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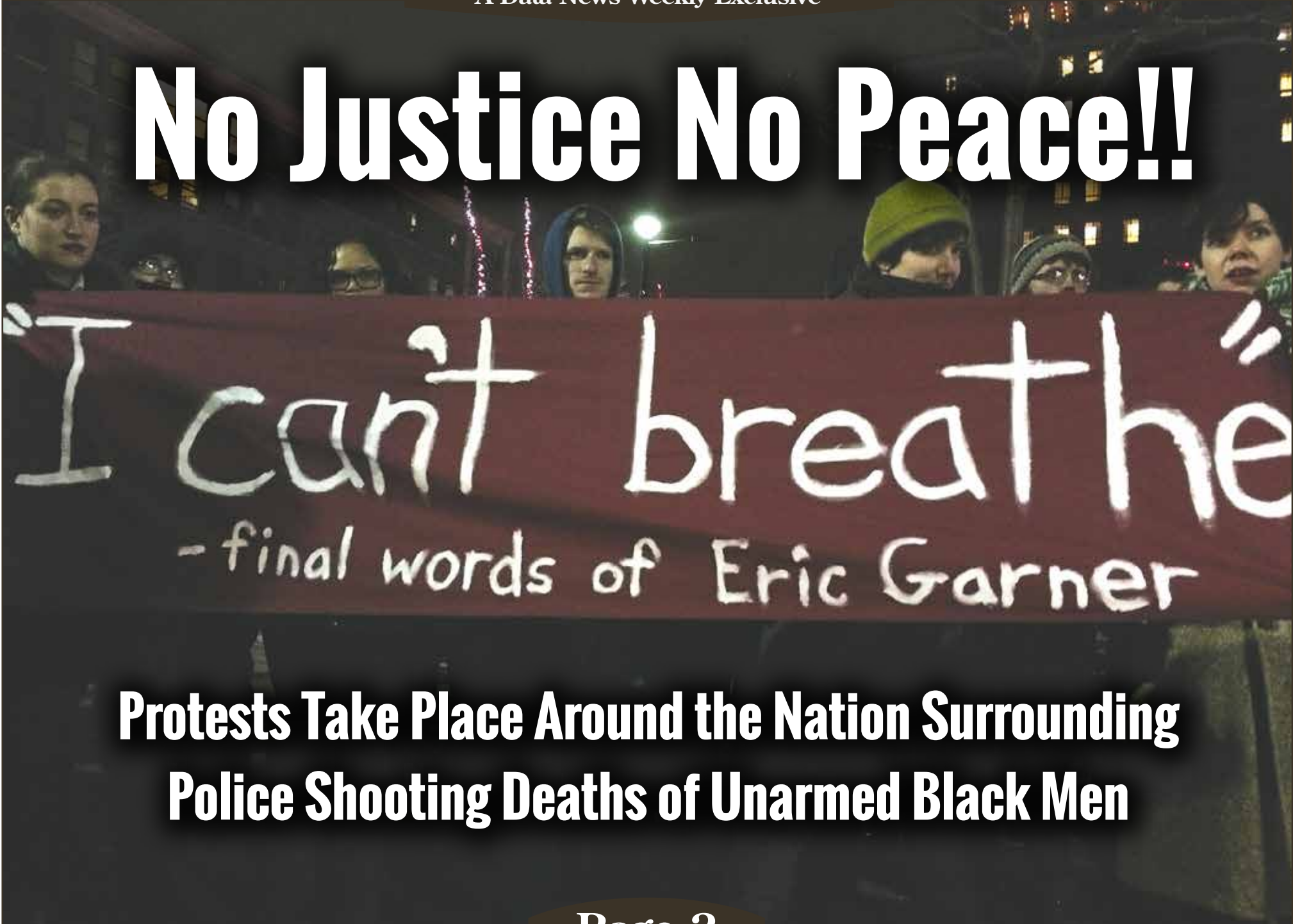
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December 13 - December 19, 2014 49th Year Volume 33 www.ladatanews.com

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No Justice No Peace!!



Protests Take Place Around the Nation Surrounding Police Shooting Deaths of Unarmed Black Men

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No Justice No Peace!!

*Protests Take Place Around the Nation Surrounding Police Shooting
Death of Unarmed Black Men and the Search for Solutions*



Across the country.... The recent grand jury decisions not to indict the officers in the police shooting deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in Staten Island, New York; these cases of police shooting unarmed men have sparked protests from coast to coast.

By Edwin Buggage

I Can't Breathe: Being a Black Man in America Searching for Justice

The recent grand jury decisions not to indict the officers in the police shooting deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in Staten

Island, New York; these cases of police shooting unarmed men have sparked protests around the country. People from different backgrounds from around the nation are crying foul and are staging mass protest to bring voice to the issues of police practices when dealing with African-American men.

The police brutalizing and terrorizing Black men is not a new phenomenon. It has a long and sad history

with similar results. It is sad today that a new generation of young people in a nation that is moving towards being its most racially diverse in its history is still wrestling with the historic scourge of racial injustice. With police officers even when caught on tape not being indicted and people feeling frustrated causing civil unrest. As a historic backdrop we as a nation looked in shock, horror and outrage as we heard the Rodney

