



REV. JESSE JACKSON

GUEST EDITORIAL "Baltimore: We have been here before" PAGE 4

Coming UP in THE COMMUNITY

URGENT!! BE THERE!!

The NC Dept. of Transportation will hold a meeting regarding plans to close South 10th and 8th streets at the railroad crossings. This meeting will be held at Sunset Baptist Church, 231 Central Avenue on Tuesday, May 12th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Community input is a MUST!! For more information call Hollis Briggs at 910-352-2473.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

KKK is here

BY BERNEST HEWETT CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brunswick County, this week I learned that the KKK is here in Brunswick County and has asked its members here to step up efforts to recruit new members and make them aware that their main purpose is to protect White people and their "white rights." It sounds as if the newly elected administration's plans are coming together, plans to pass bills that take away the civil rights of citizens and cut monies for education so that people only learn what they want them to learn and teachers are under their control, plans to turn a free country into one that is controlled by just a few. The KKK, or any other hate group, cannot survive with-

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 88/No. 18

APRIL 30-MAY 6, 2015

FIFTY CENTS

Chavis says Baltimore community must unify for justice

SEE RELATED STORY PAGE 6 "Friends Remember Freddie Gray..."

BY CASH MICHAELS OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

He's seen it many times before. Black youth, angered by police abuse and racial injustice, peacefully taking to the streets to express their outrage, only later to have that devolve in violence and destruction. Indeed, this veteran civil rights activist was unjustly sentenced to prison in North Carolina because the powers-that-be wanted to hold him responsible for the firebombing of a white-owned grocery store during the height of the Wilmington race riots in February 1971.

And that's why, for Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and leader of what infamously became

known as "The Wilmington Ten," the wrenching events in Baltimore, Md. this week are all too familiar, and sad.

Thanks to years of police abuse and oppression, magnified by the decades-long negligence of city and state leaders to rebuild Baltimore's African-American community after the tumultuous 1968 riots that ravaged neighborhoods, Baltimore exploded Monday as hundreds of high school students, later joined by adults, attacked the police, looted and burned local businesses, and even torched a new \$16 million senior living facility.

What did not get as much attention were the numerous peaceful demonstrations that had been held there previous to Monday's tumult.

Please see CHAVIS/Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN After a violent Monday afternoon and evening that saw hundreds of people in West Baltimore City angrily rioting against the police, looting local businesses and burning buildings and cars, calm returned Tuesday and Wednesday after residents took back their neighborhoods, cleaning up after the destruction, and working with young people to rebuild.

AT LAST!



PHOTO COURTESY US DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Last week, after a prolonged five-month delay, The US Senate finally confirmed US Attorney Loretta Lynch to become the 83rd US Attorney General of the United States, succeeding Eric Holder. On Monday, Lynch, flanked by her father, Rev. Lorenzo Lynch Sr. and husband, Stephen Hargrove, was officially sworn-in by Vice President Joe Biden. Attorney General Lynch, a North Carolina native born in Greensboro and raised in Durham, is the first Black woman to serve in the post.



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

President Obama's remarks regarding police abuse and the Baltimore riots

[Editor's note - During a joint press conference in the White House Rose Garden Tuesday with Japanese Prime Minister Abe, President Barack Obama, in response to a reporter's question about the recent series of alleged police shootings and the violence in Baltimore in the wake of the Freddie Gray alleged police abuse case, said the following:]

"With respect to Baltimore, let me make a couple of points. First, obviously our thoughts continue to be with the family of Freddie Gray. Understandably, they want answers. And DOJ has opened an

Please see OBAMA/Page 3

Eight honored at Twelfth Annual Women of Distinction Luncheon



JOHN DAVIS PHOTO

Front row from left to right: Mrs. Evelyn Troy, Mrs. Edna Perrymon, Mrs. Bertha Todd, Mrs. Mary Ratchford, Mrs. Doris Gaines, Mrs. Neicie Parham, Mrs. Jean Lloyd and Mrs. Mamie Williams.

BY MARILYN WESTINGHOUSE CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Wilmington Chapter of Las Amigas, Incorporated hosted its Annual Women of Distinction luncheon at The Ebenezer Empowerment

Center. We believe that we serve God through our service to others. This is our primary goal for honoring these most deserving ladies in our communities. Las Amigas, Incorporated is also a

public service organization. In upholding the principles of the organization, we recognized these ladies for their contributions to their families, churches and communities.

This year we were privileged to give recognition and honor to these eight

pillars from New Hanover, Brunswick and Columbus Counties: Mrs. Doris Gaines, sponsored by Mrs. Emelie Todd; Mrs. Jean Lloyd, sponsored by

Please see WOMEN/Page 2



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

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The Wilmington Journal cannot accept yard sale and dinner sale announcements as briefs. These are considered advertisements. Community and religious briefs are designated for public service announcements, which are free and open to the public.

All news must be submitted two weeks in advance by Fridays at 5 p.m. There is no charge for submitting briefs, news and photos. All briefs will run for a maximum of two weeks.

Please send news near the event date. Briefs/news cannot be taken over the phone. Photos and stories may also be emailed to us at wilmjournalnews@aol.com. News, but not photos, may be faxed to us at 910-343-1334. Photos may be picked up after appearing in the paper. The publisher is not responsible for the return of unsolicited news, pictures or advertising copy unless necessary postage accompanies the copy on a self-addressed envelope.

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#MARCH2JUSTICE TRAVELED 250 MILES ON FOOT THROUGH FIVE STATES . PHOTO COURTESY OF NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

#March2Justice concludes in DC

BY CYRIL JOSH BARKER OF THE NEW YORK AMSTERDAM NEWS

(NNPA)- March2Justice arrived at the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday. Members of Justice League NYC stood alongside Rep. John Conyers as he reintroduced the End Racial Profiling Act.

The act will enforce the constitutional rights to equal protection under the law by changing the policies and procedures underlying the practice of profiling. Carmen Perez, director of

March2Justice and co-founder of Justice League NYC, said, "We were moved to tears as three people lost their lives to police violence during March2Justice. The End Racial Profiling Act will address the underlying problem of racial bias and the disproportionate impact it has that traumatizes communities of color."

March2Justice departed Staten Island, N.Y., Monday, April 13, and approximately 100 people traveled 250 miles on foot through five states to arrive at our nation's capital Tuesday, April 21.

Led by Justice League NYC, the march brought attention to the ongoing national crisis of police brutality, calling on Congress to pass legislation to end racial profiling, stop militarization of law enforcement and invest in our youth and communities.

Wednesday, marchers brought their message directly to members of Congress and to support Conyers' efforts to pass the ERPA. Marchers and supporters were joined by the family of Rekia Boyd, who was killed in 2012 in Chicago. Police officer

Dante Servin was found not guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the killing of the 22-year-old.

Servin fired five shots over his shoulder, killing Boyd while her back was turned. Boyd was unarmed and walking with three friends.

Freddie Gray passed away in Baltimore from an injury that severed his spine sustained while he was in police custody the day that marchers came through that city.

Reports compiled from news sources indicate more

than 115 people lost their lives at the hands of police in the month of March alone.

March2Justice gained the support of numerous celebrities and activists. Artist Common tweeted his support, saying "Every town got a #MichaelBrown. Tuesday 4/21 we march and demand change. #ShutItDown #March2Justice."

Justice League NYC was joined by actor Danny Glover, Jussie Smollett "Empire," several members of Congress and others for the final leg.

WOMEN

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Mrs. Marsha Graham-Ali; Mrs. Neicie Parham, sponsored by Mrs. Lula Little; Mrs. Edna Perrymon, sponsored by Mrs. Jacqueline Davis; Mrs. Mary Ratchford, sponsored by Ms. Marilyn Westinghouse; Mrs. Bertha Todd, sponsored by Mrs. Leslie Watson; Mrs. Evelyn Troy, sponsored by Mrs. Faye Jacobs, and Mrs. Mamie Williams, sponsored by Mrs.

Evelyn Hinnant. Their contributions were numerous; covering many areas: civic, educational, political and above all spiritual.

Four of our own Wilmington Chapter of Las Amigas members also received special recognition for their longevity and dedicated service to the organization. Mrs. Lois Dutton, 53 years, Mrs. Deloris Whitted, 48 years; Mrs. Joyce Clemmons, 47 years, and Mrs. Delores Smith, 45 years of devoted service to Las Amigas,

Incorporated.

Entertainment for the honorees was provided by Mrs. Marsha Graham-Ali with a melodious rendition of "Still I Rise". Miss Sydney Watkins performed a liturgical dance

routine and Mrs. Evelyn Hinnant recited "The Virtuous Woman".

The speaker for the luncheon was Mrs. Atheda Watson. Her spiritual as well motivational message was inspiring

to the honorees as well as all in attendance.

The delicious luncheon was catered by Mrs. Carolyn Lee. Professional photography was provided by John Davis.

BRUNSWICK

Continued from Page 1

out the oppression or fear of people who promote such acts as our elected officials have done. If you have a computer, look up some of the bills that have passed in the last four years and see who have supported and helped sponsor them.

I think you will find out why the KKK is in Brunswick County and why their mission is to reduce civil rights for all American citizens to civil rights rights just for Whites. Wake up, Brunswick County! This is 2015, not 1920. America has moved forward with the hard work of all people, Blacks, Whites, Hispanics, Orientals, Native Americans, etc. Why are we now going back to the hatred

of the past? We must not go back. We must stand. We must go forward and take back the real America, the one wherein the North fought South for equality, where Blacks marched all over the South and North for the right to vote, where blood was spilled, where death came to some for freedom, America came together for the good, and we, as a country, moved and progressed but, six years ago, when President Obama was elected, we had a group of people who came out of their hiding places with a message. Brunswick County, I find it to be racist and oppressive to Blacks, Hispanics, and poor Whites. It has moved fast, and now we find a nation and county on the verge of civil unrest. This has to change, or we will have a government,

county and national, that will oppress its people for the gain of power, not freedom. What happened to freedom and justice for all?

If a man lives in oppression long enough, he will live in a cage with no locks, but he will not be able to escape. There is something everyone should remember, and that is that, if I, as an elected official, come out against you, I am not your friend, nor are we to stand together!!

