention is over, what are your reflections?

Nicolas - There's somewhat conflicting things that I think about. Obviously I'm disappointed that Bernie wasn't able to get the nomination, and people who don't know Bernie or know this movement assume that it's the man and it's the personality, but no, it's because we knew that he would be true to his word and really help those in need.

Continued on Page 16

NATHANIEL RANDALL

President of Philadelphia NAACP Youth Branch

Nathaniel Randall is fifteen years old and from Philadelphia. He came to the Convention to check it out.

Are you interested in politics?

I am very interested in politics and I'm actually really enthusiastic. This is my first time. I've never been here and especially being my age, 15, I can't ask for more.

What is it about politics that interests you?

Probably getting our rights. Learning about world affairs, especially with other countries and business, because politics is like everything.

Is there a particular issue that interests you?

For me it's more about community involvement, especially with the youth, because youth in general don't get involved as much, like they're out in the streets. So I want people to get more involved.

Have you gotten involved in your community?

Right now I became President of the NAACP youth branch in my region and we're trying to make it official.



Are you following the presidential election?

Trump and Hillary. It's an interesting year. A celebrity and somebody that's been politics for a really long time. You've got a business man, and politics is pretty much business. That's how you run this country. But in Hillary, she's really qualified. She's been first lady and Secretary of State. She's done a lot. And especially a woman too. It's sad to see that she had those allegations against her, but because she's secretary of state, she has to deal with all of those things.

What about Bernie Sanders?

During the school year I actually supported him for a while. I actually believe in him.

Anything else you want to say?

Prepare, get ready for the election.

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SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

Meeting Neil deGrasse Tyson

When world renowned Astrophysicist and celebrity scientist Neil deGrasse Tyson visited Spokane in June of this year, the INB Performing Arts Center appeared to be filled to its two thousand plus seat capacity. But included in that audience of enthusiastic science buffs, however, I was able to identify only five Black people. Myself, my photographer Bob Lloyd, Mr. deGrasse Tyson himself, and a couple that Bob and I spotted as we were leaving. I was curious who they were and why they were there, so Bob and I chased them down.

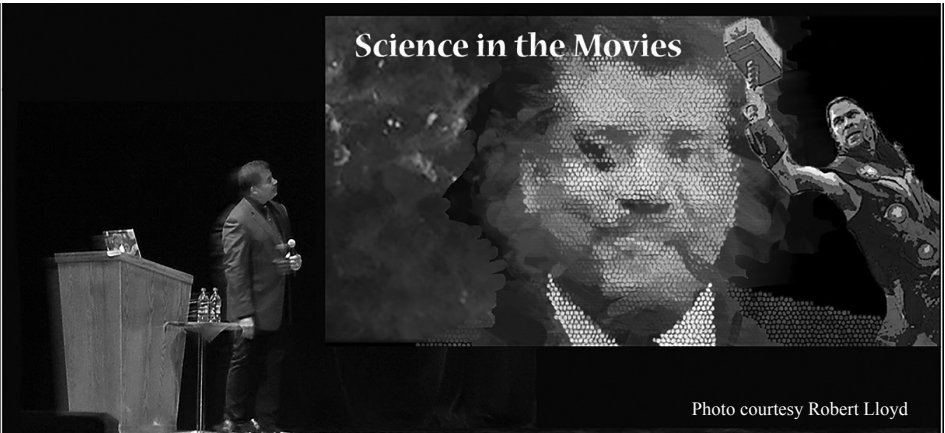


The couple was Joseph Carson and his girlfriend Tanisha Bailey, and they were there that evening because Tanisha had bought Joseph the tickets as a Father’s Day Present. The stereotypical Black man would want tickets to some sort of sporting competition for Father’s Day, not a nerdy event titled, “An Astrophysicist Goes to the Movies,” which made me even more curious. So, I decided to learn more about him.

Joseph Carson was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and raised in Washington, DC. His parents were Air Force, and like many military families they lived all over the world, ending up in Spokane in the late 1980s when Joe was thirteen years old. In his early twenties, he left Spokane for Atlanta, where he met Tanisha, and they moved back to Spokane five years ago, after the birth of their daughter.

“Why are you here?” I asked Joe, noting the absence of other African Americans and the high cost of the tickets, that ranged from \$65 to \$250 for the VIP section.

“It’s Neil deGrasse Tyson,” he responded, as if I should already have known the answer. “We don’t get many chances to see people like Neil out here.” Adding, “I’m really into science, quantum physics, astronomy, and astrophysics and Neil is high on my list of sources. There was no doubt I was going to go see him.”