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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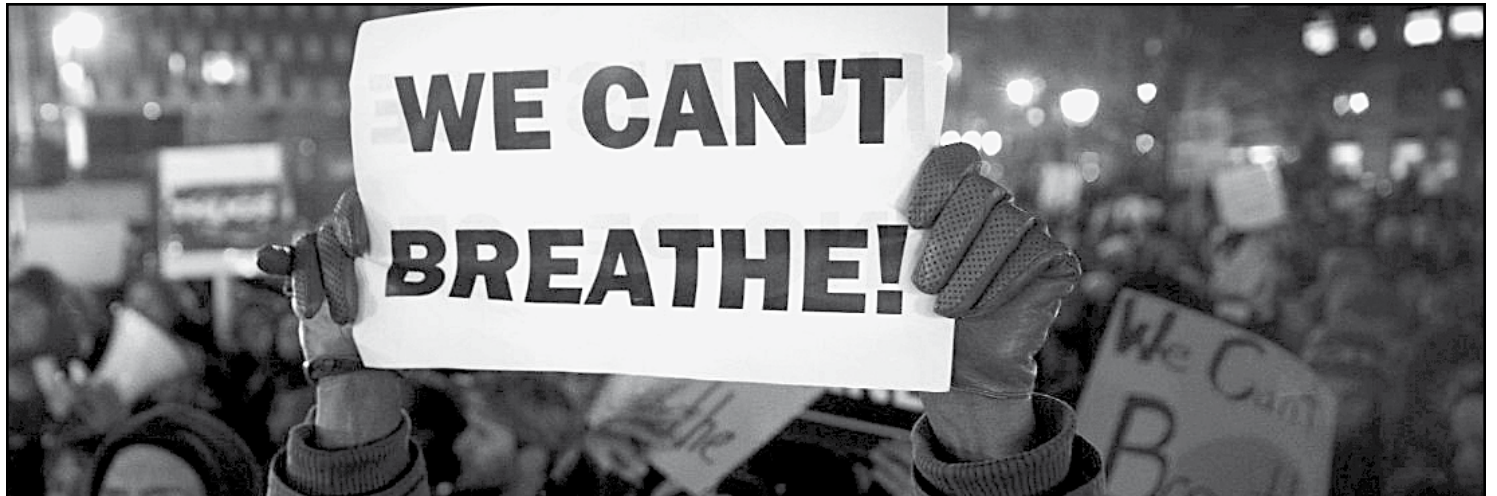
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Portrait of a younger Eric Garner imprinted with his last words.. "I Can't Breathe."



While the protests across the nation are giving voice to this issue, it is important that in the meantime as we are working towards police and criminal justice reform.

King verdict in 1992 when a jury after seeing a videotape in which officers surrounded him and hit him 56 times in 81 seconds still did not convict the officers who were charged.

This was a watershed moment because as many African-American already knew and experienced this type of brutality was nothing new, but it brought the reality to many others of the plight that many Black men face when confronted by the police because it was videotaped. But even with the tape they could not come back with a guilty verdict. Fast forward to 2014 Eric Garner 43, an unarmed man who police were trying to arrest after he broke up a fight, but found himself in a fight for his life with several officers trying to handcuff him wrestling him to the ground where in the final moments of his life he yelled to them three words that have come to symbolize what some are calling for to redress police misconduct movement. "I can't breathe," but taking it a step further can I breathe and can I live.

Police Shootings in Black and White

According to a recent report in ProPublica.org a website that's dedicated to public interest journalism, in a piece published on October 14, 2014 entitled, "Deadly Force in Black and White" it analyzed data from 2010 to 2012 of police shootings and shown that Black males were 21 times more likely than their White counterparts of being fatally wounded by the police. The findings are drawn from reports filed for the years 2010 to 2012, the three most recent years for which FBI numbers are available.

Also in this report there are some other startling things that the public should be informed about. That brings to question not simply police shootings of African-Americans but brings into question police practices period when cases of police shooting arise.

Here is some of the stats published from the report in Pro-

publica.org. The Black boys killed can be disturbingly young. There were 41 teens 14 years or younger reported killed by police from 1980 to 2012 ii. 27 of them were Black iii; 8 were White iv; 4 were Hispanic v and 1 was Asian vi.

That's not to say officers weren't killing White people. Indeed, some 44 percent of all those killed by police across the 33 years were White.

White or Black, though, those slain by police tended to be roughly the same age. The average age of Blacks killed by police was 30. The average age of Whites was 35.

Who is killing all those Black men and boys?

Mostly White officers, but in hundreds of instances, Black officers, too. Black officers account for a little more than 10 percent of all fatal police shootings. Of those they kill, though, 78 percent were Black.

White officers, given their great numbers in so many of the country's police departments, are well represented in all categories of police killings. White officers killed 91 percent of the Whites who died at the hands of police. And they were responsible for 68 percent of the people of color killed. Those people of color represented 46 percent of all those killed by White officers.

What Must Be Done?

While the protests across the nation are giving voice to this issue, it is important that in the meantime as we are working towards police and criminal justice reform, what citizens can do to help Black men stay alive or out of harm's way? When talking with many Black men in the community, some of them offered some interesting suggestions. Someone suggested doing something similar to when a parent talks to their children about the birds and the bees. But in this instance it would be about being a Black Male and what to do when you encounter the Police. It was also suggested that maybe on social media, public service announcements and other

places that Black men go such as barbershops and churches could instruct Black Men what to do if you are stopped by the police. In these instructions it may be the things that may save a life or save someone from being a victim of police brutality.

On a more systematic level there are people calling for specific reforms. One of them is former New Orleans Mayor and National Urban League President Marc Morial who recently released a 10 point plan for

police reform and accountability.

10-Point Plan: National Urban League Police Reform and Accountability Recommendations:

- o Widespread Use of Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras
- o Broken Windows Reform and Implementation of 21st Century Community Policing Model
- o Review and Revision of Police Use of Deadly Force Policies
- o Comprehensive Retraining of All

Police Officers

- o Comprehensive Review and Strengthening of Police Hiring Standards
- o Appointment of Special Prosecutors to Investigate Police Misconduct
- o Mandatory, Uniform FBI Reporting and Audit of Lethal Force Incidents Involving All Law Enforcement

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Black Press Member Pluria Marshall's Purchase of TV Stations in Texas and Louisiana Approved

Special to the NNPA from the Los Angeles Wave

Federal regulators on Thursday approved the sale of two FOX TV affiliates to longtime media executive Pluria Marshall Jr., president and CEO of Houston-based Marshall Broadcasting Group (MBG).

Marshall, also publisher of Wave Publications Group in Los Angeles, will acquire Fox affiliates KPEJ-TV in Odessa, Texas and KMSS-TV in Shreveport, La., officials from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced.

FCC officials approved the sale of KLJB in Quad Cities/Davenport, Iowa to Marshall Broadcasting last month. The three stations are part of a \$58.5 million purchase agreement between Marshall Broadcasting and Nexstar.

