

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

BANK BLACK. BUY BLACK.

“Too Much Talking & Tweeting. Not Enough Economic Action”

BlackCentral.com, a website dedicated to the empowerment of individuals, families, businesses, and organizations within the U.S. and throughout Africa and the African Diaspora, recently asked the following question on its opinion page.

How many more hashtags do you need to see? #DarrenSeals #TyreKing #TerenceCrutcher #KeithScott #Tawon-Boyd #HenryGreen #IndiaKager #TamirRice #LaquanMcDonald #Kor-rynGaines #SandraBland #RekiaBoyd #AiyanaStanleyJones #KennethChamberlain #MikeBrown #FreddieGray #TanishaAnderson #MalissaWilliams #TimothyRussell #JohnCrawford #Al-tonSterling #PhilandoCastile #FreddieGray #EricGarner #TrayvonMartin...

The post declared, “There is too much talking and tweeting. Not enough economic action,” joining a growing chorus of voices urging Black Americans to take economic action to make their voices heard.

“If you’re just talking, crying, and tweeting...you’re playing,” the post



continued. “It’s past time for Black people and other concerned citizens to take protest to the next level. Kneeling for the anthem is cool but it only goes so far.”

BlackCentral.com is urging those in the Black community to follow the lead of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose Civil Rights protests eventually took on an economic focus. Dr. King encouraged African Americans to “always anchor our external direct action with the power of economic withdrawal.” He referred to it as “redistributing the pain.”

BlackCentral.com agrees. “Protesting and marching is nothing unless it disrupts their money flow. Imagine if the citizens of Charlotte shut down Sunday’s Carolina Panthers football game. Imagine if thousands of Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma & Maryland residents withdrew their money from Bank of America & Wells Fargo and put it in a Black bank! Imagine if people around the nation joined the movement to #BankBlack #BuyBlack.”

To join the movement visit <http://blackoutcoalition.org>.

#NoDAPL: BLM, VAN JONES & JESSE JACKSON JOIN DAKOTA PIPELINE PROTEST

“This is as Simple As I Can Say It. Water is Life. Oil is Death.”



(Sources: Sydney Robinson, <http://www.ecowatch.com>; <http://blacklivesmatter.com>; Levi Rickert, <http://nativenewsonline.net>)

Thousands of people from across the United States and Canada have traveled to North Dakota to participate in what has become an international protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Over two hundred Native American tribes, the largest gathering in over 100 years, have joined to oppose the 1,100 mile, \$3.78 billion project that will carry crude oil from North Dakota, through South Dakota and Iowa, to Illinois, transporting up to 570,000 barrels of oil per day to refineries on the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe began protesting against the pipeline in January, declaring the pipeline, that is planned to cross the Missouri River, will threaten water supplies for millions, and destroy sacred ancestral burial sites and artifacts.

Prominent members of the African American community have joined the protest. Black Lives Matter issued a statement that the group stands in solidarity with the “Water Protectors at Standing Rock.” BLM activists have also traveled to North Dakota to participate in the pipeline protest.

“It is not in the interests of large corporations or the federal government for the world to see Indigenous peoples in America working together to protect the land and wa-

ter we all need to survive”, BLM’s statement declared. “The gathering at Standing Rock is a testimony against capitalism— we do not have to destroy the world and our resources for money to provide for one another.”

In September, political activist and attorney, Van Jones joined a rally outside of the White House calling on President Obama to revoke permits for the pipeline. Jones declared to the crowd, “This is as simple as I can say it: Water is life, oil is death. That’s not hyperbole. What is oil? Oil has been dead for 60 million years. Coal has been dead for 150 million years. And then they’re shocked that having pulled death out of the ground, we now have

death in the lungs of our children in the form of asthma. And we now have death on our oceans in the form of oil spills. And we now have death in the skies in form of climate chaos. What did you think was gonna happen?” Jones told the crowd, “When someone stands up for their basic rights we have a responsibility to stand with them.”

Jesse Jackson visited Standing Rock this month to show solidarity with the protesters. This is “the ripest case of environmental racism I’ve seen in a long time,” Jackson declared. “Bismark residents don’t want their water threatened, so why is it ok for North Dakota to react with guns and tanks when Native Americans ask for the same rights?”

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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



by Sandra Williams

I See Red

You say you see me, but you don't--

You see my hair- charcoal black, coarse and

rough, wooly curls knotted tight against my head, standing firm and motionless against the breeze that gently tosses your locks back and forth- defiant in its structure- rebellious in its form, and as far removed from golden and flowing as I possibly can get.

You see my hair and you say you see me, but you don't.

You see my skin- caramel brown, diluted from its Black beginning, darker than my mother's shade, lighter than my father's, and different enough from yours for you to notice that I'm not like you.

You hold your arm up next to mine on the first day of summer every year- to see how you compare.

You smile and you nod the closer your shade gets, but you don't let it get too close, no, never too close, or they might begin to wonder.

You see my skin and you say you see me, but you don't.

You see my eyes- emerald green, sparkling in the sunlight, watching, gazing, looking at the horizon, silently reflecting a timeless legacy of strong and vibrant women, stolen from their beds- stolen from their babies- stolen from their husband's loving arms.

You see my eyes and you say you see me, but you don't.

You hear my music- you move your body to the rhythms. You pulse and you grind and you gyrate to the beat. You mimic the sounds, and you echo the words and the speech, getting the inflection just right.

You hear the music and the melody, and you say you hear me, but you don't.

You don't hear my song- its drumbeat pounded and whipped and burned and chained and lynched into my flesh- its lyrics chanted and rapped and harmonized and shouted to the wailing and moaning of generation upon generation of dead mothers and fathers and brothers and sisters

You hear my music, but you've never heard my song.

You speak my name and you think you know me. You may pronounce the syllables- but you don't know the sorrow etched into every letter. You sit beside me and you think you share my world. You may share a seat

and a space near by but you don't share my rage, and you don't share the ache that I carry buried deep inside my bones. You shake my hand and you think you touch my heart, and my soul, and my life. You may touch my hand but you have never touched me.

You may think you have, but you haven't.

And you smile when you see me, you smile and you wave- and when you see me you think you know me, but you don't, because you still don't know, you don't want to know, that when I see you, I see red.

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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WEED to KNOW

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

ART AND HISTORY by Bertoni Jones Bey Viola Liuzzo (jbaguart@yahoo.com)

On March 7th 1965, more than 40 million Americans watched Alabama law enforcement severely beating and tear gassing hundreds of African-Americans who left church protesting voting rights. They were crossing the Edmund Pettis Bridge peacefully marching from Selma to Montgomery. Caucasians in the South revealed themselves to the world in an act that is remembered as Bloody Sunday.

As one caucasian housewife from Detroit watched on TV she broke down in tears. She informed her husband that she was leaving him, the children, and her school courses at Wayne State for Selma to aid in the "cause of justice". The housewife was **Viola Liuzzo**.

Viola Liuzzo was born Viola Gregg on April 11, 1925 in California, Pennsylvania. Though she was raised in the South, she moved around the country and eventually settled in Detroit with her second husband Anthony Liuzzo. Having five children between the two marriages, she made education a key to their success, in spite of her not finishing school.

By the 60's Viola was a middle-age homemaker looking to elevate her own achievements in life, so she restarted school, first at Detroit's Carnegie's Institute for medical technicians, then at Wayne State University. Fiery, and openly challenging to authority, Viola did not hesitate to set herself apart vocally and publicly against wrongs towards women and non-Caucasians.

When a Detroit college professor asked her why she was going to Selma, Viola replied she was disturbed by the suffering of "my people". Viola drove the thousand miles to

Selma on March 19th, 1965. Volunteering in any manner she was asked. She worked a first-aid station, a hospitality desk, and drove people back and forth the fifty-four miles between Selma and Montgomery.

On the evening of March 21, 1965, Viola along with local nineteen year-old civil rights worker Leroy Moton were returning to Selma from transporting marchers. On a quiet stretch of Highway 80, a car with four klansmen sped alongside her and opened fire fourteen times hitting Viola in the left side of the head. She was killed instantly. Her light-blue, 1963 Oldsmobile drifted off of the road and rolled to a stop in a field. Leroy escaped with minor injuries from glass fragments and fled into the Alabama night.

It was found that one of the klansmen in that car (Gary "Tommy" Rowe) was an active FBI informant. History later revealed that in the civil rights struggle and Viola's death, the FBI looked the other way regarding illicit and illegal klan activity. Viola's murderers were tried by an all-caucasian jury of which some were members of the racist White Citizens Council or had relatives in the klan. All were acquitted by mistrial. Klansman Tommy Rowe eventually received ten thousand dollars from the FBI for his efforts.

The Liuzzo family never received one dime of compensation for their loss, and while in mourning found a burning cross on their front lawn. Viola Gregg Liuzzo was laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery Southfield, Michigan.

Sources:

Informant: *The FBI, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Murder of Viola Liuzzo* – Gary May.



Bertoni Jones Bey

Lloyd Newton: First Black Air Force Thunderbird

(Reprinted from myblackhistory.net)

General Lloyd Newton was a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4, F-15, F-16, C-12 and the F-117 stealth fighter. In 1968, GenNewton flew 269 combat missions in Vietnam and was selected to join the U.S. Air Force Aerial Demonstration Squadron, the Thunderbirds, in November 1974. He was the first African American to become a pilot for the Thunderbirds.

Four Star General Lloyd "Fig" Newton served as the Director of Operations, United States Special Operations Command and as the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Newton culminated his Air Force career as the Commander, Air Education and Training Command where he was responsible for recruiting, training and education for all Air Force personnel. His command consisted of 13 bases, 43,000 active duty personnel and 14,000 civilians. At 54 General Newton was the only African American Four Star General in the Air Force.

Lloyd Newton was born in Ridgeland, South Carolina, where he graduated from Jasper High School. As a child, Newton often stood in the fields of the family farm in Ridgeland, South Carolina, watching airplanes flying overhead but not thinking about being a pilot, he said. At that time, military uniforms fascinated him more than airplanes.

His interest in flying was also sparked in 1964 when he saw the Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team perform during his junior year of college. He said he became consumed with a burning desire to be a Thunderbird. At the time, the team had never had an African-American pilot, but that didn't deter Newton.



Newton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in aviation education and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant from Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee in 1966. In 1985, he received a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

General Newton retired from service in 2000 after thirty four years of service to the country in the United States Air Force.

After his retirement, Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, became the Vice President for International Programs and Business Development for Pratt & Whitney Military Engines in East Hartford, Connecticut. As Vice President, he was responsible for international military sales, assessing U.S. military requirements and developing business for Pratt's military engine services, leading a team of 45 personnel who manage a host of domestic and international customers with a sales target of nearly \$1 Billion.

In 2008 Newton endorsed Barack Obama for President and appeared on stage at the Democratic National Convention at Invesco Field with other former military leaders to lend support to Obama's campaign.

General Newton has received numerous awards and honors. In 1997 Newton received an Honorary doctorate in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and in 1999 an honorary doctor of science degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina.

Other awards and honors include: Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service ribbon, Air Medal ribbon with 16 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Outstanding Unit Award with "V" device and two oak leaf clusters, Vietnam Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation (Philippines), and the Vietnam Medal.

BLACK NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Local, State, National and Around the World

Boko Haram ‘releases 21 Chibok Girls’ out of the 200 abducted in April 2014



(Source: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news>)

A spokesman for Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said in a press release that twenty-one of the more than two hundred Nigerian girls that were kidnapped from a school in Chibok by Boko Haram fighters in April 2014 have been released. According to the spokesman, the release of the girls followed negotiations between Nigeria’s government and Boko Haram brokered by Red Cross and Swiss government officials.

