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NAACP Petition To DOJ Reaches One Million Signatures

Petition urges the DOJ to file charges against George Zimmerman for the egregious violation of Trayvon Martin's civil rights

The NAACP's petition to the Department of Justice asking for federal charges, including civil rights charges, to be filed against George Zimmerman has reached one million signatures.

This major milestone was reached in just two and a half days. The petition was set up on Saturday evening shortly after the verdict finding George Zimmerman not guilty in the murder of Trayvon Martin was read.

NAACP Chairperson Roslyn M. Brock was thankful for the support the petition has received. "The support our petition has received shows the mindset of the American public, who are tired of a system of justice that allows for appalling verdicts like the one we saw on Saturday."

NAACP President Ben Jealous addressed the specifics of the NAACP's request.

"It is clear George Zimmerman's bias played a major role in the events that led to the death of Trayvon Martin. A cousin called the police days after the murder and said, 'I think he did this because of race.' He had previously called the police dozens of times, disproportionately about young men of color who he thought were suspect. George Zimmerman himself stated on the night of the attack, 'These punks always get away with this.' The law says you must be able to show that race was a factor and that bodily harm was done. We believe there is enough evidence to satisfy this standard."

People can still sign the petition, which will remain active and open until the Department of Justice completes their case. You can sign the petition by visiting: naacp.org/The-DOJ-Petition Or text "JUSTICE" to 62227.

Young Seattlelites Have Mixed Feelings About Zimmerman Acquital

By Mariah Beverly
Seattle Medium Intern

Last weekend, George Zimmerman, the man who shot and killed 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, was found not guilty of second-degree murder and manslaughter in a case that has been headlining the news all over the country. There have been many public and formal debates on a list of aspects associated with the case. Some believe it was a hate crime, some believe the judicial system is corrupted and that the "Stand Your Ground" law needs to be reformed, and others believe it was simply another example of how African Americans continue to fight a losing battle for equality in America

Zimmerman claimed to have spotted Martin walking down the street in Sanford, FL in a suspicious manner, and called the police. The policed instructed Zimmerman not to pursue Martin and to stay in his vehicle, and Zimmerman disregarded these instructions. He then followed and approached Martin, who was unarmed, and shot him, after an altercation between the two. Zimmerman's defense was that he was protected under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, which states that if you feel as though your life is in danger you can use deadly force to defend yourself. As a result, the "stand your ground" law is at the center of the controversy surrounding this case.

In rallies all over the country, people carried signs and walked the streets of their communities to support their disdain with the law and its impact on the verdict of the Zimmerman case.

Aunjoli Jean-Pierre, a 22-year-old African American, thinks that if Zimmerman hadn't approached Martin at all the confrontation that led to the death of Trayvon Martin would not have taken place.

"Stand your ground shouldn't even be in question, everyone says Zimmerman was defending himself, but he approached Martin, even when he was told not to," said Pierre. "Who's to say Martin didn't act in self defense? No one."

Another aspect of conversation is the issue of race. Zimmerman is said to have a Latino background, enough to make him a minority. Though this may be true, many African Americans believe that Zimmerman, despite having a mother who is Latino, cherishes a lifestyle of entitlement bestowed upon him by his father, also known as "White privledge."

Anna Sneed, an 18-year-old African American, believes that any situation where an African American is the victim of a crime committed by a Caucasian person, the African American will be envisioned in a negative spotlight by the society, the media, and sometimes even the African American community. Sneed, like many of her peers, believes that although Martin had a clean record, was a good student, and was unarmed the night of his death, he was still seen as another black kid whose life has little or no value. According to Sneed, that fact in itself allowed Martin to be portrayed as the villain and Zimmerman as a good Samaritan turned victim.

"It's all about privilege," says Sneed. "They're going to bring up every bit of dirt they can on Trayvon, even if there isn't any, to justify this White man taking a Black child's life."

"Zimmerman is living the privileged life, he doesn't have to worry about anyone bringing up his dirt, they wouldn't, and they won't," she added.

There are many, including some African American youth, who believe that the trial was not based on race, but also believe that the final verdict was not fair.

"No one can say what happened that night besides Zimmerman, and being fair, he could support everything he said. It had nothing to do with race; he was protected by the law," said 19-year-old Bakari Hayes.

Although Hayes does not agree with the verdict, he believes taking the life of an innocent child is not acceptable in any situation.

"As a young African American man in America, it hurts to see that my life doesn't have much more worth (than that) in a court room, or even walking down the street in a hoodie," says Hayes, regarding how unsafe he feels walking around his community. "I knew the system was messed up, this only confirmed it for me."

Hayes is one of the many young African American males who were affected emotionally and mentally by this trial. Tre'zhan Blair, 18, says " There had to have been something that he could've done before he shot (Trayvon) Martin, the fact that he

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National Protests Of Zimmerman Verdict Planned For Saturday

By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Demonstrations are planned for 100 cities this Saturday, July 20, to protest George Zimmerman's acquittal for murder and manslaughter in connection with the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla. and to urge the Justice Department to investigate whether Martin's civil rights were violated.

On Saturday night, an all-female jury acquitted Zimmerman of all charges, freeing him from further criminal prosecution in Florida.

At a rally in front of the Justice Department Tuesday, Rev. Al Sharpton, president of the National Action Network (NAN), announced that "Justice For Trayvon" prayer vigils will take place in front of federal buildings in 100 cities on Saturday to add pressure on the Justice Department to bring a civil case against Zimmerman.

NAN planning a statewide drive in Florida against its "Stand Your Ground" law. a movement that can be spread to 28 other states that have similar laws.

Speaking at the centennial celebration of Delta Sigma Theta sorority in Washington on Monday, Holder said, the Justice Department would "continue to act in a manner that is consistent with the facts and the law."

He said, "We are determined to meet division and confusion with understanding and compassion — and also with truth. We are resolved, as you are, to combat violence involving or directed at young people, to prevent future tragedies and to deal with the underlying attitudes, mistaken beliefs and stereotypes that serve as the basis for these too common incidents. And we will never stop working to ensure that — in every case, in every circumstance, and in every community — justice must be done."

Holder addressed the annual convention of the NAACP Tuesday in Orlando, not far from where Trayvon Martin was killed by Zimmerman as he returned from a nearby convenience store to purchase a bag of Skittles and a can of ice tea.

Benjamin Crump, the lead attorney for the Martin family, said Zimmerman racially profiled Martin because he was an African-American youth dressed in a hoodie-style sweat shirt.

"That's profiling. And there's a big question whether that's allowed, and so I think the Justice Department should look at that," he said on CNN's "New Day."



Supporters of Trayvon Martin around the nation are expressing their outrage. *Photo/Duane Fernandez, Sr./The Florida Courier.*

Crump, who has likened Martin's death to those of civil rights icons Medgar Evers and Emmett Till, told reporters that the dead teenager's parents, Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton, will weigh their options about whether to file a wrongful death civil lawsuit against Zimmerman. He said Sybrina Fulton was devastated by the verdict.

"She cried, she prayed to God, and then she cried some more," Crump recounted. "She said, 'I will not let this verdict define Trayvon. We will define our son Trayvon's legacy."

Shortly after the trial, Tracy Martin tweeted. "God blessed Me & Sybrina with Tray and even in his death I know my baby proud of the FIGHT we along with all of you put up for him GOD BLESS."

Since the verdict, there have been dozens of demonstrations across the country, most of them peaceful. More than 2,000 distraught demonstrators gathered in front of the CNN Center in Atlanta. At a demonstration in front of the Justice Department Monday, Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative said, "We want the Justice Department to assure that other African-American males will not be killed because they ran into a White American who was afraid of their presence."

In one of the rare demonstrations involving violence, a few protesters hurled flashlight batteries, rocks and chunks of concrete toward police in Los Angeles. Police responded by shooting bean bags at the unruly protesters. Less than a dozen people were arrested at the otherwise peaceful rally.

At emotional rallies around the nation, some protesters carried bags of Skittles, the candy that Trayvon Martin bought just minutes before his death on that rainy night, and others wore hoodies, a garment Martin was wearing when he was killed.

Dominating the airwaves and social media, many are making their voice heard.

A petition by the NAACP on moveon.org requesting a Justice Department investigation into the case has drawn more than 500,000 signatures. Another petition on the site called for a boycott of Florida, similar to the successful one launched against Arizona when it refused to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

"Florida is not a safe place to take your family for vacation as long as Florida law permits a citizen to shoot or kill you for merely looking suspicious, and to do it with impunity," the petition says. "Boycott Florida tourism until this dangerous law is overturned. If the murder of Trayvon Martin isn't enough to get lawmakers' attention, maybe a loss of revenue to the state would be."

In a statement, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) Chairman Cloves Campbell, Jr., publisher of the *Arizona Informant*, said:

"Like many Americans, particularly African-Americans, I am deeply disappointed that George Zimmerman has been acquitted of murder and manslaughter charges and is now enjoying his freedom after killing an unarmed, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin whose only "crime" was walking while Black.

"Because of Zimmerman's unjustified actions, Martin, who was returning from a trip to a local convenience store when he was profiled by Zimmerman, will never get the chance to celebrate another birthday or experience the joy of earning a high school or college diploma or to even be hugged or kissed by his loving parents. His young life was taken away by a neighborhood watch captain who kept a close watch on African-Americans who had as much right as he had to be in that Sanford, Fla. neighborhood.

