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Public Offices Discriminate Against Black Americans

By Jazelle Hunt

NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — It's an open secret that Black-sounding names can hinder employment, housing, and loan applications. Apparently, basic emails to public servants have snuck onto that list.

So concluded a recent study published by the Institute for the Study of Labor, an international research center based in Germany.

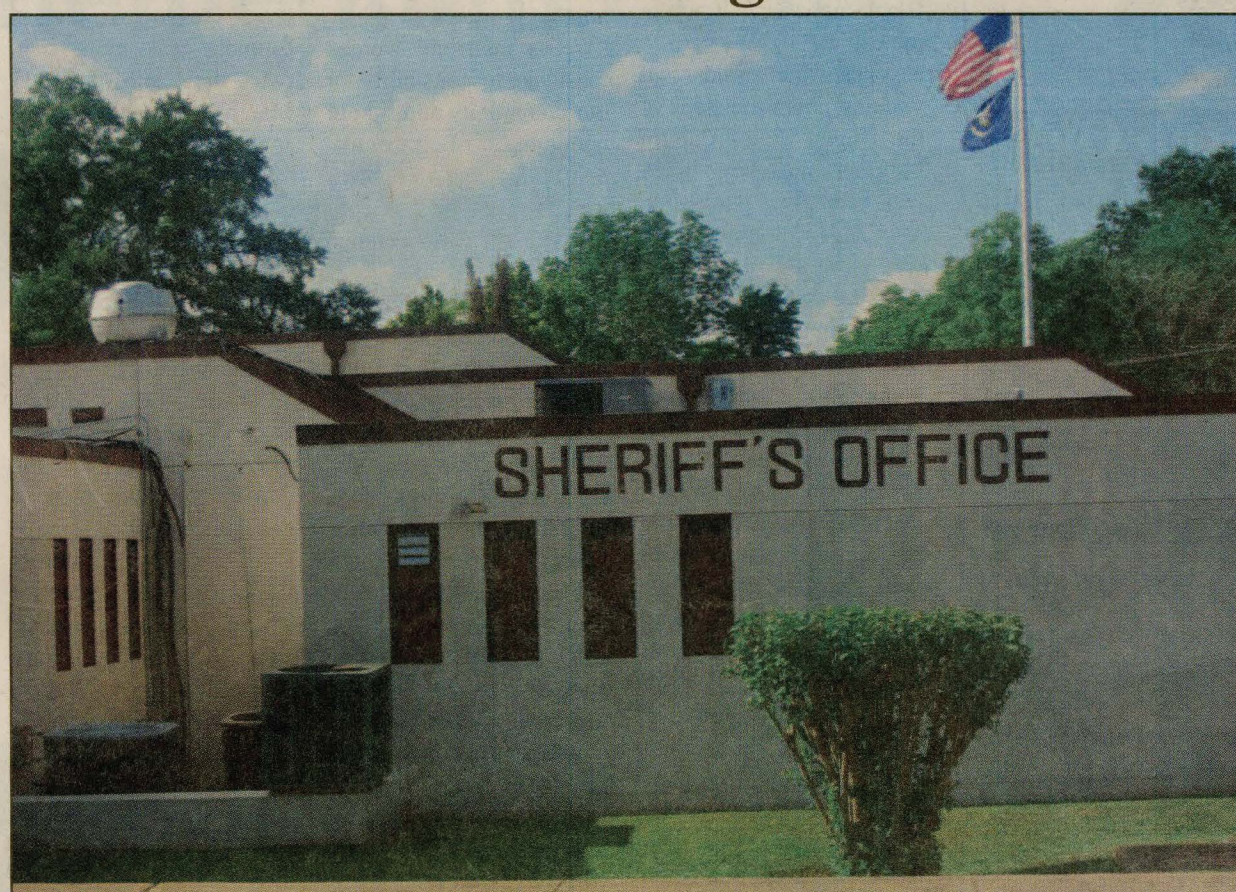
"Discrimination by providers of public services not only has a potentially detrimental impact on the economic and social lives of those affected, but is also illegal," the study concluded. "While deregulation and globalization may have increased competition in the U.S. economy, thus placing

pressure on discriminatory attitudes in the private sector ... this has certainly been much less the case for the public sector."

To test this hypothesis, researchers sent emails asking for basic information to more than 19,000 local public offices around the United States over two non-consecutive weeks. The emails used four names: Jake Mueller, Greg Walsh, DeShawn Jackson, and Tyrone Washington.

Public offices responded to 72 percent of emails each from Jake and Greg. For DeShawn and Tyrone, who had slightly different levels of response, 68 percent of their emails received replies.

"Our results show that emails signed with a distinctively Black name are less likely to receive a reply than identical emails



(Billy Hathorn/CC BY-SA 3.0)

signed with a distinctively White name, thus indicating the presence of discrimination in access to public services," the report stated.

And while the offices that did respond took roughly the same amount of time and used the same amount of words for everyone, the responses to DeShawn and Tyrone were "less cordial," 72 percent of the responses to Jake and Greg addressed them by name or included a salutation such as "Hello," "Dear," or "Thank [you]." For DeShawn and Tyrone, 66 percent of their responses included such pleasantries, despite having the same amount of words.

During the second week of emails, all the names included "real estate agent" in their signatures to test for socioeconomic bias.

The results remained the same as the first week without the career mention, leading the researchers to assert that the responders were discriminating by race, not class.