Bernest L. Hewett is President of the Brunswick County Branch of NAACP



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STATE HOUSE SEEKS TO CHANGE EXECUTION MEDICAL MANDATE

[RALEIGH] Members of the state House are working to remove the requirement that a doctor be present at executions to monitor a prisoner's vital signs, and then legally



STATE BRIEFS

declare him dead. North Carolina has not been able to carry out executions since 2006 because the State Medical Board has refused to allow doctors participate in executions. A proposed bill will allow any "medical professional," including any licensed physician assistant or paramedic, to take the place of a medical doctor during an execution, though a doctor would still have to legally certify that the inmate is dead. Critics say the bill is flawed

because in cases of a botched execution procedure, a doctor would not be present.

ADVOCATES CONTINUE PUSH FOR ANTI-POLICE BRUTALITY BILL

[RALEIGH] In the wake of growing controversies involving alleged instances of police brutality across the nation, advocates for a North Carolina bill that, if passed, would require more

training against racial profiling by law enforcement, more civilian complaint review boards, and better data collection from officers in the event of a police shooting, pushed for its passage again this week. Republican opponents counter that North Carolina already has enough laws on the books to prevent racial profiling, but bill sponsor Rep. Rodney Moore [D-Mecklenburg] disagrees, saying that North Carolina needs to do more to hold its

law enforcement officers accountable.

MORAL MONDAY MOVEMENT CELEBRATES SECOND ANNIVERSARY

[RALEIGH] APRIL 29TH was the second anniversary of the Moral Monday Movement, the NCNAACP-led massive demonstrations at the NC General Assembly to protest what organizers call the "repressive" policies of the Republican majority

there. Almost 1,000 people were arrested during those protests. This week, led by NCNAACP Pres. Rev. William Barber, demonstrators from across the state were back at Jones Street to pray, and demand an expansion of Medicaid for the poor, and an elimination of restrictions on voting, among other issues.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

CHAVIS

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As many protestors later expressed to the media, they were frustrated not only by the imposed impoverished conditions they've had to endure all of their lives, but the perceived slow injustice in the wake of the fatal alleged police abuse of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Baltimore man who died from severe injuries while in police custody after he was arrested on April 12th.

Over two weeks later, Baltimore Police officials have not been able to fully explain why Gray was even arrested, or how his spleen was severely ruptured once police made contact with him, dragged him to a police van, and transported him to jail. Gray eventually was taken to the hospital, where he died a week later of injuries his family's attorneys charge six Baltimore police officers are directly responsible for:

No less than four investigations are underway, including one by new US Attorney General Loretta Lynch, who called the rioting "senseless."

Pres. Obama echoed that sentiment, but added that police officers must be held accountable for the numerous instances of alleged abuse that have come to greater light thanks to social media and the ready availability of citizen video.

A police report on the Freddie Gray case is expected to be handed over to a Maryland state investigator on Friday, but anxious Baltimore citizens are also expecting to get a full accounting of exactly what happened as well.

If that doesn't happen, many observers fear that Baltimore could see a recurrence of the violence and destruction that gripped the west side of the city after Gray's funeral Monday.

Since Tuesday, Baltimore has been in relative peace, with community leaders coming out

to call for order, and begin the cleanup process in aftermath of the riots.

According to Dr. Chavis, the way forward, regardless of the police report on the Freddie Gray death, must be one of young and old working together to become an even stronger, and more vital community.

That did not happen in Wilmington when he was called to come in February 1971 to assist black students who had boycotted the New Hanover County Public Schools because racial violence perpetrated against them by white students, teachers and administrators.

"The continuing drama in Baltimore, Md. today is reminiscent of what happened in Wilmington, NC in 1971," Dr. Chavis said in a phone interview Wednesday from Detroit.

Chavis went on to say that young people today, just like in Wilmington over 40 years ago, were becoming more outspoken because of the continuing series of police abuse cases

that have permeated the media over the past several months - from Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and Eric Garner in Staten Island, NY to Walter Scott in North Charleston, NC and now Freddie Gray in Baltimore.

"I believe what is going on in Baltimore is symptomatic of what's going on across the country," Chavis added. "If not for video, we would not know how to demand justice for [the victims]."

Noting the dreaded conditions that African-Americans have to live in in places like Ferguson and West Baltimore, Chavis said, "Poverty and injustice, particularly when it's longstanding, gives rise to uprisings and unrest."

When Rev. Chavis counseled the black student boycotters in their quest to demonstrate against the racist white Wilmington power structure at the time, he taught them to do so employing Dr. Martin Luther King's philosophy of militant nonviolent confronta-

tion.

He says he hopes that now that the destructive nature of violence to the community has become evident, that the young people in Baltimore will also learn, and then adopt the same nonviolent, civil disobedience character and principle in their movement for justice.

"When we speak out and stand up, it is very important that the people control the narrative," Dr. Chavis continued, "and not allow the perpetrators of violence to control the narrative."

The NNPA president said it would be a "tragic error" if Baltimore city leaders were not "transparent" in releasing their report on the Freddie Gray incident when promised on Friday, May 1.

"Truth is always...therapeutic," he said.

What is ultimately important, beyond bringing about the justice and equality that demonstrators seek as they challenge police abuse and social injustice, is making sure

that the deaths of Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner and other victims "...are not in vain," meaning that young people's movement must remain nonviolent and strategic in order to bring about the best results.

And while there seems to be friction between today's youth leaders and established civil rights leaders like Rev. Al Sharpton and Rev. Jessie Jackson, Dr. Chavis says the community is strongest when young people realize that older leaders have the experience and wisdom to help navigate their movement, while those older leaders must realize that young people have the energy, focus and passion to get the job done.

That is the key to the way forward for Baltimore, and other communities across the nation that are mobilizing to bring about positive social change, says Dr. Chavis.

"There will be no peace in Baltimore until there's justice," Chavis says.

OBAMA

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investigation. It is working with local law enforcement to find out exactly what happened, and I think there should be full transparency and accountability.

Second, my thoughts are with the police officers who were injured in last night's disturbances. It underscores that that's a tough job and we have to keep that in mind, and my hope is that they can heal and get back to work as soon as possible.

Point number three, there's no excuse for the kind of violence that we saw yesterday. It is counterproductive. When individuals get crowbars and start prying open doors to loot, they're not protesting, they're not making a statement - they're stealing. When they burn down a building, they're committing arson. And they're destroying and undermining businesses and opportunities in their own communities that rob jobs and opportunity from people in that area.

So it is entirely appropriate that the mayor of Baltimore, who I spoke to yesterday, and the governor, who I spoke to yesterday, work to stop that kind of senseless violence and destruction. That is not a protest. That is not a statement. It's people - a handful of people taking advantage of a situation for their own purposes, and they need to be treated as criminals.

Point number four, the violence that happened yesterday distracted from the fact that you had seen multiple days of peaceful protests that were focused on entirely legitimate concerns of these communities in Baltimore, led by clergy and community leaders. And they were constructive and they were thoughtful, and frankly, didn't get that much attention. And one burning building will be looped on television over and over and over again, and the thousands of demonstrators who did it the right way I think have been lost in the discussion.

The overwhelming majority of the community in Baltimore I think have handled this appropriately, expressing real concern and outrage over the possibility that our laws were not applied evenly in the case of Mr. Gray, and that accountability needs to exist. And I think we have to give them credit. My understanding is, is you've got some of the same organizers now going back into these communities to try to clean up in the aftermath of a handful of criminals and thugs who tore up the place. What they were doing, what those community leaders and clergy and others were doing, that is a statement. That's the kind of organizing

that needs to take place if we're going to tackle this problem. And they deserve credit for it, and we should be lifting them up.

Point number five - and I've got six, because this is important. Since Ferguson, and the task force that we put together, we have seen too many instances of what appears to be police officers interacting with individuals - primarily African American, often poor - in ways that have raised troubling questions. And it comes up, it seems like, once a week now, or once every couple of weeks. And so I think it's pretty understandable why the leaders of civil rights organizations but, more importantly, moms and dads across the country, might start saying this is a crisis. What I'd say is this has been a slow-rolling crisis. This has been going on for a long time. This is not new, and we shouldn't pretend that it's new.

The good news is, is that perhaps there's some newfound awareness because of social media and video cameras and so forth that there are problems and challenges when it comes to how policing and our laws are applied in certain communities, and we have to pay attention to it and respond.

What's also good news is the task force that was made up of law enforcement and community activists that we brought together here in the White House have come up with very constructive concrete proposals that, if adopted by local communities and by states and by counties, by law enforcement generally, would make a difference. It wouldn't solve every problem, but would make a concrete difference in rebuilding trust and making sure that the overwhelming majority of effective, honest and fair law enforcement officers, that they're able to do their job better because it will weed out or retrain or put a stop to those handful who may be not doing what they're supposed to be doing.

Now, the challenge for us as the federal government is, is that we don't run these police forces. I can't federalize every police force in the country and force them to retrain. But what I can do is to start working with them collaboratively so that they can begin this process of change themselves.

And coming out of the task force that we put together, we're now working with local communities. The Department of Justice has just announced a grant program for those jurisdictions that want to purchase body cameras. We are going to be issuing grants for those jurisdictions that are prepared to start trying to implement some of the new training and data collection and other things that can make a difference. And we're going to keep on

working with those local jurisdictions so that they can begin to make the changes that are necessary.

I think it's going to be important for organizations like the Fraternal Order of Police and other police unions and organization to acknowledge that this is not good for police. We have to own up to the fact that occasionally there are going to be problems here, just as there are in every other occupation. There are some bad politicians who are corrupt. There are folks in the business community or on Wall Street who don't do the right thing. Well, there's some police who aren't doing the right thing. And rather than close ranks, what we've seen is a number of thoughtful police chiefs and commissioners and others recognize they got to get their arms around this thing and work together with the community to solve the problem. And we're committed to facilitating that process.

So the heads of our COPS agency that helps with community policing, they're already out in Baltimore. Our Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division is already out in Baltimore. But we're going to be working systematically with every city and jurisdiction around the country to try to help them implement some solutions that we know work.

And I'll make my final point - I'm sorry, Mr. Prime Minister, but this is a pretty important issue for us.

We can't just leave this to the police. I think there are police departments that have to do some soul searching. I think there are some communities that have to do some soul searching. But I think we, as a country, have to do some soul searching. This is not new. It's been going on for decades.