"Zimmerman ended Trayvon's life, but he will not and cannot terminate our unceasing quest to be respected as human beings. We join with the NAACP and other civil rights groups in requesting the United States Department of Justice to continue its investigation into

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Sanford Residents Worried About Their City's Future

By James Harper
Special to the NNPA from the Florida Courier

SANFORD, FLA. – Now that George Zimmerman has been found not guilty and the news media are packing to leave Sanford, residents are concerned about the future of their city and the lives of other Black teens who may be walking their streets and are killed on their way home.

While being interviewed at the Goldsboro Community Center in Sanford awaiting the Zimmerman verdict July 12, Don Brown asked the Florida Courier, "Where do we go after this is over? When the news media blows over? Two, three, five years down the road, are we going to go back to business as usual?"

Sanford resident Brown was on "verdict watch" with many other community members at the local center, and said there was no winner after the verdict.

"I would have been scared too, because of the system that exists," Brown said, adding that now is the time to discuss the racial issues that exist in this community of approximately 50,000 – with a 30 percent Black population.

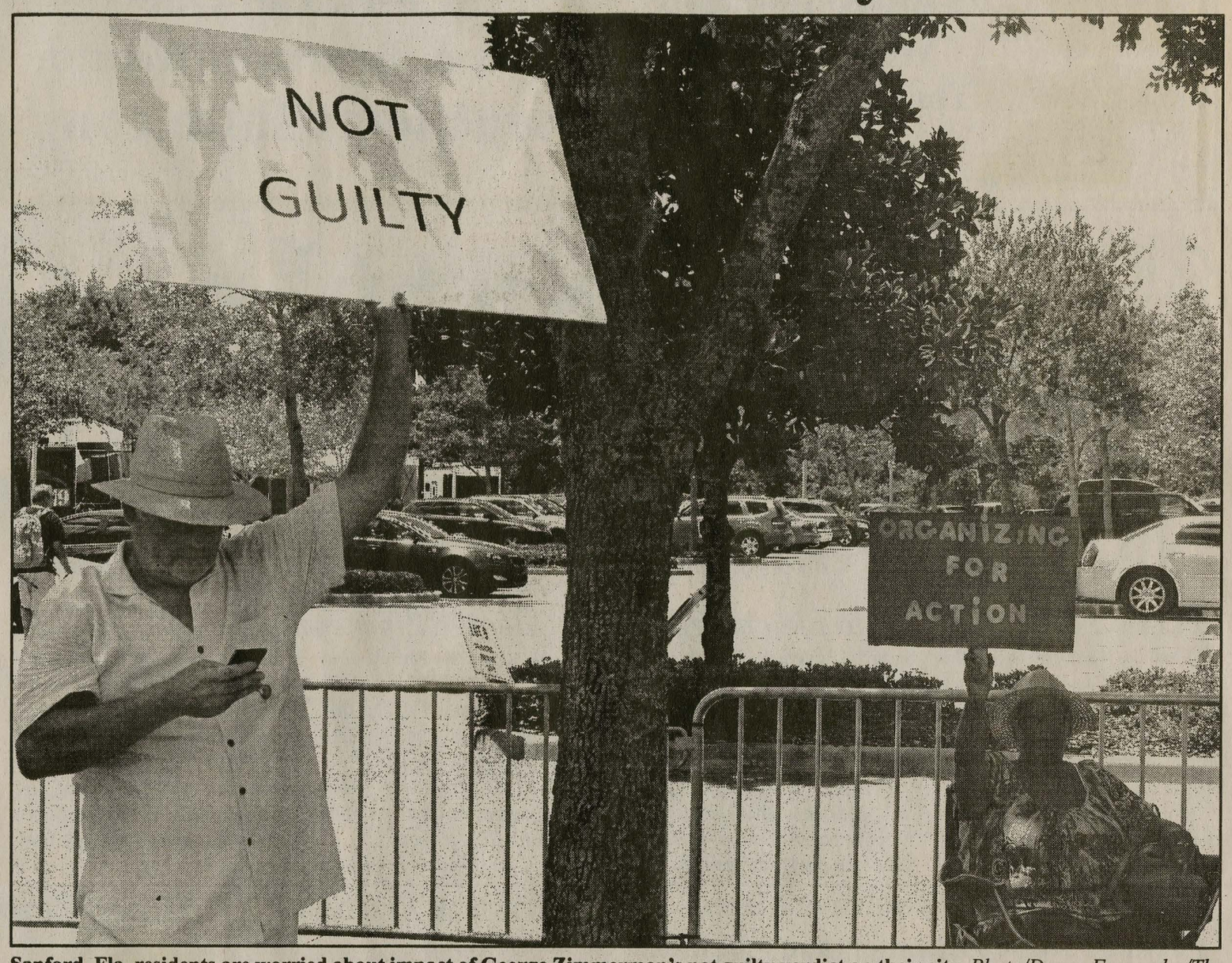
Brown said there are divisions between Blacks and Whites, and it upsets him when he hears Whites don't want to talk about the mistreatment of Blacks historically.

"Slavery was part of our history. Jews don't let you forget about the Holocaust," he declared.

Sanford resident Cheryl Smith, a retired correction officer, was also at the Goldsboro Center on verdict watch. She reflected on the jury's decision.

"It could have been a child coming from church, school. Zimmerman should have exercised caution, asked some pertinent questions. Problems have been existing (in Sanford). No one was surprised what happened (to Trayvon). (This) city is governed by some, for some," Smith noted.

James Davis, 65, a retired insurance adjuster, said what happened to Martin since he was shot was "part of a government breakdown."



Sanford, Fla. residents are worried about impact of George Zimmerman's not guilty verdict on their city. *Photo/Duane Fernandez/The Florida Courier*

"We went to the mayor, to the city manager, to get charges brought. We pursued issues in a logical manner. Police refused to arrest Zimmerman. The state attorney refused to bring charges. We had to go public (to get Zimmerman arrested)," Davis said. (Former Police Chief) Bill Lee would not have had Zimmerman face any charges.

"We have a new Black police chief and a Black city manager because of a history of injustice," said Davis, noting that City Manager Norton Bonaparte was hired two years ago and Police Chief Cecil Smith, who replaced Lee, was hired to reduce tension in the city after pressure was applied from local Black leaders.

Davis said they are still working on getting more Blacks hired to work for the city.

"We don't have jobs representing the city's Black population in our city's work force," he said.

"I always thought Zimmerman should have been charged with manslaughter. We still don't know if George Zimmerman pulled his gun (before being on the ground). Zimmerman was never drug-tested. We only have the version (of events) of the killer," Davis concluded.

Tina Eudell, a victim service advocate, is worried about her grandson who is 16.

"He could be treated like Trayvon because he is Black. If the law doesn't change, they are not going to change. Self-defense is a big lie. Trayvon had to defend himself," said Eudell.

William Taylor, a retired Seminole County school teacher, says the "good old boys" in Sanford have to be brought down.

"Unfair treatment has to end. He (Zimmerman) profiled him, stalked him, killed him. We have been going through this for years. Killing Black boys and beating them before they get to the county jail," he said.

"The same thing happening here is happening everywhere else."

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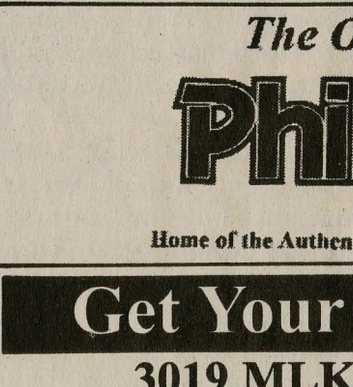
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King County Woman Charged With Medicaid Fraud

OLYMPIA— On Monday, the Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) filed felony criminal charges against a King County caregiver in Thurston County Superior Court.

Burnice R. Thompson was a paid caregiver for her grandmother, a Medicaid recipient who passed away in November 2012. She is charged with one count of Theft in the First Degree and two counts of Medicaid False Statement for continuing to bill Medicaid for care hours two months after her grandmother had passed away, costing the Medicaid program $6,152.38.

Arraignment will be set for Tuesday, July 30, at the Thurston County Courthouse.

Mayor's Office For Senior Citizens Offers Advice On Estate Planning, Legal Issues

The Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens is now hosting the Senior Rights Assistance Program. Senior Rights Assistance is a program of Senior Services that provides trained volunteers to assist with information about:
- Estate planning (including wills, powers of attorney and health care directives)
- Guardianship
- Landlord/tenant concerns
- Elder law attorney referrals

To make an appointment with a Senior Rights Assistance volunteer at the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens, call (206) 684-0500, or e-mail seniors@seattle.gov.

Young Seattlelites

Continued From Front Page

pulled out a gun on a child is enough, to me, for it to be a hate crime."

When asked how this case would affect his future, Blair states; "As a Black boy, I'm already scared for my life when I walk down the street, but what scares me even more is I'm used to it, and this case shows me that nothing can be done about it."

The outcome of the trial also has Blair fearful of residing in the State of Florida. Blair was considering attending school in Miami – where he had a full scholarship, but now he is reconsidering that decision.

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Nearly 7,000 Seniors In Washington Don't Pass Math Exam

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
Associated Press

(AP) - Just as Washington state officials predicted, most of Washington's high school seniors are passing the statewide exams required to graduate. But that fact doesn't make life any easier for the nearly 7,000 students in the Class of 2013 who have yet to pass the newly required math test and didn't get their diplomas in June.

This year's graduating class was the first that had to pass either an algebra or geometry test in addition to previous requirements that included reading and writing exams.