The study also found that the emails from Black names were less likely to be ignored if the recipient was also Black. The researchers argued that if the email senders were being discriminated against because of social status or some other, non-racial prejudice, "White and Black recipients should have a similar propensity to respond to names conveying low socioeconomic background, i.e., Black names."

Since the researchers had no way to record the identity and race of each of the 19,000 responders, they used the demographics in

each profession plus a racial database of last names to infer the recipients' race, to test the idea.

And they found that, "where the probability that a recipient is Black becomes more substantial, the predicted response rates for the two races become indistinguishable."

In rural areas, the difference in response was almost double that of urban areas. The Northeast had the smallest racial gaps in responses, and the Midwest had the largest; but the researchers point out that the Midwest is home to more rural counties than the Northeast, South, and West. The South had the second-lowest incidence of discriminating against DeShawn's and Tyrone's emails — the researchers believed this is because more Black people hold

public jobs in the South than in other parts of the country.

In terms of professions, the responses from sheriff offices showed the widest racial gap, responding to 46 percent of the Black senders, and 53 percent of the White senders. School districts had the smallest gap of 3 percent higher for White senders. Job centers were the only agencies to respond more to Black senders than White senders.

Roughly half of all the emails were sent to school district employees, and another 25 percent were sent to library workers. The rest were spread among sheriff offices, state and county treasurers, job centers, and county clerks. Sample emails included: "My partner and I would like a marriage license.

Could you please tell me what your opening hours are?" and, "I am about to purchase a house. Could you please explain how I can check whether there are unpaid taxes on the house? If there are unpaid taxes, who would be liable for them?"

The report cited a few examples from past research in which Black and low-income Americans access social services and opt into programs at higher rates when they are given more information. So while being stingy and/or unfriendly with public information doesn't necessarily mean less access to these services, this behavior can seriously affect Black Americans' ability to take action and make decisions about their lives.

"Making it more difficult for a citizen to obtain information about a service is not merely a nuisance, but can also have an important impact on whether and how the citizen engages with the service," the researchers wrote. They also pointed out that it's unlikely that these discriminatory behaviors only happen in responding to emails, without spilling over into the general and unspoken ways of operating a public office.

The study concluded, "Besides being illegal, discrimination by public service providers is particularly startling, since governments could be major players in the effort to eradicate discrimination in American society."

Too Many In Jails Awaiting Competency Services

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

(AP) — Efforts by Washington state health officials to shorten the amount of time mentally ill people wait in jails for competency services are failing to keep up with a growing demand and urgent measures are needed to deal with the backlogs, according to a court-ordered monitor.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman issued a permanent injunction in April, ordering the Washington Department of Social and Health Services to cut the wait times to seven days, saying that holding mentally ill people in jails for months while awaiting competency services is unconstitutional.

She set a January deadline and appointed Danna Mauch, an expert in public mental health systems, to monitor the

state's progress.

In her first quarterly report, Mauch said the state should be commended for taking steps to address the waitlists, but the measures have not provided relief for those waiting for services.

"The critical conditions in the jails suggest that interim urgent measures to clear backlogs are in order," Mauch said in her report filed with the court Tuesday.

She also questioned if the state's long term plan will meet the judge's deadline.

Messages sent to state health officials seeking a response to Mauch's findings were not immediately returned.

Judges order competency evaluations when they have concerns about whether a person arrested for a crime is able to assist with his or her defense. If the person is

found incompetent, the judge orders treatment to have competency restored. But in Washington state, people have languished in jails waiting for both services because of a lack of bed space and staffing at the state's two forensic hospitals.

Lawyers with Disability Rights Washington and the American Civil Liberties Union filed the federal class-action lawsuit on the behalf of these individuals and secured an injunction that requires services within seven days of a judge's order. The state has appealed the part of the order that requires evaluations to be done in seven days.

In a letter to Mauch, the lawyers questioned the state's ability to meet the January deadline.

"It is concerning that in the three and a half

months since the court's order, the time that it takes defendants to provide competency restoration services has not significantly trended downward," the letter said. "They didn't start the hiring process for forensic evaluators until July — three months after the order."

State reports on cases show that 16 people have waited more than 100 days for services, the lawyers said. Five of those people waited between 150 and 398 days to get into the hospital to have their competency restored, they said.

In her report, Mauch cited problem areas that put compliance with the federal order into question.

The volume of orders for competency services is growing, she said. In April, there were 336 competency cases, although officials said that was an incomplete

count. The state reported 918 cases in May and 1,486 in June, she said.

Some people are waiting more than 60 days for competency evaluations at Eastern State Hospital, and are held in jail for 15 to 44 days to receive treatment at Western State Hospital, she said.

Mauch said when she spoke with officials about the \$4.8 million it secured to work on competency issues, they "underscore" that the funds will "solve" the lags in services and help to prevent people from entering the criminal justice system.

Mauch said that total "is modest given the scope of need for these services in Washington."

She also had concerns about the state's ability to hire staff to fill positions at both forensic hospitals. When the budget was passed in July, the state

made offers to nearly a dozen psychologists to fill evaluator positions, she said. Eight were hired for Western State Hospital, but not one wanted to work at the eastern site, she said.

When Mauch asked state officials if they would consider emergency hiring, department officials said they plan to have Western State Hospital Staff cover Eastern State hospital cases and that "constitutes its interim response."

The department should report within 30 days whether this plan has been implemented and if so, whether it helped reduce wait times, she said.

"In the face of these challenges, other steps need to be taken to meet the seven-day time frames 'as soon as practicable' for competency evaluation services," the monitor said.