The license transfer to Marshall Broadcasting was one of several approved transactions that will result in 10 new minority- and women-owned stations, FCC officials said. Thursday's approval makes Marshall Broadcasting one of the largest minority owners of full-power, commercial TV stations in the nation.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and Commissioner Mignon Clyburn said the license transfers announced Thursday represent an important step in fulfilling the FCC's commitment to incubate broadcast station ownership by minority-owned companies.

"Increasing minority ownership of television broadcast stations has been an often-stated, but elusive goal," they said in a statement re-



Pictured above is Pluria Marshall Jr., president and CEO of Houston-based Marshall Broadcasting Group (MBG). Marshall, also publisher of the Wave Publications Group in Los Angeles, CA.

leased Thursday. "While there is widespread agreement on the need for progress, there has been very little by way of new ideas to solve the twin problems of access and opportunity.

"With the Media Bureau's approval of several transactions today, however, we see the emergence of new ownership models that will not only bring more independent voices to the station ownership ranks in a manner that promotes diversity, competition, and localism," the statement read.

Perry A. Sook, chairman, president and Chief Executive Officer of Nexstar Broadcasting Group, has said that the transactions complements Nexstar's strategic focus on localism, including expanded local

news, sports and other programming.

He said, "The MBG transaction serves as a model to increase media ownership diversity while extending Nexstar's long-term, well-documented initiatives to serve the public interests and needs of local viewers, hometown businesses, and organizations in the markets where we operate.

"As a result of this approval, Nexstar will lead the industry in incubating a new, minority-controlled entrant to broadcasting and bringing additional news, information and specialized programming to markets where MBG will operate."

Marshall, president and CEO of MBG, said he is "delighted to

secure the approval from the FCC and the support of Nexstar" as the two companies seek to diversify the ownership of media assets among minority operators.

"We applaud the FCC for its forward-thinking approach to providing appropriate guidelines and structure that enable new entrants to own, operate and program television stations," Marshall has said.

The Texas native also said he looks forward to playing an active role in the three communities his stations serves while "developing minority-oriented public affairs programming that will air on MBG stations and be syndicated to other television stations nationwide."

The three Marshall Broadcasting

acquisitions have been endorsed by several media monitors and by members of the Congressional Black Caucus because they would significantly boost the number of Black-owned TV stations in America, provide broader career options for Blacks in television and create an opportunity for more diverse and increased local programming in broadcasting.

Wheeler said Thursday's approvals represent "clear-eyed market-based solutions to the longstanding challenge of low minority broadcast ownership."

"We look forward to the continued expansion of minority ownership of broadcast stations and invite the participation of all stakeholders in working toward this goal," the statement said.

Before the recent approvals, only a handful of the nation's 1,300-plus full-power, commercial TV stations were Black-owned, officials say. The other transactions approved Thursday include:

WEVV-TV, Evansville, Indiana to DuJuan McCoy, CEO of Bayou City Broadcasting Evansville, Inc.

WMMP(TV), Charleston, South Carolina, WCFT(TV), Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and WJSU-TV, Anniston, Alabama to Howard Stirk Holdings, LCC, which is owned and controlled by Armstrong Williams.

KJCT(TV), Grand Junction, CO, KXJB(TV), Valley City, ND, KAQY(TV), Columbia, LA, and KNHL(TV), Hastings, NE to MMTC Media and Telecom Brokers, the brokerage arm of the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council.



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**"Depression doesn't have to keep us down.
The healing is in me, and the healing
can be extended to others."**

- Thabiti Boone

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storieshatheal.samhsa.gov



Ragin' Cajuns Will Face the Wolfpack at the 2014 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl

University of Nevada Wolf Pack accepted an invitation today to play the University of Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns in the 14th Annual R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl on Saturday, Dec. 20, at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns will represent the Sun Belt Conference for the fourth year in a row. Since their first R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl game in 2011, the Ragin' Cajuns have contributed to record-setting crowds in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Last year's win against Tulane set a bowl record of over 54, 728 fans attending the game.

"We are thrilled that the Ragin' Cajuns have accepted our invitation and will be representing the Sun Belt Conference for the fourth year in a row," said Bowl Chairman Ron Gardner. "Each year, the game brings thousands of local and out-of-state fans to the City to enjoy a weekend of good times and we are positive that the Cajuns will once again help raise the bar for the success of the Bowl." This will be the Wolf Pack's first appearance in the New Orleans Bowl. "We look forward to the hosting the Wolf Pack student-athletes and fans for what promises to be a spectacular weekend in the city where champions are crowned, New Orleans" said Gardner.

"I am very excited that our players and staff will have one more opportunity to compete together at the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl," said Nevada's second-year coach, Brian Polian. "The game presents us a chance to pursue an eighth win on the season and also serves as a reward for our players, who have worked so hard this year. This bowl also gives our young people a chance to spend some time in New Orleans and continue to enjoy the opportunities and experiences that being a football player at the University of Nevada provides. The Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns are going to be a great opponent in the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl," Polian said.

The 2014 R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl will be played on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. (CST) in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and will be broadcast on ESPN and ESPN Radio.

Wells Fargo Commits \$500,000 to Support Workforce Development in New Orleans

New \$500,000 Grant to Support Healthcare and Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Development and Training Programs under the umbrella of the Economic Opportunity Strategy

On Wednesday, December 10, 2014, Mayor Mitch Landrieu joined Wells Fargo Senior Vice President Hugh Rowden at the New Orleans East Hospital to announce a new workforce grant to the City of New Orleans.

The \$500,000 award will enhance the City's ability to connect underemployed and unemployed residents to healthcare and advanced manufacturing sector careers through the City of New Orleans' Economic

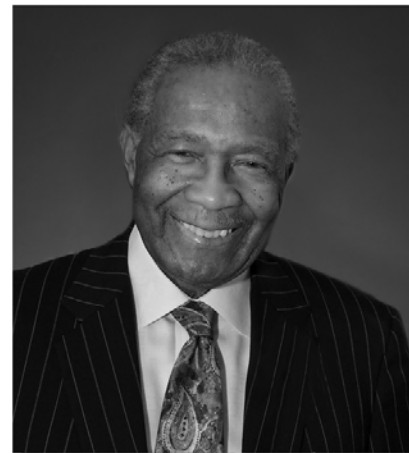
Opportunity Strategy.