And without making any excuses for criminal activities that take place in these communities, what we also know is that if you have impoverished communities that have been stripped away of opportunity, where children are born into abject poverty; they've got parents - often because of substance-abuse problems or incarceration or lack of education themselves - can't do right by their kids; if it's more likely that those kids end up in jail or dead, than they go to college. In communities where there are no fathers who can provide guidance to young men; communities where there's no investment, and manufacturing has been stripped away; and drugs have flooded the community, and the drug industry ends up being the primary employer for a whole lot of folks - in those environments, if we think that we're just going to send the police to do the dirty work of containing

the problems that arise there without as a nation and as a society saying what can we do to change those communities, to help lift up those communities and give those kids opportunity, then we're not going to solve this problem. And we'll go through the same cycles of periodic conflicts between the police and communities and the occasional riots in the streets, and everybody will feign concern until it goes away, and then we go about our business as usual.

If we are serious about solving this problem, then we're going to not only have to help the police, we're going to have to think about what can we do - the rest of us - to make sure that we're providing early education to these kids; to make sure that we're reforming our criminal justice system so it's not just a pipeline from schools to prisons; so that we're not rendering men in these communities unemployable because of a felony record for a nonviolent drug offense; that we're making investments so that they can get the training they need to find jobs. That's hard. That requires more than just the occasional news report or task force. And there's a bunch of my agenda that would make a difference right now in that.

Now, I'm under no illusion that out of this Congress we're going to get massive investments in urban communities, and so we'll try to find areas where we can make a difference around school reform and around job training, and around some investments in infrastructure in these communities trying to attract new businesses in.

But if we really want to solve the problem, if our society really wanted to solve the problem, we could. It's just it would require everybody saying this is important, this is significant - and that we don't just pay attention to these communities when a CVS burns, and we don't just pay attention when a young man gets shot or has his spine snapped. We're paying attention all the time because we consider those kids our kids, and we think they're important. And they shouldn't be living in poverty and violence.

That's how I feel. I think there are a lot of good-meaning people around the country that feel that way. But that kind of political mobilization I think we haven't seen in quite some time. And what I've tried to do is to promote those ideas that would make a difference. But I think we all understand that the politics of that are tough because it's easy to ignore those problems or to treat them just as a law and order issue, as opposed to a broader social issue.

That was a really long answer, but I felt pretty strongly about it.

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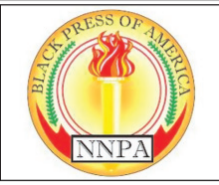
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The Wilmington Journal will publish a special edition on Thursday, MAY 21, 2015 in celebration of its 88th Anniversary and the life of Katherine "Kitty" Jervay Tate. We invite everyone to participate in this celebration by purchasing advertising or joining us as a patron. For more information, please call Shawn Thatch at 910-762-5502. As always, we thank you for the support you have given to us through the years.

Management and Staff



THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Wilmington Journal was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

The Wilmington Journal welcomes letters from its readers. All letters are subject to editing. We will not publish pseudonymous letters. All correspondence must include a home address and a daytime phone number. All correspondence must be signed, unless it is e-mailed. Letters may be sent to our Physical Address: 412 S. 7th Street, 28401 or our Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1020, 28402. We also accept letters via e-mail at wilmjourn@aol.com or via fax at (910) 343-1334.

Our Voice

RAINBOW COALITION

Baltimore:

We have been here before

Now it is Baltimore. There Freddie Gray, a Black man, was stopped on the street, pinned to the ground, dragged to the back of a police wagon, and died in police custody. Six officers were suspended. The mayor promised justice. But the city erupted in non-violent demonstrations that turned ugly, despite Gary's family pleading for peace. Over three dozen were arrested. "Oh, Baltimore," sang Nina Simone in 1978, "Ain't it hard just to live."



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.

Baltimore is a tale of two cities. The Inner Harbor now glimmers with new restaurants, new condominiums, the stadiums that house the Ravens and the Orioles. West Baltimore, in contrast, is marked by boarded up stores, abandoned homes, and too many people with no hope. The jobs are gone; the schools crowded, the streets harsh. Here the police - many of whom live in the suburbs - are tasked with waging a war on drugs and enforcing order. The inevitable result is a tinderbox, a spark away from bursting into flame, one incident of police misbehavior from eruption.

We've been here before; Baltimore is not unique. We've seen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in Staten Island New York, and Trayvon Martin in Sanford Fla. Now that demonstrations have put the question of police violence on the front pages, each week brings another horror, another victim, another injustice.

Much focus has been put on cameras as a technical fix, but we need a change of culture, of character, of circumstance. Police need new training, and a new relationship with the communities they patrol. But at the end of the day, police are not the answer. They are the occupying force, but they are not the cause of the underlying distress.

We've been here before, too. In 1968, after race riots had erupted in Watts, Chicago, Detroit and Newark, Lyndon Johnson convened the Kerner Commission to investigate the causes of the riots. The Kerner Report described a nation "moving towards two societies, one black, one white, separate and unequal." It called for better training for the police, but also for new jobs, new housing, an end to de factor segregation. Police misbehavior was often the match that sparked the eruption, but there would be no answer without fundamental change.

Baltimore and America have changed, but for too many in our ghettos and barrios, the reality is the same. The New York Times reports on 1.5 million "missing black men," one of every six aged 24 to 54 who have disappeared from civic life. They are either dead or locked away. Jobs have dried up as manufacturing plants closed and where shipped abroad. Mass incarceration - with African Americans still suffering from racial profiling and injustice - destroys possibility. The official Black unemployment rate is twice that of whites, but that does not even count those who want a job but have given up trying to find one.

The stigmatization of African Americans continues. African American children are more likely to be suspended for the same misbehavior than Whites. African American men are more likely to be stopped, more likely to be arrested if stopped, more likely to be convicted if arrested. The result hurts African Americans generally. The Harvard sociologist Devah Pager has found that a White with a criminal record has a better chance getting hired than Black with no record whatsoever. Being Black in America today is just about the same as having a felony conviction in terms of one's chances of finding a job," she concludes.

We need a serious plan for urban redevelopment. We need a plan to put people to work, a public works project that hires and trains and employs people in work that needs to be done. We could provide guarantees to pension funds to invest in rebuilding the boarded up homes. We could train young people to retrofit buildings with solar and energy efficient insulation and windows. We could insure that transportation exists to take workers to where the jobs are.

Baltimore has put us on notice once more. Our cities are at a breaking point. There are more horrors to come, more explosions to follow. 50 years after the Kerner Commission, we ignore its teachings at our peril.

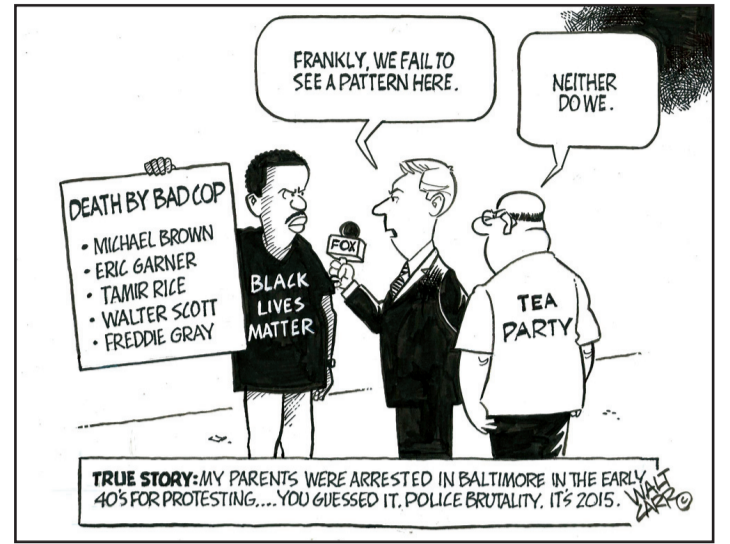
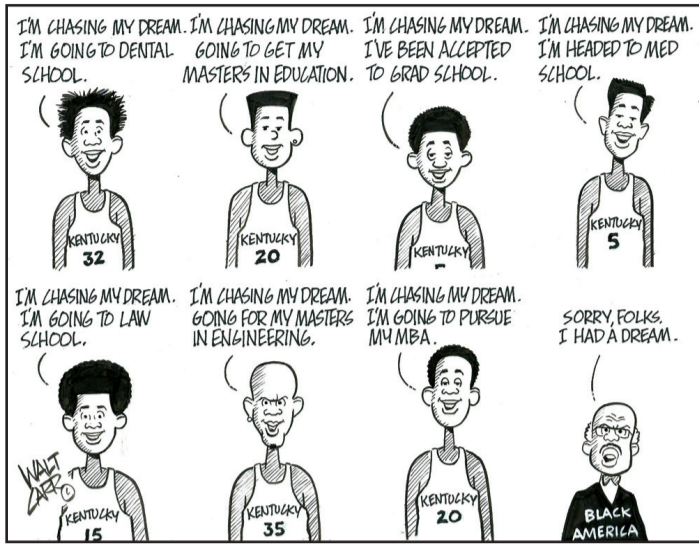
Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is president and founder of Rainbow PUSH coalition.

"If the lions do not write their own history,



then the hunters will get all the credit."
-AN AFRICAN PROVERB

Visual Voice



Matters of Opinion

Loretta Lynch came from a family of activists

After a 166-day partisan political struggle in the U.S. Senate to confirm the first Black American woman to be the attorney general of the United States, finally on the afternoon of April 23, history was made. Loretta Elizabeth Lynch has now been confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 56 to 43 after being nominated last year by President Barack Obama.

I have known the Lynch family for a long time in Durham, N.C., where Loretta Lynch's father, Rev. Lorenzo Lynch Sr., served faithfully as the Senior Pastor of the legendary White Rock Baptist Church from 1965 to 1993. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave one his famous sermons in 1960 at the White Rock Baptist Church titled, "Fill Up the Jails," that encouraged nonviolent civil disobedience as the strategic tactic to advance civil rights.

Loretta Lynch, in addition to being well qualified to be the attorney general of the U.S. as an accomplished federal prosecutor and legal scholar, also comes from a

strong Black American family that has made outstanding contributions and sacrifices toward the progress of Black America for over four generations in North Carolina and throughout the nation.

