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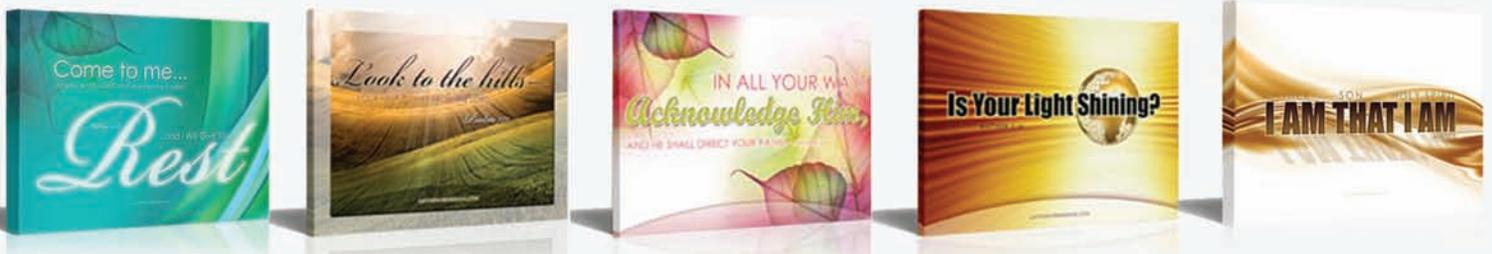
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Leviticus 26:4
Psalm 145:15
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Health care reform was in the news this week as the U.S. Supreme Court considered the constitutionality of the “insurance mandate” in the Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare). While the mandate targets people who can afford to buy insurance, but choose not to, I don’t know too many people like that. Do you?

What’s far more important to far more people are all the other benefits the law brings. Even without the mandate, under Obamacare:

- 87 million people now have access to free preventative services through private insurance and Medicare.
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- About 400,000 small businesses have claimed a tax credit for up to 35% of their health insurance premiums.
- 18 million children can no longer be denied coverage because they have pre-existing conditions.
- Over 2.5 million young adults without insurance can now stay on their parents’ plans.

This is just the beginning. When the law is fully implemented, 30 million people will have insurance they could not afford previously and everyone will have more secure health care than ever before.

Learn more at <http://www.healthcare.gov>.

So, when you hear people bashing Obamacare, ask yourself who has taken actions that show they care about your health. Obamacare means President Obama cares and I care and no matter what the Court decides, we will keep fighting for better health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

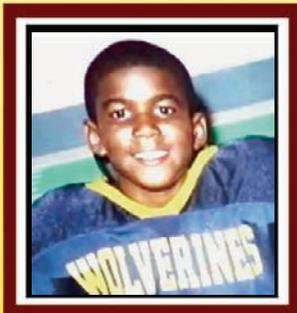


Congresswoman Corrine Brown

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Guilty of Being Black

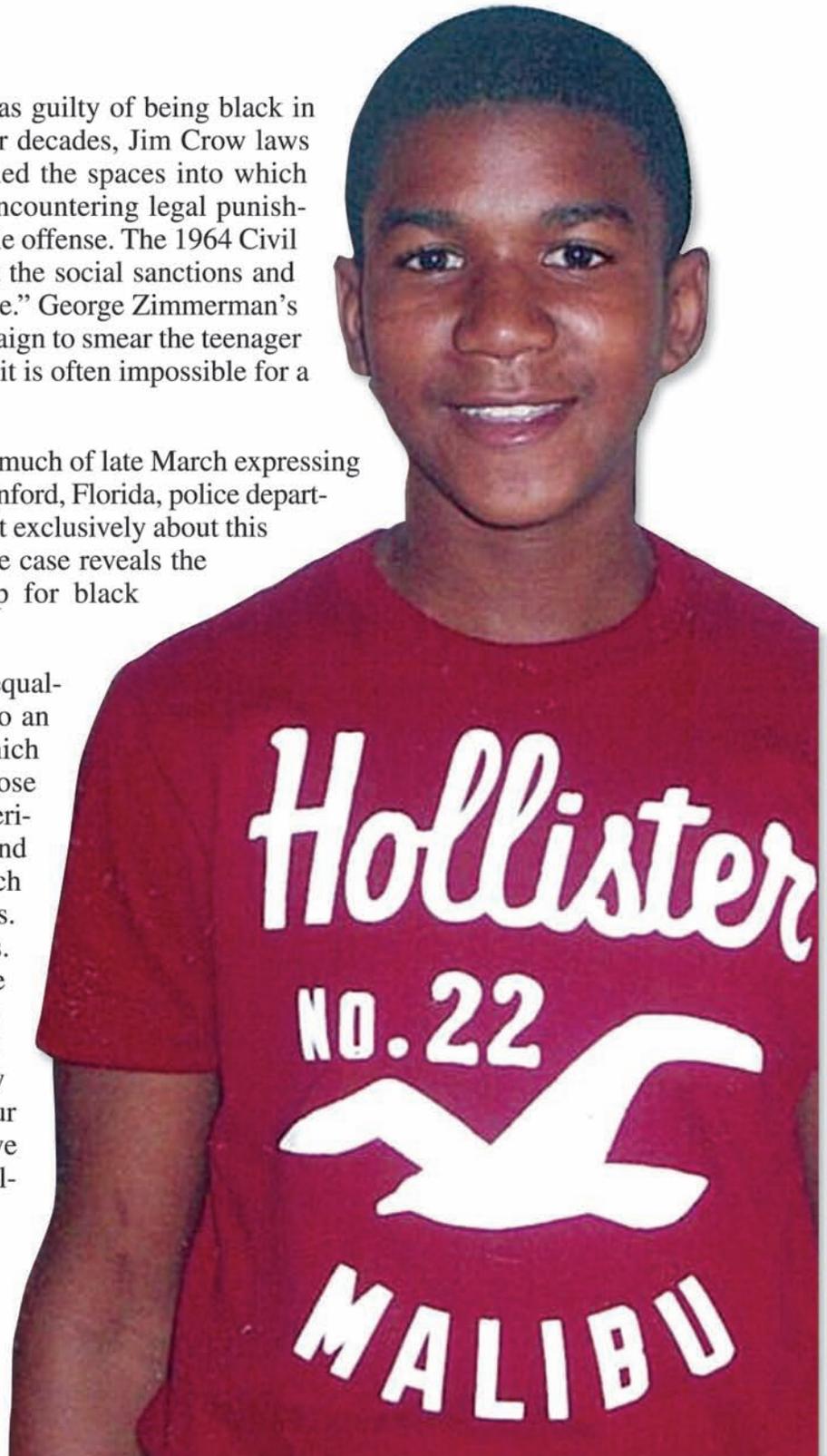
By, **Melissa Harris-Perry**
TheRoot.com

Trayvon Martin was not innocent. He was guilty of being black in presumably restricted public space. For decades, Jim Crow laws made this crime statutory. They codified the spaces into which black bodies could not pass without encountering legal punishment. They made public blackness a punishable offense. The 1964 Civil Rights Act removed the legal barriers but not the social sanctions and potentially violent consequences of this “crime.” George Zimmerman’s slaying of Martin — and the subsequent campaign to smear the teenager — is the latest and most jarring reminder that it is often impossible for a black body to be innocent.

Black communities in the United States spent much of late March expressing outrage about Zimmerman’s actions and the Sanford, Florida, police department’s inaction. But the anger and grief are not exclusively about this single act. They are prompted by the ways the case reveals the continuing subordination of full citizenship for black Americans.

This is not a straightforward issue of racial inequality, discussions of which are often reduced to an almost competitive empirical analysis of which Americans have the most problems. On those terms, there’s ample evidence that black Americans have consistently had fewer resources and opportunities. But this case is not about which race or group of people has the most problems. Right now people of all races have problems. With a decade of war, an unemployment rate still hovering at historic highs, stinging gas prices raising the cost of consumer goods and a housing market still on its knees, there are few families untouched in some material way by our national challenges. Even for those who have remained insulated from our collective difficulties, there are personal tragedies and loss.

Yes, everyone has problems. And, yes, government has a role in making citizens individually and collectively more resilient. Moreover, democratic governments have a duty to ensure that citizens bear the weight of these burdens more equally.



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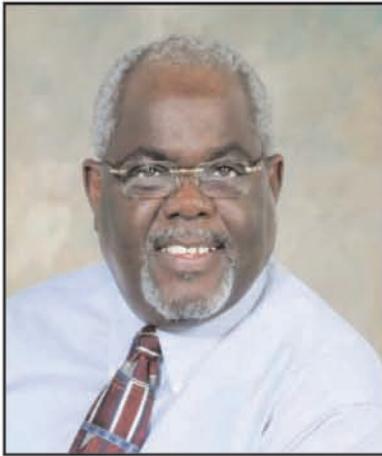
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- **Fighting For Education.** Representative Taylor serves on the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee where he demands answers and promotes **NO CUTS** to education.
- **Protecting State Employees.** State employees have been singled out and attacked. Representative Taylor continues to be the voice fighting for pension protection and fair treatment.