The award is meant to build on Wells Fargo's commitment to workforce training and will specifically support African American male job-seekers seeking healthcare and advanced

manufacturing employment opportunities.

The \$500,000 grant will be administered by the Greater New Orleans Foundation under the over-all umbrella of the NOLA for Life fund.

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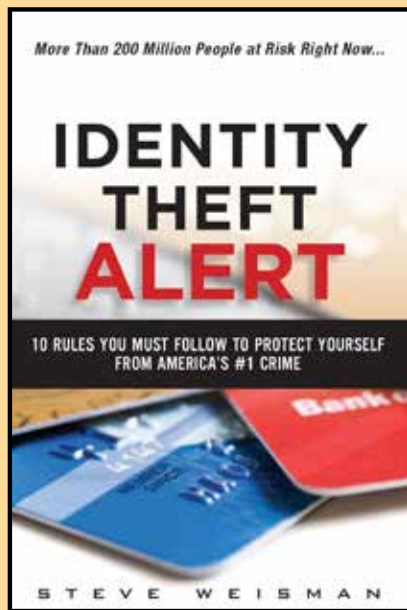
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Identity Theft Alert



"Identity Theft Alert"
by Steve Weisman
c.2014, FT Press
\$16.99 / \$19.99 Canada
174 pages

By The Bookworm Sez

Your credit card was declined.

Such an annoyance. You paid your bill, the expiration date was right, your signature was on the back, and it should've worked.

Eventually it did, much to your relief, but that made you think. Is your credit report, your privacy, your identity safe from criminals? Find out if it is - and what you can do to keep it safe - by reading "Identity Theft Alert" by Steve Weisman.

Hacking and spamming and theft - oh, my! Every time you hear another report of credit information breached (and the attendant hassle involved), it might seem like thieves are everywhere these days - and that suspicion might not be too wrong.

"Identity theft is one of the most pervasive and insidious crimes of today," Weisman says; in fact, more than 12 million people became victims last year.

So what can you do to avoid joining them? Weisman lists the ways...

Online, use strong passwords and encryption and beware of sites you visit. Never open a link in an email unless you're certain it's "legitimate," and have your antivirus program up-to-date at all times. By the way, Mac users shouldn't feel safe anymore; hackers are purposefully creating Mac viruses now.

Also, be cautious when clicking on links you see online. "Curiosity killed the cat," says Weisman. "Let the cat live."

When answering the phone, remember that your bank will not ask you for debit card or PIN numbers. Neither will the FBI

or the IRS; the general rule of thumb is not to release any personal information unless you initiated the call. That's especially true if the person on the other end of the line seems to have half of your information. Chances are they're only waiting for you to get flustered and fill in the rest.

Monitor your credit rating and your monthly bills with eagle-eyes. Keep those eyes on your credit card as much as possible when it's not in your possession. Know where the safest ATMs sit and why you should never use public copiers for important document duplication. And finally, remember that it's almost impossible to guarantee complete safety of your identity - even after you're dead...

Though it sometimes seems a little sensational, and though it leans toward repetitiveness, I found the information in "Identity Theft Alert" to be overwhelmingly good.

Part of the reason is that, while you've been warned at great length about identity safety, author Steve Weisman offers tips I doubt the average person would generally consider. Weisman is, after all, an expert in this category - something you'll notice, once you get past the commonsensical and into the quieter threats that exist.

It's also helpful that Weisman doesn't assume anything about his readers; instead, his advice is methodical and simple to understand. The info is especially senior-friendly, although beware that the print-size isn't.

I think this is a book to read and refer to often. Buy "Identity Theft Alert," highlight it, flag it, heed it, and you may avoid the worst this season. Why would you decline?

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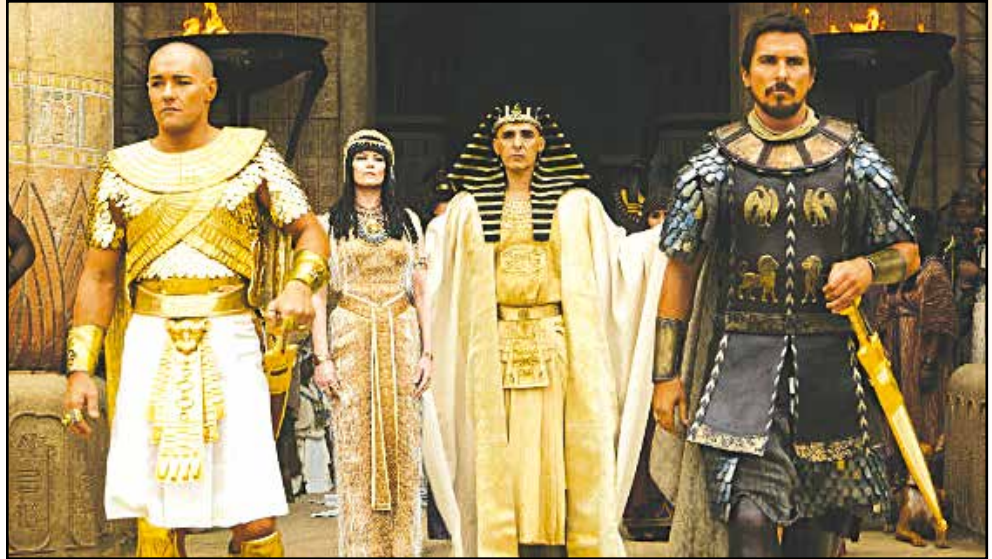
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Exodus: Gods and Kings

Was The Pharaoh of Egypt a White Man?



By Dwight Brown

"Exodus: Movement of Jah people! Oh-oh-oh, yea-eah!" chants Bob Marley. In his rousing 3-minute song "Exodus," he presents a more strong and spiritual feel for Moses than Ridley Scott's 154-minute, whitewashed sword-and-sandals epic.

Travel from the north to the south of Egypt and there is a variance of skin color, tan to black. Now, and certainly 3,300 years ago during the time of Moses, the population never looked Anglo. Anyone who has been inside a tomb and viewed paintings of ancient Egyptians sees painted skin that looks brown. Not white. The chances of Egyptian pharaohs and their queens looking like Australians or Italians, is minute. This 2015, historically revisionist glimpse of Egypt with its racial population shift should be greeted with skepticism before the opening credits roll.