There is currently a national push to find ways to get more African American youth interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields, so I wondered what originally got Joe interested in science. He said that from the time he was a child he had liked science fiction and it was science fiction that led him to science.

“I’ve always been heavy into sci-fi, and I decided to see if there was any real science behind the sci-fi that I was interested in. I wanted to make the connection.”

For example, the 1979 Disney movie ‘Black Hole’ was one of the sci-fi movies that was a catalyst for Joe. “I was fascinated with the movie and I decided to research Black Holes to see if they were real and that got me interested in the whole science thing.”

Using science fiction as a means of connecting the public to science is exactly what Neil deGrasse Tyson does in his sold out lectures that feature clips from popu-

lar movies like ‘Gravity’, ‘Star Wars’, and Joe’s favorite, ‘Bill and Ted’s Excellent Adventure’, which deGrasse Tyson uses to educate the audience about scientific concepts. In the process he has made science accessible, which is what Joe, who recently turned 43, would also like to do. He is planning to launch a website and YouTube channel called ‘The Science Club’ that he intends to be a user friendly approach to science that everyone can understand.

After the program, Joe stuck around long after everyone else had left in order to meet deGrasse Tyson. What did he think about the man who was born and raised in New York City, graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, and earned a BA in Physics from Harvard and a PhD in Astrophysics from Columbia University?

“He was a real nice guy, cool, funny, entertaining, and he cracked a few jokes. Just how I thought he would be.”

PICK UP THIS BOOK

By Christian Robinson



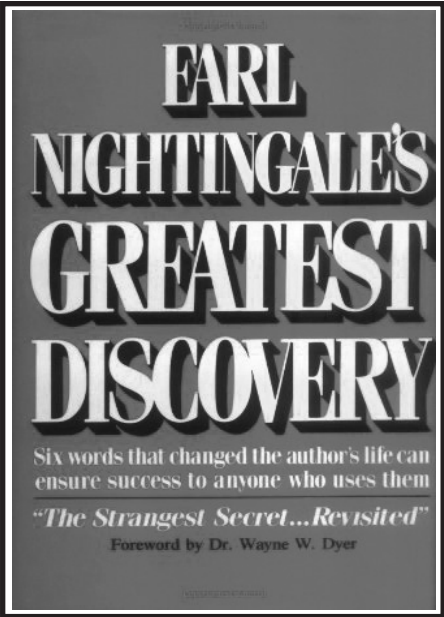
Hey Black Lens Readers, I’m Christian Robinson, if this is your first time reading this column, I’m looking to add the value of reading to my life on a daily basis.

Last month was a month for me to reflect. Sometimes in life, you need to really assess your situation. It’s at that moment where a choice is presented. So, ask yourself, “Why am I reading? What am I trying to gain?” The books we’re picking up have suggestions that could potentially change an important area of your life. Here’s the caveat missing from the statement above, you have to know why you’re reading and find something you can do towards your end goal. The major key to your better future is YOU.

So, this month’s book is ‘*The Greatest Discovery*,’ by Earl Nightingale. This book masterfully weaves a personal introspection in with the fundamentals of life. It’s a worthy book to read if you ask me. No spoiler alerts this time.

As always, if you need me, reach me at cjnrobinson@live.com.

****July’s Book was ‘The Power of Self Discipline’ by Brian Tracy. I hope you enjoyed it.**



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DEMOCRACY? PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN

What Happened at the Democratic Convention and How it Changed Me

One of my fondest memories from my time at Cheney High School was attending a mock Democratic Convention that I believe was held during the time of the 1976 presidential election. Forty years later, I still remember how exciting that day long process was. A gymnasium filled with passionate teenagers fighting for our candidates. Arguing about the issues that were important to us. Making sure that our voices, even though they were in the minority, were heard loud and clear. And even though my rebellious group of wanna-be revolutionaries was not able to get all of our positions included into the final platform or ultimately get our candidate nominated by the other delegates, I still remember being thrilled by the process. Being engaged. Feeling like my presence had actually made a difference. It was Democracy at its finest, well at least my definition of Democracy anyway, and I think that experience spoiled things for me.

I can't tell you how excited I was the moment I learned that I was going to be a delegate for Bernie Sanders at the Democratic National Convention. After my daughter told me, "mom you need to check this guy out," I researched and studied Bernie's positions on the issues that were important to me, like the TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership), healthcare for all, the \$15 minimum wage, and stopping the proliferation of our never ending wars across the planet, amongst others, and I agreed wholeheartedly with Bernie's relentless attacks on the corrupting influence of Wall Street interests and how they have corrupted both the Democratic and Republican parties. Bernie was calling for an all out "revolution", a word that Merriam-Webster defines as a sudden, radical, or complete change, a fundamental change in a political organization, and a change of paradigm.



