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The Seattle Medium

A Message From The People... To The People

\$.25

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NOW IN OUR 47TH YEAR

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016

AG Files \$100 Million Suit Against Comcast

By Rachel La Corte
Associated Press

OLYMPIA (AP) - Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson on Monday filed a \$100 million lawsuit against Comcast, saying the cable and internet giant deceived customers into paying tens of millions of dollars in fees for a "near-worthless" service protection plan.

Ferguson, who filed the lawsuit in King County Superior Court, said at a news conference that in addition to its misleading service protection plan, Philadelphia-based Comcast committed more than 1.8 million violations of the state's Consumer Protection Act by charging improper service call fees and using improper credit screening practices.

"This case is a classic example of a big corporation systematically deceiving Washington state consumers and putting profits above those consumers," said Ferguson said.

According to the lawsuit, Comcast misled 500,000 customers in Washington state by having them pay a \$4.99 monthly fee to avoid being charged if a technician visited their home to fix an issue covered by the plan. But Ferguson said the company didn't reveal that the plan didn't cover repairs to wiring inside a wall. As part of the investigation, customers contacted Comcast numerous times. Ferguson said that 75 percent of the time, Comcast representatives falsely told the customers that the plan covered all inside wiring.

More than \$73 million of the amount that Ferguson is seeking is for restitution to customers who paid for the protection plan over the past five years.

"Comcast needs to pay that money back," he said.

The remainder of the amount he is seeking is for restitution for charging improper service call fees and for penalties related to violation of the state's consumer protection act. The lawsuit says that Comcast violated that act to all of its nearly 1.2 million customers in the state because of its deception. He noted that the Washington lawsuit was the first on this issue in the country, though the company's service

protection plan is a nationwide program. Ferguson said he's not yet aware of any other states planning to sue the company.

"Over and over and over again, Comcast most certainly did not play by the rules," Ferguson said.

Ferguson said that the investigation began after an

employee of his office brought the credit screening issue to his attention. Comcast requires a deposit for equipment, but customers can have that

deposit waived if they undergo a credit check and have a high credit score. However, Ferguson said that on more than 6,000 occasions, deposits were

paid by people who still had their credit checked, meaning that either Comcast wrongfully ran a credit check in spite of the

(Cont'd. On Page 2A)

Clinton Asks Nation To Empathize With Victims Of 'Systemic Racism'

By Hazel Trice Edney

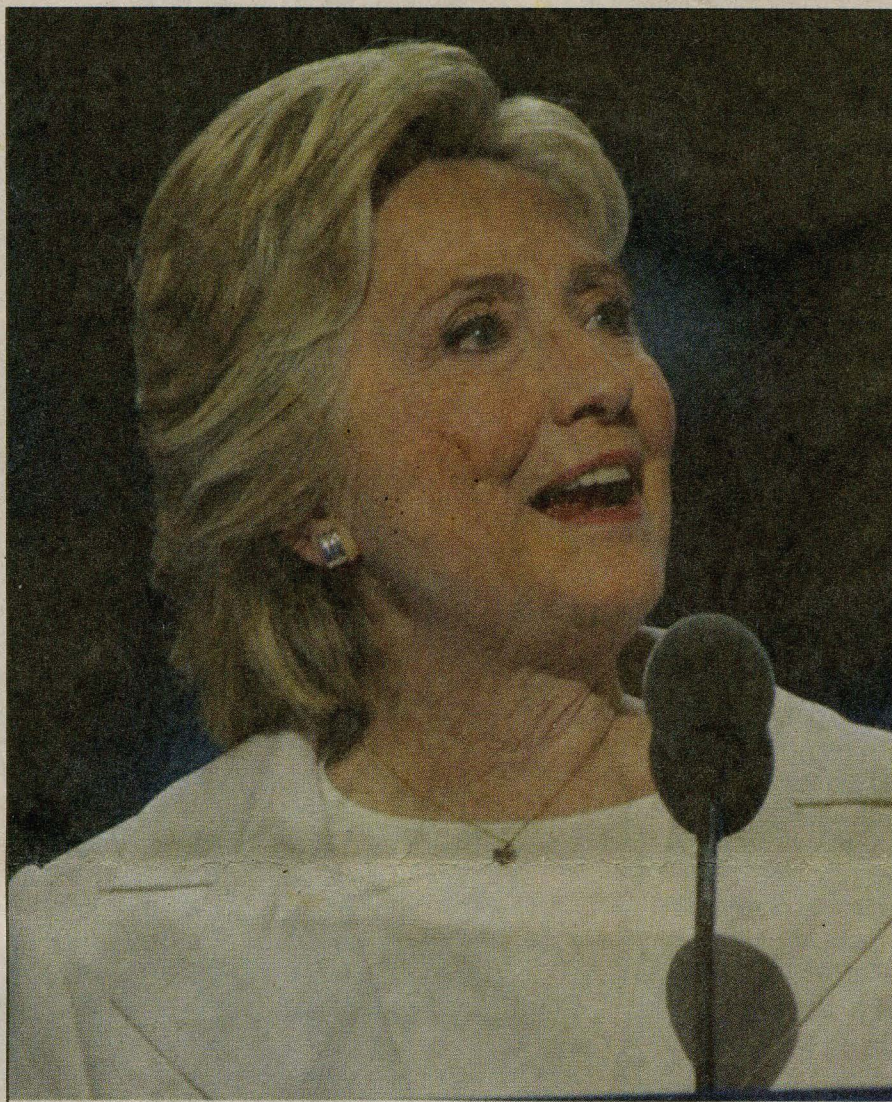
PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (Trice Edney Wire) - Hillary Clinton, in her convention speech accepting the Democratic nomination to the presidency, asked America to seek understanding of victims of "systemic racism", promised to fight gun violence, push for deep changes in the criminal justice system and jobs for inner city neighborhoods.

The four issues - touching on police killings of Black people, disparate unemployment, unequal criminal justice - are among the key bread and butter issues on the minds of African-Americans.

"We have to heal the divides in our country, not just on guns but on race, immigration, and more. And that starts with listening, listening to each other, trying as best we can to walk in each other's shoes," Clinton told the audience of thousands at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia and millions watching by television and online. "So let's put ourselves in the shoes of young Black and Latino men and women who face the effects of systemic racism and are made to feel like their lives are disposable. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of police officers, kissing their kids and spouses goodbye every day and heading off to do a dangerous and necessary job."

Clinton's comments accepting the nomination came on the heels of extreme racial strife across the nation. Among them are new community uprisings over the killings of Alton Sterling of Baton Rouge, La. and Philando Castile of Falcon Heights, Minn. by White police officers as well as the killings of five Dallas police officers and three Baton Rouge police officers by Black vigilantes.

The speech also came after eight years of an almost steady decrease in unemployment rates with Black rates still twice the number of Whites; thousands of African-



Democratic Presidential Nominee Hillary Clinton

Americans being killed by gun violence on an annual basis and a climate in which African-Americans are incarcerated nearly six times the rate of Whites, according to the NAACP.

In recent years, more than 90 percent of Blacks cast their voting ballots for Democrats and more than 94 percent for President Obama in his first and second elections. Clinton is clearly focusing on issues of importance to African-Americans as she angles for the Black vote which political analysts predict will be pivotal in this election.