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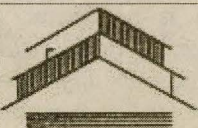
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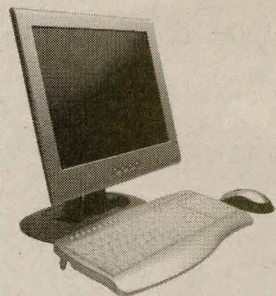
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Farrakhan: "Justice Or Else" March Just The Beginning

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — In a wide-ranging conference call with the Black Press, the Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan said the upcoming "Justice or Else" rally set for October 10 celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Million Man March is just the beginning of the movement.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA and the national director of the 1995 Million Man March, moderated the call, fielding pooled questions from dozens of publishers and editors from Black newspapers across the country.

Farrakhan said that walking down the steps of the United States Capitol building and seeing Black men standing together, shoulder-to-shoulder all the way down to the Washington Monument and over to the Lincoln Memorial was his most memorable experience from the Million Man March on October 16, 1995. The minister boasted that the men went home and recommitted themselves to their families and wives, others registered to vote, and gang members left their weapons at home.

Critics, however, charged that little long-lasting follow-up was done on the local level.

Farrakhan said that those who benefit from White supremacy fear the power of unified Blacks, Latinos and all minority people and have continued to work against that unity, since the 1995 march.

Farrakhan said that since the Million Man March, the Black community is not as strong as it should be, so the struggle for "Justice or Else" must take place on two fronts.

"We can not go to Washington appeal to our government to intercede to see that Black men and women tried in their courts get justice in accordance with the law and leave our communities in shambles



Minister Louis Farrakhan

with us killing one another," said Farrakhan. "We as men and women must take responsibility for our community and rid our community of fratricidal conflict and that strengthens us as we go to our government to demand justice."

Farrakhan said that he thanked God for the women who ignited the Black Lives Matter Movement.

"We honor the young ladies that fashioned that cry and all who have joined on but no one can rob the young sisters of the honor that God used [them] to say something that caught on and today Black lives do matter," he said. "Let's go to work in our communities to make sure that all of our people fall in love with their Blackness and say, 'Black lives matter' and Black love will make sure that Black lives matter."

The truth matters, too.

The United States Park Police (USPP) estimate of 400,000 attendants at the original march wildly contradicted the estimated count provided by march organizers, which was roughly 1.5 million.

Working with Boston University, the Park Service later revised its estimate to 837,214 — more than twice the original estimate. With a 20 percent margin of error, the size of the crowd could have been 655,000 to 1.1 million men, according to Farouk El-Baz, director of Boston University's

Center for Remote Sensing. Even the lowest revised estimate was more than twice the size of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Following the controversy over the number of people attending the Million Man March, Congress prohibited the Park Service from making official estimates.

Unlike the Million Man March that primarily focused on the empowerment of men of color, the call for "Justice or Else" is meant to address the struggle for justice for Blacks, Native Americans, Latinos, women, military veterans and poor Whites, everyone who feels deprived in America.

"Even though are struggles may be different, justice is what we seek for all," said Minister Farrakhan.

The minister also praised Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work during the last years of his life that revolved around economic equality, unionization and labor rights, and land ownership.

Minister Farrakhan noted that Blacks were largely shut out of the prosperity enjoyed by White settlers following the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862. Blacks weren't considered citizens in 1862, a key eligibility requirement that prevented them from claiming any of the millions of acres of free

land west of the Mississippi River granted to White settlers by the United States government.

"We have to have land, brothers and sisters, as a basis for economic development," said Minister Farrakhan, proposing a legislative agenda that would promote land ownership in the Black community.

Farrakhan encouraged Black business owners to advertise in the Black Press and buy subscriptions to community newspapers, and that part of the estimated \$1.1 trillion in annual buying power wielded by the Black community be used to build hospitals, factories and to support Black colleges.

He also lamented the anger and frustration that young people have expressed across the nation and that uncontrolled and misdirected anger can lead to great destruction.

"We don't have a lot of time, but we can turn the anger of our community into production," the minister continued, adding that young people will be more than eager to live productive lives rather than lives of crime and suffering and savage behavior, if properly guided.

As the presidential election approaches, Minister Farrakhan warned Blacks against casting their votes foolishly and continuing to vote for the Democratic Party that could and should do more for the Black community. He added that he doesn't see himself voting for Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) or Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.).

He made no mention of Willie Wilson, the Black Chicago businessman who is also running for president as a Democrat.

"The Black vote is a powerful vote," said Minister Farrakhan. "But unless any of these candidates that are running for president of the United States speak to the need for justice for those that are deprived, why should we give them our vote?"

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Just by filling out a simple survey, children and teens (ages 0-18) who participated in Summer of Learning can receive two free tickets to an end-of-summer party at the zoo on Friday, Sept. 11, Saturday, Sept. 12 or Sunday, Sept. 13.

The surveys, which will help improve next year's program, are located in the back of the Summer

of Learning activity booklets and on the fliers for early learners and teens (all available at your local Library branch) or online on the Library's Summer of Learning Web page. Turn surveys in to your local Library branch by Thursday, Sept. 10 for zoo tickets.

Tickets provide free admittance to the zoo for one person 18 or under and one guest. There will be a welcome program at noon every day, followed by free music in the North Meadow.