Exodus: Gods and Kings skips over the strong visual of a Hebrew baby floating in a basket on the Nile. Instead, a grown-up Moses (Christian Bale) has a testy love/hate relationship with his weaker stepbrother Ramses (Joel Edgerton, an Australian who starred in *The Great Gatsby*). Ramses father Pharaoh Seti (John Turturro, an Italian American, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*) has assessed the situation: in a heated battle with enemy forces (The Hittites), if you want to win, you'd choose to be in Moses' battalion, not Ramses'. Seti favors Moses, and Ramses can feel it.

Within minutes, Moses is portrayed as a fighter, an accomplished swordsman; confident and unapproachable. Screenwriters Adam Cooper, Bill Collage, Jeffrey Caine and Steven Zaillian make him bigger than life. He's a Robin Hood, a Ben Hur, a gladiator. It's a persona meant to attract adventure fans to the theater, along with the curious faith-based crowd. Some will find the big screen hero they crave; others might be wary of the grouchy activist they meet. Many will feel something intangible is missing.

Moses life takes a turn when he visits a region run by Viceroy Hegep (Ben Mendelsohn, Australian, *The Dark Knight Rises*) who treats his Hebrew slaves unmercifully and is stealing money from Seti. Nun (Ben Kingsley), a Hebrew scholar and leader of the slaves, discloses a hidden truth; that the visiting royalty is not the son of Seti's sister Bithiah (Hiam Abbass, *The Visitor*), he is not Egyptian and that as an infant he was saved from the slaughter of Hebrew newborns. Basically, Nun is saying, "Dude, you're a Jew." And not just any Hebrew, you're a savior. Moses laughs it off, but holds that thought. Sometime later, Seti dies. Ramses takes over. Moses true identity is exposed and he is exiled. But oh yes, he returns...

Scott's interpretation of what happens next includes a God that appears in the body of a British boy (Isaac Andrews, *Hercules*), plagues and pestilences that make Ebola look like a sore throat, and Moses returning from a sojourn starting a grassroots gorilla terrorist move-

ment that leads hundreds of thousands of CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) Hebrews across the Red Sea to safety in the Promised Land. And yes, if you studied the Bible, Torah or Quran, you know that the Red Sea has its own special effects department.

Scott's *Gladiator* movie was a huge spectacle built around huge events. The sheer weight of that over-the-top, lavish production did not shroud that story, it embellished it. Pity the director only has one gear. Over-drive. His skill-set overwhelms what should have been a simple, spiritual story about a humble man accomplishing a heroic feat. All Scott's Exodus is missing is Siegfried & Roy, Macy's July Fireworks and someone being shot out of a cannon. Mel Gibson's brutal *The Passion of the Christ*, regardless of the criticism it deserved, felt authentic. Scott's soulless direction/production does not.

Bale is one of the best actors of his generation. His role in the Batman film *The Dark Knight* is iconic. In 3:10 to Yuma and *Rescue Dawn*, he proved he could tone his characters down to blend in to smaller productions. He's a brilliant thespian. However, his Moses is a sullen and aloof man who is never compelling. Edgerton, who is dripping in self-tanning lotion, is more convincing as the selfish Pharaoh. John Turturro is totally miscast as Seti and should go back to Brooklyn. Sigourney Weaver, cast as Ramses conniving mom Tuya and Seti's first wife, looks like a white witch and not an Egyptian Queen. Ben Mendelsohn's portrayal of

the sexually ambivalent Hegep is better fit for a daytime soap opera. Dar Salim, as Ramses' Commander Khyan, is the only one cast in a major supporting role that looks like he was born within 500 miles of Cairo.

The cinematography (Dariusz Wolski, *Prometheus*) is crystal clear and colors pop off the screen. The costumes by Oscar-winning designer Janty Yates (*Gladiator*) are opulent. The special effects look obvious: A handful of extras posing as 400,000 Hebrews headed for a dip in the Red Sea look very digitally enhanced. The parting of the sea resembles a big tidal wave in Hawaii, and not the way you'd imagined it to look. The over-the-top 3-D spectacle makes arrows fly by your head. War scenes on the level of those in *Lord of the Rings* erupt. The one saving grace is perhaps the rousing, ultimate chase scene; Egyptians pursuing the Hebrews.

It's disconcerting that Anglo-looking actors got top roles in this film and people of color were regulated to extra parts. But that isn't this film's biggest transgression. Scott and his tech crew have concocted a bombastic production centered on a mythical man that is a prophet in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. When audiences leave the theater they will likely remember the blockbuster battle scenes and not the nuances of the man behind the legend.

This film, like Bob Marley's "Exodus," needed a spiritual feel. It has none.

Visit NNPA Syndication Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

To Be Equal

10 Point Plan for Police Reform and Accountability



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Join us this Saturday, December 13th, 2014 in Washington, DC as we demand #Justice4All at the National March Against Police Violence!

10-Point Plan: National Urban League Police Reform and Accountability Recommendations

"The phenomenon we have seen in America since the an-

nouncement of the non-indictments of officers in the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner is new to a generation, but not to the nation. Young people have always helped to fuel historic social change. We must not forget – 50 years ago, it was young people on that bridge in Selma, Alabama; young people sitting-in in Greensboro, NC; young people riding Freedom buses all over this nation challenging conventional laws and the status quo; young people like Schwerner, Goodman and Chaney losing their lives in Philadelphia, Mississippi. A multicultural band of young people, united with historic civil rights organizations, legislators, clergy, and everyday Americans who decided that it

was time for our country to do better and be better, have been the impetus for so many of the changes we've witnessed as a nation through the decades.

Millions of Americans have now taken to the streets and to social media not because the problems that have caused the outrage just began yesterday, but because sometimes difficult circumstances present a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring about historic change. Now is that time. Now is our time.

This conversation and the subsequent action that will result from it will continue because we remain committed to the idea that these cases do not end where they are. In addition to the opportunity for the Justice Department to con-

duct independent investigations, we each have an opportunity to participate in our great democracy by helping to ensure that the America of tomorrow is better than who we are today."