Finally, I thought!!! Someone with courage. Someone brave enough to say what needed to be said and to actually make a commitment to doing what needed to be done. Like many, I had been waiting for a very long time to hear those words and to believe that a fundamental change was possible. And because of Bernie Sanders, this time I believed it was going to happen. So with that, this cynic, this skeptic, this hater of all things political, was all in.

And because, I was all in, I endured the arduous, months long process to become a delegate, which included a Precinct Caucus in March, a Legislative District Caucus in April, a Congressional District Caucus in May, and a State Convention in June, none of which I fully understood. Each step of the way I had to convince delegates, who were as passionate and committed as I was, that out of the 27,000 people who were initially elected across the state, I should be one of the 118 that would represent Washington State in Philadelphia, with only five coming from Eastern Washington, two men and three women.

It was an honor, to say the least, that they believed in me, and I was told repeatedly by people who voted for me, that they did so because they trusted that I would stay true to the principles that Bernie Sanders was fighting for, and that on their behalf, I would carry the fight for those principles all the way to the convention floor. I assured them that I would. Little did I know...



I had heard that the national conventions had devolved into nothing more than the four day process of producing an infomercial for the respective parties and their chosen candidates. Before I got to Philadelphia, I believed that those comments were an exaggeration. They weren't.

I think if my desire, where the convention was concerned, had been to meet celebrities, to attend private delegate functions, to listen to speeches from national politicians, or to be able to say that "I was there when the first woman presidential candidate was nominated from a major political party", I would have been content. And I think that was the case for many in the audience. I am happy for them that they got what they wanted. As for me, that is not why I went to Philadelphia.

Despite the fact that Bernie Sanders said that we were going to fight all the way to the convention floor, the fight had all but fizzled out by the time the convention started on Monday. When we were summoned to a mandatory Sanders' delegates meeting on Monday afternoon, before the convention's opening gavel, instead of that meeting being a pep talk for the work that was ahead, or a call to arms for the political revolution that Bernie's campaign had ignited, it was instead a disappointing effort on Sanders' part to convince hundreds of delegates, many who had drained their life savings to get there, that the NEW plan, the new "revolution", was to stop fighting all together and to fall in line behind the Clinton campaign.

For me, my memories of the rest of the convention after that meeting are filtered through my anger, which still has not subsided five weeks later.

Instead of fighting on the floor of the convention for the inclusion of the minority reports on the platform issues that we delegates were committed to, like the TPP, as we were told we would be doing; instead of struggling to change the convention rules to address the issue of super delegates in the convention process; instead of holding the Democratic party and the Clinton campaign accountable for the role that Debbie Wasserman Schultz and the DNC played in tainting the primary process to ensure that Clinton would be the presidential nominee; instead of acknowledging

that Bernie Sanders supporters like Nina Turner were silenced because they would not tow the DNC party line or parrot the DNC narrative; instead of challenging the fallacy of the 'Stronger Together' slogan that the DNC and the Clinton campaign were pushing, while simultaneously ignoring, discrediting, ridiculing and obstructing nearly half of the democratic delegates in attendance; instead of any of that, we were forced instead to sit through hours upon hours of robotic speeches that repeated the same Clinton talking points over and over and over again until I thought my brain was going to explode. Including a lecture during our Washington delegate breakfast from none other than Jerry Springer (yes, that's right) about how we Sanders delegates needed to "get over it" and vote for Hillary.

And by the way, while we were listening to all of those speeches, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, who was forced to resign as the DNC chair for her wrongdoing during the Democratic primary process, was hired by Hillary Clinton to help run her campaign.



So, as I've been reflecting over the past several weeks about why I have been so angry in the aftermath of the convention, what I realized begrudgingly is that it is because I had allowed myself to believe. To care. To naively step into the process, believing that it would offer me the same feelings that I had when I participated in the mock Democratic Convention in high school. Well, there was nothing mock about this Convention, and as one of my friends wisely pointed out, "there is too much money at stake."

So, I am left grateful that I went to the convention, so that my eyes have been opened. But also saddened, because once the curtain has been pulled back, you can't un-pull it.