A free bus shuttle to the zoo for ticketholders will operate Sunday, Sept. 13. The shuttle will depart between 9 a.m. and 3:30

p.m. from the following three locations:

•Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., 206-386-4636

•High Point Branch, 3411 S.W. Raymond St., 206-684-7454

•NewHolly Branch, 7058 32nd Ave. S., 206-386-1905

The shuttle will return every 30 minutes from the zoo between noon and 6:30 p.m. Patrons boarding buses need to have zoo tickets or will need to purchase tickets to enter the zoo. Children ages 12 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The 2015 Summer of

Learning program is designed to keep students reading and learning while school is out. This year's program features the theme "Wild Science!" and encourages reading and activities around science, technology, engineering, arts and math. The program is sponsored by The Seattle Public

Library Foundation, U.S. Bank and Woodland Park Zoo.

For more information about Summer of Learning, visit www.spl.org/summeroflearning, call The Seattle Public Library at 206-386-4636 or Ask a Librarian.

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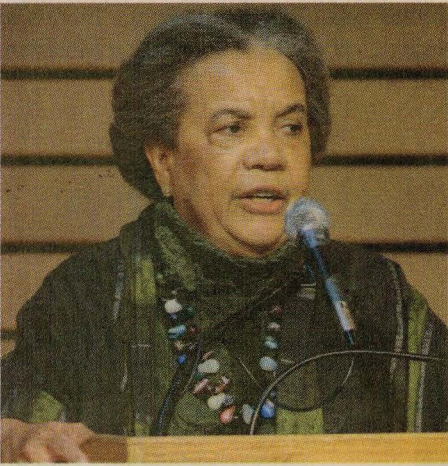
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EDITORIALS • COMMENTS • OPINIONS

Child Watch It’s Hard To Be What You Can’t See



By Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

As a new school year starts, many parents are making sure their children have the right supplies from their back-to-school lists and double-checking their courses and schedules. But are we thinking about what books our children are reading? Children of color are now a majority of all public school students and will soon be a majority of all children in America yet children’s books and the publishing industry have failed to keep up with the rainbow of our children’s faces and cultures and needs and

the wide variety of their daily experiences. As award-winning children’s book author and illustrator Christopher Myers says, this matters in order to give all children a deeper sense of connection to the books they’re reading and to each other and to prepare them to live in a rapidly globalizing, multicultural, multiracial, and multi-faith nation and world. I was grateful that Chris Myers joined other leading children’s book authors at a roundtable before 2,000 college-age students, public school teachers, and juvenile detention personnel preparing to teach in summer Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools® programs. Our reading curriculum has long been centered on excellent books reflecting a wide variety of cultures, races, and experiences. For some children it is the first time they have seen books with characters who look like them and share some of the struggles in their lives. Our goal is to help children fall in love with reading, and they respond. “I enjoyed learning about my history.” “That [book] really inspired me because he came from a rough neighborhood.” “Freedom Schools taught me when I learn, I can have fun with it. It made me a better reader because I can

understand things.” “I see myself and the books give me hope.” The “all-White world of children’s books” is nothing new. Rudine Sims Bishop, the moderator of the children’s book roundtable, noted that was the title of a landmark study 50 years ago “calling out the children’s book world not only for failing to include African Americans in children’s books, but also for feeding White children ‘gentle doses of racism through their books.’” The old books were guilty of sins of commission and omission, and of course Black children were not the only ones left out. Bishop said since 1994 the Cooperative Children’s Book Center at the University of Wisconsin has been counting the number of new children’s books featuring African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Latino Americans each year. But even as the number of Americans of color has continued to grow rapidly, the percentage of books reflecting them has not: the annual total has hovered around 10 percent. It’s hard to be what you can’t see. It’s only noise Ching chong I won’t let it in.

I won’t let it in. I promise myself I won’t let them Win. Wong said she was asked to read that poem during a visit to a school in Singapore by a teacher troubled by the racial hostility that existed there. Even when the context was completely different, a poem like this describes a common feeling of racism and discrimination that lets children finally see themselves, too. It also lets other children make their own connections with how this person is feeling, including those who have never been teased about their race or eyes and those who have done the teasing. All children need these kinds of experiences. Is your school providing books that celebrate and include every child? Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children’s Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to www.childrensdefense.org

To Be Equal Remembering Julian Bond, A Giant Among Giants



By Marc H. Morial
NNPA Columnist

“The country has lost one of its most passionate and eloquent voices for the cause of justice. He advocated not just for African Americans, but for every group, indeed every person subject to oppression and discrimination, because he recognized the common humanity in us all.” – Morris Dees, Southern Poverty Law Center Julian Bond was never one to shrink away from a worthy fight. He lived his life as a tireless champion of the oppressed and maligned, a battle-worn warrior for civil

rights, equality and social justice. Bond fought the good fight, and at the still-youthful age of 75, he completed his course. His longtime dedication to equal rights for African-Americans – and for all – will be celebrated in the days and months to come. But we must guard against fossilizing his life and legacy in tributes or textbooks. Bond lived a life of action, clear mission and steadfast service. There could be no worthier tribute to Bond than to pick up the baton he has passed and re-dedicate ourselves to the struggle to make the promises and opportunities of our democracy true for all its citizens. That struggle is an ongoing one that neither begins nor ends with one movement or personality. Individually and collectively, we must take up the baton to bring an end to the deadly scourge of police brutality, close persistent economic inequality gaps and address destructive disparities in our nation’s education system. We must do it, because as Bond once famously reminded us all: “Good things don’t come to those who wait. They come to those who agitate.” Bond was a student in a philosophy class taught by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Morehouse College in Atlanta. It was there, during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, that Bond began to

