

THE BLACK LENSTM

NEWS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

Colin Powell Visits Spokane

Former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, visited Spokane on October 12 as the keynote speaker for Whitworth University's President's Leadership Forum. The charismatic Retired General captivated the sold out crowd in the Spokane Convention Center, beginning his reflections with the story of the day he discovered he was no longer Secretary of State.

He recalled that there was a time not too long ago when Presidents and Prime Ministers from around the world were seeking him out on a daily basis, asking to see him or for him to come and see them, and the press was hanging on his every word. He knew, he said, that he was "the number one diplomat of the whole free world." Secretary of State for the United States of America.

And then..."the next day I wasn't."

Powell recounted that changing of the guard, so to speak, with both humor and humility.

"It was a dark and snowy night. I had just given a speech in downtown Washington and I was heading back to my home in McLean VA. I was in my armored limousine. I had a bodyguard in the car behind me and another in the car in front of me. It was raining. Cold.

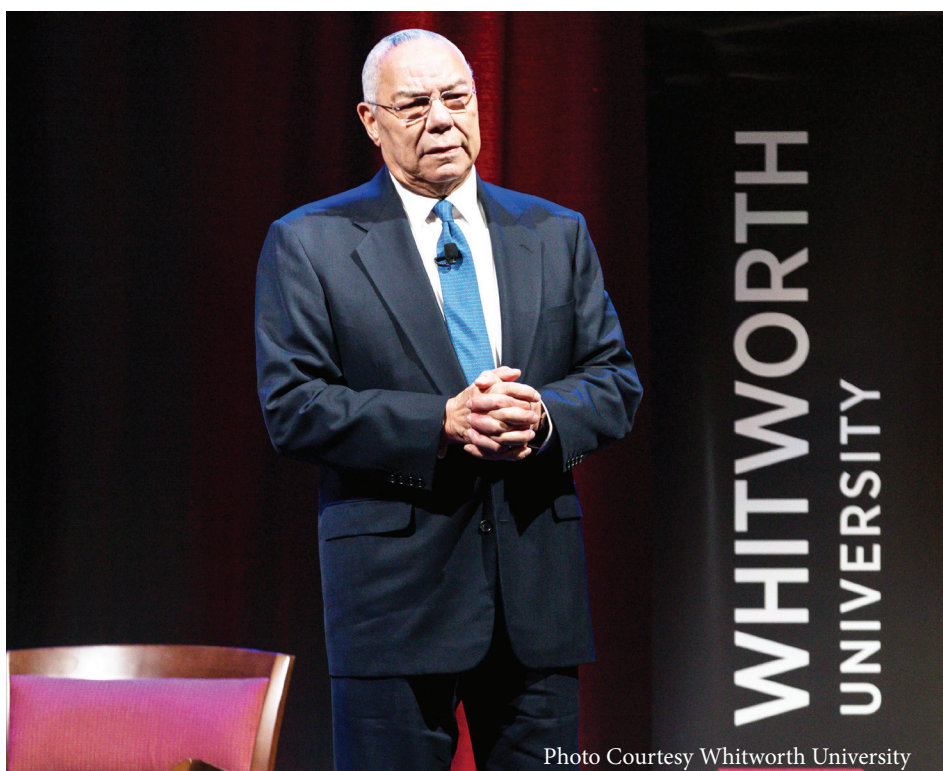


Photo Courtesy Whitworth University

Suddenly the phone in the car rings." On the other end of the phone was the State Department informing Powell that his replacement, Condoleezza Rice, had just been sworn in, leaving him with "No coms. No guards. No

responsibilities. No nothing." He described an emptiness that suddenly came over him. An feeling that he said was similar to when he stepped down from the Joint Chiefs, going from being America's number one military

official to "a regular GI." He realized, he said, that he had gotten through it before and that he could get through this transition as well.

Powell offered anecdotes and reflected on foreign policy, immigration and politics, eliciting an audible sigh when he told the crowd that he's still a Republican. He even offered what could be considered criticism of the President and of the current incarnation of the Republican party, but ever the diplomat, Powell's criticisms weren't very critical.

Mostly though, Powell talked about education and the pride that he feels about the eleven elementary and middle schools that bare his name, as well at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership that is housed at his alma mater, the City College of New York.

The child of immigrant parents, Powell is also proud of the students that attend his school. He calls them his "Ellis Island Kids". Mostly students of color and immigrants, who are the first in their family to attend college. "It's not enough to just bring them in and give them an academic program and let them go," Powell said, his goal to invest in them, expose them to the world and turn them into leaders who serve others. Something we desperately need.

We Must Not Be Bystanders When Darkness Descends

By Jesse Jackson

NEWS ANALYSIS

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – These are dark times. Thirteen pipe bombs were sent to two former presidents and other political and cultural leaders. In Kentucky, a white man shot and killed two elderly African-Americans at random in a Kroger grocery store, after failing to force his way into a Black church. In Pittsburgh, in what is believed to be the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in U.S. history, a gunman walked into the Tree of Life synagogue and massacred 11 during Sabbath services.

What time is it? In Isaiah, chapter 21, verse 11-12, the watchman in his tower is asked: "Watchman, what from the night?" The inquiry comes from an occupier and oppressor of the Israelites. The watchman replies: "The morning cometh, and also the night." What time is it? Is it dusk moving toward midnight, or dawn moving to the day?

We are not bystanders in this drama. It will not be an act of nature that decides, nor a matter of fate. What is clear is that seeds of violence have been strewn across this country. Hatreds that lay fallow have been roused. Divisions have been sharpened. Rain comes from the top, never bottom up.

Continued on Page 19



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ON MY MIND

THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

by Sandra Williams



VOTE!

THE BLACK LENS NEWS

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

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Carl Maxey Center Update

The month of October was a very busy month for Friends of the Black Lens (FOBL) as the Carl Maxey Center project keeps moving forward at lightening speed.

The FOBL Board completed Phase 1, the acquisition phase of the project, with the purchase of both the building that will become the Carl Maxey Center on August 3 and the purchase of the adjacent lot on September 28. We would not have been able to do either without the support of the Spokane community, so a huge thank you to you all!



Thank you also to Henry for fixing our front door that wouldn't open all the way, to Pam for joining right in with the Board and working her little fingers to the bone to help us spruce up the place, and to Transitions for donating all of the wonderful royal blue chairs for our meetings. No more folding chairs for us.

Now that we are moving into the Remodel Phase of the project, we have been asking for your ideas on what you want to see in the building. We recorded all of the suggestions that we received from September's Open House and in October we held two focus groups to pick your brains even more. We are taking all of that information and meeting with our architect to put those ideas, thoughts and suggestions into a design. How exciting is that! So, stay tuned because there is so much more to come.

For more information about the Carl Maxey Center visit carlmaxeycenter.org.



THANK YOU.

“ Thank you Black Lens for your dedication to providing information about issues that matter to people in eastern Washington. When in Congress, I will continue to live here, listen to the community, and work for the people — not special interests or either political party. ”

— LISA BROWN

Lisa
BROWN
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An Inmate Hopes This Prison Program Will Give Him the Tools for a New Life

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Elvin Colton (Not his real name) is a 32-year-old ninth grade drop-out and recovering drug addict in prison for the fourth time. But later this year when he goes home to his children and family, he believes he will have spent his final years behind bars. There's a reason for his newfound hope.

Colton, whose real name is being withheld in order to protect his privacy, says the Continuum of Care Program (COC) at the Graceville Correctional Center - a privately-run facility operated by the GEO Group, Inc. in Jackson County Florida - is practically saving his life. Before leaving he will have earned his General Education Degree (GED). He also will have taken business and vocational courses offered at Graceville in preparation for his new life and career - a marked contrast to the way it was before - enduring a sentence and then being released from a public prison facility with little more than a bus fare home.

"It was, 'I'm gone do my time and then go home.' Get \$50 and be kicked out," he recalled with a chuckle. The memories of other inmates in COC are basically the same. Another recalls being released with no transportation as he pleaded that his home was more than a hundred miles away.

While not a magic cure for the ills of the criminal justice system, Colton's experience under the COC program at Graceville has been much different as GEO Care and other companies are shedding light on ways that could help turn prisons from incubators of future crime to potential pathways for stability and security for former inmates.

Reducing recidivism has long eluded the experts. In 2005, the Bureau of Justice Statistics undertook a study of over 400,000 prisoners in 30 states to measure recidivism. The results were discouraging: 56 percent of former inmates were arrested within a year after release and more than two-thirds, or 67.8 percent, were back in the criminal justice system within three years.

In response to data like this, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) and the U.S. Justice Department's Crime Justice Institute (CJI) produced a report, Implementing Evidence-Based Practice in Community Corrections: The Principles of Effective Intervention, such as assessing risk, targeted skills training, reinforcement and getting feedback. GEO has long been developing ways to implement such principles and develop metrics to make sure they are effective.

"Being here and getting the education and the help I need, the tutoring and being in my substance abuse class," Colton says. "And then my continued care like they help out a whole lot with being released back into society, like all the benefits they have as far as like you get help



with your housing and somewhere to live, you get bus tickets if you don't have transportation. They help with so much stuff...It's like positive-in, positive-out, you know."

A father of five children, yearning to succeed for himself and for them, Colton says his experiences in the public Department of Corrections have been no comparison.

"Being in the DOC is like you're fending for yourself. You don't have the help from the teachers. And you've got to study on your own and learn for yourself," he said. "I prefer to be here and to do my time here - not to say that I love being in prison - but to be here, it's a blessing to be here."

His sentiments are echoed by dozens of others in GED programs, career skills classes, a tier specifically for faith-led inmates and drug rehab groups. Some, once hardened criminals, are nearly brought to tears while telling of their mothers and families witnessing their GED graduations.

GEO Care says any inmate who enrolls in the program is assigned a case manager upon their release. There is also a call center for released inmates that they have access to for 12 months.

Derrick D. Schofield, executive vice president of the COC program and Reentry Services for GEO, says GEO pours \$2.9 million annually

into the COC program at Graceville alone and \$10 million annually into the 15 COC programs across the country. "When you do it dirt cheap, you get poor results," he said.

Schofield said GEO would like to place even greater resources toward the post-release services such as clothing, housing, and transportation. "We want them to succeed," Schofield said of the inmates.

Earlier this year, the GEO Group received the "Innovation in Corrections" Award from the American Correctional Association (ACA). Among the reasons was that the recidivism rate among released inmates who did not participate in GEO's COC program was nearly twice the rate as those who did participate in the program, according to analysis included in nomination for the award submitted by the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Florida Atlantic University.

Prior to serving as assistant warden of programs at Graceville, Wilton Cloud had spent 10 years as an assistant warden in the state corrections system. He said he thought, more or less, that this was the only way to do things. "But this company is sewing so many resources into this COC program that not only do they give an inmate an education or a vocation, but they also try to change their thinking so maybe they can put that to use," he said of his experience with Geo Care.

GEO Care says 90 percent of its inmates take advantage of the programs it offers and in some cases inmates have housing and even jobs awaiting them. The COC is only two years old and officials are just starting to gather statistics to determine the possible impact on recidivism. According to last year's annual report, the target goal was "assisting individuals reenter society as productive and employable citizens."

GEO's recent annual report also outlines a glowing list of successes, which include 2,615 high school equivalency diplomas, 7,814 vocational certificates and 8,412 substance abuse program completions. It also boasts on its award-winning cognitive, behavioral and substance abuse treatment; high tech, enhanced academic programming; enhanced vocational training through nationally certified programs, and faith-character based services with an emphasis on mentoring and therapeutic community settings.

While the debate rages over whether companies such as GEO Care are part of the problem or the solution to the many challenges of the U.S. penal system, Colton is intensifying his preparation for his new life. He will spend less than two more months in Graceville before being released.