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Restoring the American Dream: HAMP Extension Offers Homers Hope

By Keith Loria
Guest Columnist

During President Barack Obama's most recent State of the Union address, he spoke about the American Dream of owning a home and how that dream has been shattered for many due to the collapse of the housing and mortgage markets over the last few years. However, Obama offered hope to homeowners recently by extending the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), which can help many homeowners refinance and take advantage of historically low interest rates.

HAMP also offers incentives to mortgage lenders to encourage them to refinance and modify existing mortgages by lowering interest rates and reducing mortgage balances to the current value of the property.

Launched by the federal government in 2009, HAMP was slated to expire on December 31, 2012, but was extended for one year until December 31, 2013. The extension of the program included an expansion of the eligibility rules to make it available to even more homeowners.

It is believed that millions of additional homeowners will now be eligible to take advantage of the federal program to bring down the costs of owning a home and even help many avoid foreclosure altogether.

In February, new eligibility criteria were released to mortgage lenders and servicers and homeowners may begin submitting applications under the new rules in May. Until then, homeowners can submit applications for modifications under HAMP to their lenders under the existing eligibility guidelines.

There are several changes to the HAMP guidelines that homeowners should be aware of:

- Homeowners found to be ineligible under the current debt-to-income ratio of 31 percent may now be eligible under the new criteria.
- Previously, non-owner occupied homes and owner-occupied homes with tenants were not eligible. However, the new guidelines would allow tenants in part of the home as long as the home is owner-occupied, or the owner intends to take occupancy. It is believed that approximately 700,000 landlords will be eligible under the revisions to HAMP.
- People who were approved for a HAMP trial period, but did not make the payments as scheduled, would be eligible for consideration for a modification under the new eligibility criteria.



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- Homeowners who missed payments under an approved HAMP modification, as opposed to a trial period, would be eligible to reapply under the new rules.

In addition to the HAMP extension, the Obama administration announced that it would triple incentives to owners of mortgages that reduce home loan debt and expand eligibility to borrowers struggling under the weight of other liabilities such as medical bills. The extension will apply to all loans, including those held by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the government-sponsored mortgage financiers.

For more information about the new HAMP guidelines, contact our office today.

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The Prostate Health Education Network (PHEN) in partnership with churches nationwide will mobilize its “Fourth Annual Father’s Day Rally Against Prostate Cancer” on Sunday, June 17th, 2012.

“We will increase prostate cancer awareness and knowledge on Father’s Day and establish ongoing relationships with churches and their members to reduce the devastating impact of this disease on African American families,” states Thomas A. Farrington, PHEN president and founder.

The Rally takes place within participating churches on Father’s Day, where prostate cancer survivors within each congregation along with family members of those who have been victims of the disease are recognized and join hands in prayer for healing. “This public recognition and spiritual support helps remove the deadly silence for those who may be suffering which becomes a powerful step towards healing,” according to Farrington, an eleven year prostate cancer survivor

PHEN provides each partnering church with materials for distribution to their members on Father’s Day. Also, as part of its ongoing partnership and support PHEN provides awareness posters, access to its educational resources, speakers, monthly e-newsletters and webcasts. In addition, PHEN enrolls prostate cancer survivors within each church to assist with these ongoing education and awareness efforts. Since 2009 the PHEN Father’s Day Rally has partnered with churches, reaching hundreds of thousands across the country in its initiatives to save lives through increased awareness and knowledge.

Church leaders strongly endorse the Father’s Day Rally.

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr., Presiding Bishop for the African Methodist Episcopal Second District, affirms: “Churches within my district will again be active participants in PHEN’s Father’s Day Rally in 2012.”

The 13th AMEC District Presiding Bishop Vashti Mckenzie comments, “My district has enjoyed working with PHEN and our churches will strongly participate in this year’s Father’s Day Rally.”

Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore Sr., President of the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC) states, “PNBC churches will look to expand their participation in 2012,” and Dr. Jacqueline L. Burton, President of the Conference of National Black Churches (CNBC) says “CNBC’s leadership includes leaders of the nine major Black denominations who will urge their churches to actively engage in PHEN’s Father’s Day Rally and efforts beyond.”

All churches are invited and encouraged to join the PHEN Father’s Day Rally by registering at:
www.prostatehealthed.org/churchregister2012.php

About PHEN:

PHEN is a non-profit 501c3 organization founded in 2003 by Thomas A. Farrington a prostate cancer survivor and author of the books “Battling the Killer Within” and “Battling the Killer Within and winning.” PHEN’s mission includes eliminating the African American prostate cancer disparity and working towards a cure for the disease. Black men in the United States have a prostate cancer mortality rate 2.4 times higher than other men.



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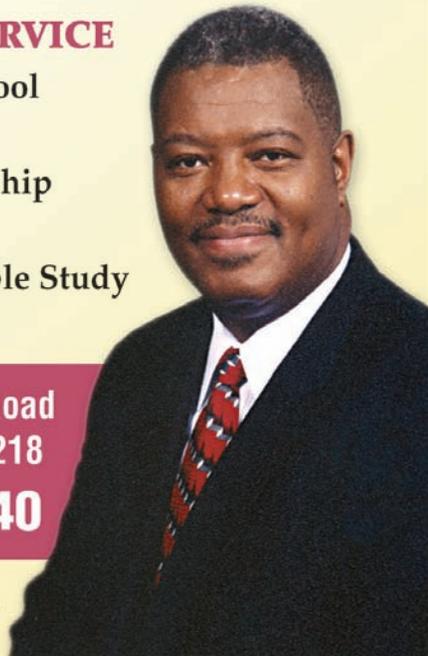
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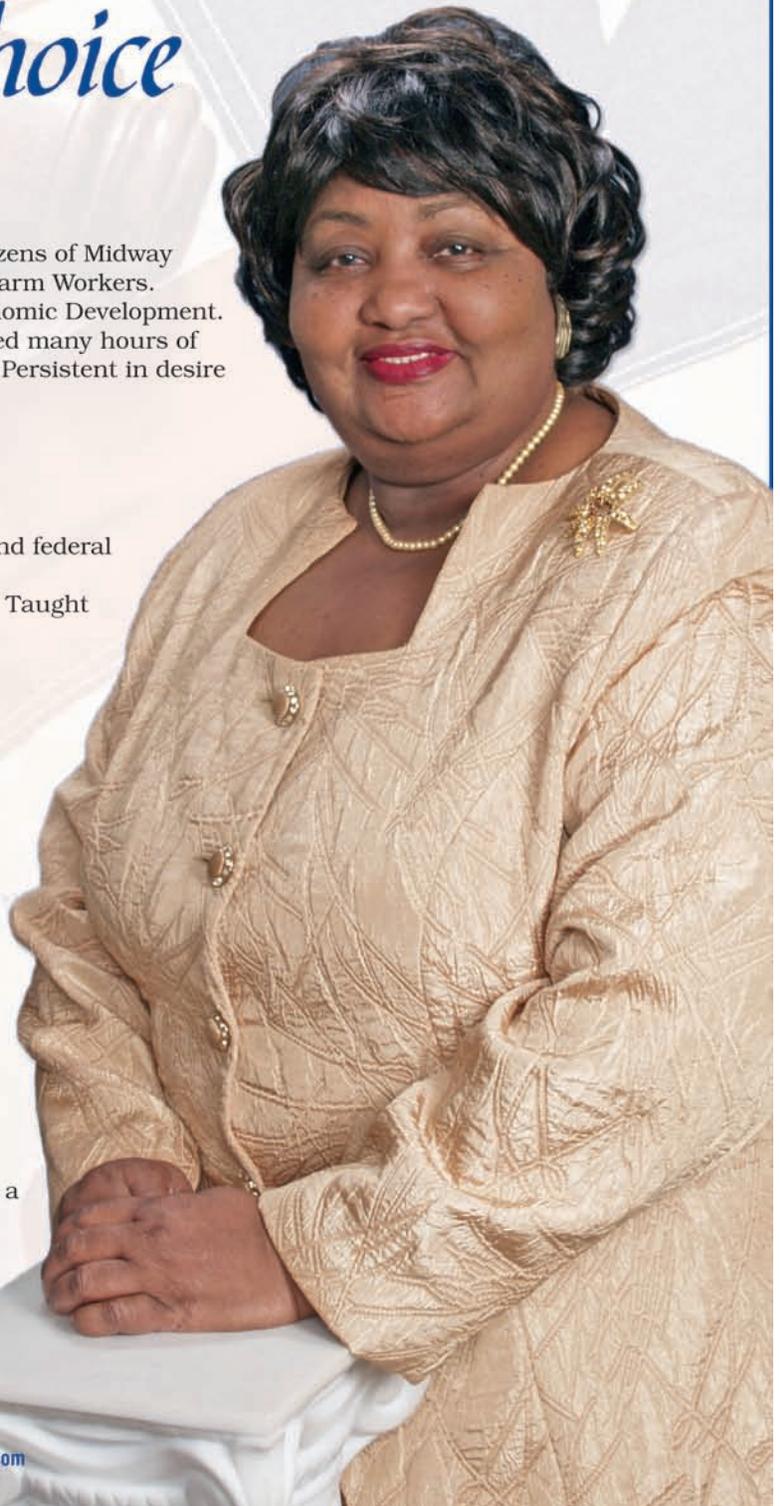
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“TWO PEAS IN A POD”