agitate in earnest, co-founding the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee along with other students, including now-Congressman John Lewis. He served as the group’s communications director for five years. Bond was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1965, but was not allowed to take his seat because his White colleagues objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War. It took a year, a protest march led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and a Supreme Court order, but the legislature finally allowed him to take his rightful seat in 1966. He spent 20 years in the Georgia Legislature, serving in both the House and the Senate. In 1968, Bond became a national figure after delivering a fiery speech at the Chicago Democratic National Convention. His performance was so impressive; his name was placed into the nominating process for vice president – a position he could not qualify for because he was too young. Bond went on to serve as the first president of the Southern Poverty Law Center, remaining on its board for the rest of his life after his tenure came to an end in 1979. Later, he would also serve as chairman of the NAACP. No matter the capacity, Bond was first and foremost an activist for equal rights. In addition to his political career and his work

as a civil rights leader, Bond was an accomplished writer, he was a lecturer and a professor, a television show host and he narrated “Eyes on the Prize,” an iconic documentary on the Civil Rights Movement. Bond never stopped agitating because he fundamentally believed that, “the humanity of all Americans is diminished when any group is denied rights granted to others.” Bond never limited his philosophy to any community, region or nationality. Bond fought against segregation on our shores and apartheid in South Africa. He devoted himself to equal rights for all, including, most recently, the rights of the LGBT community. Bond left a lasting legacy for us to explore, celebrate and continue. Whether it’s challenges to voting rights or inequity in education funding, many of the challenges he faced yesterday continue to plague our nation today. His lifelong fight for equality and justice must become our lifelong fight for the same. We can all become a part of his vision to create a more perfect union in our nation. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy are with his family, along with our promise to continue Julian’s fight. *Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.*

Planned Attacks On Planned Parenthood



By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Conservatives are attacking Planned Parenthood so viciously that you would be forgiven if you thought that the organization was running for president as a Democrat. It is often said, “The first casualty when war comes is truth.” Actually, the first casualty of politics is truth. That’s particularly true when it comes to the orchestrated attacks on Planned Parenthood. The anti-choice Center for Medical Progress (CMP) has released seven videos that seek to discredit Planned Parenthood. Media Matters said, “The latest video again relies on footage already debunked as highly edited, features conversations with third-party providers who acted as the middlemen between researchers and clinics, and relies heavily on the account of a technician who did not work for Planned Parenthood...” Dr. Ben Carson, a retired neurosurgeon, has also launched a major attack against Planned Parenthood and he should know better.

In an interview with Fox News on Aug. 12, Carson said that Planned Parenthood erects most of its clinics in Black neighborhoods as a “way to control that population.” However, ABC’s Martha Raddatz reported, “Planned Parenthood estimates that fewer than five percent of its health centers are located in areas where more than one-third of the population is African-American.” In a detailed rebuttal, the Washington Post awarded Carson “Four Pinocchios,” indicating a “whopper” of a lie, the highest level of falsehoods. “A 2011 report by Life Dynamics, which opposes abortion, used Census data to determine the African-American and Hispanic population of each zipcode where Planned Parenthood has an office,” the newspaper recalled. “The report was intended to show that the abortion clinics are placed mostly in areas where black residents exceed the average black population of the state. “But when you look closely at the data, it turns out that there are only about 110 locations (out of about 800) where the black population exceeds 25 percent of the overall population. That certainly does not support the claim that “most” clinics are in ‘black neighborhoods.’ “Separately, in 2011, the Guttmacher Institute surveyed all abortion providers (about 1,700), including Planned Parenthood, and found that 60 percent are in majority-white neighborhoods — and that fewer than one in ten abortion providers are located in neighborhoods where more than half of the residents are

black. The statistics did not change when the numbers were adjusted for nearly 600 providers that conduct more than 400 abortions a year.” Referring to the founder of Planned Parenthood, Carson said: “I know who Margaret Sanger is and I know that she believed in eugenics and that she was not particularly enamored with Black people.” He is correct in saying that Margaret Sanger believed in eugenics, the idea that the human race can be improved by encouraging or discouraging reproduction based on genetic traits. Even so, Carson tells only half of the story – the half favorable to his point of view. “...I think people should go back and read about Margaret Sanger, who founded this place – a woman who Hillary Clinton by the way says she admires,” Carson said in the Fox interview. “Look and see what many people in Nazi Germany thought about her.” The Washington Post did just that. “Starting in 1916, Sanger’s clinics at first were aimed mainly at poor immigrant women. The first clinic was in a neighborhood ‘populated largely by Italians and Eastern European Jews,’ according to the 2010 book “Birth Control on Main Street,” by Cathy Moran Hajo. Sanger did not open a Harlem clinic until the 1930s, even though infant mortality rates there were similar. “Hajo found that in the 1916-1939 period, white activists were more likely to exclude African Americans from clinics, rather than include them. There were some half-hearted efforts to create African American clinics, but white activists

actually gave little or no assistance. ‘Whatever the activists’ personal beliefs about race may have been, there was no grand program to exterminate nonwhites or the poor,’ Hajo concluded.” The Post also noted, “Sanger in 1938 appeared to speak positively about the German program undertaken by the Nazis. ‘Reports in medical journals state that the indications laid down in the German law are being carefully observed. These are gongenital feeble-mindedness; schizophrenia, circular insanity; heredity epilepsy; hereditary chorea (Huntington’s); hereditary blindness or deafness; grave hereditary bodily deformity and chronic alcoholism,” she said. “The rights of the individual could be equally well safeguarded here, but in no case should the rights of society, or which he or she is a member, be disregarded.” “Yet in 1939, she wrote that before Hitler came to power, ‘I was one of the few Americans who joined the Anti-Nazi Committee and gave money, my name and any influence I had with writers and others, to combat Hitler’s rise to power in Germany.’ She added that ‘my three books were destroyed [burned] and have not been allowed to circulate in Germany.” It would be great if we could get these orchestrated lies about abortion out of circulation. George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA) and BlackPressUSA.com. He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach.