"He'll continue to meet with me every other Monday. We'll discuss any concerns or questions that come up, any kind of support needs," says Katherine Grady, his COC caseworker. Colton will also be eligible for post-release services such as help getting his Social Security card, his birth certificate, a resume, and a Florida ID.

Colton traces some of his early troubles to abuses he suffered while growing up in foster homes. But he believes he is ready to make it on his own this time.

"At this moment I have no concerns. I believe I'm going to succeed and I'm going to be successful with the help I get from here, from Graceville," he said. "I see my future now. At first I didn't, but now I do...I have a whole different perspective on life now."

GEO does not cast itself as the sole answer to the dysfunction in the nation's prison system; nor does it compare itself to other prison systems or prison operators. For example, Schofield explained that the decrease in recidivism over the last three years is strictly one that GEO representatives have monitored among GEO's own population. Nonetheless, he says, the company's COC programs merit consideration in a wider effort at prison reform.

He concludes, "Don't think of us as a private prison company. Think of us as a solutions provider."

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K2: The Facts on Synthetic Marijuana



By Glenn Ellis

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - As if our young people aren't facing enough challenges to their future, more drug-related troubling news.

If you thought marijuana was supposed to be pretty harmless, you're probably shocked to find out there's some synthetic stuff that's a "whole 'nother animal".

A few weeks ago, more than 90 people overdosed on K2 in one New Haven park in May of this year, for example, 25 people were hospitalized in one area of Brooklyn, New York, after having negative reactions to what was believed to be K2.

Hospitals are even reporting people showing up at emergency rooms, suffering from severe bleeding from rat poison, when it started showing up in products that mimic marijuana, often called K2 and Spice. At least 40 cases of bleeding from rat poison have been confirmed in Milwaukee, and in 10 other states this year, including seven deaths. Illinois was hit the hardest, with Wisconsin and Maryland next in line.

Timing of this trend could not be worse, as society and legislators are moving towards acknowledging the benefits of medical marijuana. Even though some medical benefits of smoking pot may be overstated by advocates of marijuana legalization, recent research has demonstrated that there are legitimate medical uses for marijuana and strong reasons to continue studying the drug's medicinal uses. This could fuel a backlash on current clinical practices and funding policies for further research.

There's even a fair amount of evidence that marijuana does no harm to the lungs, unless you also smoke tobacco. One study published in Journal of the American Medical Association found that not only does marijuana not impair lung function, it may even increase lung capacity. Even the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse lists medical uses for cannabis.

Many people have heard about K2, also known as synthetic cannabis, fake pot, synthetic marijuana, legal weed, herbal incense and potpourri. But most people have no idea how this awful synthetic drug is affecting millions of people all over the world. The word is leaking out, however, as reports to Poison Control and emergency room visits have skyrocketed over the past few years. Experts and us-

ers say the appeal of synthetic cannabinoids are their price, availability, and the fact that they don't show up on routine drug tests.

The question is : what exactly is Spice / K2 - and what does it do to you?

Natural marijuana gains its mind-altering effects from a chemical known as THC. Synthetic marijuana, on the other hand, is coated with synthetic cannabinoids – a family of over 700 research chemicals. They can be anywhere from 2 to 100 times more potent than THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana.

In other words, synthetic marijuana , or K2, or Spice is completely different than natural marijuana. In 2008, the scientific and law enforcement communities began to study what was actually contained in synthetic cannabis mixtures. What they found was alarming. Analysis showed that rather than being a simple mixture of harmless herbs, the product had in fact been sprayed with synthetic cannabinoids.

According to the CDC, synthetic marijuana affects the same parts of the brain that THC does (the active chemical in marijuana). However, the synthetic stuff doesn't actually contain THC and instead contains a mix of chemicals very different from THC—with very different effects on your body. Some of the reported side effects of synthetic marijuana compounds include convulsions, kidney injury, toxicity to the heart, strokes and anxiety. Elevated blood pressure, vomiting, and agitation can also occur. Hundreds of users of synthetic cannabinoid products typically sold in gas stations and convenience stores under various brand names such as "K2" and "Spice" have been treated for complications such as bleeding, and several people have died.

Synthetic cannabinoids are human-made mind-altering chemicals that are either sprayed on dried, shredded plant material so they can be smoked or sold as liquids to be vaporized and inhaled in e-cigarettes and other devices. These products are also known as herbal or liquid incense.

These chemicals are called cannabinoids because they are similar to chemicals found in the marijuana plant. Because of this similarity, synthetic cannabinoids are sometimes misleadingly called "synthetic marijuana" (or "fake weed"), and they are often marketed as safe, legal alternatives to that drug. In fact, they are not safe and may affect the brain much more powerfully than marijuana; their ac-



tual effects can be unpredictable and, in some cases, more dangerous or even life-threatening.

Pennsylvania locked down all 25 state prisons recently in response to a recent outbreak of staff members becoming sick from a substance they identified as synthetic marijuana. Reports from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections didn't provide much information about the liquefied drug, also known as K2. They believe it comes into facilities soaked into paper via letters or books. Inmates then eat or smoke it.

Manufacturers sell these products in colorful foil packages and plastic bottles to attract consumers. They market these products under a wide variety of specific brand names. Hundreds of brands now exist, including K2, Spice, Joker, Black Mamba, Kush, and Kronik. Some young people incorrectly assume that these products are "natural" and therefore harmless.

And yes... synthetic cannabinoids, like K2 can also be addictive! Remember, I'm not a doctor. I just sound like one. Take good care of yourself and live the best life possible!

The information included in this column is for educational purposes only. It is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Glenn Ellis, is a Medical Ethicist. He is the author of Which Doctor?, and Information is the Best Medicine. He is a health columnist and radio commentator who lectures, nationally and internationally on health related topics. For more good health information listen to Glenn, on radio in Philadelphia; Boston; Shreveport; Los Angeles; and Birmingham., or visit: www.glennellis.com.

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

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

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

Emmett Till

Law enforcement arrived to dredge a body from the Tallahatchie River. A young boy was savagely beaten. The top of his head was crushed in and what looked like a bullet hole was above his right ear. An eye was gouged out. From trying to fend off blows, both wrists were broken. Barbed wire was wrapped tightly around his neck, secured by a heavy metal fan meant to hold him to the river's bottom. When they removed the small frame they recognized it as the body of a fourteen-year-old Chicago boy visiting Money, Mississippi that summer – Emmett Till.

Emmett's mother, Mamie Till, demanded that Emmett's body be left mutilated in his casket so the world could see what Mississippi bigotry did to her son. Her courageous act drew America's focus on Mississippi's history of racism and the world's attention on racial oppression in America.

Only Emmett Till and Carol Bryant knew exactly what happened inside Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market that August 24, 1955. But all agreed that Emmett "wolf-whistled" at Carol in the parking lot, and if there was any greater crime in the South, it was melanin-rich males piercing that unspoken veil of attraction towards Southern Caucasian women. His "alleged sin" was the greatest of all sins in the South and would have been a Southern Caucasian man's call to action.

Segregationist Mississippi Circuit Court Judge Thomas Brady reinforced this mentality in his speech turned manual called, Black Monday – "The loveliest and purest of God's creatures, the nearest thing to an angelic being that treads this celestial ball is a well-bred, cultured Southern white woman or her blue-eyed, golden-haired little girl..."

Emmett's suspects, J.W. Milam and Roy Bryant (Carol's husband), faced an all-Caucasian, all-male

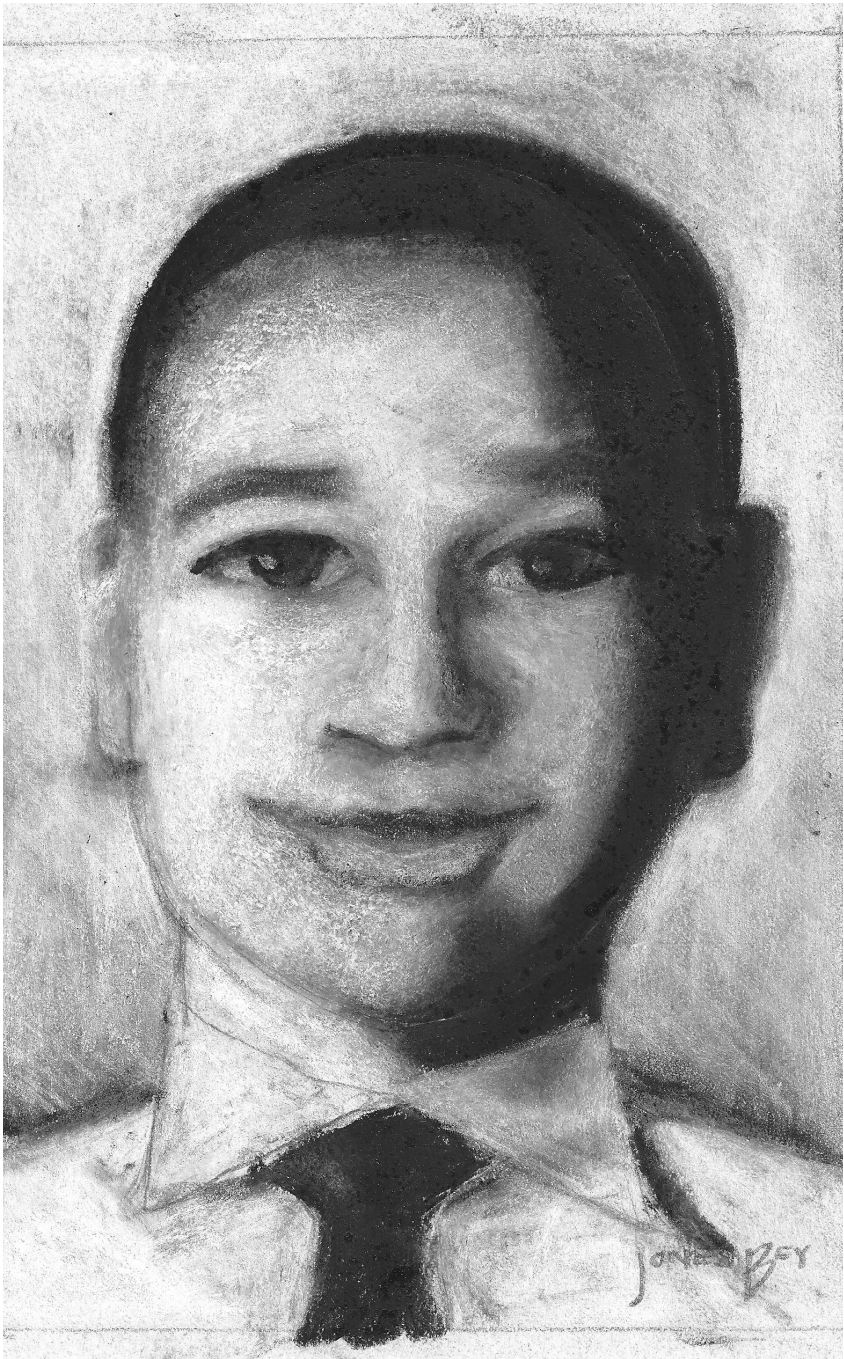
jury on murder charges in Sunflower County Mississippi. After a five day trial and an hour of deliberations, they were found not guilty in Emmett's death, though one juror noted that deliberations wouldn't have taken so long if they hadn't stopped to have soft drinks.

In her interview for the book, The Blood of Emmett Till, Carol Bryant admitted that her testimony under sworn oath was a lie. She concluded in her interview for the book on page 165 "...nothing Emmett Till did could ever justify what had happened to him."