Of the 71,671 students who stayed in school until the end of their senior year, more than 4,100 didn't meet their math test requirement and another 2,700 never even attempted the exams, according to data released recently by the state education department to The Associated Press.

Some ``seniors'' will continue to work toward graduation by attending another year of high school, according to Nathan Olson, spokesman for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. State law promises a free public education until age 21 for people who have not earned a diploma or GED.

Of the nearly 7,000 who didn't meet their math test requirement in time to graduate in June, some will find out by August the results of a late spring exam or the graduation portfolio alternative called the collection of evidence.

The numbers are better than they were at the start of spring, between April 1 and June 6 more than 2,000 students received some good news, learning they met the state math requirement and graduated on time.

Overall, about 90 percent of Washington state seniors met the math standard by passing either the algebra or geometry exam or an approved alternative. That's an improvement over a 71 percent passage rate on the algebra test and a 79 percent pass rate on the geometry test in 2012, the year before math became a graduation requirement.

Pass rates for writing and reading have been above 90 percent for the past few years. Students are given multiple chances to meet their graduation testing requirements. There are also various alternatives such as scoring well on the SAT or turning in a portfolio of academic work.

``Our teachers, students and families should be proud of their accomplishments,'' said Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn, when this year's test results were announced in late June.

``But I don't want the students who dropped out of school to be forgotten,'' he added.

More than 380 students who started their senior year in fall 2012 dropped out or transferred before June, Olson said. That number doesn't include the students who dropped out in their freshman, sophomore or junior years.

Dorn has made increasing the number of Washington students who graduate from high school _ in four years or longer_ a top priority of his administration. The state's five-year graduation rate has been inching toward 80 percent over the past few years.

The numbers for the class of 2013 won't be announced until early next year.

Of those in the Class of 2013 who didn't make it to commencement, some transferred to private schools, which usually don't require students to meet state graduation requirements to earn a diploma.

Bob Hagin, founder and principal of Northwest Liberty School, a mostly online private high school in Woodinville, says his program helps hundreds of seniors finish their public school work online or in a small learning lab. For students who just can't fulfill all the state requirements, Hagin offers a private school diploma.

Hagin said his empathy for struggling students led him to start his school a few years ago, after more than 20 years in public education.

``I think they should be able to come to the finish line after 13 years of hard work,'' Hagin said.

UW To Pay $15M After Medical Mistake

(AP) - The University of Washington will pay $15.2 million in a medical malpractice judgment after a mistake caused a debilitating brain damage to a girl in 2008.

The sum ordered Friday by a King County judge is one of the largest medical malpractice payments in state history, The Seattle Times reported Saturday.

The settlement stems from the case of MacKenzie Briant, who five years ago was being treated for a heart defect at Seattle Children's hospital. After she got a cold, her mother consulted with doctors who had treated her, but miscommunication between two cardiologists led them to prescribe a nasal spray that blocked MacKenzie's breathing. The prolonged lack of oxygen caused brain damage.

For her mother, MacKenzie's early history makes what happened even more painful.

MacKenzie, born with a heart defect in 2004, had survived a heart transplant early in life. By 2008, before her injury, she had nearly caught up with her peers, delighting in the attention she received from her parents and giggling during ``sword fights'' with her older brother, Ethan, in their Snoqualmie, Wash. home.

``Oh my God, she lived through half a heart for almost 4 months. She had a heart transplant, for God's sake. She's been a fighter and working so hard her whole life,'' Elaine Briant said.

Now 8, MacKenzie is unable to walk or talk or swallow, and doctors say she will require round-the-clock nursing care for the rest of her life.

Initially, the official stance of the UW and Seattle Children's — that MacKenzie's injuries were not caused by the nasal spray but by breathing complications from her earlier transplant — plunged the family into constant battles with insurers, Briant said.

At the trial in King County Superior Court, the lawyer representing Seattle Children's and the University of Washington, which employed the doctors, was frank in his opening statement.

``The very first thing I want to say on behalf of both Seattle Children's and University of Washington is we made a mistake,'' Clarke Johnson said in court.

But that mistake and the nasal spray prescribed were not responsible for MacKenzie's ``severe and devastating brain injury,'' Johnson told the court.

The trial, replete with technical experts and material, took three weeks. For six weeks afterward, Judge John Erlick weighed the testimony and evidence.

Friday, Erlick ruled the nose spray, given after ``negligent advice,'' did cause the cardiac arrest that left MacKenzie with brain damage.

He said the UW doctors at Seattle Children's had failed in their duty to communicate with each other, and to properly advise Elaine Briant.

In the courtroom, as the judge announced the award, Elaine Briant began to cry softly.

``I wish MacKenzie would be the way she was before,'' she said afterward. ``But now we will have the funds to take care of her, which is so important.''

The UW does not plan to appeal the settlement. The money is coming from insurance.

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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Feds Must Step In Or Rebellion And Vigilantes Will

By Opio Sokoni, MSCJ, JD

People have every right to be angry at the verdict in the George Zimmerman case. Look at the people who are speaking out. Are they all Black? I saw a middle age White man on YouTube ranting and destroying his house because of the verdict. His sons were trying, seriously, to calm him down. The man breaks down at the end and starts to cry. In Portland, Oregon the rally was mostly Whites; joined by Latinos and Blacks all speaking angrily about what they believed was a simple case of justice. Various types of people, other than Blacks, are expressing outrage. After the not guilty verdict, President Obama just simply said that the jury has spoken and that we are a nation of laws. He also made a political plug to end gun violence and advised that "we ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to widen the circle of compassion and understanding in our own communities." Huh? What? We hear too often that Obama is not the leader of Black America, but this is not just about African Americans.

There is now a call for the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to bring a case against George Zimmerman. Following Obama's comments after the verdict, which shows once again that he has no political courage when it comes to African Americans, this is what the DOJ had to say:

"As the Department first acknowledged last year, we have an open investigation into the death of Trayvon Martin. The Department of Justice's Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation continue to evaluate the evidence generated during the federal investigation, as well as the evidence and testimony from the state trial. Experienced federal prosecutors will determine whether the evidence reveals a prosecutable violation of any of the limited federal criminal civil rights statutes within our jurisdiction, and whether federal prosecution is appropriate in accordance with the Department's policy governing successive federal prosecution following a state trial."

This is not a "yes" or "no" from the DOJ. They must determine whether George Zimmerman violated Trayvon Martin's civil rights. What we know is that Zimmerman profiled Trayvon. He then used foul language in the process of observing and following the teen. George Zimmerman was known by the Sanford Police Department because he called them several times before – often reporting African-American males as looking suspicious. We also know that George Zimmerman wanted to be a cop and had a police officer as a best friend. That fatal night, Zimmerman overzealously operated outside of the scope of his title as a neighborhood watch captain.

Because of the state trial, we know most of the facts that lead to the death of Martin. Trayvon Martin was a teenager walking back home from the store. He is on the phone with his friend who lives in another city. While walking through the housing complex where he lives, a man in an SUV begins to stare at him. Then this strange man begins to follow him. Trayvon runs. They ultimately meet face to face. No one will dispute that Trayvon has done nothing wrong up to this point. But, there is now a confrontation - which the teen did not start. What must he do? They exchanged words, then get into a scuffle. George Zimmerman produced a loaded gun and shoots the boy at point-blank range in the heart. Trayvon Martin dies very soon thereafter. George Zimmerman claims self-defense.

Some may remember when the four police officers that beat Rodney King were acquitted by a local California court in Simi Valley. The Justice Department then brought a civil rights case against the four officers. Two of the cops were convicted and sent to jail. Many are hoping George Zimmerman will go to jail for intentionally shooting and killing Trayvon Martin. The feeling is that there is no freedom when a teen can be profiled, stalked and killed for doing nothing wrong – and no one goes to jail. This is a recipe for those who will take matters into their own hands - feeling that the government has failed. In addition, when someone sees Zimmerman on the streets, they may try and make a citizen's arrest. Or, someone may confront him and dare him to do what he did to Trayvon. For now, people of all persuasions are making their voices heard. Public outcry is not the only reason that civil rights cases get brought by the Justice Department. But, protest and rebellion does not prevent it either.

Opio Sokoni is an activist, political commentator and author of several books, including "Controlling Blue: Race, Media and Policing." He is a co-founder of Poli-Tainment, Inc. a nonprofit organization which uses various forms of entertainment to inform and bring people together. Find out more at www.Poli-Tainment.com.

It Is Past Time To Confront The Obama Administration

By Bill Fletcher, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Alright, team, enough is enough. During the entire first term of the Obama administration, Black America—for the most part—gave the administration a pass. Many of us felt that the first Black president of the United States should have a little breathing room. While we gave him breathing room, the political Right, through organizations such as the Republicans in Congress and the Tea Party, did exactly the opposite.

For our silence we received very little. The Obama administration continuously caved to the political Right, apparently hoping that they could convince the other side that they were reasonable. Well, the political Right was not interested in reason: they were interested in blood. So, each concession that the administration made to the political Right resulted in nothing. Consider Obama's pay freeze for federal workers. He received nothing in exchange for this, except further demands from the Republicans for even more cuts.

One does not have to be an economist or sociologist to know that Black America is in trouble. Our unemployment rate continues in double digit and at least double that of Whites. The Supreme Court's recent decisions on the Voting Rights Act and affirmative action represent one more step towards grinding us down. To this must be added, the hiking in the student loan rate brought on by the failure of the administration and the Congress to reach an agreement, but added to this was an effort by the administration to shift how students (and their families) would actually qualify for loans.