Burned into my memory, is the image of the armed private security that was standing in front of me on Thursday evening, positioned by the Washington delegation to keep us in line. To monitor our protests. It was in that moment, as I looked at those armed men, and then up at the rainbow balloons showering from the ceiling to the exuberant chants of "Hillary, Hillary, Hillary", that my belief in the possibility of working within the Democratic party ended. I am no longer a Democratic. I will not be held hostage or vote out of fear. My proudest moment in the convention was when we Bernie Sanders delegates joined together and had the courage to walk out. Because of the Democratic Convention, I now have the courage to stay out.



Dr. Karen DeSalvo: Public Health 3.0

Continued From Page 6

What typically happens is that wonderful solutions are made and then it's brought back to our community, like here you go, tell us how much you love what we came up with. In your perspective, what's not happening that public health can do to bring other people (people of color) into the mix of addressing the problem?

One of the things that public health practice can do very well is community health assessment and improvements, the development of the plans for how we improve health. But to do it properly, doing it *with* community and not *forward to* community, it requires community organizing kind of work. Going out and sitting in circles of chairs and talking with folks. Listening. What is it that matters and what's important to overall health.

I had this experience when I was Health Commissioner in New Orleans and I share this story a lot because as a doctor it was a really good eye opening experience for me.

When we did our community health improvement process in New Orleans, when I became Health Commissioner, I looked at the data and I said cardiovascular disease is killing people. Obesity is the leading cause. We need to address that. But when we sat down and listened to people in the community and I asked them what their number one priority was, their number one public health priority, they said **violence**. We heard it over and over and over again. And you can draw all of the lines. Stress. You can't get outside to exercise. That's a

joke doctor, why are you telling me to go play in the playground because I cant go there. It's not safe.

These are things you hear a little bit when you're doctoring, but until you get washed with it by community. My journey there is a common journey that health leaders have. It takes money and time to do that. It requires some public health infrastructure, and leadership that wants to make those kinds of investment, to engage the community, and I think that this speaks to where my concerns are about the public health infrastructure. It is incredibly underfunded. It barely has the resources to do the work that it's expected to do, much less really work with community to truly build a plan broadly across the country. So that's one of the messages that we're trying to get out is how important it is to have strong public health.

There's another component that isn't exactly what you are saying but it is a component of it, and it's about agency and your voice, that if you lift your voice it's going to be heard and that there's an avenue for that. This is a place that I believe public health has a role. It does require that people of color and people from all walks of life feel that they are a part of the community and want to help solve the local challenges that everyone faces.

How to make sure that all of the voices and perspectives are heard equally well is something that clearly our country is struggling with. I mean, I don't think any community is special about that. But I do

think that public health, as a practice, as a profession, this is the sort of challenge that we are well suited to solve.

So I would hope that you and your readers would stay at the table. Keep knocking on the door. Keep going through the open doors. Help the practice of public health and public health departments understand where and how they can do better. Leaving people behind is not the policy goal, but I think that as we said this morning, the hard conversations, as a country, we still need to have and they're going to feel uncomfortable, but it's going to be necessary to get us to a place where everybody gets the kind of opportunity that we want.

I read about the work that you did in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, how did that change you? Is there anything that you went in as a part of who you were, that you came out the other side that was different?

It's complicated. I mentioned to the group this morning that I grew up in poverty. I think for me growing up in poverty, some of that got compartmentalized. Though my career in medicine was focused on improving access to and the quality of care for vulnerable populations, which would be the academic way of describing it, my clinical practice was mostly at the public hospital.

I think I really had a notion that I had a good understanding of the community, but still even I had compartmentalized some of my experiences of poverty.

Katrina democratized pain in our community. We all, in a variety of ways, lost our relationships, our houses, our schools, our

hierarchies, and that loss coupled with our anger at government caused us to reformulate bonds and to rethink our place in society in a different way, and I was not alone in my shifting.

I think literally being on the street after Katrina-- when you are doctoring, you are typically seeing patients in your seat of power. So you are in your clinic. You are in your hospital,. You are in your white coat, and being on the street, wearing whatever, sitting at a card table, looking at devastation, meeting people where they were, literally, it just really caused a lot of reflection for me personally and professionally about those kinds of issues-- power and the inputs to health.

It just clearly magnified the things like housing and poverty and racism. All of those things are always in the background, but sometimes we aren't thinking about them because we're thinking of a health-care paradigm.

So it's not so much, I'd like to think, I guess, that it didn't so much change me, but it reminded me of the way that I was raised and grew up, and I think it pushed me more away from the house of medicine and into the house of public health, because I think that's a place where equity and community orientation is a priority and that was is important to me, and it pushed me into public service, which is where I learned quite a bit about what people really think and believe.