The girls were exchanged for four Boko Haram prisoners in Banki in northeast Nigeria, according to the AFP news agency, who quoted a local source. However, the Nigerian information minister later denied that any Boko Haram prisoners were exchanged for the release of the girls.

The kidnapping has become a hot political issue in Nigeria, with the government and military criticized for their handling of the incident and their failure to rescue any of the girls. About 2,000 girls and boys have been abducted by Boko Haram since 2014, with many used as sex slaves, fighters and even suicide bombers, according to Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization.

In April of this year, Nigeria freed more than 500 women and children from the Sambisa forest, considered a bastion of the armed group Boko Haram. Two of the abducted Chibok girls, Amina Ali Darsha and Serah Luka were rescued in May from the same forest in Borno state.

In recent months, Boko Haram has increasingly used suicide and bomb attacks as the Nigerian military pushes the group out of territories they once controlled. President Muhammadu Buhari has declared Boko Haram “technically” defeated, and said success in the campaign would be measured by the return of the Chibok girls and other abductees.

18-Year Old Howard Student Youngest Chosen By Black Enterprise to Compete in Silicon Valley



Source: <http://www.blacknews.com/news>

Mr. Earl Graves Jr, CEO of Black Enterprise Magazine, has provided significant leadership in bringing together top students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to participate in the annual BE Tech Connex Summit. He has worked successfully with corporate sponsors to foster a pipeline of technology talent. Among the schools in attendance at this year’s summit, which took place from October 10-11 in Burlingame, CA, was Howard University. Often referred to as the Mecca, Howard has a long tradition of fostering talented students that make significant contributions to society.

One of the future student technology moguls in Howard University’s College of Engineering Program is 18-year old David Hill, Jr. He entered Howard University at 16 years old, and has accomplished some amazing things throughout his career. He has interned at technology giant Corning Incorporated where he successfully contributed to the software and modeling simulation group. He has performed research on global satellite systems for Leidos Corporation with Dr. Gedare Bloom. He has studied cyber security issues at Cisco Systems. This summer, Hill was tapped by United Technologies Corporation to work on the emerging IoT software development project that will digitally transform Otis Elevator. According to Mr. Sellick, “David exemplifies the values and traits that we look for in our engineering staff. He significantly contributed to our digital transformation initiative using Microsoft Azure IoT software and other software applications.”

Of the BE Tech Connex Summit, Hill said “I greatly enjoyed engaging with industry leaders and learning about technology innovation.” Claes Nobel, a senior member of the family that established the Nobel Prize, stated, “I am proud to announce David has been selected to become a member of our esteemed organization as a national scholar.”

For more details on the BE Tech Connex Summit, log on to www.blackenterprise.com/events/techconnex

John Legend to bring the story of ‘Black Wall Street’ to WGN



(Source: <http://thegrio.com>)

John Legend is teaming up with WGN America to bring the real life story of “Black Wall Street” to a television near you. ‘Black Wall Street’ was a wealthy black neighborhood in Greenwood, Oklahoma, a suburb of Tulsa, that was attacked in 1921 by a mob of angry whites who burned it down and massacred hundreds of Black residents over two days. In spite of the devastating attack, the community rebuilt from the ruins until desegregation began.

According to Deadline, John Legend, Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorious’s company, Get Lifted Film Co., has already gotten a deal for early development on Black Wall Street, which will examine the historical role of Black Wall Street itself.

The series will examine how Black Wall Street and the community around its creation became a safe haven even at a time of deep segregation. It will also examine the backlash that the community faced over the course of the two day rampage.

Ariell Johnson, Philadelphia Comic Store Owner Gets Her Own Marvel Comic Cover



(Source: Sameer Rao, <http://www.colorlines.com>)

Businesswoman Ariell Johnson became the first and only Black woman to own a comic book store on the East Coast when she opened Amalgam Comics & Coffeehouse in Philadelphia. Now, she is being immortalized on the cover of an upcoming Marvel comic. Johnson will appear on a store-specific variant cover for Marvel’s “Invincible Iron Man #1,” enjoying a meal with another Black woman trailblazer: RiRi Williams, the new Iron Man. The comic goes on sale next month, with this alternate cover being available only at Amalgam.

Johnson commented to ABC News on the importance of women and people of color as comic heroes. “When you are a person of color, you’re scraping the bottom of the barrel to find someone you can identify with. I always felt like I was watching other people’s adventures,” she said to ABC News. Had she not been introduced to X-Men character Storm, she said, “I might have grown out of my love for [comics].”

Purdue University Librarian Starting a Subscription Box Service for Black Literature



(Source: *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, <https://www.jbhe.com>)

Jamillah R. Gabriel, librarian at Purdue University’s Black Cultural Center, has launched a new start-up subscription venture titled CALL NUMBER that each month will send a newly released book written by a Black author to subscribers of the service. The Call Number service, scheduled to debut in November, will start at \$35 per month. Gabriel told JBHE that “I have selected the first book but I’m keeping that under wraps at the moment.”

Gabriel states that “These days there is a subscription box service for just about anything: fitness products, beauty products, even razors. However, after reviewing many literary subscription box sites I realized there were no book subscription boxes that highlighted Black literature. “

A California native, Gabriel holds an associate’s degree in English from Cerritos College in Norwalk, California, a bachelor’s degree in Black studies and journalism from California State University, Long Beach, and a master of library and information science degree from San Jose State University. She is currently pursuing a second master’s degree in museum studies.

For more information visit: <http://callnumber.launchrock>.

THE TRAN PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BLACK PEOPLE?

How a Set of Agreements Can Bring Down Devastating Consequences for Black Workers Across the Globe

Editor's Note: As President Obama winds down his term as American's first Black president, he has been pushing hard for passage of The Trans Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement, however I am not aware of ANY discussion from Obama, or anybody else, about how the TPP trade agreement will impact Black people. I found this article on Ebony.com. It was published last year but I feel that it is just as relevant today, if not more so. I know how much Black folks love them some Obama, but African Americans and our allies can support President Obama and still hold him accountable for policies that will negatively impact our community. This is definitely one of those policies.

By Steven Gilliam and Rachel Gilmer

(Reprinted from Ebony.com/news-views, June 8, 2015)

The modern-day social justice movement that has commonly come to be known under the “Black Lives Matter” umbrella continues to echo Dr. Martin Luther King’s insistence that the “sickness of poverty be exposed and healed – not only its symptoms, but its basic causes.” Standing on the shoulders of those that came before us, our movement has consistently articulated that the violence enacted against Black communities takes many forms – from police killings of our people to the destruction of our neighborhoods through gentrification to the economic exploitation of our labor.

We have grown the broadest, most sustained movement against anti-Black racism in a generation. Yet we are currently in danger of overlooking a massive expansion of the anti-Black violence already rampant in our economic system: the Trans Pacific Partnership.

On May 21, 2015 the Senate voted (62-37) to grant the White House “Fast Track” Authority to negotiate a series of agreements that will further cement anti-Black racism as a pillar of the global economy. The first of these agreements—the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)—would be the largest trade deal in US history. Developed by 12 nations, this new set of policies would initially apply to 40 percent of the world’s GDP, but could quickly expand its reach as more nations sign on. This week, the debate over fast-track approval will move to the House. Should they also vote in favor, the TPP and a series of similar deals will be able to pass through Congress without debate, amendments or filibuster.

In the name of racial equality, the White House has vigorously promoted their minor police reform efforts, such as body-worn cameras and community policing practices, with detailed press releases, briefings and reports. Yet when it comes to a deal promoting devastating racial inequality across the globe, the White House not only remains silent, but is actively working to develop and advance the TPP behind closed doors. It is up to us to not to be distracted by their smoke and mirrors.

For the most part, the public has not heard much about the TPP because it has been negotiated and advanced in unprecedented secrecy. In fact, members of Congress can more easily access information about Iran sanctions and the CIA than they can about the TPP. Only recently, as a concession from the White House, have members of congress been able to see the draft text, unaccompanied by staff, and under the condition that they not share what they read with the public. Even now, policymakers can only read one chapter at a time provided they surrender their cell phone, read it in a basement while being watched by a proctor, and leave any notes taken in the room.

While members of Congress can barely access the TPP, hundreds of corporate employees deemed “trade advisors” have been working hand in hand with the White House to construct the agreement for years. These trade advisors represent over 500 companies, many of which have actively led the war against



Black lives. Partners on the TPP include: Geo Group, the private prison magnate; Comcast, a central player in the fight against free and open internet; and Walmart, a corporation that has consistently fought efforts to raise the minimum wage and profits from the exploitation of prison labor.

The systemic exclusion of the public is a clear sign of just how dangerous the TPP is. Other than a few disclosures from Wikileaks, much of the agreement remains secret. While there is currently no way to know the precise cumulative impact it will have on Black people, we do know that corporations have crafted the TPP to expand their power through global exploitation of Black labor, reduced access to healthcare and the destruction of a free and open internet.

Given the devastating impact that the TPP will have on the lives of Black people, here are four key reasons why the movement must defeat it:

1. The TPP, like all free trade policies, will destroy economic opportunity for Black people and the working class.

Since the 1970s, so-called “free trade” policies have decimated the US economy by allowing corporations to ship living-wage jobs overseas to save money. The burdens of unfettered capitalism have fallen most heavily on poor Black and Brown people domestically and internationally.

While the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) promised to bring 200,000 new jobs into the US, estimates show that instead nearly 700,000 jobs were lost.

Historically, Black Americans have been disproportionately concentrated in industries hit hardest by these massive losses, particularly manufacturing. Since NAFTA was passed, 1 in 4 manufacturing jobs have been lost. In Chicago and Detroit, cities once home to thriving Black middle class communities, Black unemployment has risen to 25 percent and 27 percent respectively.

Once industries move abroad, corporations jump from country to country in a race for profits, exploiting Black and Brown bodies in the process. Of the 20 countries the US has already established free trade agreements with, 10 use forced or child labor and 17 are guilty of human rights violations “directly related to labor rights and the conditions of workers.” It is unlikely that the TPP will break the mold on labor exploitation. As Senator Elizabeth Warren explains, the “US repeatedly fails to enforce or adopts unenforceable labor standards in free trade agreements.”

2. The TPP will decrease access to health care and exacerbate an already exploding health crisis facing Black people and poor people throughout the world.

In the midst of a growing global health crisis, poor people across the world lack access to basic resources such as food, water and affordable drugs. The TPP will only exacerbate poor folks’ right to survive by awarding corporate pharmaceutical firms new rights to increase prices and limit access to generic drugs. Doctors Without Borders has called the TPP “the most harmful trade pact ever.”

The TPP would extend patents, keeping generic alternatives off the market. Typically, when a patent expires, any company can enter the market with a generic version. Generic drugs can be developed and sold for much less money, which is beneficial for those that lack access to affordable care, but bad for corporate profits. With patent extensions, pharmaceutical companies will essentially have endless monopolies over drugs, giving them no reason to make them affordable especially since they frequently develop drugs only intended for wealthy people. As the CEO of Bayer remarked about a drug used to treat cancer, “we developed this product for Western patients who can afford this product, quite honestly. It is an expensive product.”