After the acquittals, Look magazine paid the defendants four thousand dollars for an interview about the murders, which they admitted to along with a statement by J.W. Milam: "Well, what else could we do? He was hopeless. I'm no bully. I never hurt a nigger. I like niggers – in their place – I know how to work 'em. But I just decided it was time a few people got put on notice. As long as I live and can do anything about it, niggers are gonna stay in their place. Niggers ain't gonna go to school with my kids. And when a nigger even gets close to mentioning sex with a white woman, he's tired o' livin'. I'm likely to kill him. Me and my folks fought for this country and we have some rights. . . .Goddam you, I'm going to make an example of you – just so everybody can know where me and my folks stand."

Note: The Emmett Till Case was officially closed in 2007. But information newly admitted has led The Justice Department to reopen the case as of the summer of 2018.

Sources: The Blood of Emmitt Till – Timothy Tyson. pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/till-timeline/ msn.com/en-us/news/us/us-reopens-1955-case-on-black-teen-emmitt-tills-murder/ar-AAzXH9v?li=BBnbfcL



Blacks Who Dared to Vote in Tennessee Forced to Live in Tent Cities

Reprinted from tennesseencyclopedia.net and memphis.edu/tentcity

In 1959 African Americans in Fayette and Haywood Counties in Tennessee fought for the right to vote. The concern for voting emerged as a by-product of the absence of Black jurors for the trial of Burton Dodson, an African American farmer in his seventies who was tried for the 1941 murder of a white man. By denying African Americans their rights to participate in the electoral process, whites eliminated them from the pool of potential jurors.

To combat this injustice, African Americans in the two counties organized the Original Fayette County Civic and Welfare League and the Haywood County Civic and Welfare League. Both leagues launched voter registration

drives, and a number of Blacks registered to vote during June and July. But when the Democrats held their August primary, however, registered African American voters were not allowed to cast their ballots.

League members initiated the first legal action against a party primary under the Civil Rights Act of 1957 when they filed suit against the local Democratic Party. Whites in the counties penalized African Americans, many lost employment, credit, and their insurance policies. White merchants refused to sell them goods and services, and some white physicians withheld medical care.

In the winter of 1960 white property owners evicted hundreds of Black tenant farmers from their lands and from their homes. The homes had been in some of the families for generations. Ultimately, several hundred people had to move into one of two Tent Cities that were erected on donated land—some living there for more than 2 years.

Fayette County's Tent City was built on land owned by Shephard Towles. A white merchant, whose name is kept secret to this day, donated the tents. Another camp was set up off Tenn. 57 near Moscow on land owned by Gertrude Beasley.

The Tent City movement in Fayette County was significant for a number of reasons: First, it was a truly grassroots movement—initiated, organized, and maintained by Black residents in the local community. Outside help from regional sympathizers, college activists, and the federal government certainly came in and helped the Fayette

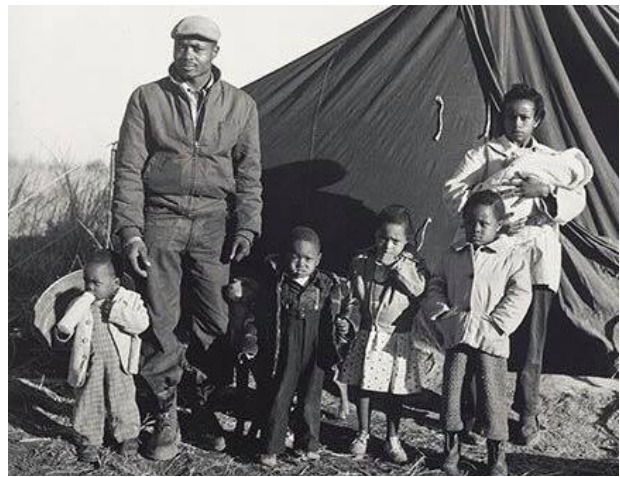


Photo courtesy of Ernest Withers

County participants to keep the movement going, but the leaders and long-term participants were locals.

Second, unlike many more widely known civil rights events, Tent City was a rural movement whose participants made their living from the land—most of the African American population worked for white landowners as sharecroppers. This meant the civil rights movement in Fayette County was primarily an effort of the poor.

For more information visit the Tent City Website at <https://www.memphis.edu/tentcity>. The website is sponsored by the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change and the Department of English and the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Memphis. Or visit <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/tent-city-fayette-and-haywood-counties> or http://orig.jacksonsun.com/civilrights/sec4_tent_city.shtml.



Tongues of Fire

By Beverly Spears



Do the Right Thing! VOTE!

In the early morning hours of November 4, 1986, my Grandmother rose before dawn as was her custom. From an upstairs bedroom, I listened in a sleepy haze to her stirring in the kitchen, rattling pots and pans readying breakfast, and beginning preparation of the rest of the day's meals. Around 6:30 I heard a car pull into the front yard of her rural North Carolina farm house. I looked out the window to see who was coming to the house so early in the morning. Grandma, now dressed in her Sunday-best black dress and hat, winter coat draped around her shoulders, walked out onto the front porch, pocketbook under her arm, and carefully pulled on her gloves. I watched from that upstairs window as a dignified, elderly Black man in a sharply pressed dark blue suit, crowned with a Fedora, got out of the car and came up to the porch. He took off his hat to my Grandmother, nodded "Good morning, Miz Harvey," offered his arm and helped her into the car. They drove off into the chill, damp, overcast November morning.

It was election day and my Grandmother, as she had for many years, would be waiting at the door of the town hall to cast her vote as soon as the polls opened at 7:00 o'clock that morning. Three hours later she would be at Willow Oak African Methodist Episcopal Church, at the funeral of her husband of 54 years, my Grandfather.

The day before, I'd heard someone try to talk her out of it. "Now Aunt Aquila, you don't need to go vote. Nobody expects you to do all that, now." I don't believe Grandma even dignified the statement with a reply. Nothing short of her own funeral would have kept her away. After all, there were folks living and dead who had paid a high price so that she could go and mark that ballot. Few things in this life have moved and impacted me as much as the fact that

my Grandmother, despite her considerable grief, believed it her duty to begin that day by exercising her right to vote.

I don't believe either of my grandparents ever missed an election where they were allowed to vote. Poll taxes and literacy tests kept them away for a good many years. Granddaddy had only a third-grade education, so he relied on Grandma for most of the reading and writing, but he had all the common sense in the world. It was this mother-wit that told him who was who and what was what.

With my Grandmother, he would walk proudly up the steps to the polling place on election day, scrawl out his mark in the voter registration book and proceed to choose who would represent him, a Black farmer from the back woods of North Carolina. Of course, Granddaddy was choosing between one white man or another. I can't even imagine how excited, proud, and a frankly astounded my grandparents would have been to cast their vote for Barack Obama. Still, he carefully made his number two pencil marks on the ballot — bold black marks that briefly countervailed his second-class citizen status.

I remember the first time the privilege was mine. The year was 1972; the choices were George McGovern and Richard Nixon. What an initiation that was! To say the outcome was disappointing is an understatement. But I'd had my say. That November election day signaled my arrival to full adulthood. I was 18 years old and I believed my vote counted!

It has been 46 years since I walked into my first voting booth with such nervous excitement. In these years I've had a love-hate relationship with politics and civic engagement. Someone once said, "Show me a cynic and I'll show you a person who

was once an idealist." I've been to both extremes, more than once. Over the years I've been distrustful and cynical about government, about politics, about the media, and about my ability to make a difference. But I can never completely detach myself from the civic process.

However, until the election of Donald Trump to the office of the Presidency of the United States, I had no idea how utterly fragile our democracy is. I could never have imagined the degradation of this country under the twisted leadership of the Trump administration. I could never have imagined the current extremes of polarization and the staggering degree of ill-will between Americans. I could not have imagined the heartlessness and cruelty the U.S. Government inflicts upon those who seek refuge in America. I could never have imagined the full-tilt resurrection of voter suppression and the disenfranchisement of people of color. In all my cynicism, I could not have imagined the degree of partisanship, immorality, and downright hatefulness of the majority party in the Legislative branch of the Federal government. I could never have imagined a Supreme Court where not one, but two Justices that have been credibly accused of sexual misconduct (Clarence Thomas), and sexual predation (Brett Kavanaugh) serve with impunity.

But I ask myself, are my challenges today any more daunting than those of my parents, grandparents, and my great-great grandparents? I was 14 years old when Dr. Martin Luther King Junior was assassinated. There were children younger than me, being attacked by vicious dogs, and mowed down by fierce blasts of water, shot from fire hoses in the streets of Birmingham, Alabama. Hundreds of children my age were herded into jails, fighting for my freedom

from oppression, and my right to access the American Dream. My contemporaries and my forbearers were willing to die for the right to live as full citizens of this Country.

If I even begin to think about not voting, I remember that people like Dr. Martin Luther King Junior and Medgar Evers sacrificed their lives for my rights. If I begin to feel like my vote won't matter, I think about the tenacity of Rosa Parks, the courage of Fanny Lou Hammer, the spirit of the Freedom Riders, and the thousands of Black people and allies who marched in the streets of towns and cities of this country, many beaten-down and jailed. I remember four little girls in Sunday School who lost their lives on September 15, 1963 in the bombing of the Sixth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in an act of domestic terrorism by white supremacists. I remember the resilience of Black people since the times of slavery. If I even begin to take my right to vote for granted, I remember my Grandfather's pride as he made his mark in the registered voter ledger. If I think that I'm too tired, too depressed or too disillusioned, I remember my Grandmother on that frosty November morning making her way to the polls, even as she prepared to bury my Grandfather later that same day.

The gutting of the Voting Rights Act and continual attempts at voter suppression, among many other challenges, are formidable obstacles, but we have no other moral choice than to relentlessly use every non-violent tool at our disposal to stop the spread of the cancer that is devouring our democracy. Many, many people, living and dead have paid the price for our right to vote. November is here. Do the right thing!

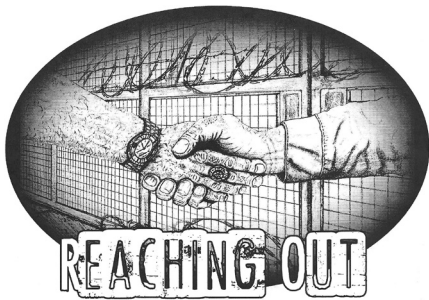
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#BLACKNOVEMBER
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THE BLACK PRISONERS CAUCUS

Coyote Ridge

A Strong Mind

By: Michael Linear

Prison has made me strong, not weak. Striving in conditions where fathers seldom take responsibility for what they did. My pain is my motivation, and it drives me to a satisfactory type of success. When I lay down at night, I wonder who thinks about me while I'm here.

Another year went by with most of my time spent in submission, but I realize that I'm the cause of my own agony. Who can I blame when I know the difference between right and wrong? Even though, I've been excluded more times than I have been included, I push on with a might that's immeasurable.

All I ask is that one just believe in me, and even then, if all else fails, I have to believe in myself. No one can be there for me wholeheartedly but me. I am the father of my many sub personalities. In this environment, you can be surrounded by "200" men at any given time, and still feel lonely. Physically we are here together, but consciously we are the distance between earth and mars.

Every day, I rise to conditions that are unacceptable: uneducated men, fathers who don't care about being away from their children, men with no vision, souls that

are spiritually misguided, and brothers who have been away from society for so long they don't even know they're hurting. These are the realities of the feeble mind. These are the classification of men who indulge in self-effacing mannerisms daily. Unaware of the long term effects of these choices, they plunge deeper into those harmful behaviors.

"We cannot find ourselves until we lose ourselves", but how many are ready to face the unknown.

It is evident that the courage is missing. Bodies wander aimlessly because minds are filled with things that don't matter. White America has been trying to dilute the Black man's focus with fashion, drug use, and high hopes of making it big in show business for their entertainment. It's no different than taking two of the biggest slaves and fighting them against each other, for the purpose of amusement.