Thank you to Dr. Karen DeSalvo for making time for the Black Lens and for your level of openness and honesty in this interview. It was greatly appreciated.

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OUR VOICES

BLACK WOMYN NEED MORE FROM WHITE ALLIES

By Jackie Vaughn

Public apologies are never an easy task. Earlier in August 2016, Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund, graciously gave a public apology to womyn of Color. The apology was regarding a Washington Post article that overstated the role of Planned Parenthood in advancing the reproductive movement. The overstatement came at the expense of erasing decades of work led by Black womyn and womyn of Color, specifically the work Black womyn have done towards repealing the Hyde Amendment. Black womyn have been leaders in shifting the national conversation about reproductive rights into one that focuses on access and the impacts of systemic oppression.

Since 1977 the Hyde Amendment has created a disproportionate burden on low income womyn and womyn of Color. Passed in 1976, the Hyde Amendment banned the use of Medicaid coverage for abortions, critically restricting the right to access a safe and legal abortion for those who are most vulnerable in society. In her article, Cecile Richards noted that the Hyde Amendment disproportionately places a burden on womyn of Color. However, a very important opportunity was missed. In the midst of her sincere apology for the overstatement, she neglected to use her platform to discuss why and how the law impacts womyn of Color.

Cecile Richards fell into the all too common trap of discussing whether there was intent behind the action, rather than having a critical and needed discussion about the issues of systemic oppression. While an apology and redirection of credit is thoughtful, a more strategic



use of her privilege and position would have been to use the opportunity to further elevate a much needed national conversation on the intersection of institutionalized racism and sexism on the lives of Black womyn.

Dealing with multiple systems of oppression, Black womyn's experiences led them to create a new movement named Reproductive Justice. These womyn changed how we organize for reproductive rights with a new framework that benefits everyone. The framework of Reproductive Justice empowers Black womyn and womyn of Color to lead efforts toward repealing legislation such as the Hyde Amendment.

A premise of Black feminism is based on the idea that the oppression of Black womyn is due to racism, sexism,

and classism; also known as triple jeopardy. This triple jeopardy explains why Black womyn and womyn of Color are disproportionately impacted by the Hyde Amendment.

The impacts of both structural racism and sexism have severe economic consequences for Black womyn, which accounts for their disproportionate dependence on Medicaid funding. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the average median household income for Black families in 2014 was \$35,398 compared to white households, whose average was \$60,256. When examining how gender creates economic consequences, Black womyn are marginalized even further. A study conducted by the American Association of University womyn shows that Black womyn make 63% of what white males earn, in contrast to white womyn who make 78%. The duality of being both a woman and Black subsequently subjects Black womyn to poverty as well.

While it was gracious of Cecile Richards to apologize and give womyn of Color their rightful acknowledgments, Black womyn need more. When Black womyn organize around dangerous legislation, such as the Hyde Amendment, it is a matter of survival. The complexities of being both a woman and Black create a level of marginalization that is unique from others. Often the workings of these systems of oppression are not discussed. The lack of discussion and awareness erases the experiences of Black womyn. If those in the movement want to achieve liberation and equity, they must speak directly about the issues. White allies must use their privilege to give a platform to the work that womyn of Color have been doing, so that we can all work to further the movement.

THOUGHTS FROM A GRANDMOTHER

The Start of a New Generation

By Evelyn Anderton

Approximately seven and a half months ago I was checking my mail as usual and it was full of junk, a few bills and a small card with no return address. I proceeded to read the card and this is what was written inside "Every good grandma will be a good great grandmother".

To say I was in a state of shock is an understatement. I became weak in my knees, a little light headed and my mind went into overdrive. I am the proud grandmother of 4 grands ranging from the ages of 9-25. At that moment I had no idea who the card was from. Of course I was able to eliminate the 9-year-old grandson immediately (lol). Now I'm thinking, I sure hope it's not one of those two 20-year-old grandsons who are nowhere near maturity to become fathers, God forbid. When I finally got myself together and finished reading the card and looking at the ultrasound I realized the card was from my 25-year old, oldest grandchild and my only granddaughter.

My only question to my granddaughter was what's wrong with an old fashion phone call? My husband swears she didn't want to hear me lecture. I assured him I had no lecture for a 25-year-old adult granddaughter who chose to get pregnant in today's society. Don't get me wrong, I had a brief conversation and offered my opinion when they decided to be "roommates". However, the news of becoming a great grandmother has been just as exciting as becoming a grandmother.



My prayer is that she becomes a wonderful mother, because she was raised by a good role model in her mother, grandmothers and great grandmother.