By Pastor Leon R. Bing

How many of you still remember this old saying, “Two peas in a pod.” It was used to identify two individuals who were tight, always together, looked out for one another! For the younger readers, you might say, two who were down together, Blood, or even “dawgs.” Like many of you I hate the word dawg myself, but I need to say to bring home my point!

Two peas in a pod represent two who really were in agreement, or in covenant with each other. Let me give you a quick example. I have a sister whom I love very much. In her first marriage it was said by everyone who knows her and who knew her first husband that when you saw one, you always saw the other! They did everything together! They were truly, “Two peas in a pod”! That is a true testimony!

If only we as children of the Most High God could have such a testimony about our relationship with one another, and with Christ! I want to show you four areas where we need to check ourselves to make sure we may be considered to having the right relationship both with man and God! (Remember, how can you say you love God and not love your brother).

This first area is where we don't want to be!

Like idol, like follower

Psalm 135: 15-18

- 15 Their idols are merely things of silver and gold, shaped by human hands.
- 16 They cannot talk, though they have mouths, or see, though they have eyes!
- 17 They cannot hear with their ears or smell with their noses.
- 18 **And those who make them are just like them, as are all who trust in them.**

New Living Translation

Some people are so into their possessions that they become like their possessions. What are you known for? Your gold, cars, your cash flow? These things cause you to miss out on a beautiful relationship with your family, friends, and even Christ. Two people can have the most wonderful relationship with each other and may not have many possessions at all. But when you see them you just have to say, they are two peas in a pod! And when you have a good prayer life, a life in the Word of God, you are definitely two peas in a pod with Christ! You look like Him, act like Him, and think like Him!

There are many of you who have made idols in your daily lives. Your jobs, things, people and money have become idols. These idols cause you not to be like-minded with Christ. Instead, you have become what you idol(s) are.

Then there are two in agreement.

Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed??

KJV

Amos 3:3 Can two people walk together without **agreeing on the direction?**

NLT

The New Living Translation gives us a little better insight by saying “agreeing on the direction”. This is a key piece of information because it lets us know that we don't just agree, but we agree on the direction we choose to go in. You see, my wife and I can agree on a thing, but she can choose not to go in that direction! We agree with the Word of God, but some still choose not to walk in it! Two peas in a pod covenant with each other and choose to walk in the same direction.

Listen to this one, like teacher – like student

Luke 6:39, 40

- 39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: **“What good is it for one blind person to lead another? The first one will fall into a ditch and pull the other down also.**
- 40 **A student is not greater than the teacher. But the student who works hard will become like the teacher.**

One problem people have is that they don't want anyone to tell them anything! That causes rebellion to rise up between two and you no longer are two peas in a pod, but you become “split peas”. If you can gain knowledge from someone then Filler up! Get as much knowledge as you can! At the First Coast African American Chamber of Commerce they weekly offer valuable information to startup business owners, Free of Charge, but only a very few go get the information that could help them immensely. When we can learn to work with one another, learn from one another, learn to staff our weaknesses, we can never be two peas in a pod. Instead, we remain enemies keeping both of us down! As Jesus says, the blind leading the blind!

Lastly, thinking as Jesus Thought.

Philippians 2:5-8

- 5 **Your attitude should be the same that Christ Jesus had.**
- 6 **Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.**
- 7 **He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form.**
- 8 **And in human form he obediently humbled himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross.**



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15 Tips to Control Your Eating

Simple ways to stick to a healthy diet

By: Carole Carson
Guest Columnist

After my midlife “fitness epiphany,” I wondered why I hadn’t succeeded earlier. Reading a contemporary proverb, I found the answer: “The apple doesn’t fall from the tree until it’s ripe.”

My earlier, failed attempts to lose weight meant I wasn’t ready. But once ready, the soap-opera events in my life — serious illness, a son’s wedding in France, a torn hamstring, a back injury, my daughter’s heart-stopping medical trauma — couldn’t derail me.

The drama in my life continues. As Gilda Radner said, “It’s always something.” What I am happiest about, though, is that I’ve managed to stay the course with my exercise and eating regimen. The bad habits were hard to change, but fortunately so are the new, healthful ones.

While exercise is an essential element of my makeover, the biggest change involves eating. Below are my favorite strategies — some I discovered and some I borrowed from others.



1. Plan ahead so you can look forward to eating. Don’t wing it: You will often end up overeating and/or eating something unhealthy.

2. Focus on what you’ll eat — not what you are giving up.

3. Eat at periodic intervals (every three to four hours). Skipping a meal can result in overeating later or poor food choices. Have a late-afternoon snack (fruit, carrot sticks, popcorn) for quick energy.

Eating a healthy breakfast can help you manage hunger throughout the day. — Getty Images

4. Always start the day with a breakfast to manage hunger throughout the day. Overeating the night before isn’t an excuse to skip breakfast.

5. Add protein to each meal — such as a hard-boiled egg, tuna or nonfat cottage cheese — to manage hunger and sustain energy.

6. Save alcohol for special occasions.

7. Save one time each week (for me, it’s Friday night) for indulging — but even then stay conscious of choices.

8. Make friends with hunger. Learn to assess your hunger level — from “satiated” to “passing impulse” (perhaps triggered by a television commercial) to “ravenously famished.” Eat when your energy level drops, but don’t panic if you are hungry for an hour.

9. Train yourself to stop after one serving. If you are particularly hungry, make sure you have one food or dish you can eat as much as you want — for example, cucumber salad with seasoned rice vinegar.

10. If you must eat at a fast-food joint, order salads, veggie burgers, and other low-cal dishes.

11. Shop for groceries when you aren’t overly hungry, angry, lonely or tired. Don’t bring food home that you shouldn’t eat.

12. If you’re hungry but don’t want to eat yet, chew some sugarless gum and drink water.

13. When entertaining, make sure there are foods you can eat along with your guests. When you’re a guest, discreetly find foods that fit into your plan and eat them.

14. If you need medicine, take it. Don’t medicate with food.

15. Limit caffeine. It can stimulate appetite.

I know that seems like a lot, but over time it becomes second nature. Then the pounds melt away and it really gets fun! For me, one of those moments came when I wore a size 6 suit to my son’s wedding.

Carole Carson, author of *From Fat to Fit: Turn Yourself into a Weapon of Mass Reduction*, serves as the coach for the AARP Fat to Fit online community.

The Orlando Renaissance Celebrates its 10th Anniversary and 5th Literacy Award Banquet

The Orlando Renaissance Writers Guild Inc, held its 5th Annual Literacy Banquet on March 24, 2012. The guild's mission is to increase the visibility and number of Black authors and educate them about publishing and getting their work to the market. The Guild was established in 2002 and meet monthly to read, discuss and evaluate the work of its members.

This year's Writer of the Year Award was given to Roger Caldwell whose work has been syndicated in many newspapers in the area. The Humanitarian of the Year was given to Former Orlando Commissioner Mable Butler for her effort in assisting many citizens in the Orlando community.

Each year the organization gives out an award for a nonprofit who encourage literacy. This year's award winner was Spoken Word Press Youth Group headed by Jolanda Blackman. The group promotes self-esteem and education through spoken word and poetry.

Interested persons can contact the group at www.orwriters.org or email at orlandowriters@aol.com. The group's President is renowned photographer Ted Hollins who is a graduate of Florida A & M University. This year's goal is to publish its second anthology of poetry and short stories.



HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR
Former Orlando Commissioner Mable Butler



WRITER OF THE YEAR
Roger Caldwell



Writers Guild Short Story Contest 2012

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Email all submission in WORD to OrlandoWriters@aol.com

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www.orwriters.org

Workforce Advantage Academy

Changing Young Lives Through Education and Paid Job Internships



Ken Hartsaw
*Founder / Chief
 Executive Officer*

“Someone’s life has just changed and they don’t even know it yet” states Ken Hartsaw Jr., Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Advantage Academy. This statement normally means that another student at Workforce Advantage Academy (WAA) has been offered a job that can have positive life changing implications. Mr. Hartsaw can be heard making this proclamation to many students during the course of the year at Workforce Advantage Academy. His vision for the Academy is to help students graduate from high school with an education and an understanding of the skill sets required to be successful in their personal, professional and social lives. Some of these students may otherwise loose their way academically, socially and/or financially in the larger high schools. He has invested many hours developing and cultivating relationships with business partners and leaders in the local and state education community to make high school graduation and gainful employment a reality. WAA, a School of Choice, is a unique personalized learning community that creates opportunities for significant life changing activities.

A Life Change Choice

Workforce Advantage Academy is an Orange County Public Charter School that has only 11th and 12th grade students. Their major focus is preparing students for graduation from high school and providing them with work experience through paid internship opportunities that prepare them for the world of work. Belinda Jones is the principal of Workforce Advantage Academy and ultimately responsible for the overall performance of the students at WAA. She has instituted the Academy’s instructional system that combines academics and industry education that comply with the Florida Sunshine Standards and meet the needs of students, families, businesses and the Orange County School District. Ken Hartsaw often says “We offer a private school environment at public school price - free”.

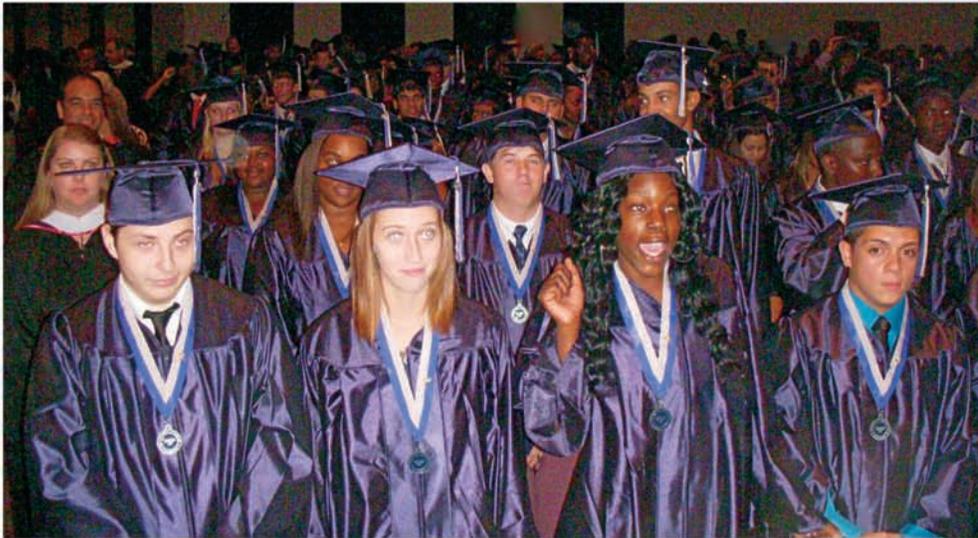
Earn While You Learn

Job-\$ development is an important part of the Workforce Academy model. WAA develop entry level Jobs-\$, Jobs-\$, Jobs-\$, that accommodate students ability to Earn while you learn. Coordinating and facilitating the relationship between the business partners, students, faculty, families and the School District, is the Chief Operations Officer, Carl Merrell.

Education Is Our Focal Point

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) offers many different avenues for students to experience educational success during their high school years. Workforce Advantage Academy is, one of those avenues that supplement the overall educational architecture for the county. The Academy places the highest value on its partnership with Orange County Public Schools. Carl Merrell added that “Education is the focal point, Education in the home, Education in the class room, Continuing Education on the job. We must inspire each and every parent to maintain and sustain the discussion of the importance of education”. The message must start at home and spread abroad. There is a need to continue this dialogue within all aspects of our community and society at large until it is second nature like breathing”. Through the leadership and direction of the





Chief Executive Officer, Principal, Chief Operations Officer and Staff the results of the 2005 - 2006 school year produced the Academy's first graduating class with a 92% graduation rate.

Currently Workforce Advantage Academy enjoys a greater than 83 percent graduation rate. It is important that all of our students establish a plan for the Monday after graduation. WAA administrators, faculty and staff present a Banquet Table full of opportunities, encompassing everything from College to Vocational Trade School and Job Corps to the Military and On-The-Job-Training. This equates to a roadmap to achieving the necessary skills and continuing education to be successful in tomorrow's economy. "We offer them all of the options to having a good life", Hartsaw said. "and help them develop a plan with real choices.



It Takes A Village

Children do not grow into successful adults in isolation. It takes a team approach, with parents, teachers, mentors and others participating in the learning process. Workforce Advantage Academy's unique model blends additional components: careers, guidance, creative scheduling, small classrooms and business partners who support the school by hiring its students for paid internships, which provide opportunities to learn about different professions.

Coursework includes life skills as well as academics. Job coordinators match students' interests with jobs offered by the school's

business partners and teach employability skills. Business leaders then coach and mentor the student. We employ a student-centered approach to education. The student is the focus, and all resources are directed toward delivering the services necessary to obtain the desired results of success. As stated by poet Daniel C. Mosley, "Success does not result from chance but from a succession of successful days." We model this process by providing successful activities each day. The activity may result from an interaction with one or more of the participants in the process. It is not enough for the event to occur in a vacuum. The event or activity must be processed with the student. Hence, we model the process and process the model. More than 90 percent of Workforce Academy students graduate with skills to succeed in the world.

Model the Process



Process the Model

An Alternative That Works

Workforce Academy has to recruit its students each year because we graduate our senior class. Those students have to be replaced with a new enrollment of students. We recruit through a direct mail campaign. Students are attracted to the Academy from through out the county because it offers solutions that meet their immediate needs. First of all they need to earn money and stay in school to graduate, WAA will find them jobs when they enroll in school. The Academy teaches its students how to fish rather than giving them a fish. Secondly, the campus is small and secure. The environment is safe and a sense of family exists in such a way that students know that it is genuine. Students have come from as far away as Apopka, Ocoee, Wedgefield and Cypress Creek. WAA introduces students to different industries that may support their long term career goals. Creating and maintaining this atmosphere of confidence and trust is critical to the overall success of the program.

Workforce Academy is creative and innovative in its approach to education and career exploration. When students arrive at the Academy they are provided training in Pre-Employment



Belinda Jones
WAA School
Principal



Work Maturity Skills and administered the Career Occupational Preference Systems (COPS), an interest assessment that help to define the kind of work a student is interested in doing. They are also administered The Temperament Discovery System (KTS – II) a personality instrument to assess personality type. The goal of these assessments is to develop a career plan that will become a road map to the future. The COPS is also used as an indicator for possible assignment of internships that are a match for the student.

The Academy has the capacity for 220 students. Approximately 110 students are on campus at any one time. Students are divided into two groups, group A and group B. The groups alternate between school and work. Classes are small with an average of 15 to 20 students per class. Classes are 90 minutes long. Students receive school credit for their elective employment experience. Class schedules are flexible to accommodate the demands of changing situations.



Satisfied Students

The school is exciting as students are working all over Orange County in many different industries and getting paid. Students are paid at least minimum wage and some students make as much as \$10.00 per hour for the purpose of helping to support their families, providing for their personal need and/or saving for the future.



The atmosphere on campus is bustling with conversations between students and students, and students and staff about what is happening on the job, the activities in class, current events and activities in their lives. Topics of discussion range from issues pertaining to families, the legal field, technology, automotive, engineering, retail, manufacturing, services, hospitality, entertainment and business just to name a few. Teachers and administrators are constantly processing life learning events to help students break the code on this thing called life. Whether on campus or working in the community Principal Belinda B. Jones encourages students to “dream, remain curious and learn something new every day”.

The social environment at the Academy is exhilarating. It is not all work and no play. There is a Silver and Blue Formal Ball in the Fall, Red and White Dance in February, Field Trips that complement academic studies, Cultural Lunches, Guest Speakers from many different business endeavors, Grad Bash, The Prom, Graduation and the Monday After Graduation. There are plenty of events and activities to keep students engaged and receptive to life long learning.