Black Designer Lights Up GM

By **Freddie Allen** *Senior Washington Correspondent*

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — If you're driving down a highway, street or tunnel anywhere in North America and you see the shimmering new headlights on the latest Cadillac, Chevrolet, GMC or Buick approaching you, there's a good chance you're seeing the work of Martin Davis, a talented, young African American designer who works for General Motors.

Since 2012, Davis has led the exterior lighting and design studio for the automaker's North American division, the team responsible for the exterior lighting for every brand under the General Motors' umbrella.

Davis traces his love for design and innovation back to elementary school. He didn't like Hot Wheels and the Lego sets that he owned weren't intricate enough to hold his attention even at 5 years old. He found that he didn't like any of the toys sold in the stores, so he started making his own.

The Detroit-area native started collecting empty cardboard boxes that were used for transporting fruits and vegetables from the grocery store, bring them home and just start cutting. He molded shapes with glue, tape and construction paper. There was a small closet in the entryway of his parents' house, just big enough for a chair and his creations: interior designs for a car including a dashboard and center console. Then he invited all of his friends over to "test drive" the car. He rolled out a new model about once a month.

His father, then an employee at Ford Motor Company's stamping plant in Dearborn, Mich., shut

down young Martin's burgeoning auto operation fearing that letting the neighborhood kids play with cardboard in their closet presented a safety hazard.

That didn't stop him from sharing his talent for design with others, including his father's employer.

"One day I decided to send my sketches into Ford. I was still in middle school. I found an address to Ford in some magazine and put a few of my drawings in an envelope and put it in the mail," Davis explained. "I didn't tell my parents anything."

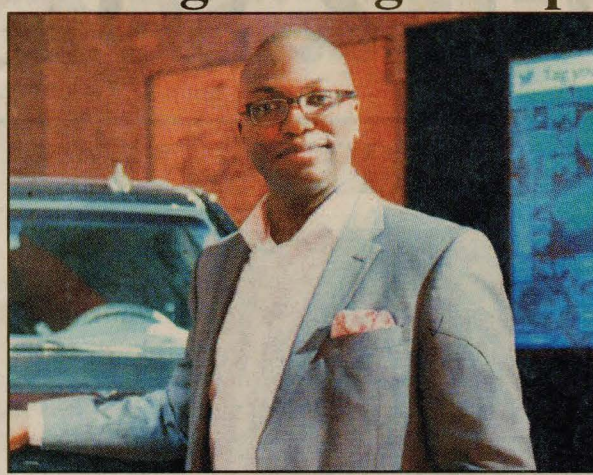
A few months went by, and the young designer began to lose hope and figured that nothing would come of his letter. Then one day after school when he got home, his brother was waving a piece of paper at him.

"This guy from Ford called you here's his number and he wants to call you back," Davis recalled his older brother saying.

So Davis anxiously dialed the number and the Ford employee who answered, thanked him for his interests and told him that he sent the drawings over to the design department, and that someone would get in contact with him. He received a follow-up letter from the design department with some career advice and a list of schools.

The list of schools included his eventual choice. Following the advice that he received from Ford, while still in middle school he set his mind to attending the College for Creative Studies (CCS) in downtown Detroit.

After he graduated from CCS, he applied to a number of companies. At one point he believed that he would



Martin Davis — a bright spot for GM.

follow in his father's footsteps at Ford, but despite earlier interest in the middle schooler's work, he never got an offer from the company.

But he did get an offer from GM.

"My time at GM has been amazing," said Davis. "I couldn't have imagined it being better."

Davis admitted his first day on the job was nerve-racking, and it took him awhile to find his way around the mammoth General Motors complex.

"I remembered sitting at my desk that first day looking around at all designers thinking, 'How am I going to compete with all of them?'" said Davis.

But the young designer did compete, gaining confidence with every completed sketch. Davis' work began to catch eyes of the design managers and they started selecting his sketches among dozens plastered on the 20-foot wall in his studio at GM.

"The early days were a lot of fun," said Davis. "There was a freeness. I remember doing sketches for the 2004 Oldsmobile show car, the last show car they did."

One of his sketches was selected as the theme sketch for the car. That Oldsmobile

show car would be built at the world-famous, now defunct Gruppo Bertone design house in Italy.

Even though Davis wasn't selected to join GM designers in Italy, he didn't sit on the sidelines for long. A few months later, as the end of his first year with GM approached, the auto company gave him the opportunity to travel to Birmingham, England to work at an advanced design studio that primarily focused on Cadillacs. There he worked on the Cadillac Cien, a two-seater, mid-engine concept car.

The assignment, originally scheduled for two months stretched into two years.

"It was a really great experience to work on such a high-profile concept car," said Davis.

After the two-year stint in Birmingham, the Detroit area native worked on a number of production programs, including the GMC Acadia and the auto company's Cadillac group in China.

When Davis returned to the United States, company executives were having ongoing discussions about General Motors' exterior lighting designs compared to some of their competitors. Davis said that as the

conversations were happening about the direction of the new project wholly-focused on exterior lighting, he jumped at the opportunity and volunteered to do it.

"It was almost like a huge experiment," said Davis. "We never had a dedicated, exterior lighting design studio, but we wanted better lights, so we said, 'Let's see how this work.'"