Access to generic drugs is essential to fighting disease in the developing world where the extension of patents can mean the difference between life and death. The TPP will also eliminate a government’s ability to regulate drug prices, leaving the health of people most in need in the hands of an industry that has already proven to care more about profits than the lives of those it was supposedly set up to serve.

In a world where Black Americans account for 44 percent of our country’s new HIV infections and where there are roughly 1.2 million AIDS related deaths annually throughout the continent of Africa, we cannot afford to be met with more policies that thwart our right to live.

3. The TPP will grant corporations control over the online platforms essential to the Black Lives Matter Movement

As a result of increased censorship in mainstream media, the growth of the movement for Black lives has depended partly on internet organizing. Without the internet, many of us would not have seen the people of Ferguson marching down West Florissant following the killing of Mike Brown and decided to join the uprising. Without the internet, we would not know much outside the police-driven narrative surrounding the killings of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, or Walter Scott. Without the internet, many of us would not have been able to elevate the names of Black women killed by the police, even though they have been completely absent from mainstream media coverage. Indeed, this is why Black activists advocated for net neutrality in Congress last Winter. The internet provides a space for Black people to connect, organize and fight for our survival. The TPP will threaten all of this.

Under the TPP, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) would be required to read everyone’s email, monitor websites visited, and regulate content for copyright infringement – a term that is purposely loosely defined in the treaty. After six infringements, deemed “strikes” in TPP language, websites and email addresses would be deleted. With the average wealth of Black people being 12 times less than that of white people, we don’t have the funds to defend ourselves against wealthy multinational corporations. Furthermore, conservative ISPs may target voices that challenge their power under the pretext of “strikes.” With posts about Black lives already being taken down by social media providers under claims that

this content is “inappropriate,” it’s easy to envision a scenario in which those using the internet to fight for racial justice would be disproportionately targeted for prosecution by copyright holders.

4. The TPP will allow corporations to avoid domestic courts and challenge economic and social reforms won by the Black Lives Matter Movement in a corporate-driven foreign tribunal.

While the TPP will have a number of negative consequences for Black lives, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement System (ISDS) is perhaps the most alarming. The ISDS would allow corporations to contest laws and regulations of TPP member nations in a foreign tribunal. These foreign tribunals, known as international arbitration tribunals, would grant corporations the right to sue nations for unlimited sums when domestic laws are perceived to reduce their past, present, or future profits.

Cases brought before these tribunals would be heard by three corporate lawyers who take turns between being the “neutral” judge and corporate advocate. There would be no option to appeal decisions and no ability to elect members to the tribunal. If found liable, national governments (meaning taxpayers) would be stuck with the bill.

With no ability for nations to bring claims against corporations, the corporations could use tribunals to extract regulatory conditions that favor their interests. This perverse arrangement has immediate implications. In dozens of cities across the country, communities are fighting for a \$15 minimum wage. The work is groundbreaking and effective. Workers who make less than \$15 an hour are building broad multiracial coalitions and escalating impactful tactics. In a relatively short amount of time, Seattle, Portland, and Los Angeles have all taken steps towards a \$15 minimum wage.

While these victories are impressive, should the TPP pass, they may be short lived. McDonald’s has already challenged Seattle’s mandate in Federal court and lost. If the TPP is approved, McDonald’s would be able to challenge a \$15 minimum wage before an international tribunal designed to serve corporate interests.

From Ferguson to Tel Aviv, Black people are rising to demand an end to every form of oppression that we are forced to endure. We are connecting the violence perpetrated against our bodies to the economic commodification of our communities to the malicious nature of white supremacy that facilitates our oppression.

Our movement has exposed the realities of police violence and forced the world to listen. Now, we have the power to open the TPP and the economic subjugation of Black and Brown people to public debate too. Doing so will connect the material conditions of Black people and other oppressed groups globally to actions taken by those with the most power.

We can push back. We have the chance to shed light on the shady deals our government makes in the name of “promoting freedom.” The TPP is secret for a reason. Let’s show we won’t be distracted by minor reforms the White House has put forth, while simultaneously enacting massive systems to destroy basic human rights. As those who care about Black people and all people outside the global 1 percent, let’s expose the TPP and demand a system that centers the needs of those most marginalized.

Steven Gilliam is an activist based out of Portland, Oregon. You can connect with him on Twitter at @stevengilliam. Rachel Gilmer is a NYC-based activist, currently serving as the Associate Director of the African American Policy Forum. You can connect with her on Twitter at @Ragilmer

MEMORIES FROM A BUFFALO SOLDIER

Loreanzo Malray Served in Italy During World War II



Loreanzo Malray, who will turn 92 years old in March of 2017, was drafted in 1943 at the age of 18, and served in the 92nd Army Infantry Division for a little over two years during World War II. Of the 909,000 Black Americans selected for duty in the Army during World War II, according to History.net, only one Black division saw infantry combat in Europe—the 92nd Infantry Division, they were referred to as The Buffalo Soldiers.

What was it like to be a part of the Buffalo Soldiers. We hear a lot about them?

We were a fighting force. We did a lot of fighting on the ground. It was bad. I served in Europe. We went down through Africa on into Sicily. I went down to a place called Monte Cassino, Italy. There was a big battle down there. Then we went on up through Rome, and up into northern Italy and I was in the Po Valley for a while. We were in the mountains of Italy and we were kind of bogged down there until the war ended.

What did you get out of being a Soldier?

Well I was a rifleman so I didn’t get too much out of it. You just had to do your job or else somebody else would do the job on you. There wasn’t any kind of training you were getting or anything like that. They just handed you a rifle.

How were you all treated as Black Soldiers?

They did a lot of stuff to us during World War II. One of the other soldiers told me that, I guess it was a Quarter Master Company, the Captain was a white guy that was over these Black guys, and he went someplace and he told a Black Staff Sergeant that he was in charge.

During that time the Germans were wearing American uniforms. They were all over the place. So the Captain told the Staff Sergeant, don’t let anybody have a jeep. He said, for anybody to get a jeep they’re going to have to have a written order from me. He said, I’ll be back about 2 o’clock and he told him again, don’t let anybody have a jeep. The Staff Sergeant said, okay.

So, the Captain, left and later on a white guy came up and he told the Sergeant, I want a jeep. The Sergeant said, no the Captain left and he told me I was in charge and don’t let nobody have a jeep. The man asked him again, he said, I want a jeep. So, the Staff Sergeant repeated. He said the Captain’s gone and he told me not to let anybody have a jeep. The man, a Captain, pulled out one of his pistols, he had two of them, one of each side, and he shot the Sergeant right in the head and got in the jeep and took off.

So, that was some of the things that happened.

What was it like when you came back?

Well when I came back some of the Black guys were bringing some of the women’s pictures home from Europe, and in Louisiana they killed some of them. They tarred and feathered some of them if they had a white woman’s picture on them. They looked for that when the soldiers came back.

When we were on the ship coming back, we came into New York and everybody started hollering, Malray come on, come out on deck. We want to show you something. So, I went out on deck and the ship was making a turn and I saw the top of the statue of liberty coming into view.

Continued on Page 18



DO YOU WANT TO HELP WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM?

Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council Racial Equity Subcommittee Seeking New Members

The Racial Equity subcommittee, an integral part of the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council, is seeking new members to fill current openings.

Racial Equity Subcommittee’s mission statement:

To identify, document, and alleviate racial and ethnic disparities in the regional criminal justice system.

Meeting times:

The Racial Equity Subcommittee currently meets on the first Thursday of each month i`n room 5A of City Hall from noon to 1:30 p.m. (These meetings are open to the public).

Our Work:

The Racial Equity Subcommittee is embarking on some very important work to specifically target reductions in racial and ethnic disparities across key decision points in Spokane’s criminal justice system. The committee is currently looking at various training models, implementation of a racial equity toolkit and closer analysis of data, as just a few of the potential interventions. The Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council is fortunate to be a part of the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge, and is currently working with the Burns Institute to guide some of the reform work.

Who we are looking for in our new members:

- Reside in Spokane County
- May have been impacted by the criminal justice system or may have experience in the regional criminal justice system.
- Have a commitment to helping to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in our criminal justice system
- Have the capacity to actively participate in the Racial Equity subcommittee meetings each month

For more information or to apply: www.Spokanecounty.org/srljc Questions? Karen Westberg 477-2102 or kwestberg@spokanecounty.org

OUR COMMUNITY

PEOPLE SERVICES PROGRAMS

SPOKANE EASTSIDE REUNIONS EXPANDS PROGRAMS

Adds After School Program to Basketball Camp and Restaurant

By Renika Williams

With today's younger generation more focused on virtual reality than actuality, it's not surprising that most youth would rather scroll through their social media feeds than bury their noses in a pile of textbooks. However, Michael Brown, founder of the Spokane Eastside Reunion Association (SERA), has managed to seamlessly integrate a bit of fun into his new after school Youth Tutor Program.

The SERA Youth Tutoring Program and Recreation Center, which just opened its doors in October, strives to enhance both its students' study and work skills. The program, which is open to all students K-12, offers tutoring and homework help from local college students and community volunteers.

"It's not just about helping them with their homework," Brown shared, "It's about getting these kids into a good work/study habit."

In fact, it was watching his daughter fight through an intense curriculum at Gonzaga Prep that opened his eyes to an issue many kids are facing in their schools-- they are not being exposed to the study habits they need to succeed in college or in the workplace. The goal of the SERA program is to introduce community children to the tools that will help them succeed.

And, just in case the students need to relax after a hard week of studying and preparing for college, the tutoring program turns into a recreation center from Thursday through Saturday. Kids can play vintage



arcade games like pin ball, shoot pool, or just socialize in a safe space. Brown gives each child one dollar to use for snacks and drinks, giving them even more reason to stick around to play, learn and make some new friends.

In addition to the tutoring program, The Spokane Eastside Reunion Association also runs a summer basketball camp, giving disadvantaged youth, ages 8-17, whose families cannot afford high cost basketball programs, the opportunity to learn essential playing and teamwork skills.

SERA is also in the final stages of launching Fresh Soul, a not-for-profit restaurant that once it's open will hire youth involved in the tutoring program and teach them work and leadership skills.

Proceeds from the restaurant will go to support job training opportunities for youth and community members, internships and scholarships, as well as other community based projects geared towards uplifting the East Central neighborhood.

"I disagree when people say 'Our kids are our future'. Our kids are our now," Brown says, hopeful that one day his programs will help hundreds of kids in the community. With two grants already in hand, and eager minds ready to sign-up, that reality is far from virtual.

For more information about the Spokane Eastside Reunion Association and its programs visit <http://www.spokaneeastsidereunion.com>. To make a donation to the GoFundMe campaign to support Fresh Soul Restaurant visit <http://www.gofundme.com/freshsoul>.