There are also concerns when it comes to foreign policy, including, drone strikes, harassing political leaders of other countries (e.g., Bolivia's Evo Morales), the on-going war in Afghanistan, the growing intervention in Syria and, well, you see the problem.

Many African Americans, for very understandable reasons, have been reluctant to openly criticize this administration fearing that to do so provides aid and comfort to the political Right. The time has come to cast aside such fears and recognize that there is no constituency that is better placed to lean on this administration than Black America.

Our reluctance to criticize this administration must end. Black America that must say, in no uncertain terms, that this administration would not have come into existence without our support and it is time for it to shift gears and focus on the needs of Black America and other constituencies that were there for this candidate, this president, this administration. Perhaps it is time that we also said that we need no more speeches; we need action that favors those of us who exist beneath the clouds.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum.

An Economic Divide Is Growing In Our Cities

By Jesse Jackson

(Trice Edney Wire) - What is the plan for our nation's cities? Are they simply to simmer with a growing divide between the affluent financial district and the impoverished slums? Will another generation be lost while we wait for the inevitable explosions? The gulf between the realities of our cities and the foolishness of our politics has seldom been wider.

Consider gun violence. Over the Fourth of July weekend, Chicago surpassed 200 homicide deaths for the year. On that weekend alone, 10 people were killed and several dozen wounded in gun violence, including 5- and 7-year-old boys. The only grim salvation in the savage toll is that the city's year-to-date homicide rate is rising at a somewhat slower rate than last year.

While this goes on, the Illinois state Legislature is gearing up to overturn the state's ban on carrying concealed weapons. The last of its kind, the concealed-weapons ban was ruled unconstitutional by a federal appeals court. Somehow, the conservative justices concluded that the Second Amendment, which provided constitutional protection for state militias, now prohibits citizens from deciding to ban concealed weapons as part of cracking down on gun violence. The gulf between the reality on the ground and the crackpot ideology of the right-wing activist judges could not be greater.

Consider the economy. The youth unemployment rate in the U.S. is the highest it's been since World War II. The Center for Labor Market Studies reports that 72 percent of Illinois teenagers —ages 16-19 — are unemployed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics finds that less than 16 percent of black teenagers are employed. The official unemployment rate for African-American teenagers — which doesn't count those forced to take part-time jobs or who have given up — stood at 43.6 percent in June, according to the BLS.

This is a human and national calamity. An entire generation of young people is coming out of school and ending up on the streets or on a couch in their parents' home.

Yet at the national level, Washington and Wall Street are telling us that this calamity — a deep and enduring depression in our urban areas — is the "new normal." The Congress is cutting jobs, not taking action to create them. In Illinois, those on unemployment are suffering a 16.8 percent cut in benefits. The gulf between the elite politics in Washington and the realities facing young people in our urban areas could not be greater.

None of this is inevitable. None of it is an act of God. These realities are the result of policy choices, of values and power expressed in policy. This cannot continue without a reckoning. If we choose not to invest in the young, we will pay dearly as they grow older. If we choose to starve the schools of poor children of color, we will suffer when they become adults without skills. If we choose to let companies stash profits abroad without taxes, we will lack the resources we need to build a strong economy at home.

What is clear is that Wall Street, Washington and the conservative judges feel that they can embrace this new normal without paying any price. These policies will not be changed by those who profit from them. They will only be changed if those who are victimized by them make it clear that they will not "adjust and accept." The young, the unemployed, the poor, the abandoned urban communities must make their voices heard. Change will come only if they force the elites to face reality, not ignore it.

To Be Equal

The State Of Black Men - Part One

By Marc H. Morial

(Trice Edney Wire) - *"As of 2004, more black men were denied the right to vote because of a criminal record than in 1870, when the Fifteenth Amendment was ratified, giving blacks the right to vote."* Joshua Dubois, former director of President Obama's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives

As the Trayvon Martin trial and record high summer temperatures both begin to add their heat to the unemployment and economic woes plaguing Black America, we thought it would be a good time to take stock of the one group that more than most continues to be locked up, shut out and left behind — African American men. This topic is too big and too complicated to cover in one essay. But it is not too big or complicated to solve with the necessary resources, commitment and partnerships. So we will continue our discussion of the issues, along with the creation of solutions, in future columns.

Today, we simply want to provide an overview and begin to point to some answers. A good place to start is the recent Newsweek cover story, "The Fight for Black Men," by former Obama White House advisor Joshua Dubois.

Like the National Urban League, Dubois understands that the solution to the under-employment and over-incarceration of African American men must begin with changing our perception of who they are and investing in their potential through job opportunities, quality education and economic development. These have been the building blocks of the great American middle class and represent the surest path to responsible adulthood and stronger communities. So why haven't we done this for African American men?

The reasons are many but one stands out. As described by Michelle Alexander in her best-selling 2010 book, The New Jim Crow, the intentional mass incarceration of young Black men has created what she calls a "permanent under-caste" that may never be able to escape the past and compete on equal footing with the rest of us. Disproportionate arrests and unequal sentencing have had a devastating impact in Black communities. African American men are six times more likely to be incarcerated than whites. More African Americans are in prison or on probation today than were enslaved in 1850.

The economic consequences have been just as bad. This year's Urban League State of Black America report found that the average unemployment rate for Black men in 2012 was 15% compared with just 7.4% for white men. Black men earn only 72 cents for every dollar earned by white men. Because of the civil rights advances of the past 50 years and the election of Barack Obama as President, in the words of Michelle Alexander, we may have been "lulled to sleep by the rhetoric of color blindness and the appearance of great racial progress" and thus have "closed our eyes to the millions who have been locked up, locked out and relegated to second-class citizen status."

But our focus must extend beyond talking about the problems.

That is why the National Urban League has been a leading voice in challenging Washington to develop a comprehensive urban agenda. It is also why we recently announced our $100 million Jobs Rebuild America campaign designed to address the nation's employment and education crisis. This effort includes our Urban Youth Empowerment Program, which offers job training, education and other wrap-around services to prepare out-of-school and adjudicated youth for the world of work, as well as our Training for Work-Adult Re-entry program, which targets convicted adults in Work Release Programs and provides them with supportive services, education and training opportunities, mentoring, and job readiness and placement support.

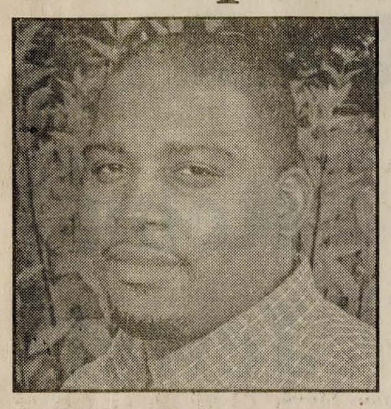
We must create more opportunities for Black men who have been locked up or left out. As we celebrate the momentous anniversaries of our civil rights struggle, let's remember – there can be no celebration without continuation. We cannot afford to stop now.

Marc Morial is president/CEO of the National Urban League.

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Reflections On Trayvon Martin And George Zimmerman

An Open Letter Of Apologies And Thank You To Trayvon Martin



By De'Sean Quinn

After the weekend I took much time to reflect on the "not guilty" verdict in the George Zimmermann murder trial that concluded Saturday. Like many, I was aware and tracking the daily commentary of this trial. I was disappointed in the outcome, however I respect the decision reached by the Court. The burden of proof resides with the prosecution and they failed. I am extremely disappointed in the prosecution's case and the responsibility for the loss falls squarely on their shoulders however our society and our lack of compassion and understanding also contributed greatly to the ultimate decision.

I want to apologize as an American to Trayvon for your civil and human rights being violated. A young life was taken too soon and the verdict does not resolve the unfortunate life being lost.

I want to apologize as a citizen that I have not tried harder to be placed on juries. Knowing the value of diverse perspectives and professional experiences in our jury pools is our collective responsibility.

I apologize as someone whose experience includes being profiled by police and regular everyday people and not always taking action to challenge and educate those that may have felt comfortable doing so. Like filing formal complaints with police departments and offering to have dialogue with those who think it's appropriate to clutch their purses when I get on an elevator. Or walking out a store and not patronizing establishments that think it's appropriate to follow me up and down the aisles for fear I may steal something.

Thank you to Trayvon Martin for reminding the community that we must organize, march, lobby, write, build coalitions, vote, run for office, mentor, teach, pray, donate, affectively work together and serve in our communities. Not because we are outraged but because we are committed to never having this situation ever occur again.

I apologize that as a tax payer that I have not lobbied the district, municipal and superior courts in my community to have a high level of training in cultural competency to reduce instances where generalizations, ignorance and discrimination may occur in decisions reached by courts. As a tax payer I have observed significant funding reductions in after school programs, teen recreational programs funding by state, local and federal governments.

As a tax payer I apologize for not successfully lobbying for increased funding of education and addressing the opportunity gaps that exist in our education system.

I want to thank you Trayvon Martin for reminding us all that even though the Supreme Court Justice John Roberts recently said "Our country has changed" in the opinion recently striking down parts of the voting rights act of 1965. Your rights were violated on the day you were murdered and we must remain diligent in protecting civil and human rights of all in this country.