She continued, "We will reform our criminal justice system from end to end, and rebuild trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. And we will defend - we will defend all our rights: civil rights, human rights, and voting rights; women's rights and workers' rights; LGBT rights and the rights of people with disabilities.

And we will stand up against mean and divisive rhetoric wherever it comes from."

In the 50-minute speech, much of which responded to issues espoused by her Republican opponent Donald Trump, a key focus was on gun violence, including ways to thwart mass shootings - an issue on the minds of most Americans regardless of race. In that regard, Clinton promised to defy the National Rifle Association, which typically backs political candidates that oppose new gun laws.

"And if we're serious about keeping our country safe, we also can't afford to have a president who's in the pocket of the gun lobby. I'm not here to repeal the Second Amendment. I'm not here to take away your guns. I just don't want you to be shot by someone who shouldn't have a gun in the first place," she said. "We will work tirelessly with responsible gun owners to pass common-sense

reforms and keep guns out of the hands of criminals, terrorists, and all others who would do us harm."

Speakers at the convention gave strong endorsements of Clinton often wrapped in soaring rhetoric and even sermons.

First Lady Michelle Obama appears to have received the most applause with her electrifying speech Monday night. But the "Mothers of the Movement", including the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner and Michael Brown, also won the hearts of the audience on Tuesday as they recalled the wrongful deaths of their sons. On Wednesday, President Bill Clinton told the story of how he met Hillary Clinton; and vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine dug into Trump, saying, "his false assurances that he will make us safer, address immigration, fix the economy, and protect small businesses, seniors, families and veterans are nothing

more than lip service."

A reflective President Obama also spoke on Wednesday, essentially outlining the issues that the next president will face.

"Yes, we've still got more work to do. More work to do for every American still in need of a good job or a raise, paid leave or a decent retirement; for every child who needs a sturdier ladder out of poverty or a world-class education; for everyone who has not yet felt the progress of these past seven and a half years. We need to keep making our streets safer and our criminal justice system fairer, our homeland more secure, our world more peaceful and sustainable for the next generation," he said to applause. "We're not done perfecting our union, or living up to our founding creed that all of us are created equal; all of us are free in the eyes of God."

Those prime time speeches by politicians were watched by millions. But civil rights leaders also brought the conventioners to their feet.

North Carolina NAACP President, the Rev. Dr. William Barber was among them. "We are being called, like our mothers and fathers, to be the moral defibrillators of our time," he said. "We will shock this nation and fight for justice for all... We will not give up on the heart of our democracy, not now, not ever!"

And the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. himself a two-time presidential candidate, encouraged the people to fight, seemingly wrapping up the strategy next four months in a nutshell.

"We've never lost a battle we fought. And we've never won a battle unless we fought," he said. "In 1965, we fought and won the battle for the historic Voting Rights Act. That journey continued in 1984 and 1988, when we built a winning coalition, registering and empowering millions of new voters reflecting the new America."

City Council Committee Approves Mandatory Housing Affordability Program

On Tuesday, The Seattle City Council's Planning, Land Use & Zoning committee unanimously (5-0) approved framework legislation that would require that residential developers provide for affordable housing by either including it in their development or paying into a fund used to support the development of affordable

housing in Seattle.

"This program is one of the most ambitious efforts Seattle has ever undertaken to address our growing need for affordable housing in our city," said Councilmember Rob Johnson (District 4, Northeast Seattle), the legislation's sponsor. "This bill sets the stage to create affordable housing that will stay affordable for 75 years

to serve current residents and future generations of Seattleites."

Under the program, if residential developers create rental housing, a select number of units must be made affordable to households earning up to 60% of Area Median Income (AMI), or \$43,380 annually for a 2-person household. If developers to create housing for

homeownership, a select number of units must be made affordable to households earning up to 80% of AMI, or \$55,450 annually for a 2-person household. The number of required affordable units would be established by future legislation, as would the required amount of funds to be alternatively paid into an affordable housing development fund.

The Committee also adopted a series of amendments, including prioritizing that projects using the affordable housing development fund are developed near the projects that paid into the fund; that housing units be kept affordable for a term of 75 years; that when an affordable rental unit is converted to an ownership unit, the existing tenant has

a right of first offer; and that accountability requirements be imposed to ensure that projects remain affordable. Additionally, Councilmembers took steps to address the risk of displacing low-income populations from Seattle.

"Our amendment creates consistency between our anti-displacement efforts and commits to

(Cont'd. On Page 2A)

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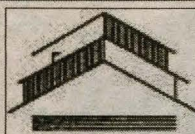
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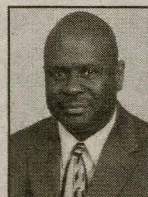
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The Seattle Medium's Empowerment Series

A Senior Moment

By Marsha Andrews, J.D.

Save the Date: A "Housing Forum" For Seniors

On November 17, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., The Housing Development Consortium of Seattle-King County, along with the Senior Housing Affinity Group will sponsor a forum on affordable senior housing. Although boomers are living longer than previous generations, and in some instances, outliving their retirement funds, safe affordable housing (whether home owners or renters) is needed.

The forum will provide a comprehensive agenda that will include various topics regarding housing and how to live in a safe healthy environment. The presenters will also give the attendees an update on the 2009 "Quiet Crisis" report. Not familiar with this report? Well, here is a summary of the initial concerns and what has now come to fruition.

In February, 2009, a collaboration between Aging and Disability Services, Seattle-King County Housing Authorities, and other public agencies, created a report entitled "Quiet Crisis: Age Wave Maxes Out Affordable Housing, King County 2008-2025." As you know, the "age wave" consists of us, the post-World War II generation, whose population of seniors is growing exponentially. By 2025, this population will double and represent 23 percent of King County's total population.

The report addresses the characteristics of seniors living in King County who are about to turn age 65, as well as how to find answers to the following four major questions:

1. What are the demographic trends, as they relate to the need for affordable senior housing?
2. How will the needs of tomorrow's seniors differ from today's seniors, living with current-day challenges?
3. What types of senior housing and supportive services will be needed in future years?
4. What actions can our community take to address the needs that are emerging?

In response to these questions, the report outlined various strategies that would (a) help King County residents prepare and succeed in retirement; (b) develop policies and services that would help seniors remain "in place" at home; (c) create a wider range of choices for low income seniors, who rely on subsidized housing and state sponsored health care; (d) make strategic investments of local, state and federal public funding that will expand the supply of affordable housing for seniors; (e) provide regulations and incentives for the development of affordable housing for seniors; and (f) create senior friendly neighborhoods. These proactive measures

are important because it is usually the number one priority for seniors to have the desire to stay in their homes as long as possible however, many will not be able to do so.