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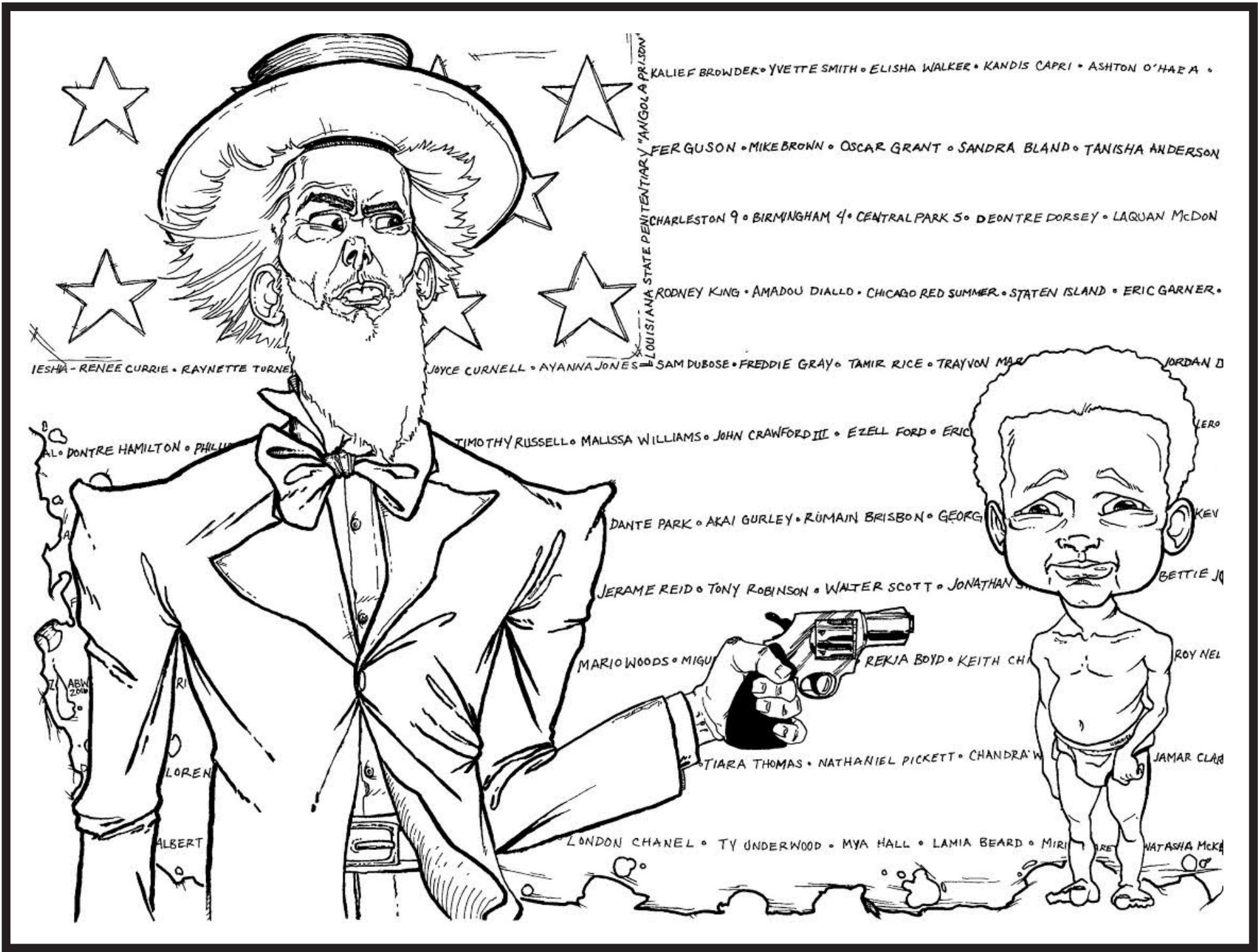
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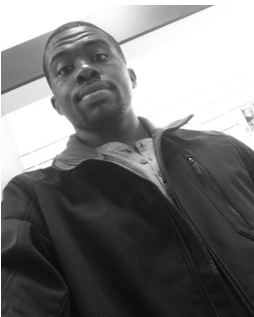


POLITICS IN BLACK AND WHITE BY AUSTIN WASHINGTON



PICK UP
THIS BOOK

By Christian Robinson



Hey Black Lens Readers,

It’s November and we have spent the better part of a year together reading. It’s important that we reflect our better selves and on what we’re thankful for. I am thankful for lots. Just call and ask.

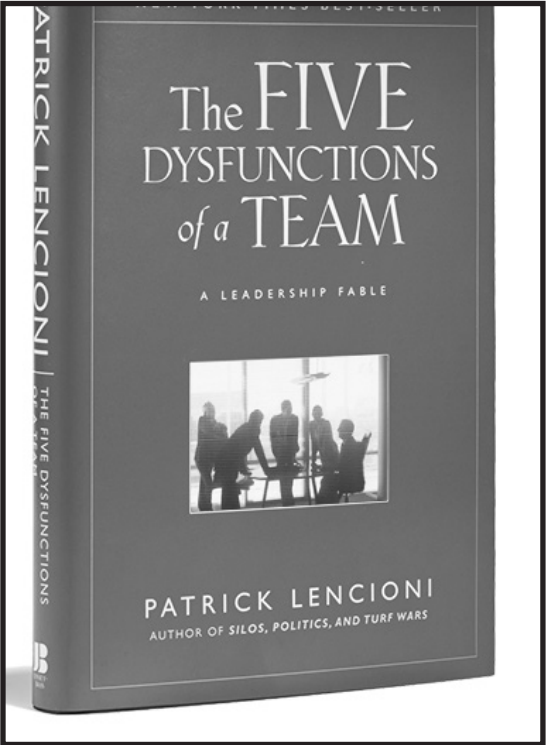
Our book of the month is “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team” by Patrick Lencioni.

This book is a wonderful explanation of the elements of a team and how working as a cohesive unit could lead to success. It reminds me that we all need each other to be anything. This life is a symbiotic one.

So if you have any questions feel free to give me a call whenever is 509-218-0498 or send an e-mail to cjnrobinson@live.com. Until next time.

Your Friend,
Christian Robinson

**October’s Book was “The Present,” by Spencer Johnson.. I hope you enjoyed it.*







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VETERANS DAY 2016

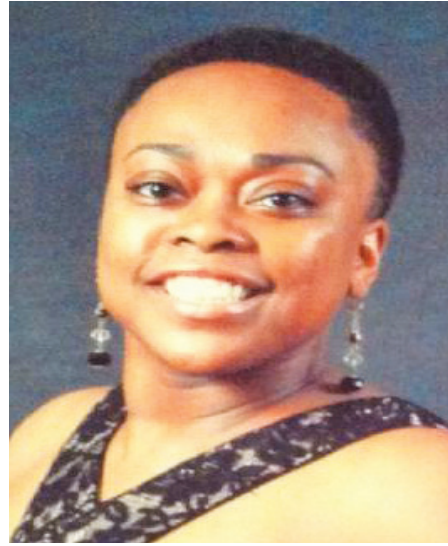
The Black Lens is proud to honor the men and women from our community who served in the United States Military. Thank you for your service!



Elmer Anderson
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Gardner "June" Anderson
US Army
Corporal
Years of Service: 1950 - 1952



Keyonia Anderson
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 12



Chuck Anderton
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



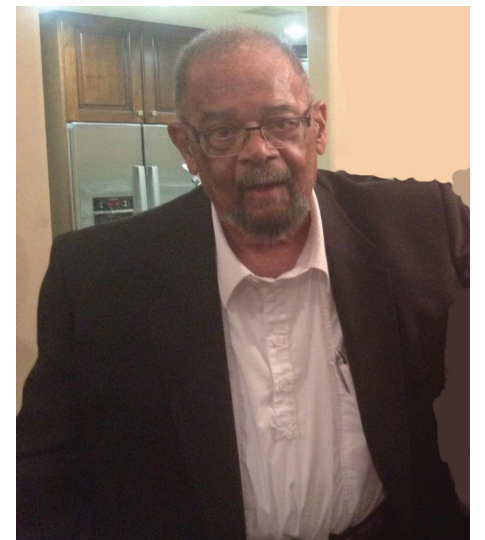
Chester Andrews
US Air Force
Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Darrel Andrews
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 4



Sherry L. Andrews-Dedmond
US Navy
Hospital Corpsman (H-3)
Years of Service: 1966-1969



Roth Ashby
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Amos Atkinson
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 22



Joseph Baptiste
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Bob Bartlett
US Army
Specialist (E-4)
Years of Service: 1970 - 1974



Paul Bigsby
US Air Force
1st Lieutenant (O-2)
Years of Service: 1952-1963



Teneasa Tyler Brehmeyer
US Air Force
Senior Airman
Years of Service: 1994 - 1998



Manuel Brown
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 24



Edward Burns Jr.
US Marine Corps
Corporal (E-4)
Years of Service: 1994-2015



William Caldwell
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Aurthur Lee Carter
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
Years of Service: 1957 - 1963



Sly Chatman
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 1975 - 1998



Rickey Davis
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Sylvester Davis
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1963-66, 1967-73



Craig Dorsey
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Mark Duncan
US Air Force
Airman First Class
Years of Service: 3-1/2



Lee Lee Everett
US Army Reserve
Staff Sergeant (E-6)
Years of Service: 1976-1985



Yolanda Everett
US Navy
Petty Officer 3rd Class (E-4)
Years of Service: 1984-1993



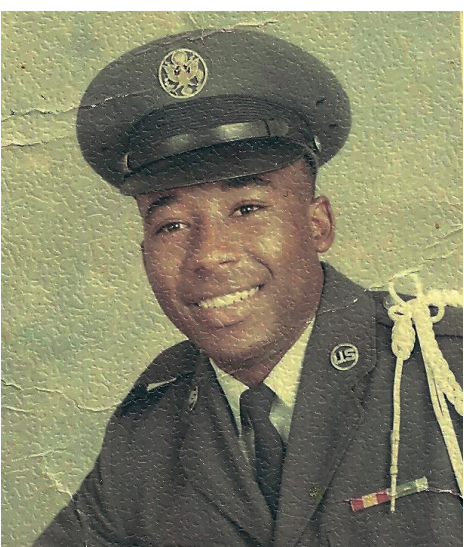
James Fisher
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Charles Fleming
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Deceased



Terry W. Frazier
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 21



Carl Gunn
US Army
Staff Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1969-1973



Curtis Hampton
US Air Force
Senior Airman (E-4)
Years of Service: 1974-1978



Carl Jenkins
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20 years 9 months



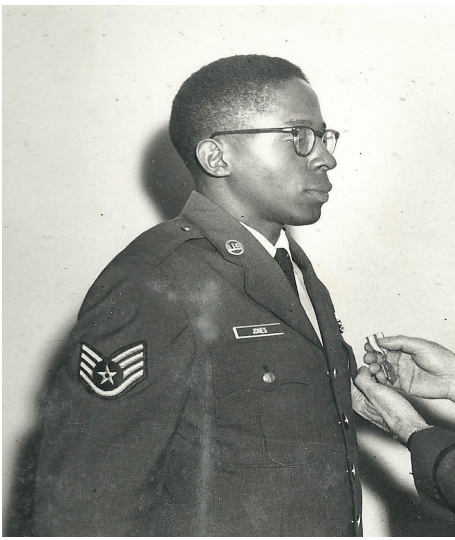
Ronald Joyner
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE



Bernard Jones
US Air Force, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sergeant, Lt. Colonel
Years of Service: 23 + 20



Douglas F. Jones
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1951 - 1971



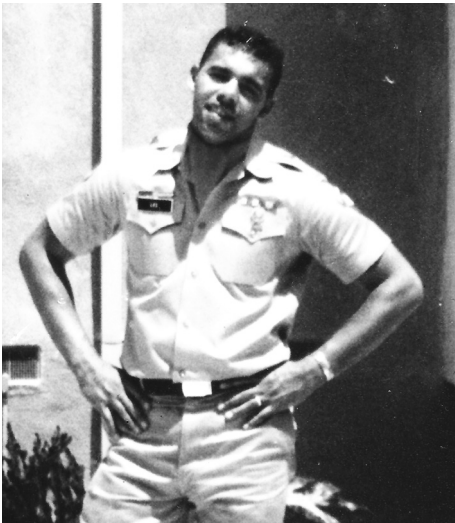
Thomas Johnson
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