10-Point Plan: National Urban League Police Reform and Accountability Recommendations:

- Widespread Use of Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras
- Broken Windows Reform and Implementation of 21st Century Community Policing Model
- Review and Revision of Police Use of Deadly Force Policies
- Comprehensive Retraining of All Police Officers
- Comprehensive Review and

Strengthening of Police Hiring Standards

- Appointment of Special Prosecutors to Investigate Police Misconduct
- Mandatory, Uniform FBI Reporting and Audit of Lethal Force Incidents Involving All Law Enforcement
- Creation and Audit of National Database of Citizen Complaints against Police
- Revision of National Police Accreditation System for Mandatory Use by Law Enforcement To Be Eligible for Federal Funds
- National Comprehensive Anti-Racial Profiling Law

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

Yes, Marching Still Makes a Difference



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot"

"No Justice, No Peace,"

"I Can't Breathe"

"Black Lives Matter"

Those are the chants and handwritten signs that continue to characterize marches, die-ins, sit-ins and other non-violent actions in more than 50 cities across the nation in response to grand jury decisions in Missouri and New York not to indict White police of-

ficers for killing unarmed African Americans.

As always, there are detractors who argue that civil rights marches, while helpful in the past, are passe in an era of a Black family occupying the White House. They are wrong. And if they had studied history, they would know it.

Every inch of progress toward racial justice and equality in America has only come as a consequence of organized public protest and struggle. Each march had goals that went beyond marching for the sake of marching.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and Fair Housing Act of 1968, as well as all the subsequent racial justice laws were only established after a protracted period of civil rights demonstrations and protest. It is noteworthy that today a growing number of young people are not only marching, but assuming leadership roles in the mass marches in support of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Akai Gurley, Tamir Rice, and Romain Brisbon.

From Boston to Los Angeles, Miami to Phoenix, from Chicago to New York City, from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta, and from St. Louis to Pittsburgh people are demanding equal justice. People are protesting excessive use of deadly force and police brutality. And the movement is growing.

On Saturday, December 13, there will be another "March on Washington, D.C." This time, it will be called the "National March against Police Brutality" and will demand equal justice and federal intervention to halt the senseless killing of unarmed Blacks and other people of color. It will be co-sponsored by a coalition of civil rights organizations and union and trade associations.

The coalition includes the National Action Network, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), National Urban League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights,

the Institute for Policy Studies, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and the Hip-Hop Caucus. The goal of the march will be to seek additional protection from Congress and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

We want the DOJ to deploy federal special prosecutors to take over cases of Black Americans being killed by police officers. We should work with members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to craft the appropriate legislation and remedies that should be adopted into law. The issues of racial profiling, police use of deadly force, prosecutorial misconduct, inadequate police training, video cameras on police officers, and grand jury injustice all are matters that require systemic change.

Yes marching does make a difference in particular if it leads to both a change in how laws are established and enforced with transparency and equal justice. In his book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?* Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. warned, "The persistence of racism in depth and the dawning awareness that Negro demands will necessitate structural changes in society have generated a new phase of white resistance in North and South."

It is ironic, although some will say it is providential, that 47 years after Dr. King's prophetic words, the persistence of racism in America continues with a majority of White Americans living in what Rev. Joe Lowery calls the 51st state – the state of denial. Yet, younger Americans – Black, White, Latino, Asian, and Native – are jointly protesting racially-motivated police killings. I agree that attaining equal justice today requires more marches and demonstrations. But, as always, they represent a great start.

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://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>

What Do We Do Now?



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

The elections are over and we would like to congratulate Desiree Cook Calvin on her victory and also to the people of the City on voting yes on a continuing millage to help fix and maintain our schools. But the big news I would like to say I was disappointed at the outcome of the U.S. Senate

race where Mary Landrieu fell short and Bill Cassidy was declared the victor. And while looking at the final results with Cassidy winning by a percentage of 56 to 44 percent for Landrieu, the result could have been different if more people would have got out and voted.

Landrieu won overwhelmingly in New Orleans receiving 85 percent of the vote and over 87,000 votes with a local turnout of 40 percent near the state average of around 43%. But as we have lost a great ally in Mary Landrieu we still need to be about the business of getting what we need for our community. We must remain civically engaged and hold Bill Cassidy and others accountable to

address the needs of all the people of this great state. Because winning an election is one thing, but governing is something else. We must now pay extra attention to the type of legislation that Cassidy will propose on Capitol Hill.

During the election Cassidy stated that he would stand up to Barack Obama and his failed policies, but what does that exactly mean for our community? Because I would beg to differ with his opinion for I believe that many of his policies have benefitted many people who look like me and many other Americans.

The assault on many of the things we hold dear in our community may be at stake with a Congress that does not hear our voice and think we do not matter.

But it is in this time that our voices must be heard and that is on a local, state and national level. We must now begin to put together an agenda of what it is we want from our elected leaders and whether we agree with all their policies or not let them know that we do matter. That we are citizens of this great nation and that we are civically engaged and expect accountability from those that are elected because their responsibility is to all of the people once they are elected.

So as we move forward we must ask what happens now and how will we help to shape the future for our community? How will we work to make our issues a priority and get the results we desire

to the problems in our community? While government is only one piece of the solution, I say that it begins with us. We must begin to work at getting more people involved in voting in high numbers. We must work towards repairing the family unit in our community. We must begin to identify up and coming leaders in our community and nurture them and encourage them to run for office, so we have a choice when someone is running for office to vote for someone whose voice echoes our own. So what do we do next some ask, we do as the great alternative hip hop group Outkast said in a song recorded 20 years ago "Get Up, Get Out and Do Something."

A Criminal Justice System that Suffocates Us



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

"I can't breathe," gasped Eric Garner, again and again and again. "I can't breathe," he said as several police officers were on top of him, choking him, pushing his head onto the concrete sidewalk. The man was not resisting arrest; he simply had the temerity to ask a police officer not to touch him. And because he was allegedly selling loose cigarettes, the life was choked out of him.