Our minds are so weak, we convince ourselves that we own a street corner that when the police come, we run. An extension of this truth can be seen even on the prison yards. Men from all races rush with diligence to claim pieces of the Department of Correction's property: tables, exercise bars, and even showers. They have us right where they want us- striving for a false sense of power. Black people wake up!!

In the eyes of justice, I am looked upon as a man who deserves no attention from society. However, if you look upon my melanin attached to my physical structure, you see the masculinity of a focused, head strong, Black man. Racism can never identify the prosperous qualities of a Black man. I'm defined by my constant efforts to achieve on a higher level. My morals, principals, and values are filled with a healing substance.

"I never had to figure out who I wanted to be; all I had to do was determine who I was going to be."

Prison can't define me; I define it. From the outside glancing in, you probably vision me locked inside of a steel cage. Push that vision to the side and make room for what really is. I am a man that has turned his pain to power. Education is my road to success, along with assisting brothers on their journey for healing, and guiding them back to the path of progress.

My goals as an ambassador of peace are to elevate the minds of the incarcerated so that they develop the ability to free themselves mentally. Yes, there are really men that push this type of agenda in prison. I am just one of many.

For the Black men and women, we know that the Caucasian men and women have been creating mental designs to con-

trol our minds since the beginning of America's time. If you recognize this, what else can you see? I see opportunities to lead brothers and sisters in the community, and the vision to create new designs that will allow our people to prosper tremendously.

When I first entered the system, I had the negative attitude of many Black men and women who fall victim to prison: I joked. I fought. Used drugs, and uplifted my street gang. This is all that I cared about. I was dead weight occupying a bed and a space. Until a brother pulled me to the side and asked me a question that became an inflection point in my time of doing "time". He said, "Do you know the best way to keep a secret hidden from a Black man?" I said, "No." He replied, "All they do is put it in a book because we don't read."

In this moment, I felt ashamed, humiliated, and disappointed. I thought to myself: how does a man with twenty-six years end up in a cycle of fictitious things? Convicted in my spirit, I made my way to the prison library, and it was there where the expansion of my mind began.

Where will the story of your strong mind begin?

Any comments or questions contact the Black Prisoner's Caucus at: www.bpceast@gmail.com

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IMPROVE TRAINING. SAVE LIVES.

Last year, more people in Washington were killed in encounters with law enforcement than in 45 other states, and almost one-third of those killed were actively experiencing a mental health crisis.

Every time a we see a tragic loss of life from an encounter with law enforcement we wonder what happened, why it happened, and what we can come together and do to change the future.

This November we have a chance to make a difference with Initiative 940, which will improve training for law enforcement, save lives, and help build better relationships between police and the communities they serve.

Initiative 940 is a grassroots campaign that was started by Washington families who have lost loved ones in an encounter with police. Today, it's led by families, racial justice and civil rights organizations, Tribes, LGBTQ groups, mental health advocates, community leaders, and law enforcement leaders and groups like the Black Law Enforcement Association of Washington.

Every day, officers in Washington face changing and challenging situations that they might not be prepared for. We increasingly ask police officers to act as social workers or mental health crisis responders. But when an officer doesn't have the training he or she needs to deal with a challenging situation, the outcome can be tragic.



Photo by Alec Miller Arts, AlecMillerArts.com

Currently, officers are only required to complete 8 hours of "crisis intervention training." Additional mental health crisis training is offered, but it's optional, and unless you work in a jurisdiction that can afford to provide the training, then the 8 hours is all you'll get. Initiative 940 would better support officers by improving de-escalation, first aid, and mental health crisis training for every officer in Washington, so law enforcement can have the tools they need to handle difficult encounters.

The current training requirements aren't enough. Last year, more people in Washington were killed in encounters with law enforcement than in 45 other states, and almost one-third of those killed were actively experiencing a mental health crisis. Better training will save lives.

Initiative 940 would also create new training in racial bias and stereotyping. People of color, people with disabilities or mental health challenges, LGBTQ people, youth,

Native Americans, and others are often misunderstood in a crisis. Modern training will help give officers the tools they need to communicate with people from all walks of life.

Finally, when a tragedy does occur, Initiative 940 would also create a fair and independent investigation process, so families, communities, and law enforcement get an impartial investigation. It would also update our legal standard around use of force, which is the only one in the nation, and replace it with fair standards already used in 27 other states, so families and communities can pursue a fair hearing in the most egregious cases.

But the primarily goal of Initiative 940 is to prevent tragedies from happening in the first place.

No matter our background or where we come from, or whether we're Black, brown, or white, all of us want our loved ones to come home safe, and our officers to be safe on the job. We can come together just like we have on other issues in the past and make Washington safer for everyone.

You have your ballots. Vote 'Yes' on Initiative 940.



Vote YES on Initiative 940

Improve training. Save lives.

Heads Up (Spokane)

By Kiantha Duncan

F*ck Kavanaugh and My Cousin

Thirty years, thirty days or thirty minutes, it’s never too late to come forward and speak openly about being a victim of sexual assault or molestation. What hurts more is when your experience is invalidated by people who were not even there when the incident took place. They were not there to witness or protect the victim, but suddenly when a victim comes forward the crowd is there to shame you and side with your assailant.

Why does it seem that at all costs perpetrators of sexual violence are somehow in a protected class? When victims come forward to recount the often life altering and gruesome truths about being assaulted or molested, we, yes, we, end up on trial.

Eight years ago, at the age of thirty-five, I finally got the courage to talk to my father and family about the sexual abuse I had suffered at the hands of a family member around the age of four or five. After sharing what happened to me with my father, I realized that the main reason I had held this secret so tightly for all of those years was because I was protecting him (my father).

I always protected my father. I protected him because I understood who he was. A street man, a gangster, a repeat offender in the criminal justice system. You see, my Dad had been in and out of prison damn near my whole life. My father was a man who would do anything he could for his daughter, even kill.

I was afraid that if I told my father about being molested by his nephew that he would not hesitate to find him and kill him for the pain he caused me. Even as a victim, I was still concerned about the life of my molester. It’s as if victims of sexual assault, like Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford, myself and so many others, are expected to manage and care for the wellbeing, livelihood and careers of those who assaulted us.

As I watched the comments and editorials being written about Dr. Blasey-Ford’s credibility regarding her accusations of rape by Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh, many people, Senators included, had the nerve to say things like, “It is not fair that she is trying to ruin a good man’s life”. The truth is that Judge Kavanaugh may have parts of him that are good, as do we all, but that doesn’t change the parts of him, or of us, that are not GOOD. One does not erase the other.

I cried while recounting details of the sexual abuse incidents to my father. I was ashamed of what happened and ashamed that it took 30 years for me to be able to share it with him. I was also extremely afraid of how this information could affect my father’s life should he

retaliate against the perpetrator of my abuse. None of that should have been my concern but it was.

Although in the moment my father repeatedly questioned why I had waited so long to tell him, it was only because he wanted me to know that I could have trusted him to protect me. My Daddy immediately consoled me and even shared with me that he too had been molested as a child by a teacher. He was angry, he was hurt, and he wanted answers. He wanted to know why his nephew would do this to his baby girl. But he never once made me feel like I was at fault for what happened. He believed me.

My father immediately called his sister (the mother of my rapist) and shared with her my account of what happened. Her reply, “my son did not do that and why would she wait this long to say something. She should have taken that to her grave”.

I should have taken it to my grave? He didn’t do it? Like in the case of Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford, in my attempt to set myself free emotionally, the tables turned, and I was the one on trial. According to my Aunt, I had to be the one “lying”. It couldn’t have been her son. It was as if she needed to defend her parenting or lack thereof and the only way to do that was to make me the liar.

Fast forward a few days, because I had finally mustered up the courage to speak out, my family and I learned that I was not the only child in our family who had been molested by this person. There were more, both male and female. Of course, what I said was true. A victim of sexual assault doesn’t wait 30 years to tell a lie. It doesn’t work that way.

What I learned through my own experience was that many times people don’t believe victims of sexual assault because they fear somehow being implicated in what happened. It’s easier to say that a victim of abuse is “lying” than to say, “I dropped the ball, or “I could have done more”. Worst of all, I believe people naturally feel horrible because they did not protect the victim or were not able to get help for the perpetrator. Either way, family members or witnesses feel at fault and in some way liable.

It is my belief that the reason President Donald Trump, the Senate, the FBI, and others, have protected this nominee for the Supreme Court during his confirmation hearing in which the allegations of sexual assault were brought to life is because they wanted to keep their hands clean.

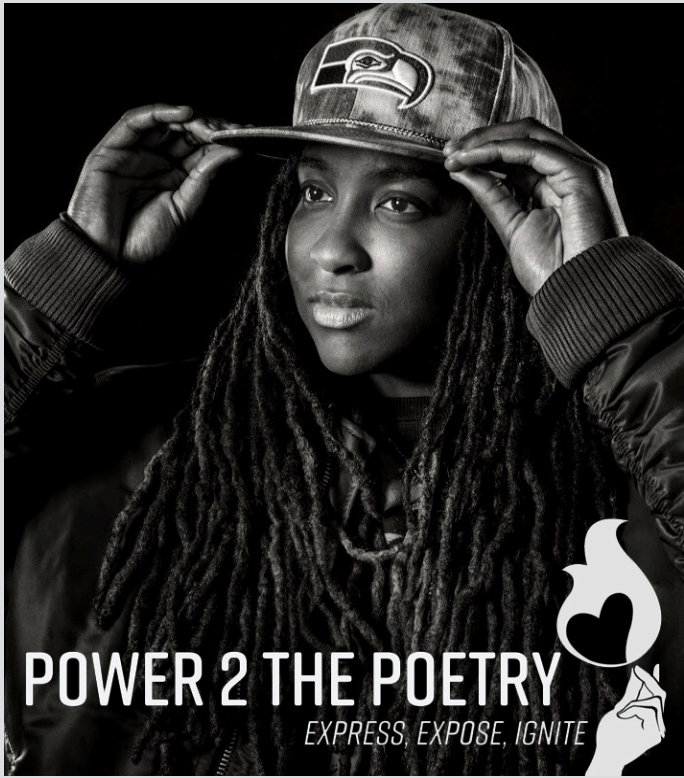


It is less about Kavanaugh and more about not having to admit that through 6 other FBI Investigations no one dug deep enough to find these unfavorable findings. The FBI did not do a thorough investigation then, and with the direction from the White House being to complete a limited and narrow investigation now, the truth about Dr. Blasey-Ford and the other women who suffered at the hands of Justice Kavanaugh would remain covered up.

As long as we as a society continue to put victims of sexual assault on trial when they are courageous enough to come forward, we will continue to have victims of sexual assault holding their stories silently. Part of the twisted thinking of a sexual predator is that the victim, should they tell, will not be believed in most cases and we (society) co-sign that belief when we do things like put the victim on “trial”. We make victims prove that sexual assault happened vs. making perpetrators prove their innocence.

To those who have been raped or assaulted and who were made to prove something so horrific, so life changing, I stand with you. I believe you and I say Fuck Kavanaugh, my cousin and the person who took liberties with your body. You are not on trial. You do not have to defend yourself.