Davis and his team took on the exterior lighting responsibilities for three well-known "programs": the GMC Acadia Chevy Traverse and the Buick Enclave.

Management immediately recognized the how valuable having dedicated focus on lighting could be.

"Not long after that they made it an official studio and made me the first manager of that studio in 2012," said Davis. "That was really cool."

"I don't have an instrument. My team has all of the instruments they need and I have to remember that," said Davis. "Now my job is to make sure that my team knows where each brand is going and understands how to use technology to create a design that is appropriately styled to the character of each vehicle."

At first some designers of General Motors other brands were apprehensive about giving up that much control of a central element in the cars overall style, now Davis said all of them want his team's designs.

Ed Welburn, General Motors' vice president of Global Design, praised Davis and his team for their creativity.

"Martin is doing a phenomenal job," said

Welburn. "Lighting on that [Cadillac CTS] is so striking. It wasn't too many years ago that every headlight was either round or rectangular. Now lighting is so much a character of the car. It really is the eyes of the vehicle. Our organization is really dependent on Martin."

Davis said educators, parents and support groups first have to raise awareness among students of color about opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers and then help them to understand that they can also excel in those professions.

The GM design manager mentors children in the Detroit metro area and recommended that all students get focused at a young age and seek educational and career development programs that can assist them with achieving their goals. Davis added that his presence in the automotive design field shows students, especially students who look like him, that they can also be successful in that field.

"I think that goes a long way," he said.

And Davis has come a long way, too.

"It almost feels like a dream that I have this responsibility," said Davis. "You think of [General Motors'] history, this 100-year-old company that's been making cars forever and now there's this opportunity to shift focus to another part of the vehicle, a part of the vehicle's face, the face of each brand. It's a humbling experience. I really do appreciate the privilege and the opportunity to fulfill this role."

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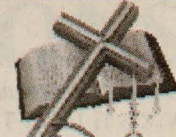
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Evening Worship 7:00 PM

Tuesday

Prayer & Bible Band
Prayer 7:00 PM
Bible Study 7:30 PM

Thursday

Family Enrichment
(To Be Announced)

OBITUARY



Sunrise:
Dec. 4, 1948

Sunset:
Aug. 22, 2015

Daphne Lucille (Miller) Lee transitioned home to glory on Saturday, August 22, 2015. She was born to the late Iris Miller and X.C. Waldon, Jr. on December 4, 1948 in Seattle, Washington. Lee will be remembered for her nurturing spirit, kindness, love for her children, and family. Daphne is known for her wonderful cooking, especially her corn bread dressing and peach cobbler.

Daphne is survived by her children; Michael Tann and Anitra Gross Ballard. She is preceded in death by her son Andre Waldon. She is survived by her grandchildren; Clinton Michael Tann, Jr., Najayah Shelby, and Xavier Tann, Antonio Tann, Di-Martin Tann and Rodrigo Tann. She is also survived by her sisters; Francine (Larry), Roslyn, Judith, Kathy, and Simone. Brothers; Levell, Marvin, Shawn and Sidney along with host of nieces & nephews; extended family and friends.

Our Angel is also preceded in death by her sisters Linda Miller and Iris Bacani.

Viewing will be held Thursday, August 27, 2015 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm and Friday, August 28, 2015 from 10:00am to 11:00am at Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, 350 Monroe Avenue NE, Renton, WA 98056. Homegoing services will be Friday, August 28, 2015 at 11:00am at Greenwood Memorial. Internment Greenwood Memorial Park Cemetery and Funeral Home, 350 Monroe Avenue NE Renton, WA.

Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church Celebrates 65th Church Anniversary



Mayor Johnny L. DuPree, Ph.D.

The Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church anniversary will convene the week of September 13 thru 20, 2015. Sunday service will be at 3:00 PM; mid-week services at 7:00PM. The theme: Delegation: Sharing the Burden - Exodus 18:17-23. Pre-anniversary formal banquet is Friday, September 11, at 7 PM, at Seattle Marriott Sea-Tac Airport Hotel, 3201 South 176th Street.

The keynote speaker for the banquet is the Honorable Mayor of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Mayor Johnny L. DuPree, Ph.D.

Mayor Johnny L. DuPree has over 25 years of experience in public service. In 1987, he was appointed to the Hattiesburg Public School Board, where he served as secretary and president. Following his School Board appointment, Mayor DuPree was elected in 1991, 1995, and 1999 as Forrest County Supervisor in District 4. Mayor DuPree's tenure as supervisor paved the way for being elected as the first African American Mayor in 2001. He is currently serving in his fourth term as Mayor of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. In 2007, he was elected to serve as President of the Mississippi Municipal League. During his fourteen years as Mayor, he has helped bring over \$30 million of federal and state funding to Hattiesburg for housing and infrastructure development. Other projects Mayor DuPree has implemented are programs such as the Mayor's Financial Education Initiative which has brought in more than \$5 million for low to moderate income families, the Municipal Workers Program, the Hattiesburg Behavioral Court and the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Mayor DuPree holds a bachelor and master's degree from The University of Southern Mississippi in Political Science. He received his doctorate degree in Urban Studies from Jackson State University. Mayor DuPree is a member of the Gamma Beta Phi Society and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

He and his wife, Johniece, have been married for 42 years and have two daughters, April and Monica. They have two grandsons, Chandler DuPree Taylor and Chesney DuPree Taylor, and son-in-law, Coustaur Taylor.

For ticket information contact the church office at 206-329-9797.