While conducting and reviewing numerous surveys, the agencies concluded the following:

- Baby boomers have higher incomes and educational levels than prior generations, but are less prepared to afford housing in retirement. The shift from lifetime retirement income (pensions and annuities) to lump sum sources puts boomers at risk of outliving their assets depending entirely on government benefits.
- Boomers are living longer, but longevity may come with the price of living with disabilities that bring on challenges of finding and sustaining adequate housing.
- Programs such as property tax abatement, minor home repair, weatherization, in-home care and nutrition services can help us to "age in place" but funding is limited. Currently, a bipartisan group of Congressional members introduced The Senior Accessible Housing Act (HR. 5254), which would provide a tax credit of up to \$30,000 to people over 60 for aging-in-place modifications to their homes, such as widening doorways for wheel chairs, installing ramps, handrails

and grab bars. The credit would be nonrefundable, which means that if you do not owe federal income tax, this credit would not benefit you. It has not passed yet but is expected to gain momentum in both House and Senate.

• More publicly assisted housing units are needed. It was determined that the housing ratio to low-income seniors in King County is insufficient and in order to keep up with the "wave", an additional 4,267 units were required by 2015, or an additional 15,913 units by 2025 - meaning a 900 unit increase per year until 2025.

These were some of the concerns of the collaborators of this report, which are insightful and critical to all King County residents. To read more about the "Quiet Crisis", go on line and read the full report at <http://www.agingkingcounty.org/docs/seniorhousingstudy.pdf>. The housing crisis should be a concern to ALL Baby boomers and beyond. It is important that you attend this forum because a lot of information will be given to those who attend. It goes without saying that "information not only makes you stronger, but gives you the basis to make better decisions." The location for the November 17th forum has yet to be determined. I will keep you posted. Thanks for sharing "a senior moment" with me. Until next time.

Comcast

Continued From Front Page

customers paying the deposit or else the company still made the customers pay the deposit despite their high credit score.

Comcast officials said Monday they were "surprised and disappointed" about the lawsuit.

In a statement, Comcast said the protection plan covered 99 percent of consumers' repair calls. The company said it made several improvements based on the input of Ferguson's office. The company said "we stand behind our products and

services and will vigorously defend ourselves."

Ferguson said Comcast should not have been surprised, because they knew as of last week that litigation was imminent.

"It took the filing of our complaint before correcting some of the

steps," Ferguson said.

"That doesn't change the fact that for the better part of a year they did nothing."

Ferguson's office says that trial has been set for July 2017.

Affordable Housing

Continued From Front Page

exploring how we can use the Mandatory Affordable Housing framework to help ensure that the communities in our city most threatened by displacement can stay and thrive in place," said Councilmember Mike O'Brien (District 6, Northwest Seattle). "The

framework legislation itself is an anti-displacement tool, by helping ensure more long term affordable housing exists in our city, and today's vote strengthens the policy as we strive to be a city where all people can benefit from our shared prosperity."

The Mandatory Affordable Housing - Residential (MHA-R) legislation is a key component of the Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda (HALA), which is a multi-faceted policy agenda intended to create 20,000 affordable units over

the next 10 years. The requirement will apply after Council adopts future zoning changes, scheduled for Council consideration at the end of 2016/early 2017.

The Full Council is scheduled to consider the legislation at its meeting on Aug. 15.

Miss Florida USA Sues Pageant To Win Back Crown

MIAMI - Miss Florida USA 2017, Genesis Davila, who was stripped of her crown by pageant officials was joined Monday by her attorney Richard Wolfe during a press conference to declare her innocence and to announce a \$15 million lawsuit against the pageant owners and executive producer Grant Gravitt.

Gravitt accused Davila, 24, of breaking pageant rules by getting her hair and make-up professionally done. He claimed the evidence was the posting of a photo on her social media.

Wolfe filed a lawsuit in Miami-Dade Circuit Court, asking a judge to issue an emergency injunction restoring her title. The attorney presented an enlarged photo of the Instagram post that Gravitt cited as a violation of pageant rules.

The photo, shown by



Genesis Davila crowned Miss Florida USA during the live-televised pageant.

Wolfe at the press conference, was dated for July 9, 2016, eight days before the contest, according to the lawsuit. Wolfe claims that Gravitt had cropped out the date on the Instagram post to falsely smear Davila's name.

"This is the smoking gun," said Wolfe. "No one is going to have their hair and makeup done nine days in advance of a pageant."

Davila was crowned Miss Florida on July 16 after competing against 64 other women but she was dethroned six days later.

"I would first like everyone to know that I am innocent," said Davila during the press conference. "All of these false allegations have taken me completely by surprise. I have faced many challenges in my life, but nothing like this. I am honest and a hard worker who was raised with ideals and principles. I am putting all of my faith in my attorney and the legal system to prove my innocence and save my reputation."

According to the lawsuit, Gravitt also accused Davila of lying about her US citizenship forcing her to hire a lawyer to prove that she was indeed a citizen of the US.

Davila was born in

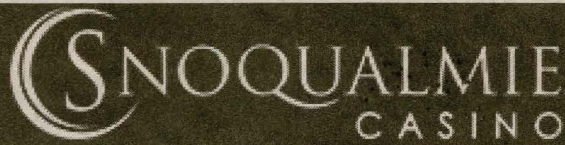
Arroyo, Puerto Rico and is of Afro-Puerto Rican heritage. During her pageant career, she has competed in and earned several prestigious international titles.

Davila represented Arroyo at the Miss Universe Puerto Rico 2013 pageant, where she finished as 1st Runner-Up. As first runner up, she represented Puerto Rico at Miss Intercontinental 2012 in Germany where she finished as 1st Runner-Up and won the title of Miss North America Intercontinental.

Davila won Miss World Puerto Rico in 2014. She represented Puerto Rico at the Miss World 2014 in London, making her the first woman of predominately African heritage to represent Puerto Rico at Miss World.

COMMUNITY ROOTS

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Dr. Juana Royster: Making A Difference In The Lives Of Others Through Health And Nutrition

By Patience Idegwu
Seattle Medium Intern

It is 9:45 a.m. and Dr. Juana R. Royster, a community health education specialist, takes little steps as she quietly opens the front door of the Central Area Senior Center. The front desk attendant quickly spots Royster's usual stride in the building and greets her accordingly. Royster, who volunteers at the center, returns the greeting as she enters the Solarium where she teaches a weekly class on how to manage and prevent diabetes. As the participants start to fill the room, a warm smile comes across Royster's face as her excitement fills the air and her voice welcomes the crowd.

Royster is a unique individual who has always thought of the importance of community and health in her life. With her experience, she educates others to help them live a better life. This is something that was instilled in her as a child, and is a big part of who she is today.

"There are some people that are out there with the community, then there are those that are very quiet and are just quietly doing things that they feel is right and not flashy, and that is Juana Royster," expressed Dr. Liz A. Reynolds Thomas.

Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Royster grew up with two very strong single women, her mother and grandmother, who taught her the importance of getting an education and being involved in the community.

Although she was an only child in a single parent household, Royster was surrounded by cousins and very close friends that were like her sisters and brothers. She was not only embraced by her community, she was a product of her community — a sentiment that helps drive her to give back to the community today.

"Even though I was an only child, I never felt like an only child," said Royster. "I was surrounded by everyone in my neighborhood. The community protected me and guided me. I knew what they did and said was for my best benefit, and that's how I grew up. I was never alone."

At an early age, her family and her community stressed the importance of getting an education. For Royster, the expectation was clear, "you will go to college."

Royster knew that it was not only important to get an education, but to also to give back to her community. Throughout her career, she has utilized her education to 'educate' her community about making healthy choices and better decisions.