I want to thank Trayvon for reminding me to never forget the lessons that my father taught me about society's perceptions of young African American men. Telling me that I need to continue to challenge those negative perceptions while being diligent and avoid situations where my credibility can be questioned. I want to thank Trayvon Martin for reminding me to hold my son a little closer and pass on those lessons from my father. One day I will tell him that even though no one is perfect you do not have the luxury of making youthful mistakes. That the stakes are high on decisions you make. I can't help but look into my sons eyes that are filled with joy and happiness believing as my parents did that his future will be better.

I apologize to Trayvon Martin as a voter and someone that has worked on many campaigns that we have not elected a congress that is willing to pass gun control laws to help reduce gun violence in this country.

Finally I want to thank you for sharing your story, there is a lesson in your experience for everyone no matter what community you are in that life is sacred. Your story no matter how short taught us that your young life is something we as a society should have cherished and protected.

De'Sean Quinn is a member of the Tukwila City Council, a father and a community member.

Reflecting On The George Zimmerman Verdict



By Daniella Gibbs Leger

I have started and stopped this column multiple times. There are things I feel and want to say about the George Zimmerman trial that aren't fit for this publication. I have more thoughts than can probably fit into 3 different essays. I struggle with what is the most important/crucial view I want to share. So perhaps I'll start with a personal story.

Last Friday, I was pulled over by the police. I was maybe going a little too fast, but I didn't see any radar guns, so perhaps it was a DUI checkpoint. They told me to turn off my car and asked for my driver's license. The officers asked a few questions, we shared a laugh or two, and they let me go on my merry way. Oh, did I mention that this occurred in the Caribbean? I probably should, because if it happened here there would be no joking; everything would have been all business. And the biggest difference would have been that in the U.S., I would have been scared as hell until they let me go.

That's what it means to be Black in America. Even when I know I am doing nothing wrong, I feel the weight of other people's suspicions on my shoulders. I get anxious when cops pull up behind me even if I'm breaking no laws. I zip up all bags when I walk into stores lest anyone accuse me of attempting to steal something. On a non-crime note, I still feel that I must list my high school GPA and SAT scores when I talk about what college I went to, since some like to assume that I must have taken the spot of some other more qualified person. In the hours of Twitter, email, Facebook and in-person conversations I've had since this verdict was delivered, the main underlying theme is one of bone-shaking tiredness. Trayvon Martin did nothing wrong, yet he is dead. George Zimmerman stalked him, got out of his car when police told him not to, never identified himself as a neighborhood watchman, got into a scuffle with a presumably scared kid who would have had every right to defend himself against this stranger, shot and killed him and today he walks free. Oh, and he gets his gun back too. Yay Florida!

So what do we tell our young boys (and girls) today? Don't wear hoodies? Don't buy Skittles and iced tea? Don't walk in any neighborhood after 8pm? Don't be aware of your surroundings at all times because if you confront someone, you might get shot? And if you run away, you still might get shot?

The racist trolls were out in full effect Saturday night. I might have to put defense attorney Mark O'Mara in that category too...ok, not (necessarily) the racist part, but he certainly trolled us all when he said that if Zimmerman had been Black, he would have never been arrested. Let that statement sink in for a while. My reaction (one not suitable for print) was and is one of great astonishment. Because O'Mara seems to be many things - a complete idiot isn't one of them. If Zimmerman had been Black, for one, he would have been arrested right away, not after 40 days of protests. Two, if we assume Martin is still Black, no one would have known or cared about this case outside of Sanford, Florida. Three, if Trayvon is White in this scenario? Please, Zimmerman would have been under the jail already. And to claim otherwise is to have a complete ignorance of the current justice system in this country.

So what now? In the immediate aftermath, there is a lot of anger, but there is also the beginning of a movement. And that's a topic for another column. In the meantime, parents hug your kids tighter tonight. Have those difficult conversations with them. It may pain you to have to tell them about the realities of being Black in America, but your words could maybe save their lives. Of course as I type that last sentence, I still don't know what Trayvon could have done differently besides not be a Black kid in a hoodie. And that fact right there breaks my heart.

Daniella Gibbs Léger is the Senior Vice President for American Values and New Communities with the Center for American Progress.

THE TRAYVON MARTIN VERDICT AND WHY WE MUST MAKE VOTING OUR #1 PRIORITY



By By Sherry Collier, Esq.

The Trayvon Martin case was *the* opportunity where most Blacks believed that surely the collective struggle of Black America would be rewarded somehow. This case presented itself as the perfect opportunity for a bold "statement" to be made to the world about how it was possible for this country to look racism squarely in the eyes and give it a Mike Tyson style knock-out punch. Certainly, George Zimmerman would not walk out of the courtroom a free man. When the verdict was announced on Saturday, July 13, 2013, the knock-out punch that many expected ended up being a sucker punch to the gut of the Black community.

The reaction by most was pure amazement and unbridled frustration. Our hopes and desires for a different kind of America were taken away with just two words: not guilty. The collective sadness on Saturday when the verdict was announced was the type of despair that cuts deep. No riots, no Molotov cocktail bombs being thrown into store windows like when the Rodney King verdict was announced. Some say that we were too sad and disappointed to react in the same manner as the Rodney King riots. Perhaps cooler heads prevailed? Whatever the case, the nation that we thought would be ushered in with a conviction of George Zimmerman never happened.

The decision in the Trayvon Martin case was not a just decision. Make no mistake about it. However, the current "stand your ground" law that is available as a defense in Florida allowed George Zimmerman the inch of daylight that he needed to escape punishment within the legal system. The previous version of the law included a "duty to retreat", where an individual basically had to use reasonable efforts that did not jeopardize their safety in order to avoid the danger they perceived. Under the old version of the law, the issue for the jury probably would have been whether or not Zimmerman made a reasonable effort to avoid the danger he perceived and whether getting out the car to approach Trayvon Martin was consistent with avoiding danger?

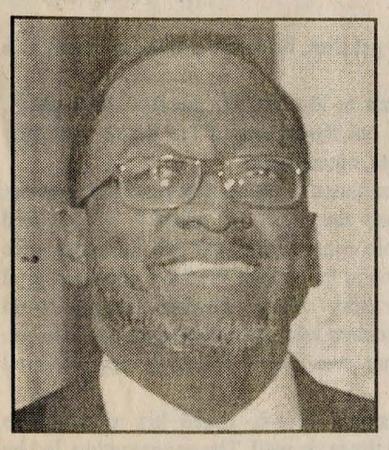
The previous version of Florida's "stand your ground" law was scrapped in favor of the current version that does not have a "duty to retreat" provision. Why? Well, that's what the Florida voters wanted. In a state like Florida where 48% of the prison inmates are black, but blacks make up less than 17% of the total population, the power of the vote provided the opportunity for George Zimmerman to walk out of court a free man. Florida is a Republican state and perhaps there will never be enough votes to overcome a poorly written law such as the "stand your ground law", but in a city like Seattle, the power of the vote should never be underestimated because if everyone voted we would certainly see some of the outcomes that we need in our communities.

The challenge is that overwhelmingly, black folks in Seattle are simply not voting in the smaller local elections where the impact of our vote would be felt immediately. Yes, we vote in the national election in large numbers. Yes, we showed President Obama a great deal of support, but we cannot forget about our local elections. Local elections that would address things such as low graduation rates, youth violence, police misconduct, disparity in sentencing and the negative impact of these issues *require* our immediate attention. We cannot sit by idly while local city-wide elections are held and not participate in the political process. There is a line from a movie where the aspiring politician yells out into a group of naïve voters that "*if you don't vote, you don't matter*".

I am hopeful that the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case will remind our community that it was the *law* that allowed George Zimmerman to walk out of court a free man and that we all need to be vigilant and informed when filling out our ballots for our local elections and when electing our local lawmakers. Do your research on the candidates and determine whether the issues they plan to address represent your interests. Here in Seattle, we have a primary election coming up and the power to make change is in your vote.

Sherry Collier is a Seattle-based attorney.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS - Reflections On Zimmerman Verdict



By Robert S. White, II

By now, the story sounds almost surreal.

Ignoring the advice of law enforcement personnel, a former neighborhood watch leader armed with a loaded gun stalks a 17-yearBold black male he feels to be "suspicious." The young Black teenager is shot and killed by the armed man. Save for a bag of candy and a can of iced tea purchased at the store, the teenager is unarmed. Nearly a year and a half later, the shooter is exonerated and the headlines read *"George Zimmerman is found not guilty in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin."*

Beyond the outrage and the visceral disgust so many are feeling, I have been somewhat compelled to ask people what lessons they feel this ordeal has taught them and what points have stood out in their minds. As a firm believer in "teachable moments," I cannot help but be reflective while encouraging others to do the same.

Here are a few points that have been "top of mind" for me:

• This verdict reinforced for me that a courtroom is a "court of law" not a "court of justice." I once heard it this way: as an artist uses the tools of his trade to achieve the ideal of beauty in a painting or sculpture, officers of the court use the tool of the law to try to achieve the ideal of justice.

• It amazes me how George Zimmerman was "in the wrong" until he was "in the right." He stereotyped, disobeyed a law enforcement official, and stalked an unarmed young man while carrying a loaded weapon. But after all of these bad decisions, he was somehow judged to be "in the right" when he shot and killed Trayvon.

• The family of Trayvon Martin will now annually endure a recurring calendar of mournful events including February 5 – Trayvon's birthday, February 26 – the date of this tragic shooting, and July 13 – the date that George Zimmerman was exonerated by a Florida court in the death of their son.

• One friend of mine comments that most Americans have possibly been watching TV court dramas for too long. Legal cases are not as clear cut as writers make them out to be.