President Obama made the right decision at the right time concerning Loretta Lynch. The baton is being passed now from Attorney General Eric Holder, who did an outstanding job as the first Black American to be attorney general, to Loretta Lynch at a time when rampant racially motivated police killings of Black people across the nation is escalating.

In addition to critical issues of ending police racial profiling and the unlawful use of deadly force against Black Americans, the new attorney general will have to confront the growing unconstitutional measures by many state legislatures to suppress and deny the voting rights of Black Americans in particular. Attorney General Lynch will have to help lead the way back to Congress restoring Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated.

Racial discrimination in housing, health care delivery, mass incarceration, bank lending policies, access to wealth, environmental protection, public education, and

unjust policies in higher education opportunities for disadvantaged college students all are crucial matters that Attorney General Lynch will have to confront. I am confident, however, given Lynch's proven track record of rising to the occasion in demanding that justice is done, that she will do well going forward.

I wish I could say that I was surprised to see that the two Republican Senators from North Carolina, Richard Barr and Thom Tillis, both voted against Lynch, even though they knew of her qualifications and track record of leadership. The attacks on President Obama and on Loretta Lynch were not just politically motivated. I believe that these attacks were also racially motivated.

Lezli Baskerville, noted lawyer and president and CEO of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) stated, "The confirmation of U.S. Attorney Lynch comes at a time when leadership from the Attorney General and the Department's Educational Opportunities Section is essential to ensuring that states that maintain a higher education system with both public historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and historically

white colleges and universities (HWCUs) invest in HBCUs such that they are comparable to and competitive with HWCUs relative to their missions." The past and present racial inequities in education in America have to be challenged anew.

Racism persists in America in part because it is not called out enough. Yes, we have made progress toward racial equality and justice. But we are not there yet. We have not reached the finish line to end racial injustice and inequality. We still have not overcome and we must remain vigilant and vocal and in the quest for freedom, justice and equality.

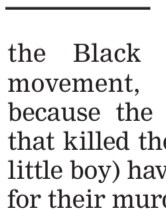
We, therefore congratulate Attorney General Loretta Lynch and wish her all the best. It will not be easy, but we know and believe that more great achievement and national leadership are on the horizon of the future. Thank you Sister Lynch for making history and for continuing to make a difference.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>.

Black women killed by police are ignored

You know their names - Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice - because these African American men were unarmed and killed by "law enforcement officers." Their names have been part of a litany invoked when police shootings are discussed. Their deaths have been part of the impetus for the Black Lives Matter movement, especially because the police officers that killed these men (and a little boy) have paid no price for their murders.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux



You are far less likely to know about Rekia Boyd, shot by an off-duty police officer in Chicago. While the officer who killed Boyd was acquitted, her killing sparked few protests, and little national attention.

Kate Abbey-Lambertz of Huffington Post identified 15 women who were killed during police encounters when they were unarmed, including Tanisha Anderson (Cleveland), 7-year-old Aiyana Stanley-Jones (Detroit), and Yvette Smith (Bastrop, Texas). The killing of another woman, Miriam Carey, was especially egregious.

Carey, a dental hygienist, drove her car into a security checkpoint near the White

House. The Secret Service fired multiple shots at Carey, killing her and putting her 13-month-old daughter at risk. Meanwhile, a White man scaled the White House fence without a shot fired. Another made it into the White House residence without encountering a gun. A few people protested Carey's death, but the protests fizzled.

AlterNet and Clutch Magazine, online sources such as Huffington Post, reported on some of the unarmed Black women who were gunned down. Again, these killings were barely protested, and garnered no national attention. Little seems to have changed since Gloria Hull, Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith wrote But Some of Us Are Brave: All the Women Are White, All the Blacks are Men. The book, written in 1993, addressed the invisibility of African American women. While the majority of the unarmed African Americans killed by police officers are men, about 20 percent of those killed are women.

The publicized killings of African American men have happened all too frequently in the past 12 months. Each killing strikes our collective community like a body blow, especially when officers are poorly trained, have records of brutality, and are acquitted. When the roll of recent killings is called, women may be absent because there has been little publicity about assaults against

women in the past year. Based on the record, however, we know such assaults are likely to have happened.

Contemporary African American women are not the only ones who history has swallowed. Fannie Lou Hamer was beaten so many times, and so severely that she developed a blood clot and lost much of her sight in one eye. One kidney was injured and her entire body covered with welts and bruises. She never regained her health, yet when people call the roll of civil rights leaders and icons, her name is too often excluded. There is a historical precedent for the invisibility of African American women. Fannie Lou Hamer is but one of many women whose lives and sacrifices are often ignored.

Public policy also ignores the plight of African American women. President Obama's "My Brother's Keeper" initiative is well-meaning, but ignores the status of young African American women. While young Black women are more likely to go to college than young Black men, those who do not go to college face some of the same job challenges as men do. Young women can benefit from the same efforts that young men are offered through My Brother's Keeper, such as mentorship and initiatives to develop pathways to education and employment.

Focusing on young Black women should not minimize efforts to improve the status

of young Black men. There ought be no competition, but efforts for inclusion. The Black Lives Matter movement must recognize the killing of Black women as well as Black men. To do any less, to ignore the unarmed Black women who are shot, suggests that only Black men's lives matter. Any African American who is shot and killed by police officers deserves our attention.

Both African American men and African American women have economic, psychological, and physical wounds because of the racism we experience. Our economic wounds manifest as higher unemployment rates and lower wages. Our health wounds are illustrated through the health disparities we experience, along with differences in life expectancies. Our psychological wounds include dysfunction in our organizations and relationships. We won't have healthy and functional communities until we focus on healing wounds among all of us - Black men and Black women.

I've been impressed and excited by the Black Lives Matter movement and the young leadership that has emerged from it. This is a movement that, powerful as it is, would be so much stronger if it acknowledged that Black women's lives also matter.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington-based writer and economist. She can be reached at www.julianne-malveaux.com.

Blacks split over Obama

Since the moment that he announced his candidacy in 2007, through to this day, there have been two debates over how to understand President Barack Obama. There is the larger social debate, which includes the hysterical and racist assaults on the First Family. There is also a separate debate, one that only occasionally appears in the mainstream media, one that is rooted in Black America.

The first Black debate, during his run for the presidency, revolved largely around whether Obama was truly Black, in large part as a result of his mixed blood. As his candidacy proved substantial, voices in Black America began to shift. There remained, however, many of us on the left end of the spectrum who had varying degrees of concern about what Obama truly represented, and specifically, who he

represented. There was no consensus in these criticisms from the left, we should note. Some critics were most concerned about whether he would truly represent Black America; others were concerned that he would be a continuation of the Bill Clinton administration. In either case, the voices of the critics were drowned out by the rising levels of excitement in connection with the campaign.

Upon Obama's election, Black America went through a new stage in its relationship to the president. There was exuberance and pride in connection with his election. There was also - and this was not limited to African Americans - a tendency by many to turn Obama into whatever we happened to hope that he would be or become. This almost magical tendency resulted in the eternal search for clues as to what Obama really meant by various statements and actions.

Very quickly, within Black America, there emerged a resistance, if not hostility to any criticisms being raised of the president. This was quite understandable in that the

racist right-wing began its assaults on Obama almost immediately and it was more than clear that rather than being in a "post-racial" environment, the election of Barack Obama brought with it the emergence of just about every fear that right-wing Whites had about the danger of a 'Black planet.'

Yet, this resistance to criticism of the president meant that Black America placed almost no pressure on the Obama administration. Fearing that any criticism of Obama would lend support to the political right, there was largely silence. And when the silence was broken, as in the criticisms offered of the president by Cornel West and Tavis Smiley, the critics - regardless of the relative merit of the criticism(s) - were and are frequently attacked for breaking ranks.

While you may disagree with the rhetoric and/or tactics of West and Smiley, that must be separated from the fundamental content of the criticisms. West and Smiley were looking for Obama to be a strong advocate for the poor; against racial injustice; and a less belligerent foreign policy. I agree with their sen-

timents.

The problem is that without the pressure of mass movements, Obama was going to do little more than he has, in part because he tends in the direction of premature compromises with the political right. Getting Obama to do otherwise necessitates more than the criticism - frequently sharp and all too personal - meted out by advocates such as West and Smiley, but instead must involve masses of people communicating their discontent and demands through various forms of action, including electronic mobilizations and in-the-streets activity.

To the extent to which President Obama is targeted personally, e.g., questioning his blackness or commitment to Black people, we miss the larger point. Obama is the president of the strongest capitalist power on this planet. His job is to make capitalism work and to ensure that the system functions. He is the head of an administration and is not an absolute

FLETCHER
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TO BE EQUAL

Eradicating childhood poverty one nose at a time

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." - Franklin D. Roosevelt, Inaugural Address, January 20, 1937

Broadcasting from a refugee camp in Sudan on Christmas day in 1985, Comic Relief U.K., the British charity behind Red Nose Day, spearheaded a fundraising phenomena that, decades later, continues to chip away at the global childhood poverty rate and has made its symbol, a clown-style red nose, a popular, poverty-fighting fashion accessory.

The telethon was started by comedians who believed they could raise awareness and money, with the help of mass media and celebrities, to change and save the lives of children living in poverty in the United Kingdom and abroad. Since its first televised broadcast, Red Nose Day has raised more than \$1 billion in

donations for organizations dedicated to eradicating poverty-and for the first time in the event's long and successful history-Americans have been invited to put on red noses and assist in the widespread effort to transform the lives of children living in poverty globally, and across our nation.

One in five children in the United States live in households with incomes below the assigned federal poverty level-\$23,550 a year for a family of four. Not surprisingly, our nation's tremendous child poverty rates are highest among its most vulnerable citizens: Black, Hispanic and American Indian children. Analyzing the plague of childhood poverty through a global lens, the numbers are far more devastating. Of the estimated 2.2 billion children living in the world, 1 billion-one out of every two children in the world-lives in poverty.

No matter what continent, country or community you call home, growing up in a poor family does not happen by chance, which means defeating childhood poverty will not happen without employing targeted, effective strategies.