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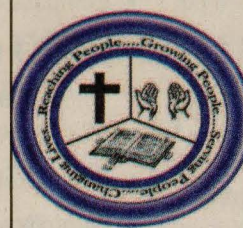
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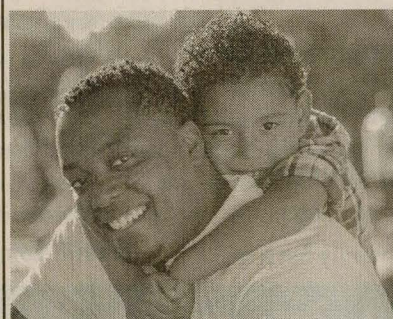
This great event will take place on **Thursday, August 27th**
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To download a document, go to our web page at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/procurement>. King County encourages minority business enterprise participation. King County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

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Pre-bid Conference: A conference to discuss questions related to this ITB will be held, September 1, 2015 at 11:00 a.m., King County Cedar Hills Regional Landfill, 16645 228th Ave SE, Maple Valley, WA, 98038.

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Ask Alma My Best Friend Is Marrying ‘Wicked Witch Of The North’



By Alma Gill
NNPA Columnist

Dear Alma,

This is a question about my best friend. He and I have been best friends

forever and we are just that – friends. I’m a woman and he’s a man, but, never at anytime did we think it would be anything else. So I guess you could say it’s like we’re brother and sister. We have been there through family issues, heartbreaks, lost jobs, college graduations, I mean everything.

Whenever I have a new friend I’m dating, if it starts to get serious, this person has to meet my one and only best friend for

approval and vice-versa. About a year ago, he met and fell hard for a co-worker. Initially, she seemed to be OK. When we finally met, at the table she was courteous, very friendly and I was thinking, I like her. But wait, we walked to the bathroom together and she became the wicked witch of the north. She did a complete turn around and was mean to me and told me she knew that I wanted him, but to watch out because that wasn’t gonna happen. I tried to explain we are just friends. She said she knew what we were and that my friend talks about me all the time and he has made it clear we were to remain the best of friends. She told me she didn’t like me and she didn’t like our friendship but she would do whatever it takes to keep him happy. She turned and walked out the bathroom and once we sat down at the table she became the really, sweet, friendly woman he thinks she is.

Fast forward and now they are getting married. Of course, he wants me to be in the wedding. He asked me to be his best woman and he

also wants me to do things with her while they make all the wedding plans. Things did not get better with us over time and I still don’t like her at all. I was just going along with it because I love him and I tried to suck it up for the past year, but now that they are getting married, I just can’t do it. I cannot participate in this. My mother says I have to be there for him and not make it about me. Help Alma! I just can’t. How do I break it to him without losing my friend?

FriendTillTheEnd

Ain’t nothing like ordering a Famous Dave’s praline sauced bread pudding, a la mode and a diet soda. Two selections that have absolutely nothing to do with each other, but they sure do taste good together. Ummhmm, that just made me hungry. You don’t mind if I eat while we’re talking do you? Sometimes I eat when I’m sad, and your question sure did make me blue. I couldn’t help but think about the friendship that you and he shared, how special it is and how it’s about the end. I’m a firm

believer that a man and a woman can be just friends, but not everyone will agree. Ask my friend, Richard. I love him and he means the world to me, but he’s not my husband, he’s my dear, dear friend. We don’t hide or sneak around to see each other when meeting for a meal. We knew each other before I married and we were able and approved to continue our individual relationship, because my husband trusted what we shared. Partways, I’m sure is because my husband has Gail, one of his best and dear, dear friends. When I met Gail, early on in our relationship, I thought she was awesome, too. What I also thought was, if they haven’t hooked up and made it work by now, it ain’t ever gonna happen. So I made my peace. Men and women are smart enough to know when friendships are ready or capable of moving to the next level. That’s not the case for the two of you and it’s sad his new wife can’t or is choosing not to understand it.

I gotta say though, I agree with your mom. You should suck it up and stand by your best friend. You

don’t have to accompany Glozilla on her whirlwind of wedding trudges, but you do have to show up and take your rightful place at the wedding. Once they’ve married, she may no longer see you as a threat and that should change things for the better. TBT, it’s time for you to prepare yourself to move over. You need to make room for her in his full life. Things don’t have to change but they should become different. Richard and Gail are very supportive of our marriage and both are always equally inclusive with everything they plan, say or do. You have to adjust to the new rules of friendship, engagement and marriage. As he becomes one of your dearest friends, but no longer your only best friend, because he has a new BFF in the soulmate that he’s marrying.

Alma

Alma Gill’s newsroom experience spans more than 25 years, including various roles at USA Today, Newsday and the Washington Post. Email questions to: alwaysaskalma@gmail.com.

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Library events are free and open to the public. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required for each workshop series; call or stop by the Library location to sign up.

Creative Aging Art Workshops will teach attendees to create compositions using

drawing, painting and collage. The workshops are designed for any skill level, from absolute beginners to more experienced artists. Dates, times and locations are as follows.

Greenwood Branch,
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•Noon to 2 p.m. Mondays,
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Betsy Dahlstrom. An art
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will take place from Noon
to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov.
7 at the Greenwood Branch,
West Seattle Branch,

2306 42nd Ave. S.W., 206-684-7444.

•10 a.m. to noon Mondays,
Sept. 21 - Nov. 9 Taught by
local teaching artist Sharon
Birzer. An art exhibit for
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display their art will take
place from 1 p.m. to 2:30
p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14 at
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These workshops are
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For more information,
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