When we got the news, "It's a boy", it was pleasing to our ears and filled our hearts with joy. So far her pregnancy has been free of any major health problems and we are playfully looking forward to his arrival. His due date is September 19 and his name will be Samuel Pope III, after his father and Samuel is also his great grandfather's middle name.

It will be a special occasion as a new generation starts in your family. We can't wait to welcome the next generation into the family. My mother was not as blessed to see any great grandchildren, however I pray she is looking down from heaven with a big smile on her face. We give all the praises and thanks to God for blessing our family with our 1st great grandchild from our 1st grandchild and starting a new generation in our family.

Voices from the Convention:

Nicolas and Jared (Continued from Page 12)

Nicolas - I'm disappointed but at the same time I'm also inspired by all of the people that I met here. I think when he (Bernie) told us to come, he knew that we would find each other and we would realize that we are not one shifting grain of sand, but that we are millions of shifting grains of sand and we are changing the landscape.

People like me who never got involved in politics and who sort of got in the ring, we needed to see how the soup gets made. We needed to see how this thing works. Because I think when you watch it from home and you're sort of like seeing this well packaged thing, you don't get to see the behind the scenes. And I'm grateful that I saw it, because it also made me realize how much work there is to do. Because it's not just about getting the candidate to win, it's also about changing the way we do things.

For example, so much money goes into putting an event like this together. I understand that a lot of times politics is about presentation, but sometimes you have to wonder about the money that gets placed into these infomercials, not just for the DNC, but also for the RNC. There's got to be a better way to do this.

Jared - It was my first convention and I was very disappointed. It was so corporate. We had Comcast lanyards, and in our goodie bag, we had the Liberty Bell with the AT&T logo on it. Democracy brought to

you by AT&T. I thought, this is a joke, this is everything that we need to fight against.

I looked at the corporate dominated process, the contrived stage play that we were all a part of, where everyone was expected to be a prop. No dissention. No voice. No exchange of real ideas or debate. It was just supposed to be this false, insincere, unity that was being shoved down people's throats aggressively, and it was a very alienating tactic, and the last thing that the Hillary camp should want to do is make us their enemy, because we need each other to beat Trump, because no one on our side wants a Trump presidency. It's my first convention. I hope that if I come back it's very different.

Nicolas - I was disappointed in the way that Bernie people were treated, but even though there were some unfortunate moments here, the one thing that I would say is the fact that we could all be in the same hotel, this shows you why America is America. The thing that I think is truly great about this country is the belief that we can be in America and we can disagree and get along, but I feel like that's eroding, and it's not just the Trumps of the world that are trying to erode it. I think it's permeating through all parties and all institutions, and I think we have to somehow fight against that. Because if we lose the diversity of thought in this country, then we lose what is America.

OUR VOICES

THE YOUNG AND THE RADICAL

The Awakening of a New Black America



By Mattias Lehman

My name is Mattias Lehman, and I am black. I’ve always known that, but at the same time, it’s a new discovery. And having discovered it, I am afraid. I am afraid that one day I will break an incidental law—jaywalking perhaps, although anything is fair game—and find myself bleeding face down onto the pavement while an officer handcuffs me, or shot dead in my car. I’m afraid that Breitbart or Fox News will circulate a picture of my “alleged gang tattoo”.

I’m afraid they’ll say I was “resisting arrest” when there was nothing they were arresting me for in the first place. I’m afraid that they’ll point out my tumultuous history with officers, and say I endorsed race riots. I’m afraid they’ll paint me as an angry, violent black nationalist who once said on social media that he thought about owning a gun just to scare white people. There but for the grace of God go I. A god I could never believe in, for in the words of Ta-Nehisi Coates, “America understands itself as God’s handiwork, but the black body is the clearest evidence that America is the work of men”.

On my good days, my fear drives me to be a better, more driven person. It’s funny, how you live when you understand your life is disposable, the motivation that stems from fear of death. The drive to always be better. A sense of urgency, that only so much time remains to leave your mark on history. The knowledge that you have to be twice as good for half as much.

On my bad days, the fear I feel towards American law enforcement turns to anger. But what if I allow my anger to fester? Could it turn to hate? We have seen what happens to our political future when fear and anger turn to hate, between Brexit and the rise of Donald Trump. But what would come of my impotent rage?

Most days—or at the very least what feels like most days—I see some new footage of an unarmed black man or woman bleeding, choking, dying. I weep into my pillow over it, and as tears burn my face I am transported to when pepper spray seared my eyes shut. I clench the fabric of my sheets as though choking the life out of my despair. I live perched on the precipice of anger, parched, staring out into an ocean of rage and knowing that saltwater can’t quench my thirst, only destroy me from within. I can never surrender to that anger, lest it consume me.