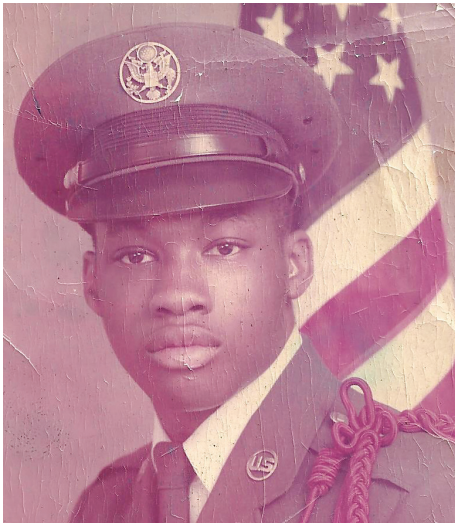
Michael Kay
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Vance Kelley
US Air Force
Master Sergeant (E-7)
Years of Service: 1960 - 1980



Alex Lee
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1970 - 1977



Jonathan Mack
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 1970 - 1990



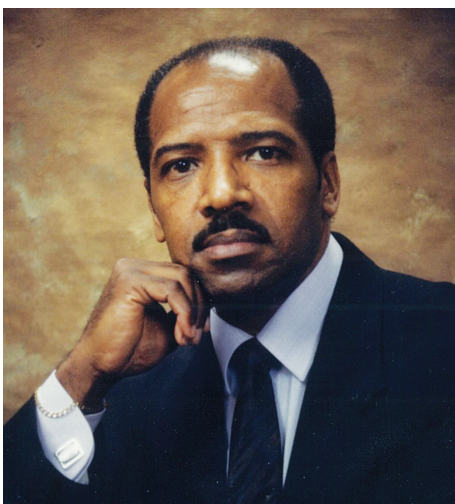
Robert Milton
US Navy
Seaman (E-3)
Years of Service: 1963 - 1968



Mark Neufville
US Marine Corps
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1980-1994



Cornelius Nolan
US Army
Private
Years of Service: 1955-57



David Parker
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant (E-8)
Years of Service: 1962 - 1989



Jasmine Phillips
US Air Force
Staff Sergeant
Years of Service: 11



Floyd N. Rhodes III
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant
Years of Service: 20



Larry Roseman
US Air Force
Senior Airman (E-4)
Years of Service: 4



Kitara Shaules
US Army
Sergeant
Years of Service: 1997-2003

VETERANS DAYS 2016



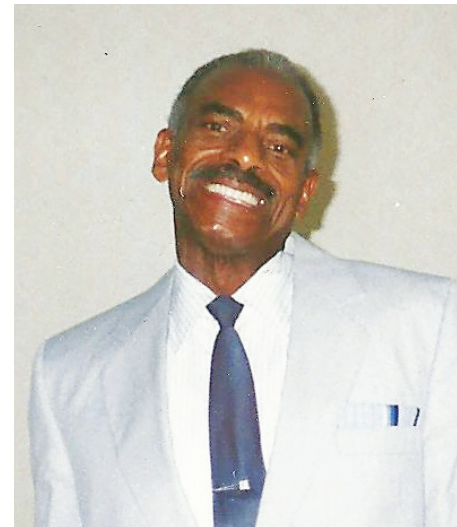
Eugene Singleton
US Air Force, Civil Air Patrol
Tech Sergeant, Chaplain
Years of Service: 20 + 20



Cheyunnteen Stanley-Bryant
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 30



Donnie P. Stone
US Army
Sergeant (E-5)
Years of Service: 1968-1971



Aurthur C. Trent
US Army Air Corps
Sergeant
Battle of Normandy & D Day



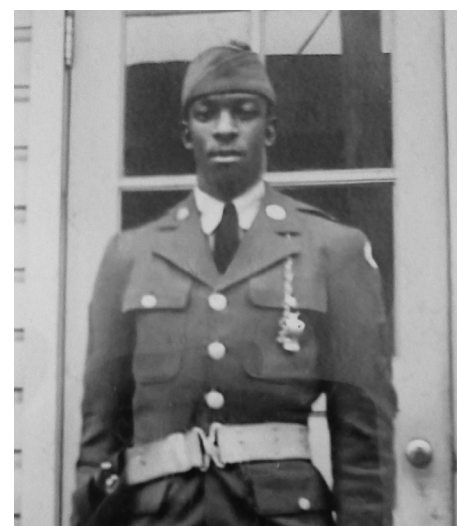
James Troutt
US Air Force
Senior Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 27



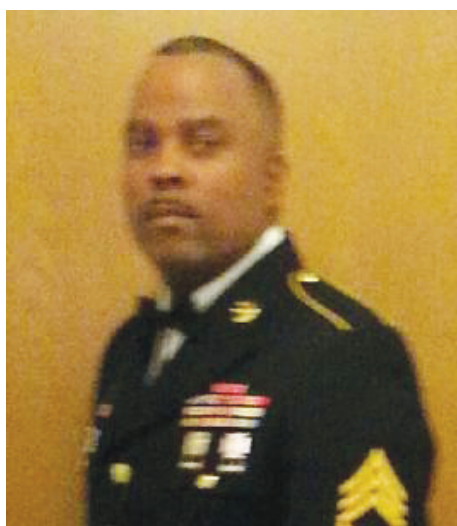
Gayla Thomas
US Navy
Senior Chief Petty Officer
Years of Service: 24



Myra Trent
US Coast Guard
Private 1st Class (E-3)
Years of Service: 1979 - 1980



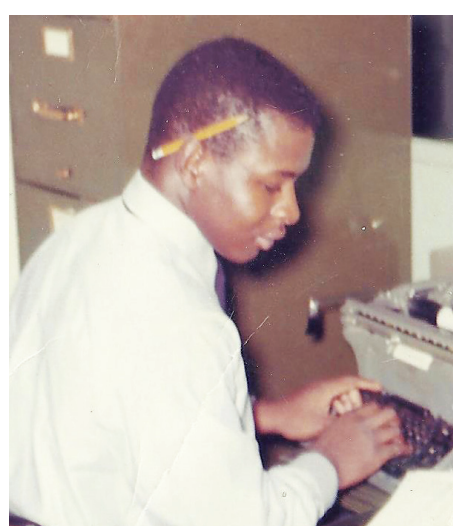
Vernon Parker Trent
US Army
Sergeant
Years of Service: 1941-1945



Marvin Tucker
US Army
Sergeant First Class
Years of Service: 20



Faith A. Washington
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1975-1979



Percy Happy Watkins
US Air Force
Airman 2nd Class
Years of Service: 1961 - 1965



Benjamin Wheeler
US Air Force
Sergeant (E-4)
Years of Service: 1982-1992



Marvin White
US Air Force
Tech Sergeant (E-6)
Years of Service: 1971 - 1991



Charles Williams
US Air Force
Master Sergeant
Years of Service: 1978 - 2000



Thomas E. Williams
US Army
Command Sergeant Major (E-9)
Years of Service: 1948 - 1978 + 20yrs



Robert C. Williamson Jr.
US Air Force
MSgt - Security Police Specialist
Years of Service: 1972-1992

Another(ed) Voice

By Shanice Applewhaite

Reflections on being mad, political correctness and talking with those you despise

I recently was involved in an email battle turned social debate with an individual I fundamentally disagree with. The origin of the debate was a 2,000 word email I sent in response to a recent article of theirs calling for the secession of federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

In my email I brought forth several issues with their stance, and voiced my resentment at their lack of understanding, personally attacking them on their mutated lens of privilege. My email was in no way gentle. Less than an hour later I got a response.

Instead of dismissing my email or attacking me personally this individual stood by their claims, and responded with several counter arguments. From this moment our conversation changed from an affront on an individual, to an attack on the issues at hand. At this juncture we began to have a cross-political discussion. Something I fear is dwindling throughout the US today.

The current social and political environment the US finds itself in is one rooted in fear, anger, and confusion. For persons of color we live in fear. Afraid for our lives, afraid for our children, and afraid that in the last 151 years since the “official” abolition of slavery systems of oppression have not changed whatsoever. Aside from being afraid we are righteously pissed off. Angry. Hurt. We are tired of seeing fallen brothers deemed criminals, and fellow sisters labeled “illegal immigrants”.

The white majority, whether justifiably so or not, are also angry and afraid. They are afraid of social movements they don’t understand. They are afraid of Black men, and most importantly they are afraid of losing that which for eternity has been deemed “rightly” theirs. They too are pissed off. Mad that they are “not allowed” to speak their opinions. Mad they are all seen as racist. Mad that they are “losing jobs” to minority members. Mad, and ready to build a wall.

The parallel to Anger and Fear is ignorant confusion. Instead of creating dialogue, both sides have chosen to maintain and increase social tensions and division. Mob mentality, group thought, and “protester porn” have infiltrated our headlines. Arguments based solely on emotional provocation abound, leaving only room enough for two forms of political dialogue, within-group or frontal attack.

While highly effective in rekindling the desire for change and offering encouragement to group members, within-group dialogue amongst like-minded individuals often offers little more

than a sermon to the choir. In these conversations individuals are reminded of that which they already know. They are reminded of the ever increasing strength of the “enemy” and reminded of their frustration. Then they are sent out, back into the community, angry and unarmed, without ever being given tools to facilitate change.

The second form of dialogue spoken today is not dialogue at all, but instead a frontal attack. Quite reflective of my first email sent to my present debate partner. In this yelling match groups spew out the same stereotypical reverberations of the “enemy’s weaknesses”. Deeming them “misogynists, sexists, racists, liberals, bleeding hearts, anti-police, anti-government terrorists.” These attacks, though viscous are ineffective. Undirected at any specific policy, and lacking bids for resolution, these attacks do little more than release the anger of the attacker. Cross cultural political and social attacks only serve to strengthen the repulsion of the “other”.

- So what do I recommend?
- 1) If we are going to debate, we must know our foundation well. Simply following whatever information that is trending on Facebook or Twitter is not enough, and this superficiality feeds into group thought without creating a space for critical analysis. All are very aware that individuals on both sides are unhappy with the current state of the country, and all are quick to address current mis-liberties. The shortcoming is that there is seldom a plan of action to solve these issues. Meaning words without action, lead nowhere.
- 2) We must feel comfortable being mad. Our anger is justifiable, but instead of projecting this anger onto individuals, which serves only to fuel untethered hatred, let us direct our angry at the fountainhead of these ideologies; the institutions, and those political bodies who claim power over us within these systems. Let us pluck the root, not stab the branches.
- 3) Sleep with the enemy. Talk, debate, discuss and feel comfortable to disagree with those you deem to be the opposition. The US is presently stuck in a title wave of political correctness. The issue with attempting to be thoroughly PC is that PC language does not change how things are, but instead only limits the language we use in difficult discussions. A clarification; there is an enormous difference between decreasing our focus on political correctness and allowing blatantly slanderous and derogatory language. Using stereotypical “ism” provoked language is un-



acceptable, and only serves to reinforce political and social division. However, making sure that we edit our language in order not to offend, is only editing out exactly what needs to be brought to the table.

Issues not vocalized freely within debate; do not cease to exist because they are unspoken. Prejudices undiscussed will be brought forth elsewhere, whether internally, or in environments where they will be supported. It would better serve us to speak freely; openly voicing disagreements rather than maintaining PC language in order to appease white fragility, or POC “liberty”. We know how to spot explicit bias, so in allowing the sharing of opinions explicitly we can better address that which will be expressed later implicitly.