"Many people go to school to make money. But, that was never my focus," said Royster. "I knew that working with people was my station. That's how I



Dr. Juana Royster talks about food and nutrition at her community workshops. Royster, a community health education specialist, spends a lot of time in the community educating people on healthy food choices and nutrition.

programmed myself."

Royster graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Michigan. She then graduated from Wayne State University in Detroit with bachelors' and masters' degrees in both food and nutrition and in clothing and textiles. She later received her doctorate from the University of Washington in higher education administration.

From the time she was a little girl, Royster had a fascination with food. According to Royster, she would watch her grandmother cook and help out in the kitchen as much as she could; she loved being in the kitchen. She had a unique interest and a natural tendency with all types of food. When she got older, she not only helped her grandmother prepare the food, but she also was proficient in table etiquette and took over full reign of setting the

table. She also had a special interest in fashion, but when she graduated from college she chose to pursue a career in food and nutrition because it would allow her to leave a lasting legacy in the community.

After leaving Michigan, Royster worked at Rutgers University, where she trained nutrition assistants to work with families and teach them about food and nutrition. She later took a position at Central Washington University (CWU), where she taught more classes on food and nutrition. According to Royster, she had the best time of her life: learning how to teach in a fun way.

"If you can't have fun, what's the point," she stated.

Dr. Luther Baker, who was chair of the department at the time, saw that she had skills in other areas as well, therefore, asked her to start teach

Homemaking for the handicapped as well. Not knowing much about homemaking, she was reluctant to accept the offer. Nevertheless, she agreed to teach the class because Dr. Baker felt strongly about his decision, and according to Royster, it was the best class she has ever taught. She was able to collaborate with the students. She focused on working with them instead of lecturing them.

"I believe strongly that you do not just throw things at people; you have to really bring them in if you really want them to learn," said Royster. "Talk with them [the students], not at them. That was how I taught."

After receiving her doctorate from the University of Washington, Royster worked for various places like Magnin, a fashion store in San Francisco, where she sales associate for coats, suits, dresses and furs. She then took a position at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical (A&M) University as a health and nutrition teacher. Both jobs gave her a better understanding of women and girls, as well as the community at-large.

Everywhere she went and everywhere she worked, Royster always made it a point to be involved in the community. Even when she started working for Washington State University (WSU) as a professor teaching health and nutrition, she did everything she could in the community.

"I was working in the community and everything you can think of, I did. I was in the community. I worked with all kinds of agencies and organizations. You name it, I taught it," Royster proclaimed.

Royster was later named chair of the WSU King County extension, which was a job that helped her provide solutions to local problems. She was involved in a three-way partnership with WSU, King County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to inform people about health, nutrition, and diabetes. One of the things she was also involved in was the 4-H Youth Program, a youth development program. As part of the Seattle 4-H program, she helped ensure young people of color, particularly young Black people, are educated and prepared for their future.

In addition to her work with WSU, Royster actively volunteers in the community, including at the Central Area Senior Center where she educates seniors about diabetes.

Clifford Holland, a 68-year old retiree, and a type 2 diabetic is a participant of Royster's workshops. According to Holland, once he found out that he had diabetes, he started attending Royster's class with his girlfriend. He noticed how thorough

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To Read Previous Community Roots Feature Stories

Court: Race-based Staffing Decision At Western Violates Law

By Rachel La Corte

Associated Press

OLYMPIA (AP) - The Washington Supreme Court ruled Thursday that a state psychiatric hospital violated the state's anti-discrimination law when it issued a directive for white staffers only to work a weekend shift in a ward with a violent patient who had threatened to hurt Black employees.

In its unanimous ruling, the nine-member high court reversed a 2015 ruling by a Pierce County Superior Court that dismissed the complaint of nine employees who argued that Western State Hospital illegally took their race into account for the staffing decision.

"Although the trial court found these staffing orders were 'likely an overreaction,' this does not change the resulting discriminatory nature of the staffing decisions," Justice Mary Fairhurst wrote in the decision.

The case stemmed from a staffing assignment in April 2011 related to a patient identified only as "M.P." who previously assaulted other patients and staff. One of M.P.'s regular attendants was Black. Another employee became concerned when M.P.'s "violent behaviors and delusions escalated" and he threatened to attack any Black staffer who attempted to treat him, the court ruling notes.

Hospital officials decided that no African-American staff should go near M.P. that weekend.

Patricia Blackburn, a White nurse in charge of a neighboring ward, was told by another nurse to transfer three of her psychiatric security attendants to different wards, and was specifically told that the one going to the ward where M.P. resided needed to be White.

Blackburn, who is one of the plaintiffs in the case, refused to

depart from the normal transfer rotation list and noted that the next three employees listed were all persons of color, the court noted. When directed to send the person with the lightest skin, she again refused.

The registered nurse who made the transfer request ultimately directed Bonifacio Fornillos — another plaintiff in the case — to go to the ward, and the transfer occurred without incident.

The court noted that the staffing directive ended after the weekend and that none of the plaintiffs have been subject to a similar staffing assignment since that time.

In its ruling, the Court ordered the trial court to determine what damages and attorney fees to award.

It also told the lower court to determine whether a separate order — an injunction — related

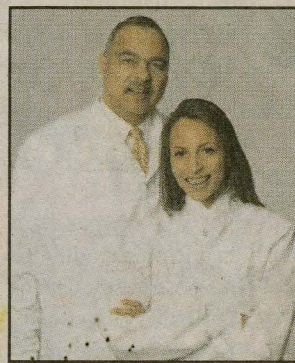
to the Supreme Court's ruling that it's illegal to race-determined staffing is necessary.

The Court also dismissed the plaintiffs' arguments that they were subject to a hostile workplace, writing that a staffing decision over one weekend "did not rise to the level of severe or pervasive harassment."

Carla Reyes, assistant secretary for DSHS — which oversees Western State Hospital — wrote that officials are reviewing the decision and "evaluating our options moving forward to meet our legal obligations under this decision while doing our best to keep our staff and patients safe."

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COMMUNITY ROOTS

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Outdoors

Continued From Front Page

by public transportation.

In Seattle, the group has between 400 and 500 members on Meetup, some of whom get together at least twice a month for some form of outdoor activity, which can include rock climbing, hiking or snowboarding, Reese said.

Several of them recently hiked Hurricane Hill at Olympic National Park to mark the 150th anniversary of the Buffalo Soldiers, the segregated Black U.S. Army regiments that were the original park rangers.

"It's about helping people recognize that nature is everywhere, and you don't have to be in paradise to enjoy the outdoors," Rue said.

"We want them to appreciate connecting with their urban and natural parks, their playgrounds, the local stream for fishing," Rue continued. "It's about breaking down that separation between us and nature."

Another local group, Black People Hike, was started by some friends as they sat around chatting in a living room two years ago.