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



Warriors of Light

Written By Bethany Montgomery
(Founder of Power 2 the Poetry)

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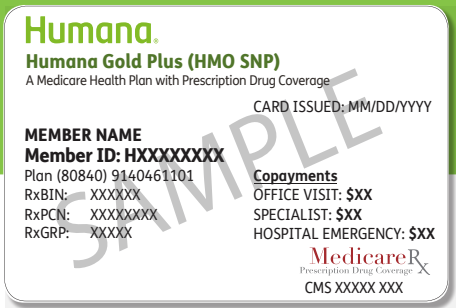
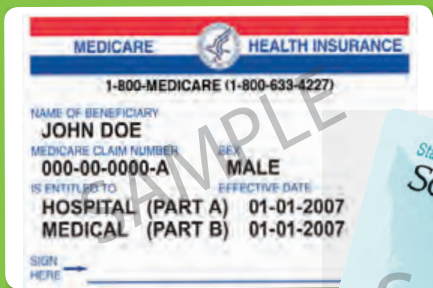
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Which is always right

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Because the good in us
never truly dies

So we fight
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Young Leaders Provoke Thought and Provide Hope

By Devon Wilson

I recently had the opportunity to moderate a panel of young leaders as we discussed leadership and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King and Senator Bobby Kennedy. The panel was part of an event celebrating the launch of the book *Martin and Bobby: A Journey Towards Justice* by Spokane author Claire Rudolf Murphy. The book is for young readers and follows the lives, words, and final days of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy.

While the book was the purpose the event, the panelists were the highlight of the evening. The panel consisted of students that were leaders in a diverse range of activities, including student government, sports, civil rights, and gun safety. Topics discussed



included how to best honor King's Legacy, what it means to be a leader, and what today's movement can learn from the Civil Rights Movement.

It is difficult to convey the sense of hope, optimism, and positive energy that resonated throughout the room as these students spoke. Responses were frequently interrupted by applause and the light that shined from the panel beamed throughout the audience, several of whom were alive at the same time as Dr. King and Senator Kennedy.

At the end of the panel, each of the panelists were asked why they were involved in the work they were doing. Their responses truly inspired.

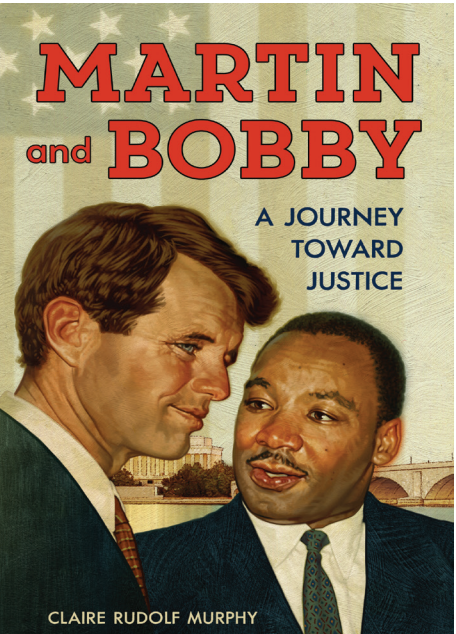
"If I don't change the world, I can at least spark someone else" said Jada, a student at Innovation High.

"I want to put my voice out there to say I want things to change" said Asher from Pride Prep.

One response, given by one of the youngest panelist, truly captured the spirit of the evening and the lives of the men that were being celebrated, "There's a lot of things that can be done and someone has to do it."

It was a rare time in which a panel was more than a panel. It was a chance to reflect on yesterday's victories, take a break from today's crises, and most importantly, it was a glimpse at tomorrow's promise.

Signed copies of Martin and Bobby are available at Aunties Bookstore. The book is also available online through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



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EWU Africana Studies Program Celebrates 50 Years

On October 17, faculty, staff, students and community members filled the Wren Pier-son Community Center in Cheney, WA, to help the Eastern Washington University Africana Studies Program celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

The Africana Studies Program, which began as meetings in 1968-69, has grown from Black Studies courses into an Afri-cana Studies minor that has graduated hundreds of students since its inception.

The program, directed by Dr. Scott Finnie, who has been at EWU since the early 90s, also hosts the Africana Studies Center,

which is located in Monroe Hall. There students gather to study, meet up with friends, attend events, receive tutoring, mentoring and find the support and con-nections that they need to be successful.

The Africana Studies Program also hosts EWU's Black History Month Celebration, Students of Color Symposium, Communi-ty Course Lecture Series, and the African American Student Graduation, as well as working closely with the EWU Black Student Union, making the program's im-pact felt not only on the EWU campus, but throughout the Spokane community.

The anniversary celebration, which was catered by newly opened Fresh Soul Restaurant, featured reflections from fac-ulty and staff, as well as student Kianna Baker and alumni Ricky Morris, who shared about the positive and life chang-ing impact the Africana Studies Program had in their lives. Angela Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs, capped off the evening by leading the audience in a joyful rendition of Bill Withers' Lean on Me. Here's hoping for 50 more years!

For more information about the EWU Afri-cana Studies Program visit africanastudies@ewu.edu or call 509.359.2205.



Vote YES on 940

to improve training and save lives.

Yes on 940 will set a new standard for improved de-escalation, first aid, and mental health crisis training for all law enforcement officers in Washington.

Yes on 940 will also provide modern bias training to help officers communicate and work with people from all walks of life, including people of color, people with disabilities, youth, Native people, LGBTQ people, and others.

Yes on 940 will create a new fair and independent investigation process when a tragedy does occur.

Vote YES on 940 by November 6!

www.deescalatewa.org

Paid for by De-Escalate Washington | PO Box 21509, Seattle, WA 98111 | Top Five Contributors: Puyallup Tribe of Indians, ACLU Washington, Nicolas J. Hanuer, ACLU, and Open Society Foundation.

Black Violin Returns to Spokane

Black Violin is returning to Spokane on Saturday, November 15, as a part of their hugely successful CLASSICAL BOOM Tour. Spokane audiences loved their unique classical crossover sound infused with hip-hop beats when they appeared two years ago on their UNITY tour.

Black Violin is composed of classically trained violist and violinist Wil B. and Kev Marcus, who combine their classical training and hip-hop influences to create a distinctive multi-genre sound that is often described as “classical boom.” They have shared stages with top names including Kanye West, Aerosmith and Tom Petty, and have creatively collaborated with the likes of Wu-Tang Clan, Wyclef Jean and Alicia Keys.

The duo has over 40 shows scheduled to close out 2018, returning to the road after spending the summer working on their upcoming album which is due out in 2019. The Classical Boom tour is a continuation of their well-received winter run which included back-to-back sold out performanc-



es at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The band’s most recent record, Stereotypes, debuted at #1 on the Billboard Classical Crossover Chart and #4 on the Billboard R&B Chart. NPR praised the album and band, saying “their music will

keep classical music alive for the next generation.” They are currently writing and recording their next studio album with a track and music video expected to be released later this summer. Earlier in the year, Black Violin was announced as the

Turnaround Artist for Mary B. Bethune Elementary School in their hometown of Broward County, FL.

Turnaround Arts, a national education program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, infuses arts into struggling schools to support overall reform efforts. Founded by President Obama’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in 2012, the program partners schools with music instrument grants, arts supplies, professional development, and pairs each school with an artist to provide mentorship, inspiration, and support for the school’s journey in the program. Turnaround Artists include Elton John, Edward Norton, and Yo-Yo Ma, among other highly acclaimed members of the arts community.

Black Violin will be performing at the Fox Theater on November 17. The concert begins at 8pm. For more information or to purchase tickets visit foxtheaterspokane.org, by calling 509-624-1200, or by visiting the Fox Theater box office at 1001 West Sprague Avenue.



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—Cathy McMorris Rodgers



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- ★ Joined Spokane leaders on civil rights pilgrimage to Selma
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Girl Talk

By Ariana Jennings



In the world that we live in, girls and boys are bullied every day because of the way they look, dress, or dumb things like because another girl may be prettier, smarter, skinnier than the other, they are dating someone’s ex-boyfriend, or their sexual orientation.

So many movies have portrayed all different types of bullying. Some may have been in comedies, like the popular movie, “Mean Girls” starring Lindsay Lohan, Rachel McAdams, Lacey Chabert, and Amanda Seyfried. The movie may be a hit and it is one of my favorites, but if you take away all the laughter, and all the little catchy sayings, you would just see girls tearing each other down. In the movie, the girls wrote hateful and mean things about their school peers in the “Burn Book.” Years after the movie had been shown someone decided to make the burn book into a reality through an app.

When I was in middle school, through my freshman year of high school, I would see and hear so many girls show

or talk about what they wrote on the app. Many kids at my school would show their friends what they said about the girls they did not like and sometimes it would not just be about their peers, it would also be about the teachers they did not like at school.

Every parent tells their kids “if you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say it at all.” Which is true, but in all honesty, kids do it anyway. And sometimes when kids bully each other either it is on the computer or cellphones, face to face or gossip.

There are always consequences to everyone’s actions. And they are: Depression, self-consciousness, people cutting themselves, suicide and the most recent one that happened are school shootings. This why I try to teach my 13-year-old niece about bullying and trying not to be in that bad crowd.

When I was younger, I was bullied because I was the tallest, biggest, darkest kid in my class. For a very long time

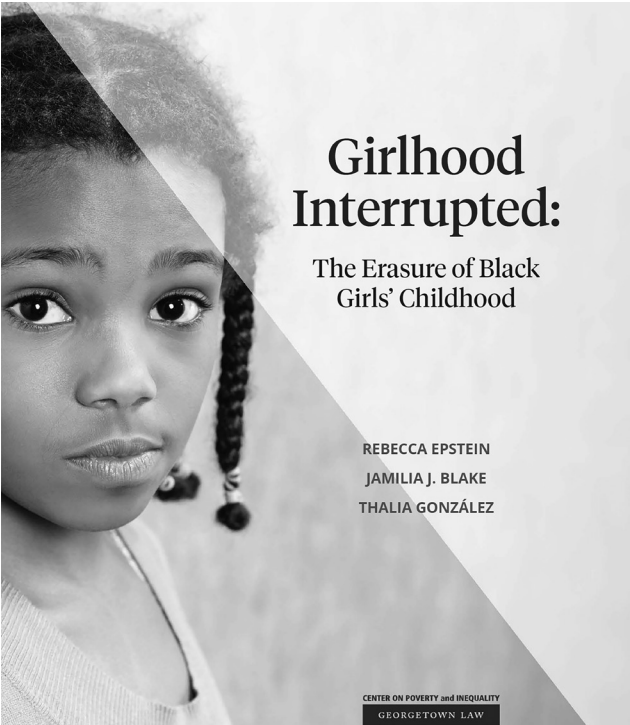
I was the only African-American person in a class with a bunch of Caucasian kids. I was different. But now, that I am 18 years old, I’ve learned that being the only Black girl in the class was not a disadvantage, it meant that I was the unique one.

If anyone remembers anything from what I am writing, I would like you to remember this: What you are being made fun of it is not YOUR problem, it’s the person who is bullying you! That’s their problem, so you keep doing you boo.

And for anyone who is bullying someone else: Listen baby, I’m going to tell you something that my grandmother used to tell me: someone will always be prettier, smaller, smarter, taller than you. But that does not mean you have to tear them down. You are special as well, learn to love yourself.

Xoxo,
Ari

Why Black Girls Experience Harsher School Punishments Than Their White Peers



Source: **Journal of Black in Higher Education (jbhe.com)**

A recent study from the Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality has found that young Black girls are perceived as less innocent and more adult-like than their White peers, especially in the 5-to-14 age range. The researchers surveyed a large group of adults from various racial and ethnic backgrounds, but the participants were predominately White women. The participants were asked to answer a questionnaire about children’s development in the 21st century and were randomly assigned to a questionnaire about either Black girls or White girls.

Across all age ranges, the participants viewed Black girls as more adult than White girls. In particular, they viewed Black girls as needing less protection and nurturing and more knowledgeable about adult and sexual topics than their White peers. This bias, the researchers suggest, may make adults less likely to believe or acknowledge Black girls’ accounts of sexual assault.

Additionally, Black girls who report sexual harassment are often told that it is their fault because of how they dress. A report from the National Women’s Law Center found that Black girls are much more likely than White girls to be removed from class or sent home due to dress code violations. They are also more likely to experience disciplinary consequences when they report that they had been sexually harassed. According to a report from Columbia Law School, when Black girls speak up about sexual misconduct, they may be viewed as “causing trouble” and are often punished rather than supported.