These recommendations may come off brash, and I fear that I may offend those whose rights are infringed upon under our current system. It is not my intention to dismiss hundreds of years of oppression, or to defend the stance of the majority. Instead my only claim is that sitting on opposite ends of the political lines or Facebook pages, yelling at each other and not to each other, offers no headway. If there must be a battle, let it be head-on. Systems of oppression have for so long distracted us, telling us to blindly hate each other. They have pinned poor whites against poor Blacks, gays and lesbians against bisexuals, women of color against white women. Instead of confronting each other, let us confront the issues.

This will be difficult. In a recent survey 7 out of 10 white students stated they didn’t feel comfortable discussing issues of race with Persons of Color. In another study more than 50% of Black adults felt as though they are systematically at a disadvantage in America, and that the majority population preferred it that way. Persons of Color are angry, and tired of not being heard. White people are angry at how they are heard.

We all have the right to be mad, and at present there is a lot to be mad about. My request? That we all come together, pissed off and hungry to this debate table. A table that is open to discussion. At this meal we must be conscious of what each group has brought to the table. We must be ready to ask and answer tough questions. To know the enemy you have to know what they are eating, and more importantly who is feeding them. The dinner bell has been ringing for far too long, so let us all sit down, it’s time to eat.

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LEADING WITH CONVICTION

‘I Did the Time’ Hosts Leadership Training for People with Conviction Records



I Did The Time (IDTT) is a grassroots organization that is part of a nationwide movement to end mass incarceration and restore opportunity and prosperity to all who have been impacted by our criminal justice system.

IDTT's belief is that those closest to the problems are closest to the solutions, but often they are furthest from the resources and power.

In order to create a more just society, IDTT is working to develop strong leaders who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system, who can speak to the injustices of mass incarceration, call others to action and who can win the hearts of policy makers in elected positions.

Leading with Conviction is a two day leadership development training specifically for people with conviction records or family members who went through justice involvement with a loved one. The training will give participants the opportunity to discover and develop their inner leader, learn skills and tools to lead in this movement and connect with other leaders and organizations in the area who are uniting around common strategies to create system change.

The training will take place on **November 12th and 13th from 9am-5pm** (location to be announced), and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register contact Layne Payvey by November 9 at idadthetime@gmail.com or phone 509-998-8388.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Saturday, Nov. 5 - 1-4pm

Gonzaga University Law School, Moot Courtroom

The Washington State Commission on African American Affairs will be joining with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs and the Washington state Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs to convene a community forum to address the use of deadly force in policing.

The forum, which will be hosted by the Gonzaga University Law School Clinic will take place on **Saturday, November 5 from 1-4pm in the Moot Courtroom at the Gonzaga University Law School, 721 N Cincinnati St, Spokane, WA 99202.**

Forum Background:

Advocates for police accountability proposed legislation in 2016, House Bill 2907, to change Washington state law on the legally permissible uses of deadly force by police officers. Currently, a public officer or peace officer cannot be held criminally liable for using deadly force when

it is used “without malice and with a good faith belief” that the use is permitted under the law. These words have made Washington one of the hardest states in the country to get a conviction against a police officer that inappropriately uses deadly force.

Although HB 2907 did not pass, the Legislature approved House Bill 2908, which established the **Joint Legislative Task Force on the Use of Deadly Force in Community Policing**, with representation from the three ethnic commission and The Governor's Office on Indian Affairs, as well as the NAACP.

The Task Force will be submit a report to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 1, 2016. This forum is an opportunity for people in Spokane to participate in the process, learn about the work of the task force, and offer input.

Cultural Competence: An Essential Skill for the 21st Century Attorney

By Francis Adewale

A refugee's story is not just a single story – the story of war, deprivation, and pain. But more often than not, the refugee story is deeper and richer than their lucky escape. Our challenge as attorneys is to dig deeper to learn our refugee client's story. A few examples will illustrate how to put this into practice.

There was a couple who met at the United Nations Refugee Camp in Guinea Bissau. She was from Sierra Leone, a young girl who got married at an early age. He was from Liberia, a child soldier recruited by the notorious warlord and dictator, Charles Taylor. Following traditional African customs, they were married in the presence of the elders. They both applied for refugee visas and resettled in Spokane. Despite vehement opposition from him, she started attending classes at Spokane Community College. There was comfort in education and it helped her overcome some of her fears.

One day there was an altercation over his sexual demands. She told him she had to be in class, but he tried to force himself on her. She pushed him away. He picked up the car keys and as she reached for the keys in his pocket, his pants tore. He called the police. She was arrested and charged with malicious mischief.

The prosecutor looked only at the fact that she tore his pants; therefore, she was guilty of malicious mischief. The stakes were very high. She faced potential jail time, but also the fear of deportation, or worse yet, losing the opportunity to become a naturalized citizen.

One line item in the police report stood out like a sore thumb. The officer stated that during the questioning, the defendant refused to look the officer in the eye. To the officer, trained in the best Western traditions, this was a tell-tale sign of guilt. As

an African myself, I know it is not a sign of guilt to look down when you are telling your story. In fact, it is a sign of disrespect to look an elder or an authority figure straight in the eye.

The jury absolved the wife of all charges. The case was won purely on our ability to explain with clarity the complexity of an African woman dealing with new life in America. This illustrates the fact that cultural competency, like other legal skills, requires a disciplined approach to viewing the world from different perspectives.

An effective lawyer must possess skills for cross-cultural engagement by developing cultural competency. We cannot effectively advocate for our client when we know little to nothing about where they are coming from or what drives them.

Culture encompasses a person's ethnicity, race, gender, nationality, age, economic status, social status, language, sexual orientation, physical attributes, marital status, and a variety of other characteristics and peculiarities.

Many African refugees cannot understand a “no contact order” that restrains them from their residence. In African culture, a man's very essence is tied up with his house. When you take him away from his “house”, you diminish him. In 2011, a Sudanese refugee was charged with a misdemeanor violation of a no contact order stemming from a felony assault – DV conviction.

Through the interpreter, we learned that the client had no formal education, was completely illiterate, and understood only basic Arabic, and a “smattering” of English. It was extremely difficult for him to grasp the meaning of the no contact order. He did not understand why he could not go home if his wife waited for him there and they were not having problems. How could a court keep him out of his own home? “Where

am I supposed to go?” he asked. “What if I want to see my children?”

The arrest was a culture shock moment for him. The plea taken through the help of a telephone translator, with little or no understanding, was later challenged. The felony guilty plea was withdrawn due to ineffective assistance of counsel for lack of meaningful representation based on the use of an Arabic interpreter. This case was later used to effectively solicit the assistance of the state legislature in procuring funding for training interpreters in Eastern Washington through Refugee Connections Spokane.

Cultures, no matter how resilient, are not static. Our next example concerns the parents of a seven year old refugee boy who could not understand why they were charged with reckless endangerment because they left their child in the car in the summer heat. When counsel tried to explain the law to the parents, they couldn't comprehend that a shopping mall is not equivalent to an African market.

Every adult in an African village has the responsibility to care for all children regardless of their biological parentage. This particular Congolese family was connected with other African parents and grandparents living here. This led to a community effort that enabled refugee elderly grandparents to care for little children while their parents take a break.

A Burundi refugee was involved in an auto accident triggering a severe case of PTSD. Our phone conversation with the insurance adjuster helped the company understand the need for mental health counseling. As an 11 year old young girl, she walked through a dense jungle in the night to escape the holocaust in her land. Her recent auto accident brought back those six months of trying to elude the gendarme.

Cultural competency is an essential skill set for the 21st century attorney who seeks to deliver effective advocacy and serve jus-



stice. These examples are just a few reasons why we recently established the American Law and Justice Workshop in Spokane.

While we educate immigrants and refugees about different cultures, we also need to sensitize lawyers and legal practitioners about familiarizing themselves with their clients' cultural background. A single story does not define our clients, it's our duty to dig deeper.

Francis Adewale is an Assistant Public Defender in the Spokane County Office of the Public Defender.

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HEALTH & MEDICINE

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE LAUNCHES LARGEST EVER STUDY OF BREAST CANCER GENETICS IN BLACK WOMEN

Reprinted from the National Cancer Institute website at <https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/press-releases>

The largest study ever to investigate how genetic and biological factors contribute to breast cancer risk among Black women launched in September. The collaborative research project will identify genetic factors that may underlie breast cancer disparities. The effort is funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health.

The Breast Cancer Genetic Study in African-Ancestry Populations initiative does not involve new patient enrollment but builds on years of research cooperation among investigators who are part of the African-American Breast Cancer Consortium, the African-American Breast Cancer Epidemiology and Risk (AMBER) Consortium, and the NCI Cohort Consortium. These investigators, who come from many different institutions, will share biospecimens, data, and resources from 18 previous studies, resulting in a study population of 20,000 black women with breast cancer.

“This effort is about making sure that all Americans – no matter their background – reap the same benefits from the promising advances of precision medicine. The exciting new approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment ring hollow unless we can effectively narrow the gap of cancer disparities, and this new research initiative will help us do that,” said Douglas R. Lowy, M.D., acting director of NCI.

“I’m hopeful about where this new research can take us, not only in addressing the unique breast cancer profiles of African-American women, but also in learning more about the origin of cancer disparities.”



Survival rates for women with breast cancer have been steadily improving over the past several decades. However, these improvements have not been shared equally; Black women are more likely to die of their disease. Perhaps of most concern is that Black women are more likely than white women to be diagnosed with aggressive subtypes of breast cancer. The rate of triple-negative breast cancer, an aggressive subtype, is twice as high in Black women as compared to white women.

The exact reasons for these persistent disparities are unclear, although studies suggest that they are the result of a complex interplay of genetic, environmental, and societal factors, including access to health care. Large studies are needed to comprehensively examine these factors, and NCI is supporting several such efforts.

As part of the study, the genomes of 20,000 Black women with breast cancer will be compared with those of 20,000

Black women who do not have breast cancer. The genomes will also be compared to those of white women who have breast cancer. The project will investigate inherited genetic variations that are associated with breast cancer risk in Black women compared to white women. In addition, researchers will examine gene expression in breast cancer tumor samples to investigate the genetic pathways that are involved in tumor development.

“This \$12 million grant—in combination with previous investments—should help advance our understanding of the social and biological causes that lead to disparities in cancer among underserved populations,” said Robert Croyle, Ph.D., director of NCI’s Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS), which is administering the grant. “A better understanding of the genetic contributions to differences in breast cancer diagnoses and outcomes among African-Americans may lead to better treatments and better approaches to cancer prevention.”

“A number of studies have suggested that genetic factors may influence breast cancer disparities, so we’re hopeful that this project can help to shed further light on this matter,” said Damali Martin, Ph.D., program director for the DCCPS Genomic Epidemiology Branch. Dr. Martin’s office is working directly with the grant recipients as well as the consortia groups that have been researching Black women and breast cancer.

Minority scientists from various institutions, including from one Historically Black College and University medical school, are playing an important role in this study, and they have been involved in previous research that this study builds upon. In addition, this grant will provide training opportunities for scientists from minority populations.



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OUR VOICES

LOCAL FOCUS COULD HAVE PREVENTED ANOTHER USELESS DEBATE

By Jesse Jackson Sr.