A Formula For Success

Small class rooms facilitate learning and adapting the course work to individuals learning styles. WAA understands that the school must capture the interest of the student and engage them to help them be successful. Some students are auditory learners and some are visual learners and some have to touch and feel the object or activity to comprehend and appreciate the values being taught and trained. Workforce Advantage Academy Model's the Process and Processes the Model until they get it. Teachers offer a hands-on approach to learning and present their classes with a skills-based focus, so students can apply what they learn in school to the workplace.

Job coordinators and the Transition class instructor teach business classes and help students develop the interviewing techniques, resume writing and employability skills needed to land a job and become an effective employee once hired. The program requires a strong employee base of business partners who provide the jobs and coach the students. Job coordinators work with the businesses to match students with the skills and interests to succeed on available jobs.

The type of jobs and number of partners has changed over the years. A few years back, the school worked with a cell-phone repair company, which employed and trained more than approximately forty students to become reclamation technicians to recycle the components. This was an ideal operation and opportunity for the company to provide a win-win community outreach service.



You Can Help

"We raise money to ensure students enjoy a full high-school experience" Hartsaw said. For instance, a busload of students and chaperones returned from a spring break tour of Atlanta.



The trip cost \$600.00 per student. Students were asked to contribute \$100.00 and donors underwrote the balance, allowing every student that went the chance to explore a part of the world outside of Orange County, Florida.

As an Orange County Charter School, Workforce Academy depends on state funding. The recent serious cuts to education have forced the school to rely more on donations to fund expenses. Currently the Academy provides Polo Shirts to their students as a part of the uniform. The school purchases monthly Lynx Bus passes as a means of student transportation to go from home to school and home to work and from school to work. The Academy also provides scholarships for graduating seniors. Last year, 13 graduating seniors received \$1,000.00 scholarships each to help them start on their college, military, or employment journey. Workforce Academy provides supple-



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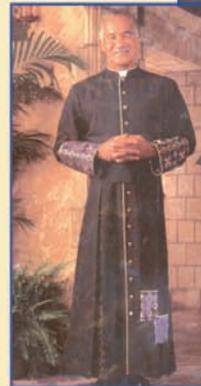
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W. Carl Merrell
WAA Chief Operations
Officer

mental lunch meals for its students that are not working until they get a job. There is no free lunch.

There is a need for donations to support providing supplemental lunch meals, uniform costs, computers for the learning resource center, cost of Bus passes, marketing cost for student recruitment, and marketing costs for recruiting business partners to provide jobs for students. As Mr. Hartsaw said quoting one of his favorite posters: *“kids have enough tough choices to make, choosing between a high school diploma and a job should not be one of them”*.



Our Goal: A Positive Future For All Children

In the national comprehensive package of youth services, one thing lacking is a signature program that provides proactive, preventive steps for youth. Such a program would provide intervention that insures these youth complete their education and that they are properly prepared to enter the workforce. Workforce Advantage Academy with today's youth is a hand in glove fit. The school currently serves 220 Orange County youth. Long Term, Workforce Academy officials would like to see that number grow to 300 and develop additional campuses around the state and the nation.

Former Florida Commissioner of Education Mr. John Winn “We need to find ways to not only make their learning environment smaller which this school does but also connect their learning to real world and I think this school does an outstanding job of combining both of those... This school has the perfect package. They are strong on academics, they are strong on workforce skills and they help kids set goals for themselves and so I am just delighted to be able to spend a little time here”.

Former Florida Commissioner of Education Eric Smith: “Connecting the class work to them and their lives and making it meaningful. We have seen that happen here. And I am trying to look and see whether there is examples that can be transported to other places around the state”.

Workforce Advantage Academy extends an invitation for you to become a Business Partner or Individual Supporter by participating in this “Win-Win” program and help to perpetuate this successful career academy model of learning to preparing students for future careers. For additional information please call:



Workforce Advantage Academy
(407) 898-7228
2113 E. South Street, Orlando, Florida 32803
www.WorkforceAcademy.com

THE PENALTY OF Leadership

In every field of human endeavor, he that is first must perpetually live in the white light of publicity. Whether the leadership be vested in a man or in a manufactured product, emulation and envy are ever at work. In art, in literature, in music, in industry, the reward and the punishment are always the same.

The reward is widespread recognition; the punishment, fierce denial and detraction. When a man's work becomes a standard for the whole world, it also becomes a target for the shafts of the envious few. If his work be merely mediocre, he will be left severely alone. If he achieve a masterpiece, it will set a million tongues a-wagging.

Jealousy does not protrude its forked tongue at the artist who produces a commonplace painting. Whatsoever you write, or paint, or play or sing, or build, no one will strive to surpass or to slander you, unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius.

Long, long after a great work or a good work has been done, those who are disappointed or envious continue to cry out that it cannot be done.

Spiteful little voices in the domain of art were raised against our own Whistler as a mountebank, long after the big world had acclaimed him its greatest artistic genius.

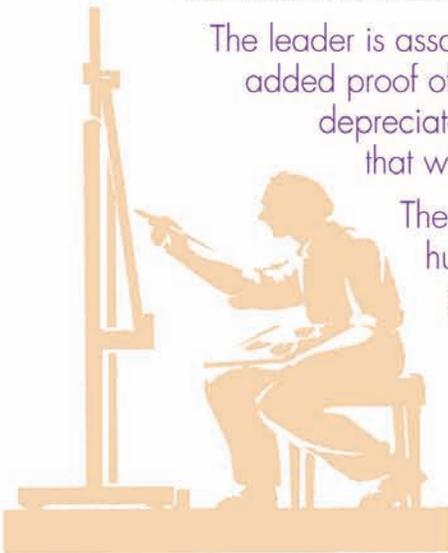
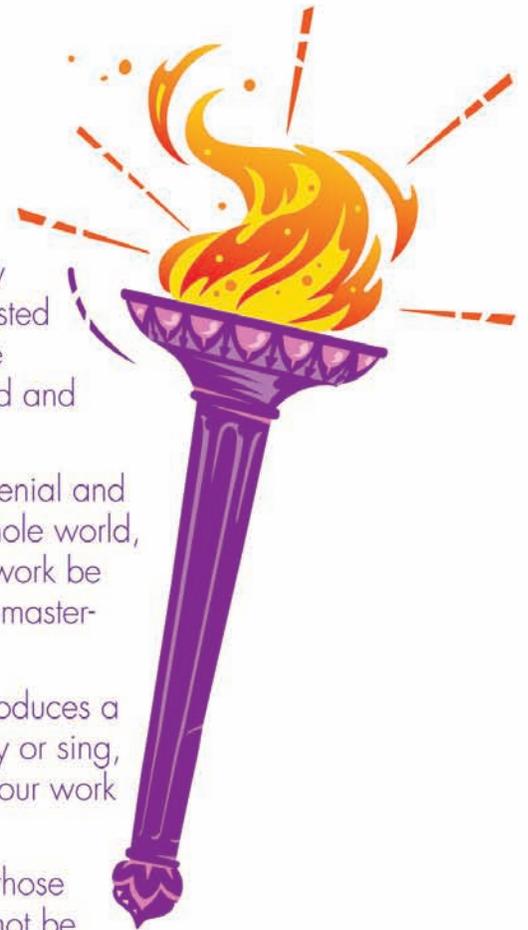
Multitudes flocked to Bayreuth to worship at the musical shrine of Wagner, while the little group of those whom he had dethroned and displaced argued angrily that he was no musician at all.

The little world continued to protest that Fulton could never build a steamboat, while the big world flocked to the river banks to see his boat steam by.

The leader is assailed because he is a leader, and the effort to equal him is merely added proof of that leadership. Failing to equal or to excel, the follower seeks to depreciate and to destroy - but only confirms once more that superiority of that which he strives to supplant.

There is nothing new in this. It is as old as the world and as old as the human passions: envy, fear, greed, ambition, and the desire to surpass. And it all avails nothing.

If the leader truly leads, he remains the leader. Master-poet, master-painter, master-workman, each in his turn is assailed, and each holds his laurel through the ages. That which is good or great makes itself known, no matter how loud the clamor of denial. That which deserves to live - lives.





Alan Grayson goes on the record for Trayvon Martin on MSNBC's The Ed Show

ED SCHULTZ: Welcome back to THE ED SHOW. Breaking news in the Trayvon Martin case tonight: ABC News has obtained video of George Zimmerman being brought into the Police Department on the night he shot and killed Trayvon Martin.

I am joined by Alan Grayson, former Florida Congressman, who is from the Orlando area. Congressman, good to have you with us tonight. You have been at these rallies for Trayvon all week, and have been paying close attention to the case.

What are your impressions of this police house videotape that was obtained tonight?