The findings from these three reports all suggest reasons for why Black girls disproportionately experience harsher discipline in schools than their White peers. The Georgetown report reads “Regardless of the specific context, all Black girls are entitled to, and deserve, equal treatment, including equal access to the protections that are accepted as necessary and appropriate for children. Recognizing the bias underlying the adultification of Black girls is an important step toward that goal.”

GRANTS FOR SPOKANE ARTISTS AND ARTS PROGRAMMING REQUESTS UP TO \$10,000

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Having a new baby, or know of someone who'll be bringing a new baby into their family?

Finding out there's a new baby on the way can bring on many emotions - joy, fear, uncertainty, hope. Whether a pregnancy is planned or not, many moms want to be healthier while pregnant, and want a healthy environment to bring the baby home to, so their baby can have the best start.

While some steps to get healthier may be simple to incorporate, like healthy snacks or walking, others like stopping smoking, or eliminating smoke in the baby's environment, may require a bit of assistance and support. As hard as it may be to stop smoking, think of the beautiful baby you will hold in your arms and let that be your motivation.

With Spokane's high maternal smoking rates, it's evident just how hard it can be to quit. Yet, you're not alone. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) is currently taking an active role in partnering with moms and the community to reduce these rates.

It is important work as smoking during pregnancy can be dangerous for your baby. It can cause things like your baby being born too early (premature birth), at a lower birth weight, or with a birth defect. Smoking also increases your baby's risk of dying from sudden infant death syndrome.

With this in mind, SRHD launched the most recent addition to its Done My Way campaign, featuring a young mom and her baby. Heather quit smoking while she was pregnant to help her daughter develop and grow in the healthiest environment possible. She offers tips to her peers in a powerful message meant to empower other soon-to-be moms.

Stopping smoking and use of all nicotine products, like electronic cigarettes or vapor products, is the best thing you can do for your baby's health. If you are thinking about having a new baby, now is a good time to quit. If the baby is already on the way, it is never too late to stop smoking. Heather did it, and so can you!

The health district is also sponsoring the Great American Smoke Out on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2018. This annual event positively promotes being smoke and tobacco-free. The idea is that the more tries people make to quit smoking and tobacco, the better they get at it.

On the Great American Smoke Out, people are encouraged to quit for the day or quit for good. People can stop by any of the sites listed on donemyway.org to get support and pick up a free quit kit. Quit kits are water bottles that contain gum, toothpicks, straws and more – all resources designed to help fight cravings. They also contain the number to the state quit line and a promotional card for the 2MorrowQuit app that is free to Washington state residents.

If you or someone you know smokes, and especially if there is a little one on the way, visit the campaign's website to get connected with resources today!

For more information visit donemyway.org, contact SRHD at healthycommunities@srhd.org or call (509) 324-1504.

“ME NOT
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IS A GOOD
INFLUENCE
FOR MY
DAUGHTER.”

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Earnest Parker Jr: Success Without A College Degree

By Dan Holly, Urban News Service

When Earnest Parker Jr. wanted to go to college, his parents did not have the money. Now he is earning more money than many college graduates—by owning and driving trucks.

After five years of steady work and savings, Parker had amassed enough money in his 401(k) retirement plan – with the help of his employer, who matched his contributions – to buy his first truck. He put down \$3,000 on a W900 Kenworth for \$110,000. Parker bought a second truck, a Freightliner Century, for \$30,000 in November 2017. With unmistakable pride, he jokes that his fleet "grew by 100 percent."

Working near Statesville, N.C., just north of Charlotte, Parker does not believe his lack of a degree has held him back. "For the money that I'm making, I probably wouldn't be doing too much better even if I did go to college," he said. After paying all expenses, Parker takes home about \$750 per week (roughly \$39,000 per year). "I'm pretty happy," he said. "Everybody always feels they could get a little more, but I look at what I can provide for my family and I'm really not in need."

Parker can provide hope to the growing number of Americans who cannot afford to attend college, but do have smarts, drive and ambition. He is playing his cards right, said Dr. Michael Walden, a professor of economics at North Carolina University. While many young people stress out about college debt and struggle to find jobs, many industries – like trucking – have good-paying jobs and are begging for workers. There are some 50,000 open positions for truck drivers, according to the American Trucking Association. It projects the driver shortage to grow to more than 174,000 unfilled jobs by 2026.

Not every young person needs to go to college, Walden said. "Skilled craft jobs -- particularly in construction, as well as jobs in transportation – are expected to increase by 600,000 to 700,000 positions in the next decade," Walden told the Urban News Service. "On top of that, many of the current [job] holders are older and will be retiring. Many



of these jobs can pay a 'middle class salary' – \$40,000 and over – and require two-year community college training or on-the-job training."

The average truck driver in the U.S. earns \$79,565, according to Indeed.com. Its salary estimates, the website said, "are based on 1,113,184 salaries, submitted anonymously to Indeed by truck driver employees, users, and collected from past and present job advertisements on Indeed in the past 36 months."

By contrast, recent college graduates who major in education earn \$34,981 and those who studied communications earn \$47,047, according to a recent study by National Association of Colleges and Employers. Those who studied engineering earned the most right out of college: \$64,981—still almost \$15,000 less than truck drivers. Over time, college graduates eventually out earn non-graduates, studies show. Still, those studies measure gross, pre-tax income and, generally, do not adjust for repayment of college and graduate-school debt.

Walden, who examined the future job market in his book, "North Carolina Beyond the Connected Age: The Tar Heel State in 2050," pointed out that even those who start

college don't always finish. "One-third of entering college students never graduate, some because they are not interested in college work," he said. "The skilled craft jobs are an excellent alternative." And, of course, many students never finish college – but still have the debt.

The hiring projection for college grads has decreased for the first time in eight years in 2018, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. And the average outstanding balance on student loans rose from \$9,400 in 1993 to \$28,950 in 2014, according to The Institute for College Access & Success, a national nonprofit that works to make college more affordable.

Meanwhile, as many college students worry about finding a job and stress over debt, some industries that do not require a college degree are begging for workers. The most recent report of the American Trucking Associations concludes that the trucking industry has a shortage of about 51,000 qualified drivers – "the highest level ever recorded," the report states.

Struggling to find good drivers is a fact of life for trucking companies, said Lewis Guignard, owner of Gray Rock, the company that employs Parker. "It's not terrible, but it's an-

noying," he said. Guignard doesn't think industry is quite as desperate for drivers as the trucking organization makes it out to be, and he thinks government overregulation artificially inflates the shortage.

But Guignard – whose duties include contracting for the cargo moved by 35 drivers, including Parker - wonders why more people do not pursue careers as truck drivers rather than piling up student loan debt. All it takes to work for Gray Rock is to be 21 years old, have a commercial drivers' license, one-year experience as a truck driver and a clean driving record, he said. Pay is based on number of miles driven but the average non-owner driver can expect to earn almost \$1,000 per week, and pay is rising, Guignard said. He said he doesn't know if any of his drivers have college degrees because he doesn't ask.

"There's a lot of blue collar jobs that, honestly, pay a lot better than a lot of college jobs these days," said Guignard. "If the purpose of going to college is to get a good job and support your family, you can do that with a career in trucking." Drivers can advance from driving for someone else to being an owner-operator to owning more than one truck, Guignard explained. Trucks take about a decade to pay off. When drivers own multiple trucks they can easily clear more than \$2,000 a week, he said.

Driving a truck has its disadvantages. Parker, who has four kids, acknowledged that he has missed a lot of their basketball games and other events while on the road. But drivers can avoid even that if they play their cards right. Tyris Bailey started out as a driver at age 24, became an owner-operator at 33, and now, at 44, owns three trucks. He also works out of Gray Rock's office as the company's safety director. Bailey attended community college for two years but never got a four-year degree. He seems conflicted about college. Asked if he regrets not finishing, Bailey said, "In hindsight I wish I did. I look at things and think I probably could have been more advanced. ...But I might be alright. I have friends who have master's degrees and they're doing the same I'm doing – owning trucks."

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Elmer Dixon Delivers Keynote Speech at 99th Annual NAACP Banquet

Co-Founder of Seattle's Black Panther Party Urges Audience to Become Freedom Fighters for Justice

Excerpts from Elmer Dixon's Speech:

I was asked to deliver this keynote. I wonder if they knew what they were in for. See, I'm not a politician. In the words of one of my mentors, Malcom X, I don't come to you this evening as a Democrat or Republican, nor as an elk or a lion, nor as a Methodist or a Baptist, nor as a Christian or a Jew, but I come to you as the person I was born into this world as, and that is a Black man. And the person I became when I was born into this world. A Freedom Fighter.

You see, being born Black in America means that you were born into a system where you must learn to fight early. Fight for your community. Fight for your brother and sister. Fight for humanity. So, we look at ourselves this evening and I ask what are the challenges that face us now as this election year is upon us and in two years another major election.

In 1964, Malcom X gave his now famous "Ballot or the Bullet" speech. I'm not going to give you a ballot or the bullet speech, but I'm going to give you a Ballot or Face Annihilation speech. You see, the conditions that we live under today, where a woman who is accusing someone of rape can be laughed at and ridiculed by the so-called leader of the free world; where Senior Citizens who've worked all their lives to get a retirement benefit called Social Security can be labeled as someone who is getting a hand out, what do they call it, entitlements. These conditions that we are faced with today, the atrocities that we see daily are things that are very disheartening. But I've got to tell you, growing up Black or Brown in America these are not new things. They are things that we have been faced with all of our lives. Sometimes I feel like saying, see I told you so.

We are faced with a number of choices. Yes, it's important to go to the ballot box. But it's also important to stand up and be counted. You see, if you don't speak out against the racism, the sexism, the homophobia, then you're just allowing it to continue to exist. And if you think you go to the ballot box and you change who runs the Senate or who runs the Congress or in two years you think you change who runs the country, I just want to remind you that it was ten years ago when this country elected the first visible, I say visible, Black president. (You didn't know there were a few others). And we celebrated.



We sang "At Last". We danced in the streets. We talked about the glory that was to come-- and we went to sleep. Eight years later all of the things that we were rejoicing for, all of the successes and accomplishments that were made, just about all of them have been undone.

You know, I'm not a sad person, I'm not an angry person. I've got this blue button on here. I know you can't see it, but it says 1968-2018, the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Seattle Black Panther Party. For those of you that don't know the truth, we just took our place in line. The leaders of the Pequot Indians and the Mahicans, before they were eliminated, they fought the U.S. government, but they didn't fight out of hatred. They fought out of the love for their people. When Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner refused to crawl on their knees but stood up and fought, they didn't do it because they hated someone. They did it because they loved their people. When

Sojourner Truth took her place in line. When Harriet Tubman snuck slaves out in the dark of night. Yes, she hated slavery, but she did it out of the love of for her people. When W.E.B. Dubois stood up with their colleagues to form the NAACP in 1909, they didn't do it out of hate, they did it out of the love for their community. When the people on Black Wall Street built their Black businesses, only to be bombed out and burned out, they came back and rebuilt. Not out of hate, but out of love for their community.

And when the Black Panther Party was born in 1966 and the Seattle chapter in 1968, the first chapter outside of the state of California, we weren't angry, crazy Black men and women. We didn't organize because we were full of hate. We organized because we were full of love. So, I say to you, during this election year and in two years, you will be faced with a choice, and I know many of you have been fighting already and those of you who have not, you need to be prepared to take your place in line and become freedom fighters. Freedom Fighters for Justice.

I look for something everyday to make me smile, but when I go to bed at night, I weep for the children. I have nine grandchildren. I have three great grandchildren. I weep for them and I weep for their generation because if we don't stand up and do something now, they won't have a future.