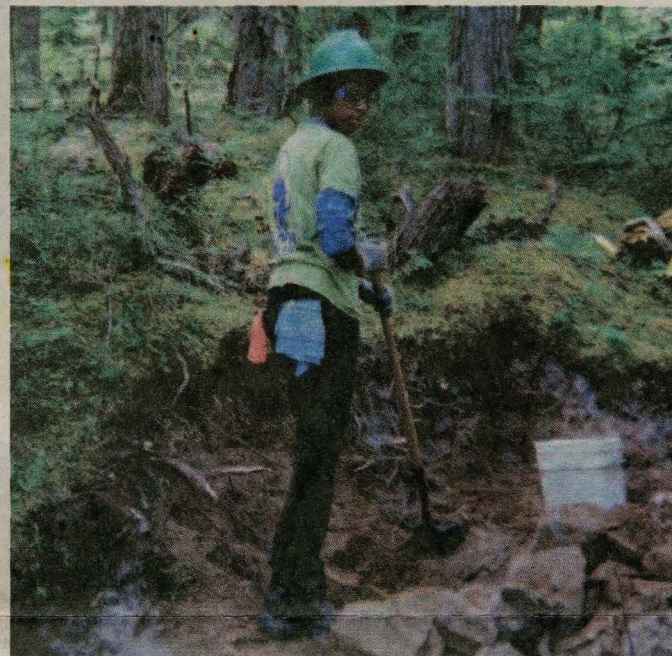
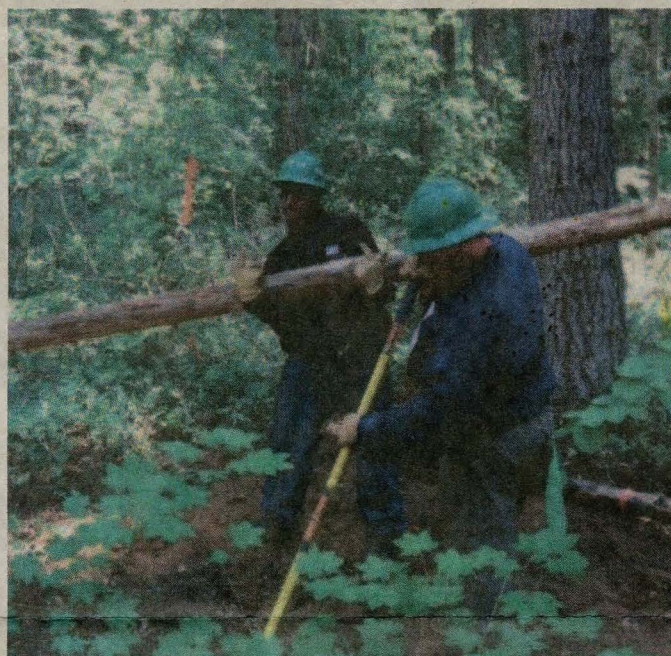
One of them, Dorian Waller, had been hiking off and on since moving to Seattle from the Midwest in 2000. When he first started he saw very few Blacks on hiking trails. In recent years, he said, that began to change.

With more than 1,000 members on its Facebook page, Black People Hike has a core of 40 to 50 people who usually hike on weekends. It's casual and informal, a way for people — of all skill levels — to come together and have fun, Waller said.

Most are young professionals and transplants, who use the outings as a way to network, socialize and connect with each other.

"For us, it's three things: seeing the beauty around us, becoming physically active and appreciating each other and culture through casual conversation," he said.

While groups like Outdoor Afro and Black People Hike provide a social outlet, the Urban Wilderness program



TOP PHOTO: Members of Black People Hike take a break on the trail to Lake Lillian/Margaret. **BOTTOM PHOTOS:** Young people, who are part of Jourdan Keith's Urban Wilderness Project summer program, work to repair trails in the North Cascades National Park.

has a more specific purpose.

It has had an ongoing partnership with North Cascades National Park for at least a decade and has worked with the U.S. Forest Service and other groups, all with the goal of ensuring that young people of color, both male and female, have access to these public

lands.

Most of the young people who participate have never had a wilderness experience, Keith said. Some are immigrants who bring with them stories of their own cultural experiences.

In addition to trail work and hiking, they also learn about the land from

different perspectives, Keith said.

"Conversations about how the land was used by indigenous people and how plants were and are used are an important part of the narrative," she said.

Royster

Continued from Page 2B

Royster was in her teachings and how important the information was. In one of the sessions, Royster told the group to ask their doctor about their vitamin B-12 levels and when Holland did, his doctor was amazed. Holland's vitamin B-12 level was low, which is bad because B-12 vitamins are important for the manufacturing of red blood cells and for sustaining the nervous system. Holland wouldn't have known about this deficiency if it were not for Royster.

Another of Royster's workshop attendees, Julia P. Doyle, a 90-year old diabetic stated that her doctors were pleased with her lab results, which she claims were due to Royster's workshops. According to Doyle, even though you may not want to know the information Royster gives you, you listen because you know it will help you and help you live.

Royster is also a member, and past president, of the Greater Seattle Chapter of The Links, Inc., an international organization of African American women who are committed to organizing and supporting educational, cultural, and civic activities that enhance our community.

Dr. Liz A. Reynolds Thomas, a long-time friend and fellow member of The Links, says that Royster has done a lot in the community that many don't know about. For example, she used to teach prison inmates about health,



Dr. Juana Royster

nutrition, hygiene and self-esteem at Purdy, a women's correctional facility in Gig Harbor, WA. She has also worked with the Hope Heart Institute, the Multicultural Health Institute and many other organizations.

"She is tiny and takes big, humongous jobs," said Thomas. "She is a stickler about young people learning and how you take pride in who you are and what you put forward, because it reflects who you are."

"She uses her knowledge to teach and help others so that they can make better decisions with their life," added Thomas. "She is just a genuine person."

Dr. Mildred W. Ollee, also a member of The Links, agrees that Royster has her own unique personality and does not care what people think about her. She immerses herself in the community in a personal way.

Royster, who was recently recognized by the National Education Association for her work in the community, is currently working on a pilot program utilizing skype, launched in October of 2015, to introduce registered dietician nutritionist from around the globe to the senior center.

"Whatever information I must bring, I will do that. I think God tapped me to get food and nutrition information into our community. I believe I have done that, and I shall continue doing that," said Royster. "I love what I do."

EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

After Dueling Conventions, Knowledge Trumps Ignorance



By George E. Curry
George Curry Media Columnist

At the Democratic National Convention last week, Hillary Clinton and her supporters were too kind by simply saying: Love Trumps Hate. It's a matter that extends far beyond the concept of love. It would have been more accurate to have said: Knowledge Trumps Ignorance.

President Obama was correct to assert, "You know, nothing truly prepares you for the demands of the oval office. You can read about it, you can study it, but until you've sat at that desk, you don't know what it's like to manage a global crisis or send young people to war. But Hillary's been in the room. She's been part of those decisions. She knows what's at stake in the decisions our government makes, what's at stake for the working family for the senior citizen or the small business owner, for the soldier, for the veteran. And even in the midst of crisis, she listens to people and she keeps her cool and she treats everybody with respect."

"And no matter how daunting the odds, no matter how much people try to knock her down, she never, ever quits. That is the Hillary I know. That's the Hillary I've come to admire, and that's why I can say with confidence there has never been a man or a woman, not me, not Bill Clinton, nobody, more qualified than Hillary Clinton to serve as president of the United States."

He could have added that, in contrast, there has never been any major-party candidate less qualified than Donald J. Trump to serve as president of the United States.