• If Zimmerman's profiling of Trayvon as "suspicious" was wrong, shouldn't pre-judging the jurors as "racist" be equally offensive?

• Someone willing to vouch for your character is important (my barber swears by this one).

• African-American men being racially profiled is not some fabricated issue; it is unfortunately very real.

• "Not guilty" seems to be the wrong phrase to share many times. "Guilt was not proven beyond a reasonable doubt" fits the bill a lot better. "Not guilty" does not mean "innocent."

• There are many families in the cities of America grieving over a loved one lost to gun violence. The family of Trayvon is unfortunately a recent addition to an obscenely long list of the bereaved.

Maybe this aforementioned point is one we should all consider. Too many of our youth have been murdered in the neighborhoods of our cities with no gathering to mark their demise or vigil to help bring an end to the senseless killings. Maybe after this tragedy, our outrage will no longer be so difficult to prick. Maybe this case will make us all pay more attention to the people we pass by every day.

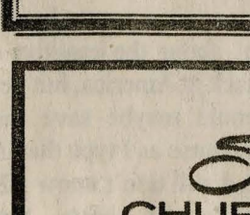
Whatever "teachable moments" any of us may derive from this ordeal, I am hopeful that none of these will be a lesson in giving up on our ability to impact corporate and systemic change through our actions and attitudes.

Robert S. White, II is the Chief of Staff for the mayor of Memphis, TN.

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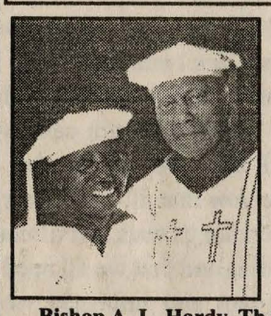
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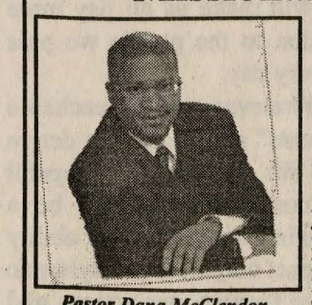
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Worship Hour...11:15am	Service.....7:00 pm
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The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Senior Care Support & Outreach Ministry (SCSOM) Hosts Free Community Forums

On Wednesday, July 31, 2013 from 1pm to 2pm in the TabMBC sanctuary, Tabernacle will host a forum on " Elder Law: End -of -Life Issues." They will discuss what you need to know about the legal tools designed to help prepare for End-of-Life issues such as Living Wills, Power of Attorney, and Trusts. Also, things to consider when creating legal documents, and what happens if you do not. The guest speaker is Elder Law Attorney, Judy Eckland at judyeckland@gmail.com.

On Wednesday, August 7 from 1pm to 2pm in the sanctuary, Tabernacle will host a forum on "Elder Abuse Awareness." They will discuss the definition of vulnerable adults, neglect, exploitation, how to report and investigate possible signs of abuse. Also, focus on guardianship, Power of Attorney, and Protection orders and competency. The guest speaker is Jeff Quigley with DSHS/HCS.

On Wednesday, August 14th from 1pm to 2pm in the sanctuary, Tabernacle will host forum on "Affordable Senior Housing" with the non-profit organization S. H. A. G. (Senior Housing Alliance Group). This is one of the largest providers of affordable Rental apartment homes for seniors in Washington state. Guest Manager will discuss income requirements, amenities, and available locations. They also accept Section 8 certificates and vouchers.

For further information contact Minister Shirley Perry-Poston at (425)917-3158 or seniorcaresom1@gmail.com. Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church is located at 2801 South Jackson Street in Seattle. Senior Pastor, Reverend Dr. Robert L. Manaway, Sr. and Overseer, Evangelist Jessica P. Manaway.

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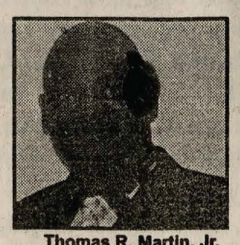
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Morning Worship	10:30AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday	
Bible Study	7:00 PM

OBITUARY



Reba Jewel Fleeks

Beloved Mother, Reba Jewel Fleeks, loved by so many of you, and a friend to all has quietly went home to rest in Glory.

Repast and Services "A Celebration Of Her Life" will be held at Mount Zion Baptist Church, 1934 19th East Madison, this Fri., July 19 at 11:00 AM - Viewing at 10:00 to 10:30 prior to services. Thursday viewing at Evergreen Washelli, 11111 Aurora Ave., N, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Thank you for your sympathy, cards and condolences.

Black Pastors To Members: Be Aware And Beware Zimmerman Verdict

By Courtney Jacobs and Blair Adams
Special to the NNPA from the Afro

BALTIMORE — Rev. John R. Jenkins, Jr. looked out at the congregation of First Baptist Church of Glendarden and sighed.

Less than 12 hours after jurors in Sanford, Fla., found George Zimmerman not guilty in the fatal shooting of unarmed Black teenager Trayvon Martin, he was having "trouble" coming to terms with the verdict and what it meant for justice, and righteousness, or the lack thereof, in this country.

Though the church celebrated its annual Music and Arts Ministry on July 14, Jenkins had a heavy heart. His topic for the day was "Directions for Troubled Times."

"I was speechless," Jenkins told his audience about his reaction to the verdict. "It took the breath out of me."

Jenkins said he found particularly disturbing statements made by one of Zimmerman's defenders. "I heard the man's lawyer say he did nothing wrong…I heard the killer's lawyer say [Trayvon] used the concrete as a weapon."

At one point, tears began to roll down his cheeks.

Even for men and women accustomed to explaining evil and wrong, the verdict that freed Zimmerman proved difficult. Jenkins and several other pastors from Baltimore to the metropolitan Washington area decried the verdict July 14 and urged their members to understand that the verdict indicated that Black life was not as valuable as White life, despite some race gains over the last 50 years.

While some Americans believe the verdict delivered by the six-woman jury was just, many Blacks found it implausible that the jurors could acquit Zimmerman in the 2012 slaying of Martin, 17.

Rev. Dr. Beryl Whipple, pastor of Asbury United Methodist Church in White Marsh, near Baltimore, said he was not surprised by the jurors' decision.

"This is a wake-up call not just for America, but for African Americans," he said.

"This is a call to finally put an end to the senseless violence and be active in their community to make sure a tragedy like this never happens again."

Whipple, like Jenkins, heard the verdict on television.

"I was watching CNN at home," he said. "I don't think he was innocent…Zimmerman killed a minor. In this case, we missed the mark on our opportunity for justice. I can only assume they came to that verdict based on their own life experience….They sided more with the community watch patrol officer than the young man trying to get home."

Rev. Grady Yeargin, pastor of City Temple Baptist Church of Baltimore, preached in a hoodie, the morning after the verdict, as did Rev. Tony Lee, pastor of Community of Hope AME Church in Temple Hills in Prince George's County.

Trayvon was wearing a hoodie on the night Zimmerman reported him to police as a suspicious person, then followed, fought with and fatally shot the youth.

"When you have great progress, there is always great pushback," Lee told his congregation. "We want to act like we're in this post-racial society where everything is 'Howdy, howdy' and everything is all good. Just because you found you have a Black woman, Black man, Black baby girls, a Black dog and a Black grandmamma in the White House, you thought it was a post-racial society."

Several pastors said they believe race figured in the verdict, just as it did in the shooting and the investigation by law enforcement officials in Sanford, Fla., where Martin was killed.

Trayvon was "racially profiled from the beginning" to the end of the case, Whipple said.

"With this verdict, it showed that in the 21st century, we haven't really moved forward as we should have it terms of racism," he said. "We didn't have justice in this case."

Like Jenkins, he took offense at the idea that Trayvon had assaulted Zimmerman during the fight that ensued after Zimmerman refused a police dispatcher's order to stay inside his car and followed and confronted the youth. Trayvon was returning to his father's home in the community after going to the store to buy snacks.

"Travon Martin was trying not to get shot, he didn't use the concrete as a weapon," Whipple said.

At Turner Memorial AME Church in Hyattsville, the Rev. William H. Lamar IV asked his members to call out the names of the Black men they love—children, brothers, fathers, uncles, cousins, etc.

"I'm very clear that this nation continues to tell us that America does not value Black flesh the way it values the flesh of others," Lamar told the *AFRO* after the service. "My whole context was that our ancestors were true freedom fighters, but we are asleep at the wheel. We have confused civil rights victories with the ultimate victory of the freedom struggle. And [Supreme Court Chief] Justice John Roberts told us in the recent decision [on the Voting Rights Act] that they do not even intend to let us keep our civil rights."

Jenkins, who preached from Psalms 27:1-6, urged his members to continue to praise through the troubled times, as well. The congregation, led by the male chorus and praise and worship team, sang a lengthy rendition of Psalm 3:3 from the Bible.

"For thou, Oh Lord, are a shield for me. A glory and the lifter-up of my head…I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who set themselves against me round about," they sang.

Be encouraged and continue to pray, Jenkins told his members.

"Although the world is ugly, we serve a beautiful God."

Teria Rogers contributed to this report.

Demographic Change Amplifying Racial Inequities In America

By Suzanne Gamboa
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) - One-year-old Ka'Lani is so fascinated by a round plastic toy that she doesn't see her mother, Ke'sha Scrivner, walk into the Martha's Table day care, chanting her name while softly clapping out a beat that Ka'Lani keeps with a few bounces on her bottom.