For our longstanding work with at-risk youth through our signature Urban Youth

Empowerment Program, the National Urban League has been recognized and selected as one of 12 U.S. based poverty-fighting charities to benefit from Red Nose Day's television fundraising event. The money raised will be used to fund programs-like ours-that address the immediate needs of children and young people living in poverty in the U.S. and internationally in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Our Urban Youth Empowerment Program is a powerful example of work already being done to change the lives of young people by providing them with opportunities through life skills training, education, mentorship, internships and on-the-job training-all strategies research and experience tells us can help lift the most vulnerable from a life mired in poverty.

Through our work, we have impacted and improved the lives of more than 2 million young people and adults annually through direct service programs implemented by 94 Urban League affiliates-serving 300 communities in 36 states and the District of Columbia. With the continued help of our donors, and our new partnership with Red Nose Day, we will continue to

empower youth and impact and improve thousands more lives in hard-hit communities.

Red Nose Day will cross the proverbial pond and land on our shores in a live, star-studded special, airing Thursday, May 21 (8-11 p.m. EDT) live on NBC. The three-hour benefit promises A-list artists from the worlds of film, television, comedy and music for a night of entertainment for an important cause-a cause you can join today.

Anyone and everyone can and must-play a part in the struggle to eradicate childhood poverty around the world. Mark the telethon on your calendar as appointment television; organize your own fundraising event for Red Nose Day; or walk into your local Walgreens or Duane Reade and do your part by buying a red nose.

The red noses are the official symbol of the movement and would become a symbol of your commitment to make a difference. Wear your nose to support the cause. Wear your nose to inspire others-"because the more you nose, the more you help."

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

BLACKONOMICS

A shocking observation about Blacks

"America leads the world in shocks." Those immortal words were spoken by the late Gil Scott-Heron during the Nixon "H2O Gate" era. Forty years later, Black people lead the world in shocks. We are shocked every time a Black person gets killed or abused by a police officer; we are shocked at the absence of indictments and convictions for those acts; we are

shocked that our government will only give these acts lip-service; and we are shocked by the endless rhetoric, excuse-making, and rationales put forth as a response to Black lives being treated like they don't matter.

We are so shocked that we continue to roll out the same old tactics, chant the same phrases, and make idle threats that we know we will not fulfill. We are shocked that society will not change this endless parade to the graveyard for Black men especially. We are also shocked at the rate of our deaths and the nonchalant attitudes of those who kill us. And we are shocked by the fact that even though these killings are caught on cameras, there is

still no punishment for the perpetrator.

Rodney King's butt-whuppin' was caught on camera in 1992, and so was Nathaniel Jones killing in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2003. Heck, White folks photographed the lynching and burning of many Blacks over 100 years ago. Why are we so shocked now? I have come to the conclusion that we just like to be shocked. It's like the old tale of a boy constantly hitting himself in the head with a hammer. When asked why he did that, he replied, "Because it feels so good when I stop."

Do we really want this lunacy, this evil, this abuse to stop just so we can catch our breath for a little while, and then return to business as usual? One thing for sure is that it will not stop simply because it ought to, as folks always imply when the news reporter poses the question, "What you think about the latest incident of police abuse?" Inevitably, as was the case in the latest abuse in Baltimore, a sister said, "It's got to stop." Others chimed in and said the same thing, as was said in the case of Eric Garner, John Crawford, Ezell Ford, Oscar Grant, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, and many of the others I could name.

Let me try this again, after so many years of saying the same thing. The vast majority of the problems Black people face in this nation can be solved through the utilization

of economic power. That's what runs this country and, therefore, that's what gets desired outcomes. The lack of economic power results in a perverse weakness and subordination of any group of people. Thus, Black folks are always shocked at our position, our mistreatment, and our dependency on the very political entities that care very little, if at all, about us. That's backward and wrong-headed thinking.

If Black folks in Baltimore or anywhere else want to be empowered to the degree that politicians finally move beyond merely saying what they think we need to hear, to doing what we need done for our security and progress, we must make drastic changes in our behavior. Our reactions to all the killings and beat-downs have been so predictable, so much so that the authorities know they just need to wait us out for a while, like the Eric Garner case, and we will go away. They know the shock value of their actions is impotent and only temporary.

The Fraser Institute released an article titled, "External shocks and political parties' attempts to 'buy' votes can affect levels of economic freedom," that noted, "Economic freedom is one of the main drivers of prosperity, resulting in improved wealth, health, and education for individuals and their families." said Herbert Grubel.

"...external shocks (think wars and revolutions, economic depressions or recessions) prompt the public to gravitate to political parties promising change and dramatic new directions... Changing public views allow progressive politicians to buy votes by creating a narrative that government is better at looking after citizens than citizens are at looking after themselves. That inevitably leads to larger government, more regulation, higher taxes, and crony capitalism," Grubel said.

Extrapolating from that article, I would say that Black folks have come to depend on politicians for so long now that even when our people are killed by police, we run to them to solve the problem. It's not going to happen until we wield power with our dollars and our votes. The "external shock" necessary to prompt political parties to appropriately respond to our needs must be felt by them rather than by us. That shock must be one that reverberates throughout the corporate board rooms, the halls of Congress, and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: No more business as usual!

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com.

CURRY'S COMMENTS

Michael Eric Dyson vs. Cornel West

It's the academic version of the world heavyweight championship boxing matches between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in Zaire labeled "The Rumble in the Jungle" and the Philippine's "Thriller in Manila." Whatever label you attach to it, the public feud between Professors Cornel West and Michael Eric Dyson, two of our most gifted intellectuals, cannot be ignored.

Dyson's original opus weighed in at nearly 10,000 words - four to five times the length of a typical magazine feature story - and landed plenty of punches to West's body of work. Dyson charged that Obama's inauguration marked "a pronounced and decades-long scholarly decline" for West.

He explained, "It is not only that West's preoccupations with Obama's perceived failures distracted him, though that is true; more accurate would be to say that the last several years revealed West's paucity of serious and fresh intellectual work, a trend far longer in the making. West is still a Man of Ideas, but those ideas today are a vain and unimaginative repackaging of his earlier hits. He hasn't published without aid of a co-writer a single scholarly book since Keeping Faith, which appeared in 1993, the same year as Race Matters."

Despite other issues addressed by Dyson in his tome, at its core, this heavyweight fight is personal. In the interest of full disclosure, I know both Cornel and Michael and count each of them as a friend.

Except for the length of Dyson's article, the only thing surprising is that he waited this long to reply to West's attacks on him. And readers had to wait almost until the end of the article to learn what West specifically said about Dyson that so enraged him.

"In November 2012, West, friend and mentor; one of the three men whose name is on my Princeton doctoral dissertation, let me have it in the national media. It was during an appearance with Tavis Smiley on Democracy Now, shortly after Obama's reelection. 'I love Brother Mike Dyson,' West said. 'But we're living in a society where everybody is up for sale. Everything is up for sale. And he and Brother Sharpton and Sister Melissa and others, they have sold their souls for a mess of Obama pottage. And we invite them back to the black prophetic tradition after Obama leaves. But at the moment, they want insider access, and they want to tell those kinds of lies. They want to turn their back to poor and working people. And it's a sad thing to see them as apologists for the Obama administration in that way, given the kind of critical background that all of them have had at some point.'"

As Dyson wrote, "West was just warming up." Dyson continued, "After a fiftieth anniversary celebration of the 1963 March on Washington on the National Mall, a celebration Sharpton led and at which I spoke, West argued that Martin Luther King Jr. 'would've been turning over in his grave' at Sharpton's 'coronation' as the 'bona fide house negro of the Obama plantation,' supported by 'the Michael Dysons and others who've really prostituted themselves intellectually in a very, very ugly and vicious way.' And recently, while promoting Black Prophetic Fire, West argued 'the Sharptons, the Melissa Harris-Perrys, and the Michael Eric Dysons ... end up being these cheerleaders and bootlickers for the President, and I think it's a disgrace when it comes to the black prophetic tradition of Malcolm and Martin.'"

West responded to Dyson briefly on Facebook, saying: "Character assassination is the refuge of those who hide and conceal these issues in order to rationalize their own allegiance to the status quo."

Dyson responded to West's response and pushback from other quarters with a second, 2,623-word article in The New Republic. Regarding his decision to publicly answer West, Dyson, quoting old folks who administered public spankings to children, said, "Where you did it is where you get it."

Of all the issues facing Black America - police murders, poverty, mass incarceration, drones, unfair trade policies, electronic surveillance, failing schools, unemployment, Wall Street power, and Israeli occupation of Palestinians, to use part of West's list of pressing issues - a heavyweight fight between two prized Black intellectuals is an unwanted distraction.

Four years ago, I arranged and moderated a conversation between West and Sharpton at a National Newspapers Publishers Association's convention in Chicago. It was a cordial and respectful conversation. However, it wasn't long before West personally attacked Sharpton again. So I have little hope that a sit-down between West and Dyson would yield anything beyond a temporary truce.

In the end, West and Dyson will be judged not by the amount of flowery venom they can direct at each other - we've had more than enough of that already - but whether they can help find solutions for the array of vexing problems that still plague our people.

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. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorgeand George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook. See previous columns at http://www.georgecurry.com/columns.

FLETCHER

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monarch, regardless of what the racist right suggests. As such, to get a different and progressive behavior; we, the people at the base, have to alter our behavior and demonstrate that the status quo is unacceptable. We will demonstrate that through public, constructive and hard

criticisms of the administration, but more importantly we will demonstrate that when we exert power at the ballot box, in the workplace and in the communities.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is the host of The Global African on Telesur-English. He is a racial justice, labor and global justice writer and activist. Follow him on Twitter, Facebook and at www.billfletcherjr.com.

The BLACK PRESS

USE IT or LOSE IT!

Green Tree must pay \$63 million for mistreating borrowers

BY CHARLENE CROWELL
NNPA COLUMNIST

(NNPA)- Consumers harmed by Green Tree Servicing, LLC, a major mortgage servicer, won an important victory. Joint enforcement actions by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) resulted in a return of \$48 million to affected borrowers and a \$15 million civil penalty fine, together totaling \$63 million.