When it comes to domestic and international issues, Trump is an ignoramus.

The always boastful Trump claimed that Russia wouldn't invade Ukraine under his presidency. The only problem with that is Russia has already invaded Ukraine, a former Soviet peninsula. It did so in 2014, triggering economic sanctions from the U.S. and European countries that are still in place.

His comment followed another display of ignorance when he said Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russia are "not going into Ukraine, okay, just so you understand." Clearly, Trump does not understand.

Responding to Trump's bizarre claim that Russia would never invade Ukraine under his leadership, Senior Clinton Policy Adviser Jake Sullivan said, "What is he talking about? Russia is already in Ukraine. Does he not know that? What else doesn't he know?"

Plenty.

He also doesn't know that you don't invite the Russian intelligence services or any other foreign power to hack into the emails of your presidential opponent. Trump said at a news conference, "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing. I think you will probably be rewarded mightily by our press."

At his July 27 news conference, Trump said, "Putin has said things over the last year that are really bad things. OK? He mentioned the N-word one time. I was shocked to hear him mention the N-word. You know what the 'N' word is, right? He mentioned it. I was shocked. He has a total lack of respect for President Obama..."

However, FactCheck.org stated, "We scoured the internet and published reports archived by Lexis-Nexis and could not find where Putin ever used that racial epithet. Neither could the *Washington Post* or CNN, which wrote, 'There are no published reports to back up Trump's allegation about Putin's use of the racially derogatory term, however.'"

"Two experts on Russia told us via email that they had never heard of Putin using that term."

"In Russian, the N-word does not begin with 'N' - and Putin's English is pretty rudimentary," said Stephen Sestanovich, an expert on Russia and the former Soviet Union at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"I have no idea what [Trump] is talking about," added Fiona Hill, an expert on Russian affairs and director of the Center on the United States and Europe and

a senior fellow in the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution..."

As we have seen in case after case, Trump doesn't know what he's talking about, either.

Beyond his being a blank sheet of paper on issues, the notorious liar is a mean-spirited, insensitive bully.

That was on display in his attack on two Muslim American parents whose son, Army Capt. Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004. With his wife at his side, Khizr Khan, a Pakistani immigrant, spoke at the Democratic National Convention last week in Philadelphia.

"If it was up to Donald Trump, [our son] never would have been in America," he said. "Go look at the graves of the brave patriots who died defending America - you will see all faiths, genders and ethnicities. You have sacrificed nothing and no one."

Firing back, Trump ticked off a list of business success, none of which remotely qualifies as a personal sacrifice. To add salt to the wound, he told ABC News: "If you look at his wife, she was standing there. She had nothing to say. Maybe she wasn't allowed to have anything to say. You tell me."

The mother, Ghazala Khan, revealed that she was in too much pain over her son's loss to speak.

A new Washington Post/ABC News poll found that two-thirds of American voters believe Trump is unfit to be president. Knowledge Trumps Ignorance every time.

Consumers Want Action On Illegal Debt Collection



By Charlene Crowell
(Trice Edney Wire) - If you are one of the 77 million Americans who are hounded each year by debt collectors, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is taking on this \$13 billion industry. At a July 28 field hearing in Sacramento, Richard Cordray, CFPB Director, announced the Bureau's intent to rein in illegal practices that harass and rob consumers.

"Today we are considering proposals that would drastically overhaul the debt collection market. Our rules would apply to third-party debt collectors and to others covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, including many debt buyers. . . . The basic principles of the proposals we are considering are grounded in common sense. Companies should not collect debt that is not owed. They should have more

reliable information about the debt before they try to collect," said Director Cordray.

"In the debt collection market, notably," he continued, "consumers do not have the crucial power of choice over those who do business with them when creditors turn their debts over to third-party collectors. They cannot vote with their feet. They have no say over who collects their debts, and they likely know next to nothing about the collector until they receive a call or a letter. This can quickly lead to a barrage of communications, which in some cases are designed to be harassing or intimidating."

Reactions to CFPB's proposals were as swift as they were direct. Consumer advocates, like People's Action Institute, a national organization working in 30 states for economic, environmental, racial and gender justice weighed in.

"We're encouraged to see the CFPB take steps to end aggressive and abusive debt collection practices and protect consumers from the often illegal activities of debt collectors," said LeeAnn Hall, Co-Executive Director of People's Action Institute.

Similarly, Graciela Aponte-Diaz, the Center for Responsible Lending's California Policy Director, who testified at the hearing and was even more direct.

"We know from research and enforcement actions in the states that over the past decade that debt buyers and other debt collectors have extracted millions of dollars in payments and court judgments

from U.S. households for debts that are too old to be sued on, can't be back up with basic documentation like a contract or other proof the consumer actually owes a debt, or where the debt buyers or their attorneys filed false documents in court," noted Aponte-Diaz.

"Reports have shown that these debt collection activities have a disproportionate impact on communities of color," Aponte-Diaz continued, "majority black neighborhoods are hit twice as hard by debt collection court judgments as majority white neighborhoods, even adjusting for differences in income."

A recent national consumer poll that was jointly commissioned by CRL and Americans for Financial Reform found broad and bipartisan concerns regarding debt collectors that sue without evidence. Overall 84 percent of respondents expressed concerns about a million consumers being sued each year without evidence to prove their cases in court. When partisan preferences were factored into responses, 9 out of 10 Independents and Democrats were concerned, as were 78 percent of Republicans.

In recent years, several states — including California, Maryland, New York and North Carolina — have cracked down on enforcement actions that required among other things that debt collectors use full and accurate information and documentation when collecting debts.

At the federal level since 1977, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act granted the

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversight authority in debt collection. Following the enactment five years ago of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act and the creation of CFPB, both offices now accept debt collection complaints.

Last year, 2015, more than 900,000 consumers filed complaints with the FTC. That same year, CFPB returned \$360 million to consumers wronged by illegal debt collection practices. Additionally, CFPB collected \$79 million in fines from debt collectors.

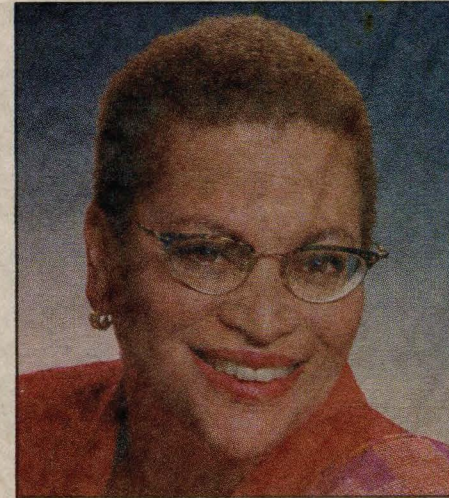
"Consumers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and businesses should be able to operate fairly and reasonably to collect the debts they are legitimately owed," said Director Cordray.

Lisa Stiffler, Deputy Director of State Policy and leader of CRL's debt collection work provided further assessment: "We commend the CFPB for seeking reforms to this issue that harms millions of people, particularly low-income consumers and communities of color."

"However, we are concerned that the proposals do not go far enough to protect consumers from unfair collection attempts. Specifically, the proposal does not go far enough to require that debt collectors adequately document that they are pursuing the right person for the right debt," Stiffler added.