Once on welfare, Scrivner worked her way off by studying early childhood education and landing a full-time job for the District of Columbia's education superintendent. She sees education as the path to a better life for her and her five children, pushing them to finish high school and continue with college or a trade school.

Whether her children can beat the statistics that show lagging graduation rates for black children is important not just to her family. The success of Ka'Lani and other minority children who will form a new majority is crucial to future U.S. economic competitiveness.

A wave of immigration, the aging of non-Hispanic white women beyond child-bearing years and a new baby boom are diminishing the proportion of children who are white. Already, half of U.S. children younger than 1 are Hispanic, Black, Asian, Native American or of mixed races.

``A lot of people think demographics alone will bring about change and it won't," said Gail Christopher, who heads the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's America Healing project on racial equity. ``If attitudes and behaviors don't change, demographics will just mean we'll have a majority population that is low-income, improperly educated, disproportionately incarcerated with greater health disparities."

In 2010, 39.4 percent of black children, 34 percent of Hispanic children and 38 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native children lived in poverty, defined as an annual income of $22,113 that year for a family of four. That compares with about 18 percent of white, non-Hispanic children, according to Census Bureau's 2011 American Community Survey.

Asian children overall fare better, with 13.5 percent living in poverty, the survey said.

The overrepresentation of minority children among the poor is not new. What is new is that minority children will, in the not-too-distant future, form the core of the nation's workforce, and their taxes will be depended on to keep solvent entitlement programs for the elderly.

Based on where things stand for nonwhite children today, it's not hard to make some educated guesses about what the future holds for the youngest of America's children who already are a majority of their age group, said Sam Fulwood III, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress.

The recent recession worsened conditions for many children, but minorities were hard hit and are having more difficulty recovering.

The Pew Charitable Trusts found that, from 1999 to 2009, 23 percent of black families and 27 percent of Hispanic families experienced long-term unemployment, compared with 11 percent of white families. Pew Research Center, a subsidiary, found that the median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households and 18 times that of Hispanic households.

That means more minority families end up in poor neighborhoods with underperforming school systems, leading to lower graduation rates and lower lifetime earnings, said Leonard Greenhalgh, a professor of management at Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

``You are looking at the future workforce of the United States — what we need to be competitive against rival economies such as India and China, and we are not educating the largest, fastest growing percentage of the U.S. workforce, so as a nation we lose competitive advantage," Greenhalgh said.

It all starts with preschool, where overall enrollment has been increasing but Hispanic children are less likely to be included. Of Hispanic children ages 3 to 5 in the U.S., 13.4 percent were enrolled in full-day public or private nursery school in 2011, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics.

That compares with 25.8 percent of black children enrolled in full-day preschool and 18.1 percent of white children. But already, Hispanics are one-quarter of students enrolled in public schools.

The situation prompted San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro to push for voter approval to raise the sales tax and expand preschool opportunities in his city, which is 63.2 percent Hispanic.

``I see a gap in educational achievement for San Antonio children versus children in Texas and the nation, and a large percentage of those are minority children and of course, we wanted to change that trajectory," Castro said in an interview.

President Barack Obama has proposed raising cigarette taxes to help pay for preschools. He has proposed a program to entice states to expand preschool programs to reach families with incomes up to twice the poverty line, and to require full-day kindergarten. But the partisan political showdown over government spending and raising taxes has led to across-the-board federal spending cuts and stalls in other legislation that may delay those proposals.

Sheila Smith, early childhood director at Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty, points to years of research that show kindergarteners perform better if they received high-quality early care, and if teachers used specific strategies aimed at developing behavior and language and math skills.

``If you have minority children from low-income families in very enriched preschool settings ... we see they make very big gains," Smith said. ``But how many classrooms are very enriched to the point that we see kids making these very big gains? Not nearly enough."

Compounding the issue, experts say, is immigration status. About 4.5 million children of all races born in the U.S. have at least one parent not legally in the U.S., according to the Pew Hispanic Center. More than two-thirds of impoverished Latino children are the children of at least one immigrant parent, the center reported.

Latino and Asian immigrants over past two decades are driving a significant portion of the demographic change, and ensuring their children can succeed is critical, said Brookings Institution demographer William Frey.

``They're the future of our labor force. They're the future of our economy," Frey said. ``They're the people who white baby boomers are going to have to depend on for their Social Security, for their Medicare and just for a productive economy to keep all of us going in the future."

The picture isn't all bleak. History and recent data show improvements for the next generations of immigrant families.

The Pew Research Center found second-generation Americans, some 20 million U.S.-born children of 20th century immigrants, are better off than their immigrant parents. They have higher incomes, more graduate from college and are homeowners and fewer live in poverty, the study found.

Many experts on low-income children see good health as one more building block for education and prosperity. Children are less likely to learn if they are ill and missing school and unable to see a doctor.

On a recent weekday, 9-month-old Anderson sat on his mother's lap in the waiting room of the clinic at Mary's Center, a community organization in the nation's capital. He had struggled for three days with diarrhea, cold symptoms and vomiting.

He and his two siblings are American citizens, but their father and mother, Alba, who did not want her last names revealed because neither parent is in the country legally, are not. The children's health care is covered by Medicaid, and Alba says she wants them to be healthy so they can have a better life. ``They have to go to college," said Alba, originally from El Salvador. ``They have to do better, since their mother can't."

Anderson's generation will be the first to fully grow up under the new federal health insurance mandate taking effect next year. The act requires free preventive services and also extends money for the Children's Health Insurance Program through 2015.

In 2011, about 94 percent of black children, 92.3 percent of Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander children and 95 percent of white children had health insurance coverage, while 87.2 percent of Hispanic children and 83.4 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native children had some form of health insurance coverage, according to a study by Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families.

The numbers of uninsured children are at a historic low — just 7.5 percent, said Joan Alker, the center's executive director.

While 73.1 percent of white children had private coverage, more than half of black and Hispanic children got health care through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Programs and similar federal and state subsidized programs, the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics reported.

``We have the increasing rates of childhood asthma, childhood obesity and these are going to lead to problems later in life, so it's far better to make sure those kids have health insurance so you can address those issues as much as possible now," Alker said.

Demonstrations

Continued From Front Page

whether Zimmerman violated Trayvon's civil rights when he spewed profanity, followed Trayvon after being told by a police dispatcher not to do so, and fired the fatal shot that killed Trayvon's dreams and those of his family."

Writing on his blog, Sharpton said, "Closely observing the Zimmerman trial, one fact served as a glaring reminder of the insanity of the entire fiasco: Zimmerman never was a cop. He was a citizen who was told by 911 dispatchers not to follow Trayvon; he was told, "We don't need you to do that." He, a self-professed community watchman, made assumptions such as, "This guy looks like he's up to no good or he's on drugs or something." Zimmerman even had the audacity to say "f__king punks. These a__holes, they always get away." Well, who are 'they?' The bottom line is, if Zimmerman had not defied the orders of the 911 dispatcher and acted on his own assumptions, Trayvon would be in the loving arms of his parents today."

Zimmerman's parents, Robert and Gladys Zimmerman, granted an interview to ABC News. When asked if his son were a racist, Robert Zimmerman replied: "Absolutely not. He's never been taught to be a racist."

In that same joint interview, from which excerpts were aired on television Monday, Gladys Zimmerman said that if given the opportunity to speak with Tayvon's parents, she would say: "We are deeply sorry for this tragedy."

Many Travon Martin supporters expressed disappointment with President Obama's statement on the verdict.

In his statement, Obama said: "The death of Trayvon Martin was a tragedy. Not just for his family, or for any one community, but for America. I know this case has elicited strong passions. And in the wake of the verdict, I know those passions may be running even higher.

"But we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken. I now ask every American to respect the call for calm reflection from two parents who lost their young son.

"And as we do, we should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to widen the circle of compassion and understanding in our own communities. We should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis.

"We should ask ourselves, as individuals and as a society, how we can prevent future tragedies like this. As citizens, that's a job for all of us. That's the way to honor Trayvon Martin."

Many Americans, ranging from the well-known and the unknown, have found different ways to honor the memory of the slain youth.

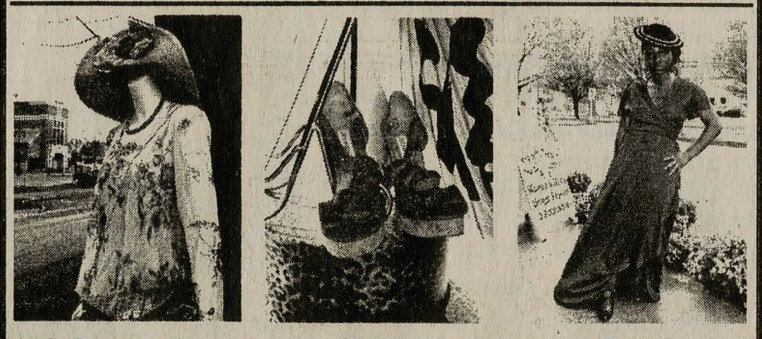
During a concert Sunday in Quebec City, Stevie Wonder said, "I decided today that until the Stand Your Ground law is abolished in Florida, I will never perform there again. As a matter of fact, wherever I find that law exists, I will not perform in that state or in that part of the world."

Pop star Beyonce's concern started in Nashville Saturday night about 30 minutes after the Zimmerman verdict. Before beginning her performance she said, "I'd like to have a moment of silence for Trayvon." The stage was darkened for the silent tribute. Beyonce then sang the chorus of "I Will Always Love You."