According to financial regulators from 2010-2014, Green Tree Servicing, LLC, mistreated mortgage borrowers who were trying to save their homes from foreclosures. The litany of charges reads like a financial nightmare for trou-

bled homeowners:

- Misrepresentation of monies consumer owed or the terms of their loans;
- Failure to honor mortgage modifications made by earlier servicers;
- Sharing borrowers' debts with employers and/or other third parties;
- Failure to investigate disputes before continuing collections;
- Threats of arrest, imprisonment, property seizure, and wage garnishments; and
- Calling borrowers and leaving voice mails at their homes and workplaces as early as 5:00 am and as late as 11:00 pm.

"Green Tree failed consumers who were struggling by prioritizing collecting payments over helping homeowners," said Richard Cordray, CFPB director. "When homeowners in distress had their mortgages transferred to Green Tree, their previous foreclosure relief plans were not maintained. We are holding Green Tree accountable

for its unlawful conduct." Sharing Director Cordray's concerns, Jessica Rich, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection added, "It's against the law for a loan servicer to lie about the debts people owe, or threaten and harass people about their debts." The irony is that Green Tree 'specialized' in servicing delinquent loans and took pride in being known as a "high touch" servicer. Nationwide, the firm 'touched' its borrowers; but in all the wrong ways.

In addition to the ills cited above, Green Tree was also charged with pressuring consumers to make payments to a third-party service that charged a \$12 'convenience fee' for every transaction. Some consumers were told that they had to use the service to avoid a late fee.

Other consumers who knew they were late in their mortgage payments were charged up-front payments, even for programs that

banned upfront charges. Even borrowers who attempted to avoid foreclosures via short sales encountered unexplained delays up to six months, despite having been promised quicker actions.

"It is unfortunate to learn that these servicing ills," said Paul Leonard, senior vice-president for federal policy at the Center for Responsible Lending. "No one deserves financial exploitation - particularly when it involves the single, largest investment many consumers make in a lifetime. Yet it is also an encouraging sign that joint enforcement actions can hold these services accountable."

The enforcement actions are also a reminder that while consumers choose which lender to finance their home, they have no choice in selecting their servicer. And as with borrowers being serviced by Green Tree, it can be a costly difference.

In years gone by, many lenders also serviced their loans. Parents and grandpar-

ents typically received their mortgage from the same bank that held their checking and savings accounts. Customers knew their bank and trusted it to be fair and accurate.

The nation's foreclosure crisis shattered many consumers' trust of lenders - in addition to marked changes in today's financial services marketplace.

Today, few mortgages are serviced by the lender that originated the loan. Instead, most loans are bundled and sold on the secondary market as investments. In the course of selling and re-selling, a single mortgage may have several servicers.

All too often, it is only when borrowers have a mortgage problem that they discover how their loan payments have been applied or related fees assessed. As servicers change, troubled borrowers can discover that their lending records have not always been kept accurately or in their entirety.

Because of FTC and CFPB,

Green Tree will also be required to take several corrective measures:

- End all servicing violations;
- Provide quality customer service;
- Honor prior loss mitigation agreements;
- Help troubled borrowers to convert pending loan modifications into permanent ones;
- Offer written options to help troubled borrowers keep their homes, including those in which foreclosures have not yet been completed; and
- Create a detailed data integrity programs that tests, identifies and corrects errors in transferred loans.

What CFPB and FTC have ordered in Green Tree's enforcement really reads like a best practices handbook. Here's hoping other mortgage servicers will take note.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsible-lending.org.



Charlene Crowell

Blacks, Latinos make health care gains

Report reveals fewer minorities are uninsured

BY STACY M. BROWN
OF THE WASHINGTON
FORMER

(NNPA)- Recent health care reports show declines in the uninsured rates for both African-Americans and other minorities nationally, while highlighting that Washington continues to be among cities where blacks and Latinos have benefited greatly from the Affordable Care Act.

Among ethnic groups, Latinos and African-Americans saw the biggest declines in uninsured rates, with drops of 8.3 percent and 7.3 percent respectively since late 2013, according to a report released on April 14 by the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index.

In an earlier, separate study released by DC Health Link, researchers concluded that the number of uninsured individuals in the District dropped as much as 43 percent as a result of those previously uninsured signing up for cov-

erage through DC Health Link.

"This new report continues to highlight the success of the Affordable Care Act - showing that more than 16 million uninsured Americans have been able to obtain quality, affordable coverage since the Affordable Care Act became law nearly five years ago on March 23, 2010," said Texas Democratic Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, a ranking member of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, regarding the national report.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index study shows that the percentage of adults who lack health coverage plunged to a record low in the first quarter: A total of 11.9 percent of adults didn't have any kind of health insurance in the first quarter of 2015.

As first reported by CNBC, that rate - the lowest since the index began tracking health insurance statuses in 2008 - is one percentage point less than

the prior quarter.

And it is 6.1 percentage points lower than the record high hit in the third quarter of 2013, which was right before the Affordable Care Act exchanges began selling private health plans and directing eligible people to government-run Medicaid programs.

President Barack Obama's requirement that nearly all Americans have some kind of health coverage or be subject to a tax penalty began in 2014.

In the District, the number of uninsured has steadily declined.

Former Mayor Vincent Gray cited the Affordable Care Act as a priority during his tenure, and by the end of December 2014, 18,399 previously uninsured District residents gained health coverage through DC Health Link's individual and family marketplace.

"This shows that our efforts to cover uninsured people are working well," said Dr. Leighton Ku, chair of the

Research Committee of the Executive Board of DC Health Benefit Exchange Authority and professor of health policy at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.

"The District has had one of the lowest uninsured rates in the nation, and we continue to be a leader to achieve near universal coverage for all District residents," Ku said.

Among age groups, adults ages 26 to 34 saw the largest decrease in their uninsured rate since late 2013, a 7.4 percentage-point plunge, according to the Gallup survey.

And among economic groups, people who earned less than \$36,000 annually saw a much bigger drop in their uninsured rate when compared with other groups.

CNBC reported that since 2013, that rate fell by 8.7 percentage points to 22 percent last quarter.

Summarizing the latest findings, researchers at Gallup.com noted that "an

improving economy and a falling unemployment rate may also have accelerated the steep drop in the percentage of uninsured over the past year.

"However, the uninsured rate is significantly lower than it was in early 2008, before the depths of the economic recession, suggesting that the recent decline is due to more than just an improving economy," researchers posted on Gallup.com.

Of the 16.4 million who have gained coverage since the Affordable Care Act went into effect, 14.1 million are adults, and 2.3 million are young people who can now remain on their parents' plans until age 26.

Among Latinos, the uninsured rate has dropped by 12.3 percentage points, which means 4.2 million individuals gained health coverage; and among African-Americans, the uninsured rate dropped by 9.2 percentage points, which means 2.3 million people have obtained coverage.



COURTESY PHOTO
Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson
applauds gains in health care coverage by African-Americans and Latinos.

"When it comes to the key measures of affordability, access, and quality, evidence shows that the Affordable Care Act is working, and families, businesses, and taxpayers are better off as a result," Johnson said.

Friends remember Freddie Carlos Gray, 25, as 'the life of the neighborhood'

BY ROBERTO ALEJANDRO
OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN
NEWSPAPER

(NNPA)- "He was the life of the neighborhood," said William Stewart outside the Baltimore Police headquarters at a protest over the in-custody death of his life-long friend Freddie Carlos Gray that was drawing to a close on April 20.

Freddie Carlos Gray, whose age have been misreported in media accounts (Gray was 25 at the time of his death, not 27 as initially reported, according to friends), died on April 19, a week after an arrest by Baltimore Police near his home in West Baltimore left Gray with a broken neck and in critical condition. Gray is remembered by friends who grew up with him in the Gilmore Homes housing project as someone who was always laughing, brightening the day of those around him.

"He was a good kid, a loving

kid," said Stewart, who says he has known Gray for over 20 years. "He was the type of person, say you were coming out of your house and you'd had a bad day. You'd see him, he would light your day up because he was always laughing, smiling, playing, trying to make everybody feel up."

"If you knew Freddie, there was never no down-side," said David Reid, who says he has known Gray for almost 26 years (according to Stewart, Gray would have been 26 in August). "He was a laugh, joke type of person. I mean if he's not rapping a song, he's dancing to it. If he's not telling a joke, he's taking a joke. If he's not throwing a play punch, he's catching a play punch. It was all love."

Davon Johnson also grew up with Gray, and says the two played Pop Warner Football together as kids.

"Every time you saw him, the man always had a smile on his face," said Johnson. "He

wouldn't hurt a fly. And that just kills me to see how the police just did that man like that. He didn't deserve that, because there's some cruddy guys in the world, but Freddie wasn't one of them. He was loved by everybody."

At a moment when #BlackLivesMatter has become something of a national refrain, Gray's friends expressed pain at the callous fact that the media had not even managed to learn and report basic facts about Gray (like his age) accurately, ostensibly relying on official accounts from the same police force that reportedly presided over Gray's death and apparently did not care enough to get his age right either.

"[The media] has their tricks of the trade to do everything," said Reid. "If you're arresting a guy, and you all know his name and that he's going down to Western District, why are you [telling] the whole world his name is



PHOTO BY AFRO/Roberto Alejandro
From left to right: Troy Kernes, Davon Johnson, William Stewart, Adrian Muldrow (vice president Baltimore City NAACP), and David Reid. Johnson, Stewart, and Reid grew up with Freddie Gray in West Baltimore's Gilmore Homes and remember Gray as "the life of the neighborhood."

Freddie Gray, G-R-A-Y, when his name is Freddie Grey, G-R-E-Y? Freddie Carlos Gray, wrong age and everything."

Reid expressed pain at the fact that media reports had accurately reported on Gray's past criminal convictions, but less accurately on basic information about him. However, with respect to Gray's last name at least, Reid appears to be mistaken.

Court records and the spelling used by the Gray family attorney, Billy Murphy, indicate that the correct spelling is indeed with an 'a'. Grey with an 'e' is listed as one of Gray's aliases on court documents, and was the initial

spelling used by the Baltimore police officers who processed the arrest that resulted in Gray's death, suggesting Gray himself may have used this spelling at times.

Accuracy in reporting aside, Stewart expressed dismay that his friend's criminal record had become part of the conversation in the first place.

"For [the media] to bring up his criminal record when he was clearly being beaten-I'm saying incapacitated, he's saying 'ah', he's hollering in agony, saying that he's hurt, 'I can't move my legs'-and for y'all to bring up his criminal record, what does that have to do with him as a human

being?"