No one tried to help him or stop the vicious assault (ruled a homicide by the coroner). Emergency medical respondents offered no assistance. Eric Garner's last words, "I can't breathe, I can't breathe, I

can't breathe" ought to motivate all Americans, not just African Americans, but Americans of conscience to breathe life and energy into a movement for justice.

Breathing ought to be a simple thing. Air in, air out. It's not so simple when one's neck is being choked. Not so simple when one's spirit is being choked. The image of Eric Garner's neck in a chokehold, the image of at least four White police officers on top of him, is galling. All the more galling is the invisible choking of spirit that comes when people cannot breathe, cannot speak, and cannot respond to injustice.

In historical contexts, how many were as free to speak as Ida B. Wells was when she fought against lynching. Even in her freedom, Wells was threatened and run out of Tennessee, but many feared to speak about lynching fearing the fact that they might be lynched themselves. Can't breathe. Think of the many African Americans who have served in our armed forces, treated unfairly, serving nonetheless, often silently.

How can any of us breathe in an atmosphere of compounded injustice? How can we breathe in an atmosphere of hypocrisy, when justice has never been blind? We live in a nation where a 12-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, is shot because he has a toy pellet gun, not pointed at police. Hard to breathe when video makes it absolutely clear that it was not necessary for Daniel Panaleo to place Eric Garner in a chokehold. Hard to breathe when a grand jury comes to an incomprehensible decision, one that defies common sense.

Difficult to breathe when an elected official, Congressman Peter King (R-NY), chooses to blame Eric Garner's death on his health. "If he had not had asthma, and a heart condition, and was so obese, almost definitely he would not have died from this," King told CNN's Wolf Blitzer. King fails to note that use of the chokehold was banned by New York Police Department rules in 1993. Instead, there is no shame, no condolence in his insensitivity and ignorance.

Can't breathe. Whether he is svelte or obese, carrying a briefcase or a bag of skittles, wearing a Hermes suit or a hoodie, behaving respectfully or rudely, a Black man's safety cannot be guaranteed, especially when a White police officer is involved. The mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts and wives of these men hold their breath, cannot breathe, except to pray for the safety of their loved ones. Would the system be fairer if a White man walking down Park Avenue had the same fears? Would the protests look different if those who were massacred looked different?

Can't breathe. A metaphor for the African American condition, juggling the space between hopes and despair, between progress and regress. Who would have thought police violence against African American men would so visibly escalate at a time when our nation's leader is an African American man. Can President Obama breathe, or is he in a figurative chokehold when he parses words about the murders of Eric Garner, Michael

Brown, and little Tamir Rice? Our president faced protest when he criticized James Crowley, the police officer who arrested Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. on his own front steps in 2009. Now, he offers measured words in response to the outrageousness of grand jury failure to indict.

Attorney General Eric H. Holder has been somewhat less measured in his comments. The day after the Staten Island grand jury exonerated Daniel Panaleo for his murder of Eric Garner, Attorney General Holder announced Department of Justice findings of excessive force by the Cleveland police. Perhaps the Cleveland consent decree will be a first step toward cleaning up excessive police action around the country.

Eric Garner did not have to die. He did not have to stop breathing. Did his last breath bring life to a movement, or did he gasp that last breath in vain?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C.

Feeding Your Face

by Valecia Weeks

They say that you are the food that you eat. Well, what if I told you that you are the food that you wear? Today there is a new trend and it includes “slathering” food on your face. It’s been proven that taking natural foods from the very kitchen that we eat from and using them as a topical treatment can keep our skin looking healthy and pretty. Just imagine how attractive you will look when you spread natural honey all over your face and sprinkle dried oatmeal on it...a look to die for. Well, below are some foods that can be used to do just that:

Honey – Not just any ol’ store bought honey but the “real thang”. If you can, find some locally produced, raw honey that has not been pasteurized. Because it is unprocessed, raw honey has antimicrobial and antibacterial properties, which are great for keeping your skin clean and clear from blemishes as well as acne. It is said that good ol’ raw honey was used during World War II on open wounds to keep them clear from infection. Honey is also a natural agent which



seals in moisture and keeps your skin hydrated.

Egg – Both the egg yolks and the egg whites are wonder for your skin. The yellow yolks have a high level of vitamin A, which aids in the skin repairing itself. It also contains an agent called lecithin, which softens skin. The whites of the egg contains over 40 proteins, as well as an abundance of water and can be used to help tighten the skin.

Yogurt or Milk – both of these products contain lactic acid. This

type of acid acts as an excellent exfoliant. The vitamin-B in these dairy products also provide additional antioxidant benefits for the skin. Adding a little ground nutmeg to your yogurt or milk exfoliant can give you a natural microdermabrasion.

Lemons – or grapefruit, or oranges, or even kiwi can help clear extra oil from the skin. For those who are bothered with dark spots, this maybe your answer. Rubbing citrus fruits on your skin’s dark

spots supposedly will brighten the skin tone. The acid in citrus fruits works as an exfoliant that helps the cells regenerate themselves. It is important to use a moisturizer after using foods high in acid on your face so that the important oils that have been stripped from skin will be replaced.

Oatmeal – When oatmeal is ground into a fine powder, it is great for anti-inflammatory skin treatment, which makes it exceptionally good for skin disorders such as ex-

cema. When it is mixed with water or a natural healthy oil, it can be made into a paste and placed on the affected area.

Sugar: Sugar is a great exfoliant and helps you get rid of the dry skin patches. Mix with a little olive oil for best overall results.

Oils: The oil cleansing method is quickly becoming a must-do for problem skin. As strange as it sounds, it’s even recommended for oily skin. The oil cleansing method (OCM) is based upon the concept that oil attracts oil and requires that castor oil become the basis for cleaning. By using castor oil on the skin, you are pulling the nasty hard oil your skin produced away from your skin and replacing with good healthy oil that repairs your skin. To get the most benefit, castor oil should be mixed with another oil.