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Black Veterans
2310 S. Jackson St.,
Ste. 103 Seattle, WA
(206) 329-2094

TUTORING

Literacy in the
Community, LLC
206-295-3695
www.freeliteracy.net
literacy@comcast.net
info@freeliteracy.net

COMMUNITY BUSINESSES...cont'd.

BARBER / BEAUTY SALON

Abe & Dex's
Barber Shop
7565 Renton Ave. So.
Abe Winston/Dexter Pollard
(206) 722-7290

Wilson's Barber Shop
324- 25th Ave. So.
(206) 322-9622

RAFEEQ SADEEQ
Hair Boutique
9420 Rainier Ave. So.
206-723-4247
CELL: 206-396-7010

BARBER/BEAUTY SALON

Salon Vibe
4547 Rainier Ave. S.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 722-VIBE

Mafatou & Fatu
Beauty Supply &
Hair Braiding
308 - 22nd Ave So
Suite 103
206-841-6908

BARBER/BEAUTY SHOP

Brooks Barber Shop
5222 Rainier Ave. So.
Seattle, WA 98118
(206) 723-5157

Jonathan's
Beauty Box
5701 Rainier Ave. So
206-225-5794

BODY OILS & INCENSE

The Sweet Spot
Body Oils
4272 So. Mead St
Seattle, WA

GROCERY/DELI

UNION MARKET
2101 E. UNION
SEATTLE, WA 98122
206-322-9090

GOOD 2 GO
Deli & Grill
1800 E. Yesler Way
Seattle, WA
206-860-6045

Tana Market
2518 E. Cherry
Seattle, WA
(206) 322-3835

HOROSCOPE

July 18 - July 24, 2013

ARIES
Possibilities of hearing good news about home are greatly expanded. Savor the news rather than thinking about other annoyances. Travel is on the horizon. Plan the trip this week. Soul Affirmation: Jewelry reflects the beauty of my feelings about myself.

TAURUS
Feather the nest. Stock up on stuff for the long haul. Cement relationships. A friend needs your support. Enjoy giving it. You will receive good news about a pal. Soul Affirmation: Cheerfully handling what comes at me is the test of who I am.

GEMINI
Your mate has a sweet surprise. Open up to receive it. Choose your words carefully around a sensitive pal. Listen for good news about a loan or financial matter. Soul Affirmation: I let others toot my horn this week.

CANCER
Enjoy the great insights you have in the area of career objectives. Take a look at what's out there! An unanticipated financial matter may arise, find the good in it. Soul Affirmation: A cheerful soul should be wrapped in a cheerful package.

LEO
Be cautious and conservative with money. You are extremely witty this week. Allow others to enjoy your good humor. Your leadership skills are very high, and others will follow. Soul Affirmation: Luck is my best friend this week.

VIRGO
This is a good time for you to seek agreement on a plan that involves a relative. Take the time to remind your lover how much you care. Get a little sentimental if you have to. Don't be too critical of that softer side of your personality. Soul Affirmation: Self confidence is the key to my success this week.

LIBRA
Push. Now is a good time to push. Your energy is higher than ever. Someone might get offended, but you can't please everyone. Hire a pro for something that you planned to do yourself, especially if a expertise is involved. Soul Affirmation: Success is mine because I feel successful.

SCORPIO
Review your "to do" list again. You may need to slow down to discover something that you didn't realizé while you were in the flow of events. Your lover is going to be a little difficult to understand. Back off if an argument arises. You're probably the one who is too busy. Forgiving yourself is often harder than getting someone else to forgive you. Soul Affirmation: Two hats fit well on my big head.

SAGITTARIUS
Make a special effort to spend all week with your lover, husband or wife. Your sense of the importance of relationships is keen and this is a good time to strengthen your passionate partnership. Take your lover to a party. Devote attention. Soul Affirmation: Change is my middle name.

CAPRICORN
The flock will come to you for direction. Give it gracefully. Know that your insights will help a lot if you deliver them in the right way. If you are a mother, guidance will be the best gift you can give others this week. Soul Affirmation: Knowing I can do it is the biggest preparation for getting it done.

AQUARIUS
Most people don't know how often dreams and reality blend into that practical consciousness of yours. Knowledge comes from a dream you've had lately. This week is a good week to get started making that dream a reality. Soul Affirmation: My spirit gives me limitless possibilities.

PISCES
Cooperation is key this week in your relationship with your partner. Even if you know you're right, let your partner have his or her way in the early going. Your staying power will give you influence or control in the late rounds. Soul Affirmation: I let go and let the spirit run my life this week.

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KRIZ AM 1420
KZIZ AM 1560
KYIZ AM 1620

LEGAL

King County
Invitation to Bid

Project: Columbia Public Health Remodel, C00802C13

Sealed Bid Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., July 30, 2013

Location Due: King County Procurement & Contract Services Section, Contracts Counter, 3rd Floor, 401 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Engineer's Estimate: Base Bid $225,000 Alternate #1 $25,000, Alternate #2 $20,000, Alternate #3 $500

Scope of Work: The Work includes remodel of Dental Reception area on the 2nd floor of the clinic approximately 80sf and the remodel of 1st floor Clinic area including converting existing office space to construct three new exam rooms and the reconfiguration of staff and clinic storage, approximately 1400sf.

Work site: Columbia Public Health Center, 4400 37th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118.

Contact Information: Darren R. Chernick, Contract Specialist, 206-263-9321 TTY Relay: 711, Fax: 206-296-7675, or darren.chernick@kingcounty.gov. A bidder may be asked to put a question in writing. No verbal answers by any County personnel or its agents and consultants will be binding on the County.

Pre-Bid Conference: July 23, 2013 @ 10:00AM, 2nd floor conference room, Columbia Public Health Center, 4400 37th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118. A site tour will be conducted immediately following the conference.

Subcontracting Opportunities: Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Fire Suppression, Finishes.

Apprenticeship Requirements: No minimum Apprentice Utilization Requirement.

SCS Utilization Requirements. 10% minimum requirement for King County Certified Small Contractors and Suppliers (SCS).

Bid Bond: Not less than five percent (5%) of the Total Bid Price.

Federal Funding: This Contract is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration and is subject to the requirements set forth in Grant C8BCS23970 and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein. The federal participation is estimated at 100% of the total contract value.

Bid Documents (NEW INSTRUCTIONS):

Electronic copies of the plans, specifications, reference documents, and any addenda for this solicitation are available on the King County Procurement website shown below. Printed documents may also be ordered by contacting United Reprographics at 206-382-1177. Copies of documents are not available for purchase from King County, but are available for review M – F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Contracts Counter: Chinook Bldg, 3rd Floor 401 Fifth Avenue Seattle, WA 98104.

To receive email notifications of addenda or other important information concerning this solicitation, you must register to be a planholder under the "Solicitations" tab at the following internet link:

Website: http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement/solicitations

This information is available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon advance request by calling 206-263-9400, TTY Relay: 711.

Notes: Bids received after Sealed Bid Time will not be considered. Bidders accept all risks of late delivery, regardless of fault. King County is not responsible for any costs incurred in response to this Invitation to Bid.

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50-oz. Liquid or 40 to 42-oz. Powder. Selected varieties.
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Participating Items include:
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1.77 lb Club Price! Northwest Red Cherries
1.79 lb Club Price! Red Lion Nectarines
2 for $6 Club Price! 6-oz. Package Raspberries Club Price: $3.00 ea.
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SE-M

ENTERTAINMENT

Ebony Details Denzel and Pauletta Washington's 30-Year Marriage

An Enduring Union of Two Black Celebrities Defies Infidelity Rumors

By Zenitha Prince
Special to the NNPA from The Afro-American Newspaper

In an industry where love and marriage is as inconstant as the latest box office or Billboard ratings, Denzel and Pauletta Washington have defied the odds.

The power couple graces the cover of Ebony magazine's August issue. And, in a cover story celebrating Black love, the couple discusses the ingredients for their successful marriage: The Washingtons celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 25.

"There's no magical mystery to [staying together] … We go through up and downs like any couple," Denzel told Ebony writer Shirley Henderson, as quoted by the Huffington Post.

But persistence is important, Denzel said, the kind of dogged determination he exhibited when he proposed to Pauletta three times.

"We live in a time — and it's not for me to judge anyone — when people give up too easy," the revered actor said.

Pauletta, an actress and producer, said the bond has to go beyond lust and passion. What has proven invaluable for them, she added, is maintaining stability amid the often schizophrenic Hollywood scene.

"I live with this man. I see the down part. I see the sad part. I see every part. He has and knows he has that stability in me as his wife. That's gives him strength, regardless of if he misuses it. I can't dwell on that. But I do know that gives him a great platform to go and fly," she said.



Denzel and Pauletta Washington (Courtesy Photo)

In an interview with Oprah Winfrey published in the January 2008 issue of O magazine, Denzel praised Pauletta for providing that constancy both for him and their four children.

"When it comes to the kids, I give complete credit to my wife, Pauletta. Early on, we decided that we wouldn't drag them around to all the places I go. Pauletta was the consistent one who made breakfast every day and took them to school. She taught them their prayers," he told Oprah.

The couple first met at a hotel restaurant during the filming of Wilma, the 1977 television film biography of track legend Wilma Rudolph. It wasn't love at first sight, however.

"People who say they knew right away are lying," he said, laughing. "It's a marathon, not a sprint." The chronicle of the Washington marriage comes amid persistent rumors of a breakup, which both marriage partners deny.

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