All three men noted that, whatever mistakes Gray had made in his lifetime, he had never been a violent person-a fact that now stands in stark contrast to the way he died. More than anything, however, Stewart, Reid, and Johnson have lost a life-long friend, the person they relied on to brighten up a neighborhood whose most striking architectural feature are the rows of police cameras that adorn the roofs, constantly monitoring those struggling just to find a reason to smile below.

Today, in West Baltimore, that smile is a little harder to come by.

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Legal Aid of North Carolina has federally certified Healthcare Navigators to assist consumers with the Affordable Care Act Tax Special Enrollment period until April 30th. If you did not enroll in health coverage prior to February 15th are subject to a penalty for not having health coverage in 2014 or you have had a life changing event and can possibly avoid the penalty with a qualifying exemption please call 1-855-733-3711 to schedule an appointment or go online to www.healthcare.gov.

Community Briefs

New Hanover High School Class of 1975 will be holding their 40th Class Reunion from July 16th-17th. If you or someone you know is a member of the Class of 1975 please contact Laura Triece at 910-392-5538 or Debbie Brown at 910-398-2749 by May 10th.

Wilmington Prostate Cancer Support Group, a Chapter of Us TOO International next meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2015 in Classroom C of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, 3121 S. 17th Street, Wilmington. All interested men and their spouses are welcome. Survivors will be present and a range of subjects are open for discussion, including active surveillance or watchful waiting. For information, call George at 910-792-9953 or Hank at 910-799-5478 or Carl at 910-512-0770 or email Wproscasupportgp@aol.com. A great national source is: www.ustoo.org.

New Hanover High School Class of 1975 will be holding their 40th Class Reunion from July 16th-17th. If you or someone you know is a member of the Class of 1975 please contact Laura Triece at 910-392-5538 or Debbie Brown at 910-398-2749 by May 10th.

The Saint Augustine's University (College) Alumni meeting will be held on Saturday, May 9th at 2:00 p.m. at the Covil Farm Road Clubhouse at 7300 Covil Farm Road in Wilmington. All graduates, persons who attended, and friends of St. Augustine's University are invited to attend. Call Angie at 910- 620-7978 for more information.

Brunswick County

Towncreek Vision is hosting its first annual softball tournament in memory of Mary S. Jenkins on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Festivities will start at 10am. There will be gospel singing, face painting, vendors, food and much more! The softball games will begin at 11:00 a.m. Towncreek Vision will also be dedicating their ballpark in memory of Mrs. Jenkins. The dedication will take place at 12 noon. Please come out and join the Jenkins Family! We are looking for all of her former ball players and team mates to come out and support this great event! For more information, please contact Josephine Grady at 910-233-7518.

Policies for briefs, news, & photos on page 2.
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HOMETOWN NEWS FROM BRUNSWICK COUNTY

Pictures are amazing!

A picture a visual representation or image painted, drawn, photographed, or otherwise rendered on a flat surface. It may be a vivid or realistic verbal description. Sometimes a person or object that bears a striking resemblance to another is referred to as the picture of someone, or something, else. For example: She's the picture of her mother.



Verniece Stanley

There have been pictures made by man ever since the earth was created. Indians lived in America long before its "discovery" by Christopher Columbus. The

discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus has been pictured in a painting by John Vanderlyn, a great American neoclassical painter. Pictures of the discovery can be seen in today's libraries. Many times people depend on photographs as being the truth above all verbal statements. The truth is a statement proven to be true or accepted as being true, Truth is considered as honesty.

You may destroy pictures of a human being, but there was a time when the murders of Black men were given little or no attention. Very little or no pictures were available at times when they were needed. We cannot ever forget the relationship between Black men and law enforcement officers. It happened during the Civil Rights Movement. For example, bod-

ies of unknown Black men were found in the Mississippi River and in many other places. The Klansmen would meet on dark dirt roads where pictures were not available. There are still Klansmen in the deep southern states and your state as well.

I am blessed with a family with an interest in social gathering where skin color does not matter. The children are free and hold great respect for adults. We find at these gatherings a high level of appreciation and love that cannot be taken away from a family.

We have great friends who graciously volunteer their time to join in making pictures that will last a lifetime. There is love with a passion. You can see it in their eyes. There are new pictures in the making, pictures that

have not been seen before because Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the first woman President of the United States.

Verniece E. Stanley is a native of Brunswick County. She grew up on a farm but wanted more excitement in life. She graduated from high school in Brunswick County in 1948 and graduated from Fayetteville State Teachers' College in 1952. She taught school in Brunswick County for nine years. She moved to Baltimore, Maryland, married, and taught school for twenty-five more years. She received her master's degree from Morgan State College in Baltimore City. She retired and moved back to Bolivia, N. C. where she enjoys writing articles for The Wilmington Journal and is an active member of the NAACP Board.

Delta Sigma Theta's 75th Chapter Anniversary

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Celebrating a Diamond Legacy is the commemorative theme for the Wilmington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, reflecting the chapter's commitment to Sisterhood, Scholarship and Service. From 1940 to 2015, the Wilmington Chapter through its numerous service projects and exemplary contributions has provided opportunities that enhanced local area communities. With

sisterly alliances throughout the United States and internationally, the chapter embraces the sorority's National Five Point Programmatic Thrust, impacting our state, the nation and the world.

Standing on the vanguard as a premier women's organization, the legacy of the Wilmington Alumnae Chapter includes generous contributions for scholarships and charities and a plethora of public service programs. The Jabberwock

Scholarship Program, annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, Latchkey, Eliminating The Achievement Gap, Delta Academy and Delta Gems

deserve mention as a few of the chapter's meritorious service endeavors. In reviewing its illustrious history, Delta Sigma Theta accomplished the status of being the first organization of its kind in Wilmington to purchase its own sorority house which was dedicated in 1966; the first Black organization to

sponsor a float in the Azalea Festival Parade and the first Black sorority to establish an undergraduate chapter on the campus of UNCW.

The Diamond Legacy Luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2015 at the Ebenezer Empowerment Center, 2:30 pm. Guest speaker will be Ms. Mary Sutton, the sorority's Former South Atlantic Regional Director. The chapter graciously solicits the public's support and attendance for this milestone occasion.

THANK YOU

To our family, dearest friends and acquaintances. In sincere appreciation and thanks. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18 To God give the glory for things He has done! It is with heartfelt appreciation, we (Randolph and Johnnie Mae) thank you for your participation and presence at our 50th wedding anniversary celebration, which was held at Empie Park on Saturday, April 18, 2015! What a thrilling surprise and the most joyous occasion! It would not have been successful without you! It was a wonderful time to reflect back through the years, and say, "Oh my how time does fly." How could we have anticipated on April 17, 1965, that fifty years later we would celebrate such an occasion. We give thanks, most of all to God for allowing us to celebrate this 50th wedding

anniversary, and very most heart-felt thank you and sincere appreciation to our children, Randolph Pridgen, Jr. (Linda) and Vernesia (Michael) Nixon for making this event possible. Again thanks to each of you for this wonderful occasion! Let us keep one another lifted in prayer! May the bountiful blessings of God's grace and mercy be with each of you.

And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he pass through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices; and said "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." And when he saw them, he said unto them, "Go show yourselves unto the priests." And it came to pass, that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them when he saw that he was healed, turned back and with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO MR. AND MRS. RANDOLPH PRIDGEN

a loud voice glorified God. And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks; and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, "were there not ten cleansed?" But where are the nine?" There

are none found that returned to give glory to God, save the stranger. And he said unto him, "Arise, go thy way thy faith has made thee whole." Randolph and Johnnie Mae Pridgen

FUTURE HISTORY MAKERS

Malik Gordon

Malik Gordon, a sixth grade student at D. C. Virgo Preparatory Academy is this month's next history maker. He is the son of Margaret Eddie and has 1 brother and 1 sister. This young man made history recently at the North Carolina Black Film Festival in Wilmington, NC. He was the youngest director/movie maker in the history of the film festival. His movie was inspired by his uncle who served in the military. "I wanted to make a movie to thank him and others who have served our country." As a participant of the Black Film Festival presenting a movie and being a part of the MLK Festival, Malik is celebrating his culture in a way many others should take notice of; he chose to spotlight the image of his uncle in a very positive manner. He works to being a good influence for kids who may not be doing their best. Malik would like other students his age to see classmates who are successful. Malik feels, showing others someone their same age succeeding is being a good influence. Malik described The Black Film Festival experience as great! "Some people asked a few questions about my movie. Other filmmakers wished they had started making movies as early as I did."

Malik dreams of becoming a lawyer as he thinks about his future plans. He understands it will take hard work and determination but he is ready for the challenge. Malik's inspiration is Ms Barfield. "She got me to make my movie and help me enter other competitions." Jennifer Barfield is one of his current teachers and describes this Future History Maker this way; "The first day I met Malik, I knew he was special. He was not only polite, but helpful and thoughtful as I watched him assist his mother maneuvering a baby stroller and holding the door for those coming in and out around him. He made eye contact and shook my hand with a firm sense of self-confidence without a hint of smugness. Throughout the year I have offered different challenges and Malik has always been willing to try something new. He has a keen sense of social justice and a strong capacity to be a leader. I have truly enjoyed working with him this year."

Most recently Malik won 1st place in a Law Day competition that includes a trip to Raleigh, NC later this month. We will hear about Malik Gordon in the future but now he is busy making history today!

Public Input: Do you know someone who has done something remarkable in the Wilmington community? Their story should be told. Nominate



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO MALIK GORDON

a 'Future History Maker' by sharing their story: tiba1009@earthlink.net. Future History Makers should be 21 years old and under; has demonstrated success as a leader in school, church or community, exhibits qualities of good citizenship and character; active in the community by providing service and is a leader.

Final selection of all Future History Maker stories will be determined by the Commission on African American History. Current members of the commission are: Willie Black, Audrey Clark, Sylvia Ezelonwu, Natalie Hinton-Stalling, Atiba Johnson, Todd McFadden and Raymond Davis.

Mr. Leo Bradley

Leo Bradley was born January 5, 1934 in Sumter, South Carolina. Funeral services were held at 11 AM, Thursday, April 23, 2015 at Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church. Burial was in Calvary Memorial Cemetery.