ALAN GRAYSON: Well, I think it blows apart the Zimmerman argument that he was acting out of fear rather than out of hatred.

But I'll tell you, I sometimes wonder why people think that's some kind of good defense. I don't believe it in his case. I think if you call someone an "F'ing coon," then you're animated by nothing but hatred.

But still he seems to be operating under the illusion that if he simply says that he feared, then somehow that excuses the death of a young boy. It doesn't. It just doesn't. The boy is dead. If you do the crime, you're going to have to do the time.

SCHULTZ: Do you believe that this videotape is inconsistent with the police report?

GRAYSON: Yes, I've read the police report. I saw the tape. And I think there is an inconsistency.

SCHULTZ: And what would you be thinking right now if you were representing the Martin family in this case?

GRAYSON: I think that this tape proves their point. Zimmerman should, under no circumstances, be allowed to have a gun. It should have been taken from him a long time ago. And he should have been arrested a long time ago.

He should be tried. And it looks to me like he'll be convicted.

SCHULTZ: Alan, what do you make of the police report and the listing of the deceased as a John Doe? The timing of the report, when it was put together and then released? There are many more questions here than answers, are there not?

GRAYSON: I think so. But, honestly, I don't find much fault in what the police did, except for the fact that [Zimmerman] hasn't been arrested yet. Zimmerman should

have been arrested. That's the main fly in the ointment at this point. Nobody who does anything like that should be allowed to walk the streets.

SCHULTZ: Are you bothered by the casualness of this videotape and how one of the officers seems to be searching the pockets of George Zimmerman?

GRAYSON: It bothers me to see Zimmerman acting as if nothing had happened. He killed a 17-year-old boy. He stalked and killed a 17-year-old boy. And it's appalling to me to see the kind of casualness that that video displays.

SCHULTZ: Do you know the state's attorney, Wolfinger, who recommended that they not press charges and told the lead investigator at the time not to go down that road?

GRAYSON: No. It's a terrible mistake. And the law really does not give them the excuse to do that. They're referring to what's known as the "Hold Your Ground" or "Stand Your Ground" law, which I often refer to as the "Shoot To Kill" law. That's a law that led to a tripling — a tripling — in so-called "justifiable homicides" in Florida from the year that it was enacted all the way to the present.

It's a bad law, but it does not apply to this situation. It does not apply to chasing after someone and shooting him in the chest.

SCHULTZ: Would that be hard to prove with the Stand Your Ground law as maybe something the Zimmerman team would use as a defense?

GRAYSON: Listen, juries figure out that sort of thing, and things way more complicated than that sort of thing, all the time. There's no way that Zimmerman can possibly argue that he was simply standing his ground. That law was meant to apply to people who are in their homes, maybe people in their cars, not people who are literally chasing someone around the neighborhood and then killing him.

SCHULTZ: And what do you make of the right-wing smear campaign that has been fostered by some on the right that, you know, this kid was suspended from school and he was somewhat troublesome, in defense of the actions of George Zimmerman?

GRAYSON: I think it shows that many on the right wing have a taste of blood in their mouths. They kind of like the idea of vigilantism, and this is perfect case for them.

SCHULTZ: And the Stand Your Ground law, it went into effect in 2005. There have been 93 cases, 65 deaths. Do you sense that this is a turning point in this country that maybe these kinds of laws will be repealed? Or do you see more of them coming? Because we all know that ALEC, it's well-reported that ALEC and also the NRA have been pushing these laws on legislative sessions around this country.

GRAYSON: I think it's a turning point that's far more profound than that. I think we have to stop hating each other. And we have to start cherishing our differences. The very notion that you would feel fear or hatred towards a boy who you never met in your entire life simply because he's black is appalling. I thought that we had moved past that. It was almost 50 years ago that Martin Luther King said that he hoped his children would be judged [by the content of their character], not by the color of their skin. And we're still waiting for that time to come.

SCHULTZ: Alan Grayson, thank you for your time tonight here on THE ED SHOW. I appreciate it.

View the video in its entirety at:
www.GraysonOnTrayvon.com

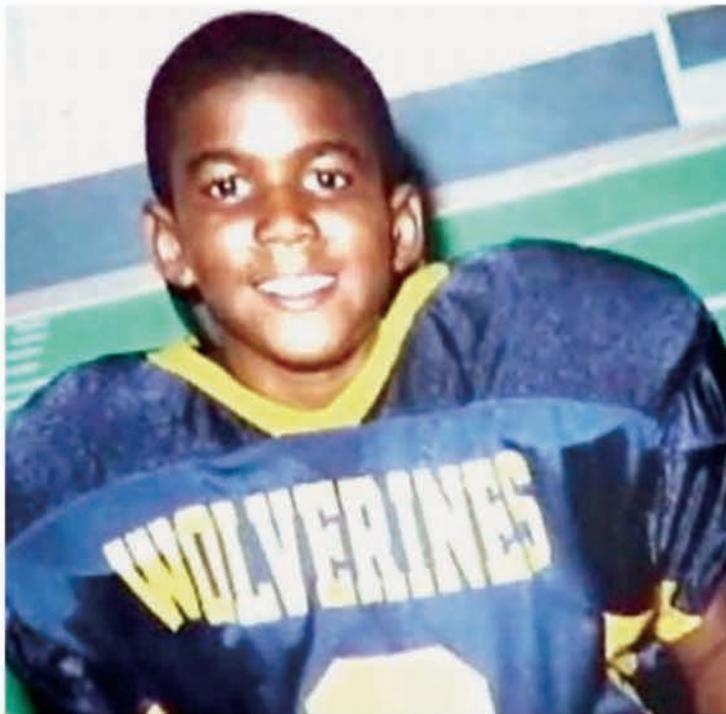
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Beyond Trayvon: Black and Unarmed

These 17 sad stories prove that it's nothing new for a black man without a weapon to be killed.

By, Jenée Desmond-Harris
TheRoot.com



Trayvon Martin

The killing of unarmed Florida teenager Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood-watch captain who deemed him “suspicious” and claims that he shot the 17-year-old in self-defense has started a heartbreaking national conversation about race and justice. His story is all the more tragic because it follows a familiar pattern. *The Root* reviewed incidents in which black men and boys without weapons lost their lives to law-enforcement officers or others who decided that they were dangerous enough to die.



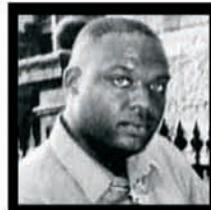
Ervin Jefferson

There are still unanswered questions about this case, unfolding a month after Trayvon Martin's shooting. But police have confirmed that the 18-year-old Jefferson was shot and killed by two security guards — also African American — outside his Atlanta home on Saturday, March 24, 2012. His mother says he was unarmed and trying to protect his sister from a crowd that was threatening her.



Amadou Diallo

In 1999, four officers in street clothes approached Diallo, a West African immigrant with no criminal record, on the stoop of his New York City building, firing 41 shots and striking him 19 times as he tried to escape. They said they thought the 23-year-old had a gun. It was a wallet. The officers were all acquitted of second-degree-murder charges.



Patrick Dorismond

The 26-year-old father of two young girls was shot to death in 2000 during a confrontation with undercover police officers who asked him where they could purchase drugs. An officer claimed that Dorismond — who was unarmed — grabbed his gun and caused his own death. But the incident made many wonder whether the recent acquittal of the officers in the Amadou Diallo case sent a signal that the police had a license to kill without consequence.



Ousmane Zongo

In 2003 Officer Bryan A. Conroy confronted and killed Zongo in New York City during a raid on a counterfeit-CD ring with which Zongo had no involvement. Relatives of the 43-year-old man from Burkina Faso settled a lawsuit against the city for \$3 million. The judge in the trial of the officer who shot him (and was convicted of criminally negligent homicide but did not serve jail time) said he was “insufficiently trained, insufficiently supervised and insufficiently led.”



Timothy Stansbury Jr.

Unarmed and with no criminal record, 19-year-old Stansbury was killed in 2004 in a Brooklyn, N.Y., stairwell. The officer who shot him said he was startled and fired by mistake. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly called his death “a tragic incident that compels us to take an in-depth look at our tactics and training, both for new and veteran officers.” A grand jury deemed it an accident.



Sean Bell

In the early-morning hours of what was supposed to be 23-year-old Bell's wedding day, police fired more than 50 bullets at a car carrying him and his friends outside a Queens, N.Y., strip club in 2006. Bell was killed, and two of his friends were wounded. The city of New York agreed to pay more than \$7 million to settle a federal lawsuit filed by the family and two friends of Bell. The three detectives who were charged — one of whom yelled "gun," although Bell was unarmed — were found not guilty of all charges. Just this March, the NYPD fired four of the officers involved in the shooting for disobeying departmental guidelines on the scene.