She concluded, "When people are being wrongly pursued for debts they do not owe, it is time for action and reforms."

A Commitment To Democracy



By Julianne Malveaux
(Trice Edney Wire) - The North Carolina NAACP President, Rev. William Barber, tore it up and then threw down in a powerful speech at the Democratic National Convention on July 28th. He called on those assembled to be a "moral defibrillator of our time", to shock our nation with the power of love and morality. Rev. Barber did not use the word "endorse", but urged delegates to "embrace" Clinton, and his rousing rhetoric was challenging and inspirational.

Rev. Barber is a committed and tenacious activist. He founded the "Forward Together Moral Movement", and has organized "Moral Mondays" in North

Carolina. For the past three years, Moral Monday activists have gathered in Raleigh, North Carolina, and used protest and civil disobedience to shine light on the many ways North Carolina has attempted to erode voting rights, and move the state backwards on economic justice issues.

"When I hear Hillary's voice and positions," Barber said, "I hear and I know she is working to embrace our deepest moral values, and we should embrace her," he said. "She nor any person can do it alone. The watchword of this democracy is 'we.'"

What are we, the people going to do in the aftermath of the political conventions? Some have said they will stay home, but watching the difference between the gathering of Democrats and that of Republicans should remind us that staying home should not be an option. Stay home, and leave our choice of leadership to others? Stay home and co-sign the hateful comments Mr. Trump made during his convention? Rev. Barber has called the democratic watchword "we", and Hillary Clinton talked about Democratic inclusiveness, which contrasts with that we observed with Republicans. What are "we" going to do?

President Barack Obama set Secretary Clinton up nicely with his Wednesday evening speech, singing her praises and

passing the baton. She caught the baton handily, offering a speech that exceeded my every expectation. The speech was full of grit and grace, humor and humility, respect and reaching out to the Bernie folks. Not only could I hear the glass ceiling shattering, but also I hoped that the world could see this woman as Commander-in-Chief.

Rev. Barber reminds us, though, that we are all part of the "we the people". He reminds us that we are only committed to democracy when we are actively involved in it. It's not just about a convention, or a vote. It is about an imperative to transform a system that is flawed. Rev. Barber talked about the Fight for Fifteen, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the missing morality in our nation now. Even as he urged us to embrace Hillary, he also urged us to embrace justice.

President Obama reminds us that democracy can be frustrating and messy. Rev. Barber reminded us that it can also be moral and loving if we make the collective decision to rally around key principles, to engage in the process of compromise, and if we understand that democracy is practiced with more frequency than every four years.

Voting is not the most we can do; it is the least we can do. Real democracy exists when people like Rev. William Barber

gather people weekly to fight for voting rights, when he speaks up with regularity on the need for political and economic transformation. We exhibit our commitment to democracy when we hold our leaders accountable, when we pressure them to do the right thing, when we remind them of their campaign promises.

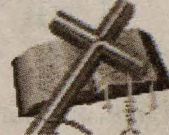
Those Bernie Sanders supporters who choose to remain engaged in the political process have the responsibility to continue to push their progressive agenda at the national, state, and local level. Indeed, they honor their movement and their struggle by continuing the feel a burning desire for social and economic justice. To take their marbles and go home because their candidate did not win suggests that they are committed to personality, not democracy.

Our system is far from perfect, but it's the system we have. We can change it if we are committed to democracy. Or, we can accept imperfections if we eschew activism.

Thank you Hillary Clinton for reminding us of your service. Thank you, Rev. Barber for reminding us that Secretary Clinton won't be able to achieve much unless we work with her. If you can listen to William Barber and fail to get fired up, you have truly embraced apathy. Barber is a role model because of his fierce commitment to democracy.



CHURCH & SOCIETY



Seattle Medium Church Announcement Policy:

The Seattle Medium accepts church announcements on a weekly basis. All announcements are due two weeks prior to your event. All announcements on this page are broadcast on The Heaven Bound Train every Sunday on KZIZ 1560 AM, KRIZ 1420 AM and KYIZ 1620 AM.

All church announcements heard on the radio must originate in The Seattle Medium.

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Celebrating The Life Of Camille B. Murphy



Camille B. Murphy was born April 3, 1950. She passed away peacefully on July 27, 2016 at the age of 66, surrounded by family and loved ones. She is a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, cousin, Godmother, and friend. Her kindness, compassion and commitment to her community are her legacies.

You were a better person having known Camille. Her beautiful smile is legendary.

Her Rosary will be this Friday, Aug. 5 at 7:00 p.m., and her Funeral Mass will be on Sat., Aug. 6 at 9:30 a.m. Both will be held at Immaculate Conception Church located at 820 18th Ave., Seattle WA., 98122. Repast to follow after funeral at 11:00 a.m. in the fellowship room of the church. Burial procession to Holyrood Cemetery - 205 NE 205th St, Shoreline, WA at 1:00 p.m., following the repast.

Camille will be missed by all who knew her.

The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Senior Care Support & Outreach Ministry Hosts Free Community Forums & Workshop

Weds., August 10 (1pm-2:30pm): "Grandparents Support Group: The Kinship Connection." This forum will focus on resources and services for Grandparents and Kinship Caregivers. This may include Legal and Financial assistance for those who qualify.

For more information contact Minister Shirley Perry-Poston at 425.917.3158 or seniorcaresom1@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

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Morning Worship 10:30AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Heart 2 Heart Ministries Hosts 'Shop Til' You Drop' Excursion To Portland

Heart 2 Heart Ministries invites you to join us for a wonderful, joyous "Shop Til' You Drop" excursion to Clackamas Town Center in Clackamas, Oregon just outside of Portland, Sat., Aug. 13.

The bus will leave from Sam's Club in Renton, Washington at 8:00am. A special section in Sam's Club's parking lot will be reserved for your vehicle-free during the shopping tour. We will stop in Centralia for a country breakfast. Bus will leave at 8:00am and return at 8:00pm. The cost of the trip is \$50 per person.

Uniting together in fellowship. ~Psalm 133:1

For more information contact:

Joyce McDonald

jycmcdonald@gmail.com, (206) 375-2489

Carol Bates

caroly014@gmail.com, (206) 850-0468

Fredie Moore

virginiadeloresm@aol.com, (206) 697-5029

Spiritually Speaking: Faith Is A Verb

By James Washington

Scripture says you should live your life in such a way that those around you can see the Jesus in you. "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16. I know that sounds good. But what does it really mean? The only explanation that works for me is the one that talks about service, i.e. doing something in the name of the Lord. I still believe faith is a verb.

We all know no one can live a perfect life. But it shouldn't take a district attorney's cross-examination to figure out where a person is coming from. The man who professes to love Jesus shouldn't be okay with cheating on his wife, be content with a life of crime, or rationalize illicit sex, drugs and satanic rock and roll. If so, then the Lord cannot be your leader, nor Christ your example. We've all done it to some degree, but at some point in your supposed walk with God, your behavior, your obedience, your principles and integrity must shine through. Perfection may be impossible, but serious effort is not only possible, it's mandatory. You've got to give it your best shot each and every day. You can and will fall short, but it shouldn't be for lack of effort. I forget who said, if you try you *might* fail. But if you don't try, you're guaranteed to fail. Please note that God requires effort.