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - The final presidential debate took place Oct. 19 in Las Vegas, the famed home of boxing, wrestling and MMA showdowns. Millions tuned in looking for another slugfest. But Las Vegas isn't simply about boxing matches and casinos. The challenges faced by the city, the state and the region should have informed the debate.

Unfortunately, too often the debate moderators simply dwell on the scandals of the day rather than explore how local challenges frame national issues. Somehow, the first debate, held at Hofstra University in Long Island, N.Y., managed to ignore the growing student debt crisis. The debate in St. Louis, just miles away from Ferguson, Mo., never mentioned that city or probed the issues raised by its racially biased policing and criminal justice system.

The Commission on Presidential Debates released the topics for the moderator, Fox News' Chris Wallace, to explore. These included debt and entitlements, immigration, the economy, the Supreme Court, foreign hot spots and the candidates' fitness to be president.

On immigration, Nevada has been a center of the growing and fierce debate over undocumented immigrants. We've heard all the posturing on Donald Trump's plan to build a border wall. What would have been more interesting in Nevada is a discussion of the future of legal immigration. America has about 11 million undocumented workers, two-thirds of whom have been here 10 years or more. It also has 31 million legal immigrants, with a million more added each year. Counting their children, one in four Americans is of recent immigrant stock. And with the boomers retiring, all of the projected growth of the U.S. labor force from 2020 to 2030 will be from immigrants and their children.

That raises fundamental questions. For example, some call for giving preference in legal immigration to skilled workers rather than preferring those with family relations, even if unskilled. Uniting families is a value shared by conservatives and liberals alike. On the other hand, the economy would benefit more from skilled workers. What priority would the two candidates choose?



The presidential commission calls for discussing foreign hot spots, but surely the first hot spot that should have been discussed is right here at home: the punishing drought that is devastating the West and Southwest. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has declared most of Nevada a natural disaster area from the lingering drought, with some of its biggest farmers facing 50 percent reductions in groundwater. NASA now warns of the high chance of a 35-year mega-drought throughout the Southwest and Great Plains. July's global temperatures were the hottest of any month since they began keeping records in 1880. Last year was the hottest on record; the first seven months of this year are even hotter.

Global warming and catastrophic climate change aren't distant concerns in these lands. Ask the candidates what they would do in response? Do we ignore it and struggle through? Or should we take real measures to address climate change?

Or consider big money that corrupts our politics. Las Vegas billionaires like Sheldon Adelson are brazen in their efforts to swing elections. The current Nevada Senate election is a case in point.

Outside billionaires like George Soros and Tom Steyer on the Democratic side and the Koch brothers on the Republican side have poured more than \$48 million in independent spending into the Nevada Senate race, compared with the 7 million spent by the two candidates combined. Nationally, the cost of this year's elections will far exceed the record \$6 billion spent in the last presidential year.

This level of outside money corrupts our politics and leaves our citizens cynical. Both presidential candidates say they would seek to curb it. How? How do we get real reform from the very politicians who have been elected by the old system?

Finally, suburban poverty in Las Vegas is rising faster than it is nationwide. Between 2000 and 2004, there was a 123 percent increase in the suburban poverty rate in southern Nevada, compared with the alarming 65 percent increase nationwide. This poverty comes from the loss of jobs, and from the spread of lousy jobs that are low wage, part time, contingent and precarious. It also reflects the hangover from the housing collapse. Housing prices are rising in the region, but they remain 35 percent below their peak in 2006. At the end of 2015, nearly 30 percent of local homeowners were "seriously underwater," about two times the national rate.

In Las Vegas, as elsewhere, mortgage brokers targeted minority buyers — the very workers who were struggling the hardest to bring their families out of poverty. Brokers lured them with packages that they couldn't afford, peddled liar loans to hide their incomes, and promised them they could refinance because housing prices always go up. Then the banks blew up the economy. The banks got bailed out, but the homeowners didn't. What would the two candidates do to address the spread of suburban poverty, to create good jobs rather than lousy ones, and to aid those still struggling in the aftermath of the Great Recession?

Moderator Wallace should have used Las Vegas as more than a backdrop. He should have used it as a guide to issues that matter. Perhaps that could have saved us from another scratch-and-claw alley fight.

Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. is president/CEO of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

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OUR VOICES

ON BEING A BLACK WOMAN WHO ISN'T VOTING FOR HILLARY AND MAKING PEACE WITH IT ALL

By Bene Viera

(Reprinted without receiving prior permission from TheFrisky.com or from the author, my apologies)

Sometimes political decisions are as simple yet profound as this: White male presidents have long been ruining the country so it's time for a woman to have her fair shot at ruining it too. At least that's why the elderly Caribbean woman sitting next to me said she was voting for Hillary Clinton. We were in the Metropolitan Ballroom of the Sheraton hotel to hear Clinton speak during the National Action Network conference in the same room where many of us had heard Bernie Sanders speak the day before. Seeing up-close the admiration older Black folks have for Clinton left me awestruck. Had they forgotten, or were they choosing to overlook the number of ways both Bill and Hillary Clinton have been detrimental to our people? I wasn't sure, in that moment, what to make of Hillary Clinton, and the rampant support she was inspiring among Black voters. I'm still not sure what to make of it.

Five days later, I voted for Sanders in the NYC primaries.

Sanders, as we know, did not win. I felt left with two options: vote for Jill Stein or sit out this election altogether. Neither of these were ideal choices, but they were ones that, after thoroughly thinking the shitshow through, I was relegated to. That was the conversation happening in my head.

The ongoing conversation with my circle of Black girlfriends was slightly different, if adjacent. Their only focus (understandably) was that a Donald Trump presidency was too scary to consider any option other than voting for Hillary Clinton. "I'm not trying to find out what a dictatorship looks like," Veronica, a journalist, told me. The only place I found solace in like-minded souls who also refused to vote for the lesser of two-evils was in my online communities and with a handful of my Black male friends. Black women, especially those in my real-life communities, seemed to be largely on the same page: They were voting for Hillary, whether they liked it or not.

Their reasons, for the most part, are valid. They rightfully feel there is too much to lose with open Supreme Court seats, Trump's pro-life rhetoric of wanting to "punish" women who have abortions, and his idea of law and order that includes nationwide stop-and-frisk. The fear of Trump running the nation is a real one, especially for anyone who is not a cisgender white male.

That fear, however real, was not my marching orders to run to polls for Clinton.

Back in February, Michelle Alexander, The New Jim Crow author, brilliantly outlined how Black people were screwed during Bill Clinton's presidency and how then-First Lady Clinton supported his policies. In The Nation's "Why Hillary Clinton Doesn't Deserve the Black Vote," Alexander lists the 1994 crime bill, the increase of mass incarceration, President Clinton's dismantling of Aid to Families with Dependent Children that Hillary Clinton supported, and the true economic stats for Black people in the '90s, during what was largely considered the golden era for us economically.

She writes: "Some might argue that it's unfair to judge Hillary Clinton for the policies her husband championed years ago. But Hillary wasn't picking out china while she was first lady. She bravely broke the mold and

redefined that job in ways no woman ever had before. She not only campaigned for Bill; she also wielded power and significant influence once he was elected, lobbying for legislation and other measures. That record, and her statements from that era, should be scrutinized. In her support for the 1994 crime bill, for example, she used racially coded rhetoric to cast Black children as animals. 'They are not just gangs of kids anymore,' she said. 'They are often the kinds of kids that are called super-predators. No conscience, no empathy. We can talk about why they ended up that way, but first we have to bring them to heel.'

Both Clintons now express regret over the crime bill, and Hillary says she supports criminal-justice reforms to undo some of the damage that was done by her husband's administration. But on the campaign trail, she continues to invoke the economy and country that Bill Clinton left behind as a legacy she would continue. So what exactly did the Clinton economy look like for Black Americans? Taking a hard look at this recent past is about more than just a choice between two candidates. It's about whether the Democratic Party can finally reckon with what its policies have done to African-American communities, and whether it can redeem itself and rightly earn the loyalty of Black voters.

Black women remain skeptical about Clinton despite polls showing they support her on par with the 96% vote they casted for Obama in 2012. Black women were the creative brains behind the #GirlIGuessImWithHer hashtag that spoke to the reluctance of having to cast a vote for Clinton out of an obligation to keep Trump away from the Oval office. As the election inches closer, that reluctance has waned. #GirlIGuessImWithHer, as a sentiment, has morphed into all-out support and endorsements from informed Black feminists. Even Angela Davis, an undoubtedly radical Black woman, has declared, "I am not so narcissistic to say I cannot bring myself to vote for her."

In a way, I get this, the escalation in the intensity and clarity of support from people who were once decidedly hesitant to join up on the team at all. Once you're on the team, once you pick your race horse, you might as well put all of your energy into making sure they win. It's one thing to be lukewarm about making a choice when you aren't genuinely excited about any of your options, but it's another thing to be tepid when it comes to delivering on support once pledged. I get it.

BUT ALSO, I DO NOT GET IT.

This love affair with Clinton has spread across generations of Black women. Back in June, professor Dr. Brittney Cooper wrote for Cosmopolitan, "But I support Hillary Clinton because I think she is the best, most qualified candidate for the job. I support her views on



"I know my ancestors didn't fight for us to choose the lesser of two evils, nor was their blood shed onto the streets for us to continue to choose leaders who have a track-record of harming our communities."

family leave." The brilliant professor Salamishah Tillet wrote for ELLE what reads as a love letter to Clinton about why she's finally with her. Tillet wrote: "As I cast my ballot this November, with my four-year-old daughter and one-year-old son in tow, I can only hope that Clinton's legacy has laid the foundation for yet another crack in the glass ceiling: the election of our first African American woman president. Until then, I'll settle for our first African American female Supreme Court justice."

In an interview with Melissa Harris-Perry, Ferguson activist and Campaign

Zero co-founder Brittany Packnett said she not only is With Her™ but she is publicly endorsing her: "My endorsement of Hillary Clinton and my encouraging young people to vote for her is squarely about our ability to push forward the things that we care about in the movement. It is not about a job. It's not about some kind of political quid pro quo. It is absolutely about caring so deeply about this work that I'm okay taking some criticism. Because at the end of the day, this is about making the intentional, pragmatic strides we must take from the inside and the outside toward the radical dream of justice and liberation for us all."

To be clear, I respect the agency of Black women who feel there is too much at stake not to vote for Clinton. As author Asha Bandele put it, she believes in harm-reduction and she's voting for Clinton because she believes Clinton will do the least harm to Black, brown, LGBTQ and all marginalized people. I understand it all...but I still wished Black women didn't feel like they had to vote for Clinton just because the other option is unthinkable.

For myself, I knew that if and when Sanders lost, I would not vote for Clinton. Putting aside the "superpredators" comment she made about Black youth, and the 1994 crime bill she supported and the race-baiting she indulged in during the 2008 election against Barack Obama, and The Clinton Foundation's shady dealings in Haiti and elsewhere, and her support of child-deportation (whew — does start to feel like a whole lotta shit to put aside), it was her rude dismissal of young Black female activist Ashley Williams, who attempted to hold her accountable for her "superpredator" remarks, that solidified, in my mind, how little Clinton truly cares about Black women. The first presidential debate sealed the deal: no way in hell was this person getting my vote.

I'd vowed to just tune out the rest of the election since neither of my options included voting for Clinton or Trump, which was proving to be an impossible task. So I tuned in to the first debate mainly to hear what she had to say about state-sanctioned violence, which is

the greatest civil rights issue of our time (I say with zero hesitation). I was already very sure of my feelings about Clinton, but — perhaps as evidence that I would genuinely like to vote for a candidate I at least somewhat believe in, as opposed to wanting to hate her and searching for further evidence to support that predetermination — I wanted to be...the most sure?