- For oily skin, use sunflower or sweet almond oil.
- For dry skin, use avocado or apricot kernel oil
- For normal skin, use grape seed or jojoba oil.
- For skin prone to acne, use sunflower or hazelnut oil

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

- o Creation and Audit of National Database of Citizen Complaints against Police
- o Revision of National Police Accreditation System for Mandatory Use by Law Enforcement To Be Eligible for Federal Funds
- o National Comprehensive Anti-Racial Profiling Law

Black Men Lives Matter from the Cradle to the Grave

While it is good that these recent police shootings bring to light the disparities as it relates to Blacks in respect to their interactions with the police and the Criminal Justice System. And it has created mass mobilization of people and around the clock coverage from many of the major news organizations and is the top trending topic of conversation in social media. But one must ask the question what happens when the cameras go away

and some other major news event happens that will eclipse the coverage of the plight of Black men and the police? Will it as it usually does steer people away from their interest in this all important issue?

As you see the signs that people are marching with that say “Black Lives Matter,” we must ask ourselves should we think these same thoughts and sentiments and invest in time and resources into keeping Black men in school. Should we say that “Black Lives Matter” as we become more aggressive in creating an environment in some of our inner-cities where young men can be steered towards paths that lead to success and not death sometimes at the hands of other Black males. Also if “Black Lives Matter” we as a society need to invest more in our young men and help them find legitimate means to support their families. They should consider that when a young man does not have

positive role models that others can step in and show him not simply how to survive, but how to live and thrive.

Today it is true that these recent police shootings have cast a dim light on our continued quest for justice, but we must continue to fight. And also remember in spite of this negative spate of events that this country has moved leaps and bounds in its history towards equal justice for all. So as we continue in this race towards freedom and justice we must remember it is like all races, it is hardest in the end, but we must endure because Black Men Lives Matter and we must do what we can to save them and invest in them from the cradle and not just make it an issue and protest when they are unjustly shot and laying in a grave. When we are able to accomplish this as a society maybe we will be closer to having justice for all.

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Blacks Rejoining the Labor Market

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Senior Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The Black unemployment rate rose to 11.1 percent in November, according to the latest jobs report from Labor Department, because of increasing optimism in the economy.

The Black unemployment rate rose from 10.9 percent in October to 11.1 percent and the jobless rate for Whites increased slightly from 4.8 percent to 4.9 percent in November.

The unemployment rate for Black men also increased from 10.7 percent in October to 11.2 percent. The share of Black men that either held jobs or looking for work in November, the labor force participation rate, fell from 67.7 percent in October to 67.1 percent last month.

The jobless rate for White men increased from 4.2 percent to 4.6 percent, the labor force rate was flat at 71.8, and the employment-population ratio declined from 68.7 percent to 68.6 percent.

Even though the unemployment rate for Black women increased from 9.4 percent in October to 9.6 percent in November, William Spriggs, an economics professor at Howard University and chief economist at AFL-CIO, a labor group that represents 12.5 million workers, said that that labor force participa-

tion rate for Black women over 20 years old continues to go up.

The employment-population ratio, the share of the population of Black women that hold jobs, was 55.1 percent in January 2014 and compared to 56.1 percent in November. The labor force rate for Black women was 61.5 percent in January. The unemployment rate for Black women was 10.4 percent.

Valerie Rawlston Wilson, Director of the Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy at the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank focused fiscal policies that affect low- and middle-income families, said that as the economy continues to grow and the labor market continues to grow, we still have to make investments for those who face challenges with gaining employment.

"That includes providing adequate training, addressing the issue of re-entry and the barriers that ex-

offenders face and the significant unemployment gap between Black youth and White youth," said Wilson. "That includes providing adequate training, addressing the issue of re-entry and the barriers that ex-offenders face and the significant unemployment gap between Black youth and White youth."

Wilson said that access to enter the labor force and to get early work experience, whether that's a part-time job in retail or fast food or something more career directed

like apprentice programs, will be essential for Black teenagers.

"We're finally seeing enough jobs, where people are getting optimistic to pull them back into the labor market," said Spriggs. "That's a good sign."

Spriggs explained, "The numbers are good because it means the labor market is on solid ground, it's growing in a healthy way and the big worry is federal reserve policy. The [federal reserve bank] has to wait until real wages grow and savings get built back up the positive way."

At 11.1 percent, the Black unemployment rate continues to hover around twice the national average (5.8 percent), a trend that goes back nearly 50 years.

"It's caused in large by part by discrimination," said Spriggs. He said part of the difficulty in the recovery for Black employment is that we had such a backlog of job needs. The surest cure of anti-discrimination is full employment, said Spriggs.

"If I think I can kill you, without giving a thought to that, do you think I'm going to be fair in hiring you?" asked Spriggs. "I don't even have to be fair about letting you live. If I don't have to be fair about letting you breathe, why do you think I'm going to be fair about whether you need a job whether you need money?"



Valerie Rawlston Wilson, Director of the Economic Policy Institute's Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy at the Economic Policy Institute.



for a National Health Program, an organization of more than 19,000 medical students and professionals that advocates for improved universal Medicare.

declined to indict white police officers in the killings of unarmed black men. Some of the protests have involved students, including those in high schools, colleges and Ivy league schools.

Pictures that circulated Wednesday showed medical students holding signs that read, "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," and, "We Can't Breathe" – rallying cries for those protesting the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York.

The effort was endorsed by Students for a National Health Program, an affiliate of Physicians

"We as medical students feel that this is an important time for medical institutions to respond to violence and race-related trauma that affect our communities and the patients we serve," says a statement on the organization's website.

"We feel it is essential to begin a conversation about our role in addressing the explicit and implicit discrimination and racism in our communities and reflect on the systemic biases embedded in our medical education curricula, clinical learning environments, and administrative decision-making."

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#WhiteCoats4BlackLives

Medical Students Stage Nationwide Protests Against Police Brutality

By Lilly Workneh for
Huffingtonpost.com

Medical students from more than 70 schools on Wednesday protested racial profiling and police brutality through the social media initiative #WhiteCoats4BlackLives.

Hundreds of medical students wore white coats at "die-ins" and other protests on campuses to spotlight racial bias as a public health issue.

The medical students joined others who have demonstrated since grand juries in Ferguson, Missouri, and in New York City

declined to indict white police officers in the killings of unarmed black men. Some of the protests have involved students, including those in high schools, colleges and Ivy league schools.

Pictures that circulated Wednesday showed medical students holding signs that read, "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," and, "We Can't Breathe" – rallying cries for those protesting the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York.

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