Orlando Barlow

Barlow was surrendering on his knees in front of four Las Vegas police officers when Officer Brian Hartman shot him in 2003. Hartman was 50 feet away and said he thought the unarmed 28-year-old was reaching for a gun. The deadly shooting was ruled "excusable." But a federal investigation later revealed that Hartman and other officers printed T-shirts labeled "BDRT," which stood for "Baby Daddy Removal Team" and "Big Dogs Run Together," and that they'd used excessive force during two separate investigations.



Aaron Campbell

In 2005 Campbell was shot in the back by Portland, Ore., police Officer Ronald Frashour, who said he thought the unarmed man was reaching toward his waistband for a weapon. Witnesses said the 25-year-old was walking backward toward police with his hands locked behind his head moments before the fatal shot was fired. A grand jury cleared Frashour of criminal wrongdoing but sent a letter to the county district attorney's office condemning police handling of the incident. Campbell's mother received a \$1.2 settlement in the family's federal wrongful-death lawsuit against the city of Portland.



Victor Steen

In 2009, 17-year-old Victor, who was riding his bicycle, refused to stop when chased by a police officer in a cruiser in Pensacola, Fla. In response, the officer aimed his Taser out of the driver's window and fired and then ran over the unarmed teen, killing him. The deadly incident was captured on video. A judge ruled that no crime was committed.



Steven Eugene Washington

Washington was shot by gang-enforcement officers Allan Corrales and George Diego in Los Angeles one night in 2010 after he approached them and appeared to remove something from his waistband. The officers said they'd heard a loud sound in the area and the 27-year-old, who was autistic, was looking around suspiciously. No weapon was ever recovered.



Alonzo Ashley

Police say that 29-year-old Ashley refused to stop splashing water from a drinking fountain on his face at the Denver Zoo one hot day in 2011, then made irrational comments and threw a trash can. The responding officers, who didn't dispute that he was unarmed, killed him with a Taser, saying he had "extraordinary strength." No criminal charges were filed against them.



Wendell Allen

Allen was fatally shot in the chest by officers executing a warrant on his house on March 7, 2012, in New Orleans. The 20-year-old was unarmed, and five children were home at the time of his death. Police found 4.5 ounces of marijuana on Allen after they killed him. An attorney for the family says that New Orleans police are investigating whether Officer Joshua Colclough was wrong to pull the trigger.



Ronald Madison and James Brissette

In 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, five officers opened fire on an unarmed family on the east side of the Danziger Bridge, killing 17-year-old James Brissette and wounding four others. Next, officers shot at brothers Lance and Ronald Madison. Ronald, a 40-year-old man with severe mental disabilities, was running away when he was hit, and an officer stomped on and kicked him before he died. In a federal criminal trial, five officers involved in what have become known as the "Danziger Bridge Shootings" were convicted of various civil rights violations, but not murder.



Travares McGill

In 2005 in Sanford, Fla. (the same county in which Trayvon Martin was killed), the 16-year-old was killed by two security guards, one of whom testified that Travares was trying to hit him with his car. But evidence showed that the bullet that killed the teen hit him in the middle of the back and that the guard kept firing even after the car was no longer headed toward him.



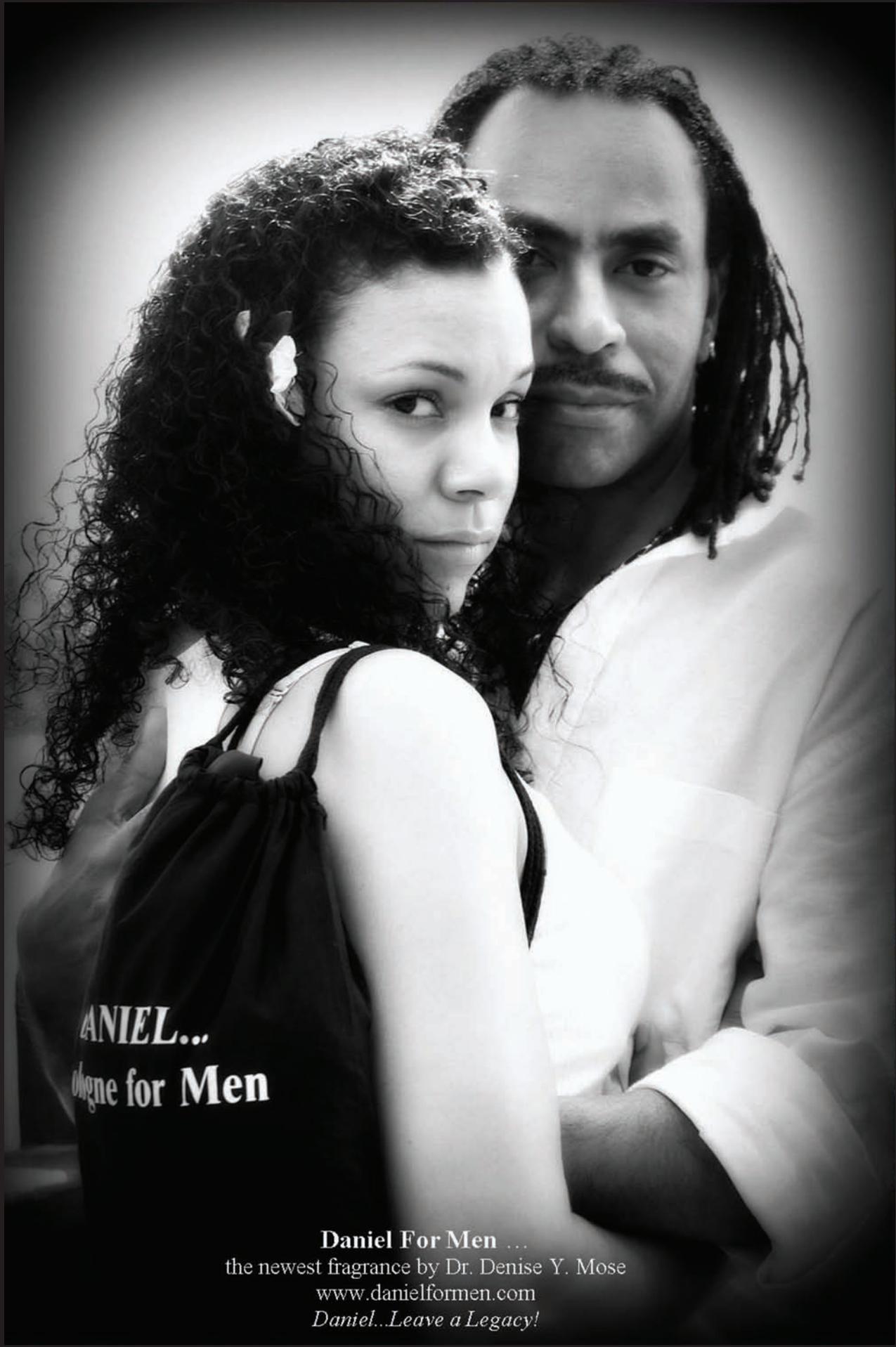
Ramarley Graham

In 2012 Officer Richard Haste shot and killed 18-year-old Graham in the bathroom of his grandmother's Bronx, N.Y., home after a chase while he was attempting to flush a bag of marijuana down the toilet. Police did not have a warrant to enter the house, and Graham had no weapon.



Oscar Grant

Oakland, Calif., transit-police Officer Johannes Mehserle said that he accidentally used his gun instead of his Taser when he shot Grant on a train platform on New Year's Day 2009. The 22-year-old was lying facedown with his hands behind his back, being subdued by another police officer, when he was killed. Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to only two years for taking Grant's life. He was released after 11 months.