He attended public school there and became a member of Mulberry Baptist Church at a young age where he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. He shared many stories about growing up in his beloved Sumter with his twin brother Clarence, who preceded him in death.

Leo moved to Wilmington as a young man where he met and married Rhodia Frink Bradley. As of this year, they were wed 55 years and raised four daughters: Alice Frink Chadwick, Mary "Cat" Frink Jacobs (deceased), Samantha Bradley Maynard (Ronald) and Janice Bradley Malloy. He also took great pride in watching his grandchildren grow up ... Shontell Frink Booker (Wes), Yolanda Simmons (Donald), Shena Frink, Jennifer Chadwick, Natasha Malloy, PFC Darrell "DJ" Smith (Monica) and Chamala Chadwick (Angela). "Grandad" also had 12 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild all of which he adored. He also leaves a host of other relatives, friends and neighbors to cherish his memory.

Leo worked for the City of Wilmington for several years. He then found a career with Carolina Power & Light from which he proudly retired after 30 years; but not before being inducted into their prestigious Pioneer Club for outstanding service and dedication. Unable to sit still in retirement, he also enjoyed part-time jobs at Bob King Automotive and Walmart, right up until last summer.

Leo was very active in Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church where he became a member in 1973. He served on the senior, men's and gospel choirs. He served with distinction on the Trustee Board, the Board of Deacons and the Layman's League. "Brother Bradley" was a dedicated member of Hanover Lodge #14 where he served as Worshipful Master during his active years. As a member of Wilmington Consistory #63 he served two terms as Commander in Chief and as a member of Habib Temple #159 he served as Captain of the Guard and Captain of the Marching Unit. He received numerous awards, recognitions and accolades for his good works with each organization. Throughout his life, he believed strongly in faith, hope and charity. This was demonstrated in all aspects of his life. *Arrangements by Adkins-Drain Funeral Service, 515 South Eighth Street, Wilmington, North Carolina 28401. Condolences may be shared at www.adkinsdrainfuneralservice.com.*

Brenda Jean Smith

Brenda Jean Smith died April 18, 2015 at Lower Cape Fear Hospice and Life Care Center. Memorial services

were held on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at St. Phillip AME Church.

Brenda was born on February 27, 1956, in Wilmington, NC to the late Otto and Jimmie Dean Smith. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Charles Albert, Douglas Irvin, Gregory Otto, Christopher Smith and Gloria Davidson. Brenda was educated in the New Hanover County Public School System, attending New Hanover High School and continuing her education at Miller Motte Business college. She was a long time employee at Star News. As a youth, Brenda, her mother and siblings joined St. Phillip AME Church, where she was currently a member. Prior to her death she was employed as a Certified Nurse Assistant. Some of her hobbies were gardening, crossword puzzles, relaxing and reading. She had a very special place in her heart for her grandchildren, Jonathan and Xiom.

Brenda will be greatly missed by: her children, Jonathan Smith of Winston-Salem, NC and JoAnna (Arthur) Johnson of Orlando, FL; grandchildren, Jonathan Dewayne Smith, Jr. and Xiom Smith of Wilmington, NC and Karen (Melvin) Lewis of Goldsboro, NC; brothers, Michael (Cherry) Smith, Daryl Smith, Steve (Martha) Smith, Jimmy Smith all of Wilmington, NC and Kenneth (Barbara) Smith of Marietta, GA; special friends, Margaret Nixon, Betty Conyers, Norman Jackson, Eva Williams, The Williams family; a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Andrew Lee Canady

Andrew Lee Canady died April 16, 2015 at Oliver House in Wendell, NC. Memorial services were held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Unity of Wilmington.

Andre was born on November 15, 1944, in Pender County (Harrison Creek Community) of Rocky Point, North Carolina, to the late William Henry Canady and Mary Eliza Canady. He was preceded in death by his siblings, William Henry, Jr., Dorothy, Hazel, Lena Mae and Mary Susan. At an early age Andrew joined Island Creek Missionary Baptist Church. He was educated in Pender County's Public school System. He graduated as Valedictorian of his class of 1963. Upon graduating, Andrew joined the US Air Force where he served for four years as an air patrol. After completion of his Active Duty, he returned to Brooklyn, New York. He worked as a Postal Clerk with the US Postal Service. He attended the Brooklyn University where he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. After teaching for a number of years, he changed his career, and worked as a New York State Court Clerk. He retired from this position after ten years and moved to Wilmington, North Carolina. He later

relocated to the Raleigh, North Carolina area to be near his sister and remained until his death. He met and married Sandra Tate of Panama, Central America in January of 1976. He never complained about his lot in life, he enjoyed his life.

Andrew will be greatly missed by his sister, Mary of Knightdale, NC, the aforementioned Sandra of Brooklyn, NY; sister-in-law, Doris Canady; his nieces, Debra (David) of Stone Mountain, GA, Wanda (Steve) of Atlanta, GA, Pamela (Jeremi) of Charlotte, NC; nephews, Kevin and Chris Zimmerman of Brooklyn, NY, Randy Canady of Atlanta, GA, Mark Canady, and Harold Schoolfield of Bronx, NY; great-nieces, Olisha, Mia, Brittney, Latoya, Ashley, Amber, Tionne and Deseree; great-nephews, Howie Jr., Michael; aunt, Rev. Loretta F. Grady (Earl); many cousins and friends, including devoted friendships of Bessie and Rolmond Wilson. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Beatrice "Phil" Hicks

Beatrice "Phil" Hicks died Sunday, April 19, 2015 at Brunswick Cove. Memorial services were held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 in the Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Beatrice was born on November 30, 1947, in Wilmington, NC. She was the daughter of Carrie Mae Shippey and Robert Patterson and was married to the late Samuel Hick, III for 13 years. Beatrice worked many years in the healthcare field as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She loved to cook, read and watch movies.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two brothers, Donnie McQueen and Johnny Maulsby, Jr. She is survived by two sons, Samuel and Bryan; three grandchildren, Myron, Serenity and Brynlie; two brothers, Lee and Champ; four sisters, Marilyn, Ida Mae, Rhoda and Mary; several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Mary Clay Mallette

Mary Clay Mallette died Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center. Memorial services were held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at Willie L. Shaw Jr. Memorial Chapel.

Mary, known as "Sister" was born on August 4, 1946, to the late William Henry Clay and Bertha Lee Freeman-Clay in Wilmington, North Carolina. She was a graduate of Williston Senior High School. Shortly after high school, Mary was blessed with two children, LaTonya and Marquis, who in turn blessed their parents with two granddaughters, TLira DeWitt and Maziah DeWitt. Mary always loved children. She was born to be a mother. Later in life Mary met and

married Rudolph "Gut" Mallette and together they raised his ten children, Ann, Jerome, Rudolph, Brenda, Perry, Tonya, Toni, Michael, Denise and Cheryl; as well as two grandkids that they raise within the house, La'Keisha and Calvin Miller. "Gut" and Mary's home was always filled with fun, laughter and plenty of good love. Anyone that stopped in the Mallette's home was always welcomed with open arms and kisses. With the merging of families, they were blessed with 22 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

Mary also leaves to mourn: one brother, James Henry Clay of Philadelphia, PA; Elizabeth Clay-Keeler of Wilmington and three special and close friends, Deloris Belen, Gwen Allen and Pauline George as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Laura F. Hill

Laura F. Hill died Saturday, April 25, 2015. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 29th at St. James AMEZ Church, Leland, NC. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

Janice Bellamy

Janice Bellamy died Thursday, April 23rd at NHRMC. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, April 29th at New Beginning Christian Church. Burial will follow at a later date in Gadsden, Alabama. *A Service of John H. Shaw's Son Funeral Home.*

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A mother gives never ending love. She never feels that she has given enough. For you she will always do her best constantly working there's no time to rest. A mother is there when things go wrong, a hug and a kiss to help us along. Always there when we needed her near. Thank God for giving me a great mother.

David

In Loving Memory Of**Edith Jinwright Brown**
Sunrise: September 29, 1944
Sunset: April 18, 2014

Edith, You fought the good fight, you have finished your race. And thru all of it, you could always find your beautiful voice to sing a song, with us. We will always remember you.

Your family, Daughters, Carla Regina Brown, Rita Brown Holloway (Tyrone, Sr.); Grands, Tyrone and Tyler Holloway, Tianna Davis; Sisters, Ann Smalls, Margaret Bryant, Retha Davis and Ruth Pierce and nieces and nephews

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In Loving Memory Of**Retha Barnhill**
Sunrise: January 10, 1908

My mother, As times moves on, I am missing you more and more, everything about you, our joyous times together; our conversations, the secrets we shared, our meaningless arguments. Truly "there's no me without you." The way you left this world has devastated my existence.

Everyday was Mother's Day to me, one like you. A unique kinship. I never looked at your grave that day. In Heartache, Your daughter, Brenda and your son Arnold, who preceded you.

Proverbs: Chapter 1: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge verse 7 so are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; verse 19 which taketh away the life of the owners (even their own mothers)

The Wilmington Journal will publish a special edition on Thursday, MAY 21, 2015 in celebration of its 88th Anniversary and in memory of Katherine Jervay Tate. We invite everyone to participate in this celebration by purchasing advertising or joining us as a patron. For more information, please call Shawn Thatch at 910-762-5502. As always, we thank you for the support you have given to us through the years. Management and Staff



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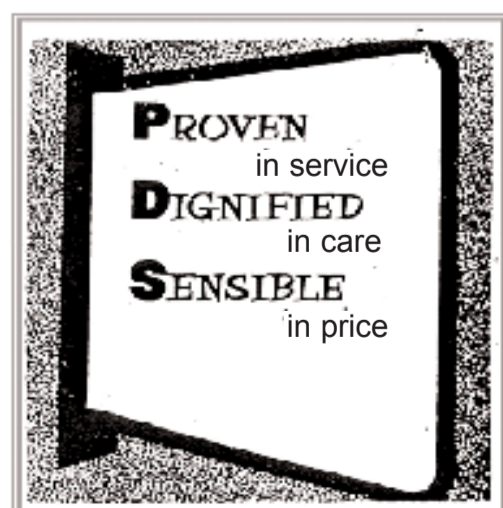
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