I wasn’t always that way. I used to believe in the world. I used to be innocent. I used to be ignorant. One more thing that was taken away from me.

I’ve been black my whole life. It’s funny how the math of race works: a black woman meets a white man and makes a black child. I don’t think I realized how brave they were: born in a time when their love was illegal, married in a time when it was still taboo. When I was younger, I never thought of myself as black. Did I fail to honor their bravery by failing to recognize what I was, a testament to the power of blackness to define racial heritage?

My skin is not who I am, it’s simply what I wear.

I’d say, with a nonchalant shrug and the smirk that defined my childhood smudging the corners of my mouth. I didn’t really think of myself as anything. I checked the “other” box. Sometimes I was “half-black”. Never was I “half-white”. Even then, I knew that race was a one-way street. You can’t be half-white; you either are white or you aren’t. Even then, I struggled to find my identity, to see myself reflected in the media around me.

What is he mixed with?

They’d ask my parents as their fingers hovered hungrily near my curls. My mother hated that question. What is he mixed with? Like I was a fucking cocktail. Like my parents decided halfway through that they didn’t want a chocolate cake but it was too late so they added as much vanilla as they could. My mother would always respond: The secret ingredient is a heaping helping of love

We were her “golden nuggets”, me, my little brother, and my two godsisters. All mixed, all different shades, different hair, different people. I was a gawky nerd and my brother was a jock and sometimes we couldn’t seem more different. As I matured, I became a political firebrand; a fervent supporter of gay rights, a rabid atheist. Being black never entered into the equation, or so I thought. I couldn’t have been more wrong. Race had left subconscious effects on nearly every aspect of my personal development. I just never noticed, or when I did, refused to acknowledge the impact of race. I “didn’t see race”, which meant I had no way to see racism.

Now I know better. Now, when I close my eyes, I can still see Trayvon Martin. I remember seeing his body—his black body—lying in the street like some inviolable testament to his powerlessness. I saw his blackness, and through it, I saw my own.

In that moment I realized what it meant to be black, to live by a separate set of rules, to have agency only so long as my agency did not bump into that of the wrong white American. A strange man had grabbed a gun and followed a boy, and when the dust settled, the boy was dead. And yet the man was not held accountable.

In that moment I understood why so many black Americans had rejoiced at OJ’s ‘not guilty’ verdict, regardless of their thoughts on his guilt. He embodied the notion of a black man finally being considered ‘innocent until proven guilty’. Black America had needed a win—any win—after having watched Rodney King beaten in the streets. After Martin Luther King Jr’s assassination. After Jim Crow. My mother was alive to watch MLK assassinated. My grandmother lived through Jim Crow. This was not history for them. It had been life.

In that moment I understood, but it was news to me. OJ was not just black. He was also rich, and in many ways, rich is a race of its own in America. I saw the OJ verdict as a damning condemnation that America had two justice systems, one for the rich who never faced consequences, one for the poor who did. Trayvon Martin corrected me, taught me that there was a third justice system, one which

destroyed black communities through The War on Drugs and Stand Your Ground and Stop and Frisk.

While this was news to me, it was not new. In 1921, the wealthiest black community in America was attacked by rioting whites on foot, and firebombed from planes. We talk now of race riots as though they were a uniquely black thing, but it was whites who invented and perfected the art against us. This was the history I was never taught in school, the history of housing segregation and race riots, of lynching and police brutality. The brutal racism that didn’t fit into the neat picture of “once there was slavery, but Lincoln won the Civil War” or “once there was Jim Crow, but Martin Luther King changed that”.

Slavery and Jim Crow were not aberrations from an otherwise good system, contrary to what I had been taught. They were reflections of a racist American culture that still hasn’t learned to address its own anti-blackness, instead choosing to pass the blame on to caricatured stereotypes.



And I am not the only one. All around me, I see my black peers coming to the same realization. A whole generation of black kids—having been force fed the lie that racism is over—are now having their eyes opened. They are seeing the bodies in the news. They are hearing the racist words of Trump and they are learning just how many people believe them. And their disillusionment is plain to see. It is evident in increasingly disruptive Black Lives Matter protests across the country. It is clear in the student body identity politics that so many use to condemn modern liberalism.

I—and many others like me—were taught that when you play by the rules, the system changes and bigotry dies away. And yet the first black president has faced flagrant racism and those of us who never lived through the Civil Rights Movement have to wonder: where was this post-racist world we were promised?