So, what are we going to do? Are we going to sit and be happy if we take back Congress or the Senate? Are we going to sit and be happy if we throw that bum out of the White House. Don't be fooled again. Don't be mislead. Don't be bamboozled. The fight will continue.

You see, I'm a marvel of modern medicine. Who in this room are Black men that are over 65, let me see your hands. We're a marvel of medicine, we should have been dead already according to statistics. Our life expectancy rate is lower than just about every population in this country, except for Native Americans. So, we have a lot to stand up and fight for, and reclaim.

Don't go to sleep. Take your rightful place as a Freedom Fighter. Stand up for love. Stand up for freedom. All power to the people!

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We Must Not Be Bystanders

Continued From Page1

The president rouses fears of an invasion of an alien caravan coming this way. He invents the claim that terrorists have infiltrated the caravan. He lies that Democrats are to blame for not fixing our laws, although he torpedoed a bipartisan reform bill. He ignores the fact that these are people seeking asylum, who will gain entry only after their applications are reviewed and accepted.

His appeals to fear are echoed and augmented by allies for partisan purpose. Their cynicism is clear. "It doesn't matter if it's 100 percent accurate. This is the play," an administration official told the Daily Beast.

Furious, the murderer in Pittsburgh, who raged about a Jewish humanitarian group that helps resettle immigrants in America, arms himself with an assault rifle and three handguns and assaults the synagogue. The president says the answer is to arm synagogues and churches and schools. Sowing division is not an accident; it is a strategy.

President Barack Obama attacked as illegitimate with the lie about his birth certificate. Neo-Nazi rioters in Charlottesville, Va., chanting "Jews will not replace us", praised as including some "fine people." The American media assailed as "the true enemy of the people," the claim of "fake news" used to discredit reporting on the inventions and lies of the president. Political opponents slandered before mass audiences. What Teddy Roosevelt called the "bully pulpit", meaning wonderful pulpit, taken over by a bully. What time is it?

The seeds of anger and hate are blowing in the wind. No wall, no boundary, no law can contain

them. What we do know, as the Bible teaches, is that we will reap what we sow. In this darkness, are we moving toward midnight or towards the dawn? We can decide. The arc of the universe, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. taught, is long but it moves towards justice, but only if we bend it that way.

This is the test of leadership. It is now that leaders must appeal to the better angels of our nature. It is now that leaders must bring us together and remind us of our common bonds. Clearly, as president, Trump has neither the intention nor the capacity to do that. He has profited from division and has no reason to change course. This is a time for others to lead, for citizens to act to bring us together.

Captive in Egypt, Israelis were asked to make brick without straw, a cruel impossibility. Under slavery and segregation, Blacks were asked to embrace democracy without the vote, a cruel impossibility. Now, however, we can vote. We can speak. We can act. We can choose to build walls or to build bridges with our voices, our votes and our marching feet. Today we feel the darkness, the hard cold of hatred and division.

Will we be a thermometer and simply record this environment or act like a thermostat and alter these conditions? Will we choose to descend further toward midnight, or choose to force the dawn? Ultimately, we will decide, by what we do and what we choose not to do, by how we vote or whether we choose not to vote, by whether we come together or whether we allow our fears to drive us apart.

Now is the time to act.

OUR VOICES

The Returning Citizen: The Weight and Response of Re-entry

By Ron Toston

In 1967 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Delivered a speech titled, “The Three Evils of Society” (War, Poverty, Racism) at the National Conference on New Politics August 31, 1967. His statements are indeed prophetic, more-so today, November 2018, as American society commences to absorb the latter phase, zeitgeist, of Mass Incarceration. Re-entry.

Twenty-five percent of Americans are in prison, in jail, or on probation. Native Americans, African Americans, Latino and Mexican men have the highest disproportionate representation in every stage of incarceration. Over the next 10-15 years most of those currently incarcerated will be released from custody.

Are we prepared to receive these men and women back into society in ways like never before?

The purpose of the MacArthur Foundation’s Safety and Justice Challenge to America is not only to change the way we think about and use Prisons and Jails, but to create a new society, and within that society, a new kind of human being.

In 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Yes the hour is dark, evil comes fourth in the guise of good.” It is a time of double talk when men in high places have a high blood pressure of deceptive rhetoric and an anemia of concrete performance.

Why in the face of a national effort to reduce the jail and prison population, in addition to reducing the disparities by race of people in jail and/or prison, would Spokane County officials unveil a charter to erect a new jail?



Now is the time for us to erase the narrative that created the long held public opinion that punishment through confinement is equal to rehabilitation. This misnomer displaces the American Dream with a lifelong Nightmare of living with conviction for so many released from jail.

A felony conviction leaves so-called free men stripped of their citizenship, and countless other rights and privileges that were once a Constitutional guarantee. This is but one of the many consequences of mass incarceration.

It is well known that the consequences of crime and the incarceration that results are extensive and long lasting to individuals and to society. For instance, the cost to the

society includes criminal justice and social service expenditures and lost tax revenues. Given the costs and consequences of crime and incarceration, effective crime prevention and intervention are imperative for the benefit of the society.

Dr. King shared in that same speech, “Racism can well be that corrosive evil that will bring down the curtain on western civilization,” while Children and Youth Services cite poverty as the number one childhood predictor of young adult crime. The time has come to eliminate racism and poverty in all of its ugly forms, throughout the criminal justice system as well as throughout all of our American structures and institutions.

Dr King adds “we have come here because we share a common concern for the moral health of our nation. We have come because our eyes have seen through the superficial glory and glitter of our society and observed the coming of judgment. Like the prophet of old, we have read the handwriting on the wall. We have seen our nation weighed in the balance of history and found wanting. We have come because we see this as a dark hour in the affairs of men.”

Our current civilization does not have to fail or fall for us to create a new society. The decline of civilizations, according to Arnold Toynesbee, was not caused by external invasion, but by internal decay. They failed to respond creatively to the challenges placed upon them. If America does not respond creatively to the challenge of banishing racism, addressing poverty and preparing for those who were formerly incarcerated to rejoin the society, then some future historian will have to say, that “a great civilization died because it lacked the soul and commitment to make justice a reality for all men.”

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round

By Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq.

(TriceDneyWire.com) – Those of us who grew up during the Civil Rights Movement will remember a song called “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round.” Every time I think about the chaotic situation we are going through in this country with a person in the White House who is leading the charge to turn everything our ancestors worked for around, I am reminded of the words: “Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me ‘round, turn me ‘round. Ain’t gonna let nobody turn me round. I’m gonna keep on walking, keep on talking marching into freedom land.” More verses were often added as appropriate, such as no jailhouse, no policeman, no whatever was working to keep our people in slavery.

Today, we could add the words such as no president, no republican, no racist and more. Somehow, we need to develop the kind of determination and courage our ancestors had. They faced danger far greater than anything we face today, but we need to conquer whatever fear we have, suck it up and work to get all righteous people out to vote November 6th, work to restore the Voting Rights Act, work to make Election Day a holiday so no boss can refuse to allow you to be off work on Election Day. We must work to get rid of the barriers to voting. Only 56% of eligible voters cast a ballot in 2016, and look what we got! That has to be added to the Russian interference in the election. Too many people who mean us no good are actually benefiting from our not voting.



Did you see those senior citizens in Georgia actually rejoicing when evil forces tried to prevent them from voting? When they were ordered off that bus that had been arranged to take them to vote, they just got off rejoicing and making it clear that nobody was going to turn them around.

They remember when our ancestors struggled, but kept on fighting. That’s the spirit we must have again. Every time somebody closes a door to us, let’s unite and make an entrance where there might never have been one before.

Every time old man Jim Brown and a troubled Kanye West go to the White House to hug and praise a man who means evil not only for us, but for all non-white people, for women, for poor people, for young people and for souls who see wrong and try to right it, our efforts to do what is right are weakened. Let’s commit to lessen the reasons why so many people don’t see a reason for voting. We must work for campaign finance reform, for more convenient times and places for everyone to vote, for better ways to fund elections so that the people hurt most by elections can run for office and change what must be changed. If we don’t take action on some of these things, only the powerful will continue to benefit from our inaction. Our democracy will be destroyed. More people will lose faith in voting, and that’s exactly what the most powerful want us to do. They want us to stay home so that they can continue to rule and control our conditions.

Those seniors in Georgia have lessons to teach those who don’t vote. They remember well when people who look like us couldn’t vote, and now have decided that no matter what the challenge is, they must vote, and they “ain’t gonna let nobody turn them round.” Let us applaud them and learn from them so that we can make this world better for all of us.

Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq. is National President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. www.nationalcongressbw.org 202/678-6788. She is host of “Wake Up and Stay Woke” every Wednesday at 10 am on WPFM-FM 89.3 and wpfwfm.org.

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OUR VOICES

Why Are Nonwhite Men Joining White Supremacist Groups?

By David A. Love, JD

(blackcommentator.com) - The notion of Black and Latino men participating in white supremacist hate groups conjures images of Spike Lee’s film “BlacKkKlansman,” a comedic dramatization of the real-life story of Ron Stallworth, a Black detective who goes undercover and infiltrates the Klan. Even more outlandish is comedian Dave Chappelle’s depiction of Clayton Bigsby, a fictional blind Black man who is a Klansman. However, the concept of a Black white supremacist is not so far-fetched as many would think, as pro-Trump, white supremacist gangs with Republican Party affiliations are engaging in street violence against anti-fascist protesters — with the participation of Latino and Black members.

Two of the fascist groups in question are Proud Boys and Patriot Prayer. Proud Boys was founded in 2016 during the presidential election campaign by VICE Media co-founder Gavin McInnes. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, the group rejects the notion they are members of the racist alt-right movement, insisting instead they are a fraternal organization following an “anti-white guilt” and “anti-political correctness” agenda. Further, while Proud Boys seek mainstream appeal, McInnes, who has appeared often on Fox News, has ties to the white supremacist movement and the racist right, enjoys making Nazi salutes, and uses the word n****r. Additionally, the Islamophobic and misogynistic group helped organize and participated in the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. This despite the fact the Proud Boys formally opposed the Charlottesville event.

Nonwhite members are allowed to join Proud Boys — whose initiation ritual involves beatings — provided they “recognize that white men are not the problem.” While the group boasts multi-ethnic membership, “their ‘Western chauvinist’ rhetoric and hard-right stances have made them the new crossover point from reactionary conservatism to full-blown, street-fighting fascism,” according to Truthout.

“I love being white and I think it’s something to be very proud of,” McInnes once told The New York Times, adding, “I don’t want our culture diluted. We need to close the borders now and let everyone assimilate to a Western, white, English-speaking way of life,” McInnes once said. Proud Boys attracted attention recently when they joined forces with neo-Nazi skinheads and assaulted protesters following McInnes’ appearance at the establishment-elite Metropolitan Republican Club in Manhattan in New York. Although 30 of the gang members violently beat sever-



al protesters, the NYPD made no arrests of the neo-fascists. Enrique Tarrio, president of the Miami chapter of the Proud Boys, is a self-identified Afro-Cuban who participated in the Charlottesville protests, and was one of dozens of Black, Latino and Asian participants in an August 4 right-wing extremist rally in Portland, as part of a phenomenon known as “multiracial white supremacy.”

Meanwhile, Patriot Prayer is a radical right group that has attracted crowds along the West Coast, and whose members include Trump supporters and white nationalists. The group built a reputation for joining forces with the alt-right and picking fights with anti-fascist protesters in cities such as Portland.

Patriot Prayer’s front-man had been Tusitala “Tiny” Toese, a Samoan brawler who later joined the Proud Boys and calls himself “a brown brother for Donald Trump.” The group has drawn concerns because of their violent and controversial protest tactics, including bringing a cache of guns to a recent protest, and planned protests on college campuses to protest age restrictions on semiautomatic rifles. Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson — who is half-Japanese and has attracted neo-Nazis and neo-Confederates to his rallies — lost his Republican primary bid for the U.S. Senate in Washington state.