Allow me to testify about what I know to be true. My Bible says the closer we come to Jesus, the more we experience the blessings of God. And why wouldn't we? After all, those are Jesus' footprints in the snow. The path to righteousness is clear. The goal is simple. Be in right relationship with God. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all things will be given you as well." Matthew 6:33. This 'seeking' to me has always meant working in some capacity. Jesus said, "As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me." John 9:4. Now none of us has Jesus' pedigree, but I am not opposed to working for what I want. I've done it all my life. You probably have too. So the important question is how hard are you willing to work knowing that your very soul is at stake? Just what are you willing to do to let the world know who you are and whose you are?

The good news of the gospel makes it clear that this is easy, if not ridiculously easy. Love God and love your neighbor. In this context love is a verb. Do enough so that the Jesus in you meets the Jesus in me. Do something, anything, that another person can't mistake for anything else but kindness from above. For me, I'm asking God to walk with me in an effort to witness (see this column). I don't exactly have it down yet. I'm finding that it's not something you can study. I do know it's triggered by the recognition that somebody needs to hear, in my case read, a word from God. You should know that at that particular moment, God has chosen you to deliver His Word. So open your mouth and speak. This work that I am trying to focus on is recognizing that I must let go and let God use me to uplift another human being. For those of you who are used to this, you know this is a very humbling experience. But, "...If a man will not work, he shall not eat..." And as for you brothers, never tire of doing what is right..." Thessalonians 3:10-13. In the vernacular of the day, get up. It's time to get busy. May God bless and keep you forever.

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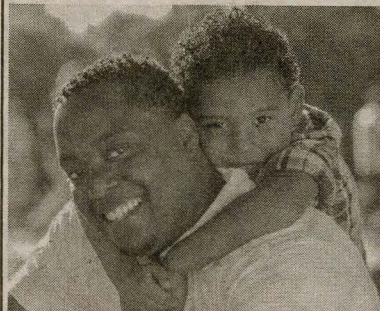
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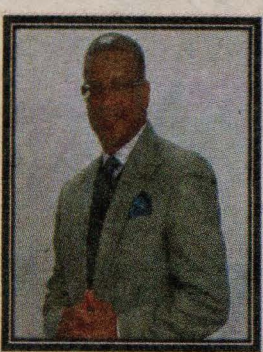
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Fight For Daughter Reveals Plight Of Unwed Dads

By Grant Clark
Urban News Service

Christopher Emanuel puts his heart into the role of do-it-all dad with his active, 2-year-old daughter, Skylar.

As a 26-year-old single father, raising a toddler can sometimes be a heavy lift. But the customer-relations specialist from Aiken, S.C., claims to take his paternal duties in stride

— from cooking meals to arranging play dates.

All except one, which stereotypically challenges all dads of little girls of color. “The hardest thing for me is doing her hair,” Emanuel said.

But it’s a tough task he is happy to handle ... given how hard he fought for the right to do so.

Emanuel was one of countless young,

unmarried fathers who are denied the right to raise their biological children, by laws that seem stacked against them.

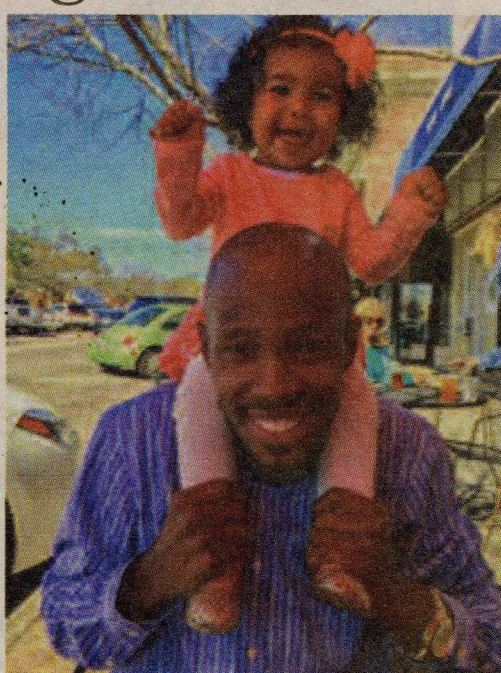
Only a tenacious legal battle ultimately let him care for Skylar.

Emanuel met Alecia Phillips in 2012 at a Trenton, S.C., warehouse where they both drove forklifts. They began dating and, the following year,

Phillips discovered she was pregnant. The news thrilled Emanuel. “I thought we would raise the child together,” he said.

Emanuel swiftly stepped up to the plate and helped finance pregnancy-related expenses.

But things took a turn a few months later, he said, when Phillips, who is white, disclosed her pregnancy to her



Single dad Christopher Emmanuel with his daughter, Skylar

mother. The mom’s response shocked him. Emanuel claims the mother feared the news that their daughter had an interracial pregnancy would “drive her husband to drink.”

Undeterred, Emanuel pushed ahead with plans to move in with Phillips — the woman he now calls the “egg donor” — to support her pregnancy and be an active father.

Still, he felt something was amiss when Phillips prevented him from attending her medical appointments, as they had done at first.

So, Emanuel signed a Responsible Father’s Registry — a notice of paternity that secured his right to be notified of any legal proceedings involving the child in South Carolina.

But shortly after Phillips sent him a text message saying the pregnancy was advancing well, he learned he had missed his baby’s birth. In fact, the news came when he was served with a court notice that his days-old daughter had been placed for adoption.

Aiken County Family Court records show that the birth mother and adoptive parents did not name him as the biological father in an ensuing adoption case, even though a mandatory registry search listed Emanuel as Skylar’s natural dad.

After a DNA test confirmed his paternity, both Phillips and the adoptive parents agreed to halt the adoption and hand the infant over to her ecstatic dad.

“Feeling my daughter for the first time — that was the best day of my life,” Emanuel said.

A judge also agreed to terminate his ex-girlfriend’s parental rights and to remove her name from Skylar’s birth certificate.

Phillips could not be reached for comment.

Emanuel’s custody battle might be over, but his experience with legal adoption policy, and its impact on unmarried fathers, has spurred him to fight for change.

Putative father registries were established in the 1970s as a way to link

unmarried men to women with whom they have, or may have, fathered children.

“Of the two-thirds of states that have registries, most do not have useful information online about them,” said Brad Reid, a professor of law and ethics at Tennessee’s Lipscomb University. The often-missing details include how to register and search them. Some documents are not even online.

And fathers usually have little time to sign up — from no more than 30 days after a birth in Illinois to as few as 72 hours in Montana.

To secure his paternal rights, a father must complete documents in every state where his child may be born. This is a big problem for dads who, like Emanuel, have no idea where birth mothers are or will go.

One solution, Reid said, is a federal registry.

“With the mobility of people and infant children nowadays, if you really wanted to be fair to fathers, you would really have to have a national registry that fathers would sign onto,” Reid said.

Right now, single fathers in about 18 states have no such recourse.

That’s something Emanuel hopes to help change as he visits schools and speaks to young men about paternity and the law.

“The fight for my daughter was the hardest time of my life,” he said. “It became my calling, making sure fathers get their parental rights.”

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