America has never played by the rules when it comes to black people. But this generation of young black Americans are the first to be raised expecting a fair world, and now we don’t know what to do. We’re sad, we’re hurt, and we’re afraid.

Day by day my fear turns into anger. Day by day I lose more of my precious little remaining faith that America will heal its racial divide soon, if ever. Most of all, I fear what happens if it doesn’t. I fear that Black Lives Matter will one day become a violent movement. Most of all, I fear I’ll be there with them, anger fueling my every action and hate in my heart.

Mattias Lehman is the editor of the blog Black by Popular Demand. To read more articles visit: <https://medium.com/@Mattias.Lehman>

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 13

NAACP CANDIDATE FORUM

Spokane County Commissioners

6-8 pm

Morning Star Baptist Church

3909 W Rowan St at N. Driscoll Blvd, Spokane

(Fellowship Hall)

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCT. 28

ART EXHIBIT: "BETWEEN THE SHADOWS AND THE LIGHT"

Exhibition of US and African artists engaging with the history, culture, and contemporary reality of South Africa on five themes: Remembrance, Resistance, Reconciliation, Representation, and Re-visioning.

September 13 - October 28, 2016 (Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Time: Monday-Friday: 10 am-6 pm, Saturday: 10 am-2 pm

Location: Bryan Oliver Gallery, Whitworth Univ.

Cost: Free

For more information call 509.777.3258 or visit their website at <http://www.whitworth.edu/cms/academics/art/bryan-oliver-gallery/>.

SEPTEMBER 16

THE WOMEN OF CALVARY PRESENT:

A TRIBUTE TO FIRST LADY DORIS ANDREWS

Featuring The Voices of Calvary in concert

6:00 pm

Calvary Baptist Church

203 E 3rd Ave, Spokane, WA 99202

SEPTEMBER 19

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly community meeting

7-9pm

Spokane Community Building

35 W. Main Street, downtown Spokane

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

SEPTEMBER 22

THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS: A DIALOGUE ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

Sponsored by the WA State Human Rights Commission

5:30 pm

Gonzaga Law School

721 N Cincinnati Street, Spokane

Cost: Free and open to the public

For more information or for reasonable accommodation or an interpreter, please contact lskinner@him.gov or call 360.753.4876.

SEPTEMBER 27

NAACP CANDIDATE FORUM

Spokane Legislative Districts

6-8 pm

Bethel AME Emmanuel Family Life Center (Rm 105)

645 S. Richard Allen Ct., Spokane

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

SEPTEMBER 28

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CANDIDATE FORUM - SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Co-Sponsored by the NAACP & Center for Justice

5pm

Gonzaga Law School (Barbierri Moot Courtroom)

721 N Cincinnati St, Spokane, WA 99202

For more information contact the NAACP at 509-209-2425 or visit <http://spokaneNAACP.com>

LOOKING FOR ARTISTS OF COLOR

Spokane Arts Commission OPEN CALL for Submissions to the Chase Gallery

Deadline: September, 16 2016 - 5 PM

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

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

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

For submissions: please indicate in your statement if you are submitting for the WINTER exhibition.

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

Artists should provide: Resume of art exhibits and related experience; Portfolio of images of exemplary works; Artist statement or description of what is proposed

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

SAVE THE DATE

SPOKANE NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

Saturday, November 12, 2016 - 7pm

Northern Quest Casino, Airway Heights, WA



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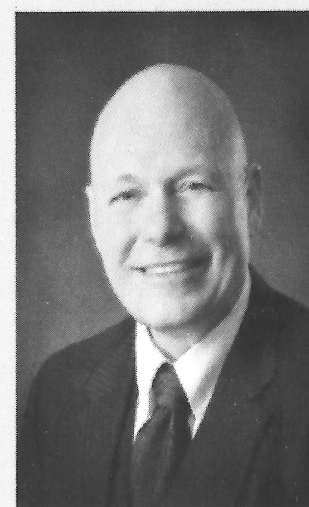
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CANDIDATE FORUMS



**Want to know who is running for
SPOKANE POLITICAL OFFICE?
Do You have questions for the candidates?**

**SPOKANE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2016
6:00-8:00 PM**

Where: Morning Star Baptist Church
3909 W. Rowan St, Spokane WA 99205

**SPOKANE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016
6:00-8:00 PM**

Where: Bethel AME Emmanuel Family Life Center
645 S. Richard Allen Ct., Spokane WA 99202

**Sponsored by the
Spokane NAACP Political Action Committee**