Some white supremacist groups have found common cause with Latinos, as Mic reported, with the result being

that Latino white supremacy may not necessarily be a contradiction in terms. A number of participants in the Charlottesville rally were Latino and Afro-Latino and participated in the racial violence and were arrested. This reflects the reality that an increasing number of Latinos, including Afro-Latinos, consider themselves white and believe others perceive them as white in a nation they view as a European nation, one in which those who are not white are rendered a “nonentity.”

George Zimmerman, who killed Trayvon Martin, is of Afro-Peruvian descent, yet became a cause célèbre for white supremacists. Zimmerman made and sold Confederate flag art to raise legal fees for his murder case, with a “Muslim-free” gun store in Florida selling his rebel flag prints. Meanwhile, at the recent confirmation hearings of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, his former clerk Zina Bash — who is Mexican and Jewish — was accused of making white supremacist hand gestures twice as she sat within camera view behind the judge during his televised testimony.

Some people of color may be drawn to white supremacy and the fringe right due to their identification with nationalism, patriotism, conservatism and the military. According to David Neiwert, author of *Alt-America: The Rise of the Radical Right in the Age of Trump*, “The ranks of people of color who show up to these right-wing events are totally dominated by males.” The alt-right targets white men with a message of male resentment, and some Black, Asian and Latino men, some of whom were raised in conservative environments, are attracted to the message. Video-game culture and conspiracy theory websites are common entry points for white nationalism.

The role of historically oppressed groups in perpetuating white supremacy is nothing new. However, the rise of Black and Latino white supremacist gang members and neo-Nazi street brawlers is brand new and deserves our attention.

This commentary was originally published by AtlantaBlackstar.com

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The Real Deal in Politics

By A. Peter Bailey

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - With the midterm elections Nov. 6, we Black folks should pay serious attention to observations made by Dr. William Scarborough, President of Wilberforce University and by Professor Harold Cruse in his book, "Plural but Equal".

In his February 11, 1899 speech at a Lincoln Day celebration, Dr. Scarborough included the following:

“I would be false to the race and my own convictions did I not pause to give the warning that, after all, neither parties nor politics alone can save the Negro. He needs to make a new start in his civil and political career. He must pay less attention to politics and more to business, to industry, to education, to the building up of a strong and sturdy manhood everywhere - to the assimilation generally of all that goes to de-

mand the world’s respect and consideration. He must lop off, as so many incubi, the professional Negro office-seeker, the professional Negro office-holder, and the Negro politician who aspires to lead the race for the revenue that is in it. The best men, the wisest, the most unselfish, and above all, the men of the most profound integrity, and uprightness, must take the helm or retrogression will be the inevitable result.”

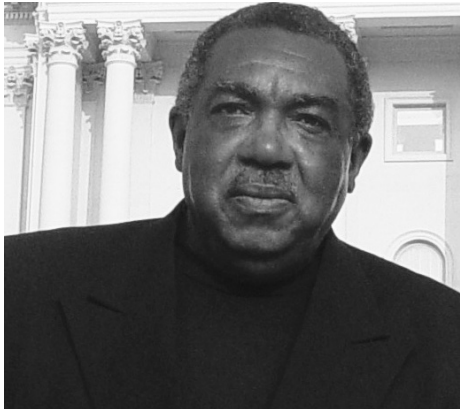
Professor Cruse, a visionary political theorist, noted the following in his 1987 book:

“In the game of electoral politics, Black leadership has had no issues of political leverage, only numerical voting strength. However, this voting strength has never been predicated on a political power base grounded in tangible economic, administrative, cultural, or social policy issues with the viability of forcefully influencing public policy.

Hence, merely winning public office became the one and only tangible goal for Black polit-

ical leaders. Beyond that, Black office holders possessed only the pretense of being backed up by substantive political power bases representing issues that would impact on public policy. Thus, the continuing emphasis on the mobilization of Black voting strength; thus the ongoing campaign for Black voter registration; thus the empty threat that the maximization of Black voting strength would somehow alter the course of American political history in race and minority-group issues.

However, the Civil Rights Acts of 1964-1965 promised no such grandiose affirmation of potential Black political power. While the Voting Rights Act of 1963 did in fact, speed up the mobilization of Black voting strength, and opened the doors to the unprecedented growth in numbers of Black Elected Officials (BEOs), these BEOs were catapulted into office as symbols of Black civil rights coming-of-age. But, with rare exceptions, they brought nothing with them into political office that bore the least resemblance to Black economic, political, and cultural pro-



gram that meant much to anybody friend or foe, Black or white, beyond the politically mundane business as usual stance of the liberal consensus.

Following the Sixties, Black politicians were suggestive of military leaders whose armies were forever in training (voter registration) but were never readied for participation in the field of battle for substantive goals worth fighting for.”

Think about these expressions as you prepare to vote.

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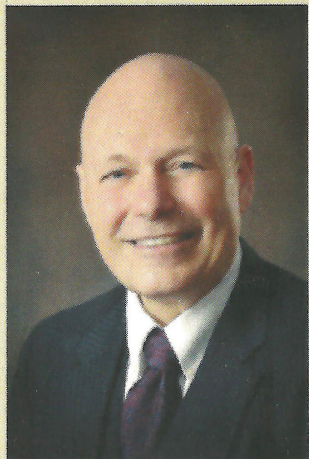
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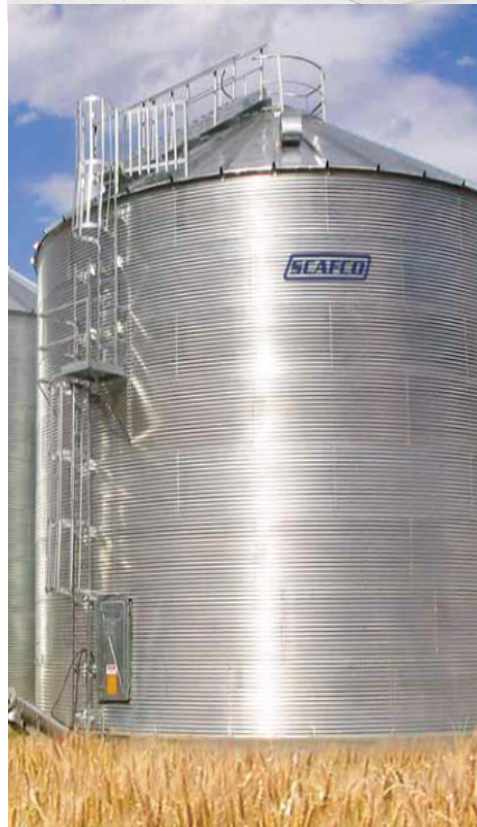
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Who we are looking for: The ideal candidates will be mission-driven with a desire to make a difference for people and communities served by LCS Northwest. The ideal candidates will be sensitive and respectful of all people.

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A completed Transitions application, cover letter, and resume are required in order to be considered for any position.

Email these items to: jobs@help4women.org, with the job title in the subject line. Please **DO NOT** hand deliver, mail, or fax.

Transitions employment applications and complete job description are available online at <http://help4women.org>.

Positions are open until filled.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

NOVEMBER 1

SRLJC RACIAL EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE

The mission of the SJRLC Racial Equity subcommittee is to develop a clear and complete action plan to address the disproportionate impact on people of color within our regional criminal justice system as a matter of fairness and integrity.
11:30am-1:30pm
The Gathering House
733 W. Garland Avenue, Spokane, WA 99205
For more information about the Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council (SRLJC) visit <https://www.spokanecounty.org/875/SRLJC>

NOVEMBER 1

COMEDY NIGHT AT HOUSE OF SOUL

Hosted by Dvir Abrams. Headlining is Carter Anderson, a Portland based comedian originally from Texas, described as 'def comedy jam in a library,' also featuring Tracy Jazzzo.
8-9:30pm
House of Soul
120 N Wall St, Spokane, WA 99201
Minimum Age: 21. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$5 online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3716457>. For more information contact D.Abrams Comedy Productions at 509-904-7447 or DvirAbrams@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 14

FUSE BOOK CLUB

Don't Call Us Dead by Danez Smith

Discussing a book of poetry that was a National Book Award finalist. The Fuse Book Club meets the second Wednesday of every month to expand our knowledge and deepen, the connections we have to each other & our community.
6:00pm -8:00pm
Spokane Public Library (Downtown)
Board Room, top level
906 W. Main Street, Spokane
Free and open to the public. Questions email Erin at EJToungate@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 15

COMEDY NIGHT AT HOUSE OF SOUL

Hosted by Dvir Abrams. Headlining is Tyrone Collins and featuring Lucas Prahm.
8-9:30pm
House of Soul
120 N Wall St, Spokane, WA 99201
Minimum Age: 21. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$5 online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3716457>. For more information contact D.Abrams Comedy Productions at 509-904-7447 or DvirAbrams@gmail.com.

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

NOVEMBER 17

WHY RACE MATTERS WORKSHOP

Sponsored by Greater Spokane Progress, the workshop helps our community develop a collective understanding and common language around institutional and structural racism, and why addressing race matters by using the acclaimed documentary "Race: The Power of an Illusion." The workshop is led by a multi-racial team of local facilitators
9am - 4pm
Saranac Building - Learning Studio - 3rd Floor
25 W. Main Avenue, Spokane
Cost: \$20-\$40, scholarships are available on a case-by-case basis. To request, contact Anne at anne@spokanepprogress.org or call 509-624-5657. Registration deadline: 11/12/18.

NOVEMBER 17

BLACK VIOLIN CLASSICAL BOOM TOUR

Black Violin is returning to Spokane as a part of their "Classical Boom Tour." Black Violin features classically trained violist and violinist Wil Baptiste and Kev Marcus who combine classical and hip-hop influences to create a distinctive multi-genre sound
8pm
Fox Theater
1001 W Sprague Ave, Spokane, WA 99201
For tickets <https://foxtheaterspokane.org> or call 509-624-1200.

NOVEMBER 19

NAACP MONTHLY MEETING

Join the NAACP for our monthly general membership meeting.
7:00pm
Community Building
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>

NOVEMBER 27

POWER 2 THE POETRY OPEN MIC

Native American Heritage Month Open Mic
Join Power 2 The Poetry for our monthly open mic. We will be having a special guests in honor of Native American Heritage Month.
5:45 - 7:30pm
Downtown Spokane Public Library - 3rd Floor
906 W Main Ave, Spokane, Washington 99201
[Learn more at power2thepoetry.com](http://power2thepoetry.com)

Remember To **VOTE**
On or Before
November 6
#NoExcuses

POETRY RISING ON THE NORTHSIDE



Bob Bartlett will presenting a one man rendition of Thurgood Marshall and Poet Stephen Pitters will be sharing excerpts from his manuscripts: "Prerecorded", "Eye of the Spirit" & "Library Scroll".

November 21
6:30pm
Barnes & Noble Bookstore
Northtown Mall

Stephen Pitters is the host of Spokane Open Poetry on KYRS Radio. For information e-mail spokaneopenpoetry@kyrs.org.



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A BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION

Join The Black Lens for an evening of spoken word, readings and reflections as we celebrate African American women and the release of Michelle Obama's new memoir- **Becoming**.

Tuesday, November 13

6-8pm

Aunties Bookstore - Mezzanine
402 W. Main Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201
Free and open to the public.

For more information contact the Black Lens at 509-795-1964 or sandy@blacklensnews.com.

BLACK VIOLIN

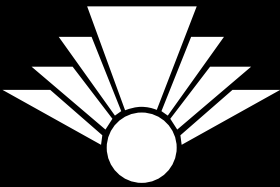
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—The Miami Herald



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