Regardless, what I saw during the first presidential debate was an embarrassment to our country and a disrespect for Black people who live in fear of the police. Both candidates handled race and police violence abysmally. I watched two presidential nominees argue over who was the bigger racist in a fight where neither of them came out unscathed. Clinton refused to push back on Trump's idea of Black criminality. She refused to address systemic racism or white supremacy that are the root cause of police killing unarmed Black and brown people at disparate rates. The only thing she could muster up was buzzwords like "implicit bias," which frankly, wasn't nearly enough. That was all I needed to see.

The Black vote has the extra burden of being attached to moral obligation because of the bloodshed and violence Blacks have had to endure to gain the right. I take that right seriously. I have voted in every local and presidential election since I turned 18 in 2003. But I know my ancestors didn't fight for us to choose the lesser of two evils, nor was their blood shed onto the streets for us to continue to choose leaders who have a track-record of harming our communities. They fought for us to have the right, yes, but not to use that right to participate in a system that looks eerily similar to the same thing they fought against during the first Civil Rights Movement.

Voting for Clinton out of the belief that she'll at least be able to be held accountable is idealistic at best and naïve at worst. Black people are being lynched in the streets with impunity under a Black president. Given the policies Clinton has supported in the past, I'm not sure why anyone would trust her to really advocate for the issues that matter most to Black people or Black women. She is like the politicians before her who use Black cool and Black vernacular to gain the Black vote, then promptly leaves us begging for scraps once elected.

I've made peace with the brilliant Black women I admire who are rallying behind Clinton, including the ones who've scolded and disrespected my stance on potentially not voting. I've made peace with my Black girlfriends who don't care about Clinton's unsavory racial politics because they'll take anyone over Trump. I've made peace that Black people are even in this position to have to choose between these two candidates. I've made peace because...you be on the team you're on. And those women — the Black women who plan to cast their ballots for a candidate I have infinite qualms about and almost no faith in — are the team I'm on, even if they are also on Clinton's.

And I'm still not with her. I am a Black woman who refuses to separate those two identities for the excitement about the first female president. Even when she wins, there is still too much to lose.

Bené Viera is a multimedia journalist, writer and blogger. Her byline has appeared on *Essence*, *Vibe*, *Fusion*, *net*, *CentricTV.com*, *TheRoot.com*, *thegrio.com*. Her blog can be found at <http://beneviera.com/blog>

Loreanzo Malray: Memories from a Buffalo Soldier (Continued from Page 6)

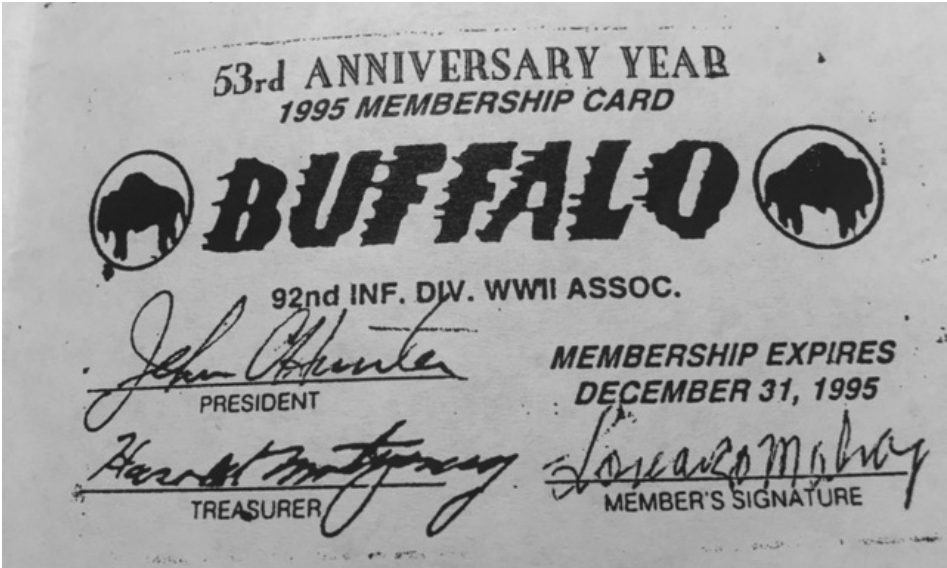
The soldiers were hollering and they had some big guns on the ship and all of these Black guys got up on the guns. They were up on the barrel of the guns. Black guys were everywhere. The next morning, when the paper came out, they were all white on the guns. Wasn't a Black person on there.

We got off of the ship and went to New Jersey and we stayed there for about three days, then we got on a train headed to Mississippi. Everybody was mixed up on the train, Black and white together, when we left New Jersey. We were going along and all at once this conductor came through the train hollering "Jim Crow, Jim Crow".

The soldiers were gambling on the train, white and black and everybody else. Some of the white guys moved and some of them wouldn't. The ones that were losing money, they said, "we ain't going nowhere." So the conductor went back and got a guy that was over him and he told the white guys, "you're gonna have to go up front, you can't sit back here". They told them, to hell with that, they were going to stay where they were. They were losing money and they wanted to try to win it back.

So the conductor came back again with another guy and he went through the train pulling the shades down. So the white guys stayed there until we got all the way to Keesler Field, Mississippi.

I think Keesler Field was an air base, but I never saw any planes. At Keesler Field, I decided I would get me some ice cream. It was pretty warm that day, and the line was pretty long. Whites and a few Blacks. So,



when I got up to the front of the line, this lady started skipping and getting the white guys behind me. There was another white guy that I had met, he was from Mississippi. He told me, "Malray, get out of line, I'll get you some ice cream." I just wanted a scoop of vanilla ice cream. The girl at the counter said, "you can have some chocolate or black walnut," that's what she said. So, I got out of line and the white guy went and got me some vanilla ice cream.

There was one guy, he wanted to buy something, so he went up there to buy something and the lady said, "that nigger touched my hand." So they blew the whistle and we went out and everybody lined up and here comes some white guys in a jeep. They had these little Thompson sub-machine guns and they had her sitting up and there and they asked her which one

of them touched your hand, and she said, "all of 'em look alike to me." So she didn't recognize anybody and we started booing the guys with the machine guns and they got scared because we were right on top of them, so they couldn't shoot to much. That (Keesler Field) was a bad place to be.

When we got ready to leave there, this little white Captain came up and he blew his whistle for everybody to fall out, so we did. When we fell out, this little white Captain got up on this little stand, and the first thing he said was, "all you niggers line up." He didn't say soldiers, he said niggers. That's what he said. We wouldn't come to attention for the Captain, and so a Black guy jumped out of line and called us to attention and then we came to attention. The last time I saw the Captain he was going to take us to Washington state. We were on the

train way up in the mountains, and some guy told me, do you know that Captain jumped off the train. The papers arrived there in Tacoma but they never did find him. That's the last I heard of him.

How did you get to Washington?

I was discharged in Washington State so I went back to Vancouver, Washington, where my brother was living. I got a job working for the government in Vancouver, but I only worked there for about two or three weeks and then they called me to go to work at Grand Coulee Dam and I was there for about eight years.

Tell me about your awards?

My first award was a Combat Infantry Badge. You get that while you're fighting. They bring that onto the battlefield and give it to you. I think they paid \$10 extra for that. I got two small bronze stars for being in battle, and an Aim Ribbon for being a rifleman. I got a discharge medal, a little bird they call a ruptured duck. It's a little thing you can pin on your lapel. I also got a Purple Heart with my name on it and I got a Bronze Star with my name on it. The government sent me two big boxes of medals and stuff about three years ago.

Loreanzo Malray, who was born in March of 1925, will be celebrating his ninety-second birthday next year with his wife of over fifty years, Effie Mae. His daughter Cynthia, who resides in Spokane, WA and brought her father to the attention of this newspaper, joins The Black Lens in honoring his service to this country.



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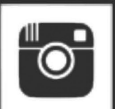


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Washington State University

NE Orchard Dr & Fairway Ln, Pullman, WA

Tickets are \$54.50 and are available at Ticketwest Outlets, online at ticketwest.com or by phone at 1-800-325-SEAT

NOVEMBER 5

COMMUNITY FORUM ON POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

The Washington State Commissions on African American Affairs, Hispanic Affairs and Asian Pacific Islander Affairs will convene a community forum to address the use of deadly force in policing. The forum is hosted by the Gonzaga University Law School Clinic.

Saturday, November 5

1-4pm

Moot Courtroom

Gonzaga University Law School

721 N Cincinnati St, Spokane, WA 99202

NOVEMBER 5

WHITWORTH JAZZ ENSEMBLE WITH BRANFORD MARSALIS

Grammy award winning jazz saxophonist Branford Marsalis joins the Whitworth Jazz Ensemble for the 28th annual guest artist jazz concert.

8:00pm (Continued at top of next column)

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

Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox

1001 W Sprague, Spokane

Ticket prices are \$25.00 regular admission; \$20.00 for students and seniors at www.martinwoldsontheater.com or 509 624-1200.

NOVEMBER 12

NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

"Our Lives Matter. Our Matter."

Special Guest Speaker - Congresswoman **Maxine Waters**

6:00pm - No Host Social

7:00pm Banquet

Northern Quest Resort and Casino Airway Heights, WA

Tickets \$50 per person or \$400 for a reserved table of eight (Proceeds benefit the Michael P. Anderson Scholarship Fund)

For information call (509) 325-3722

NOVEMBER 13

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH, PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY

The Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church will be celebrating the 3rd Anniversary of Pastor, Rev. Walter J. Kendricks. Rev. Lonnie Mitchell, Pastor of the Bethel AME Church, will deliver the message.

3:30pm

Morning Star Baptist Church

3909 W. Rowan Ave, Spokane

NOVEMBER 17

POLICE AND COMMUNITY FORUM

This is an opportunity for dialogue between law enforcement and the community and to build trust. Includes a panel and small group discussion.

6pm

East Central Community Center

500 S. Stone Street, Spokane

For more information contact Bishop

Shon Davis at (509) 389-6209

NOVEMBER 21

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting

7:00pm

Community Building - Lobby

35 W. Main Street, Spokane WA

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

Career Opportunities SPOKANE

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

www.SCAFCO.com and/or

CWallA, our authorized

distributor of SCAFCO

products **www.CWallA.com** to fill out an application.

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

Benefits Package Includes:

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



Spokane NAACP 97th FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

"Our Lives Matter -- Our Votes Count"

Special Guest Speaker:
Congresswoman Maxine Waters

November 12, 2016

6pm - No Host Social Bar

7pm - Banquet

**Northern Quest Resort & Casino
100 N Hayford Rd, Airway Heights, Washington 99001**

Tickets are \$50 apiece (\$400 for a table of 8) - Proceeds benefit the Spokane NAACP Scholarship Fund.

For tickets or information contact SpokaneNaacp@gmail.com or call (509) 209-2425.

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2016
7:00 PM



TREVOR NOAH

Host of THE DAILY SHOW

WSU Dad's Weekend 2016

BEASLEY COLISEUM

TICKETS - \$54.50 (\$5.00 Discount for WSU Faculty, Staff, Students)
Available at all TICKETSWEST outlets, including Beasley Coliseum,
by phone at 800-325-SEAT and online at www.ticketswest.com.

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