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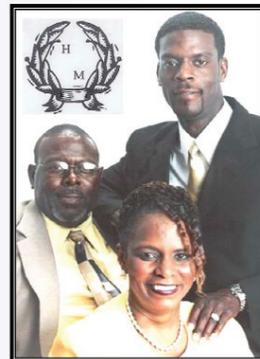
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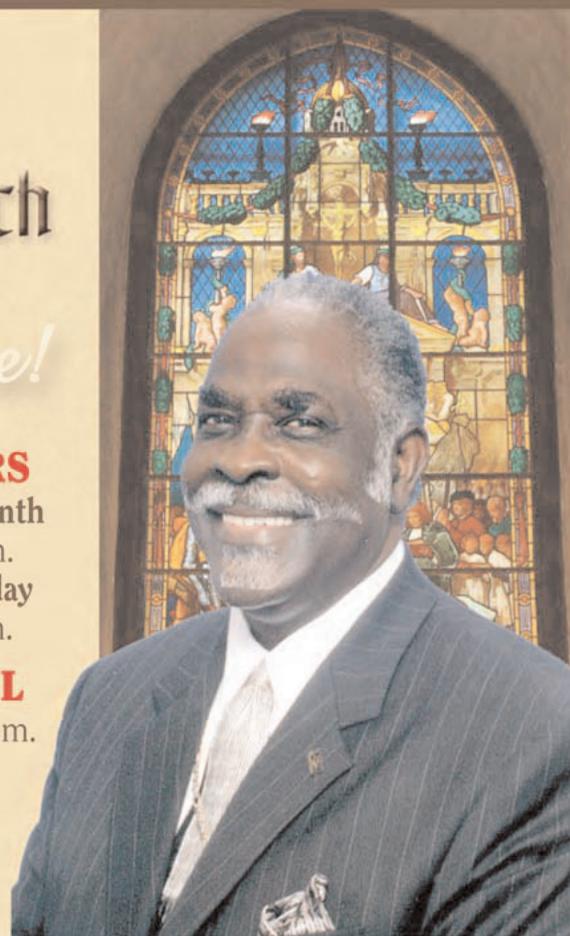
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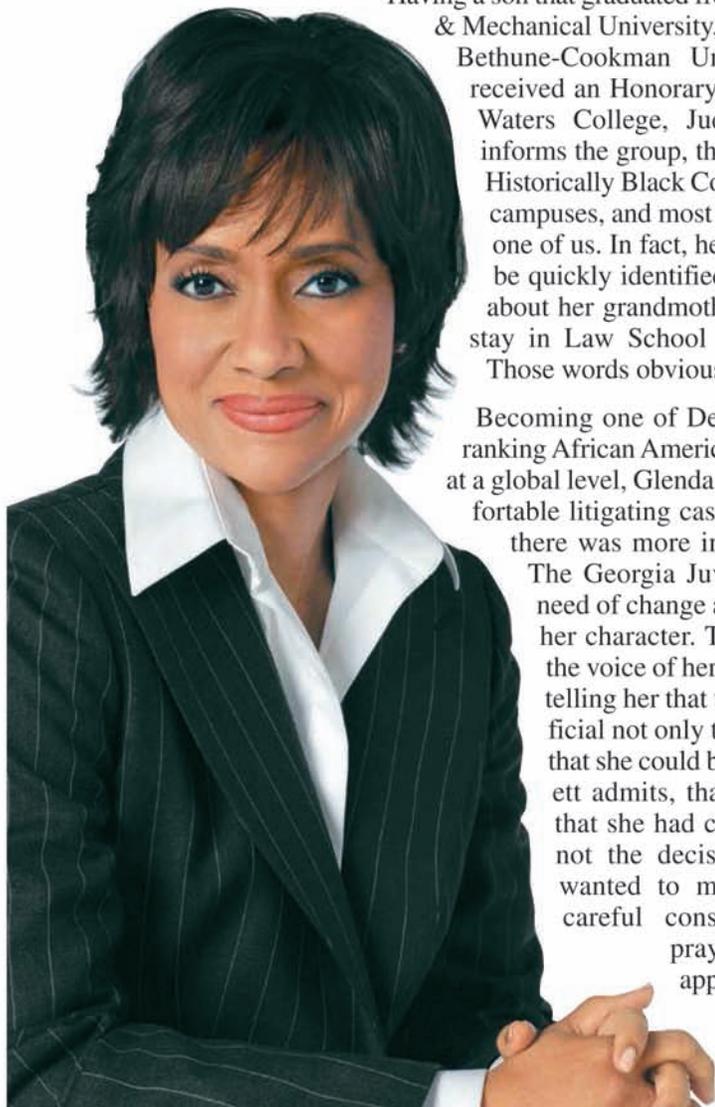


Post Their Dreams So You Don't Have to Post Their Bail

...Judge Glenda Hatchett

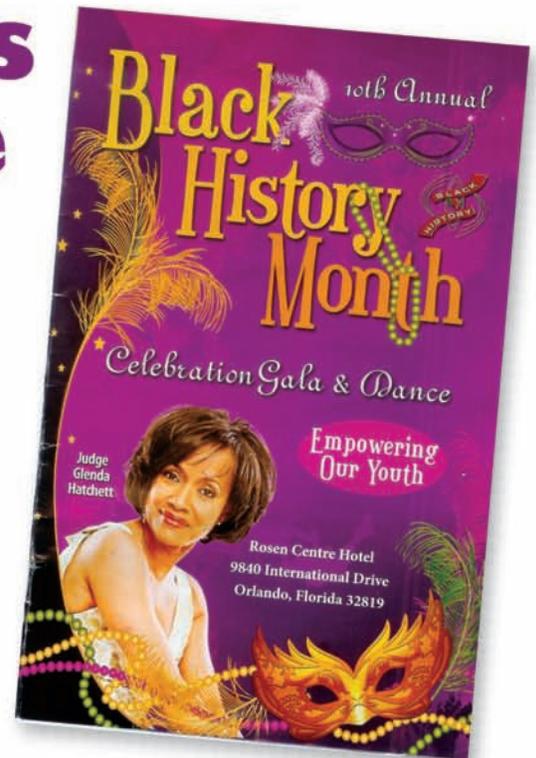
By Dominique D. Barrs
Staff Writer, Program Success

Escorted to the stage, not because of her celebrity status, but because she lugged around a bedazzled booted cast on her foot, Judge Glenda Hatchett makes her way to the podium. Anxious to hear how she hurt her limb, the audience at the 10th Annual Black History Month Celebration Gala & Dance, patiently wait as this petite woman adjusts her microphone. “Lift Every Voice and Sing...May We Forever Stand, True to Our God, True to Our Native Land,” is immediately proclaimed from her mouth. So filled with joy, power, and force, all from this little frame, the attention was taken from her foot, to these boastfully spoken words. Not losing a step, literally, it was time for business, and an injury was not about to take away from the message that she had come to deliver.



Having a son that graduated from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, a sister who teaches at Bethune-Cookman University, and having received an Honorary Degree from Edward Waters College, Judge Hatchett quickly informs the group, that she is no stranger to Historically Black Colleges and Universities campuses, and most importantly, she is still one of us. In fact, her Southern rearing can be quickly identified, as she shares stories about her grandmother encouraging her to stay in Law School at Emory University. Those words obviously paid off.

Becoming one of Delta Air Lines highest-ranking African American women and serving at a global level, Glenda Hatchett was too comfortable litigating cases for them. However, there was more in the world her to do. The Georgia Juvenile Courts were in need of change and needed a person of her character. This time, we heard of the voice of her father speaking to her, telling her that this position was beneficial not only to her, but to the youth, that she could be saving. Judge Hatchett admits, that leaving the cushion that she had created for herself was not the decision that she initially wanted to make. Therefore, after careful consideration and much prayer, she accepted an appointment as Chief Presiding Judge in Fulton County, Georgia.



Her message for the occasion was titled, “Standing on a Promise.” Speaking to a banquet hall full of Mayors, Educators, Attorneys, Public Leaders, and other Dignitaries, the tone of the speech for this celebratory dinner, was that of sternness. In order to continue having dinners such as this, that distribute scholarships for higher education, and praise leaders in the community that are making lasting impacts in the black community, we must continue creating these leaders. Judge Hatchett said, “We spend on average \$8,000 in Florida, per student for higher education. We spend 3 times that (3x) to support a Prisoner.” That fact alone shows a problem. This was not saying that OUR youth were the sole occupants in this statistic. Instead, it showed how skewed our thinking can be at times. “Invest on the front end, so there won’t be strikes.”

The theme of the Gala, “Empowering Our Youth,” can be heard throughout her speech. Guests understood and felt motivated to continue to uplift our youth. Concluding, Judge Hatchett shared one of her tactics that she shares with teachers that she comes in contact with. She said that she encourages the teachers to have their students write their dreams down on paper. Then, the following day, have the students enter their classroom with a new ceiling, covered and draped in those same handwritten dreams. This allows the students to look up whenever they need to, at their dreams. “Post their dreams so we won’t have to post their bail.”

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Recipes

Caramelized Apple Clafoutis

This lightly sweet pastry, studded with caramelized apple, is one component of an elaborate dish entitled Brillat-Savarin. Its major ingredients — apples, crème fraîche, Calvados, and the Brillat-Savarin cheese — all come from Normandy in France.

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoon(s) unsalted butter
- 2 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 1/2 cup(s) sugar
- 1/3 cup(s) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon(s) baking powder
- 1 pinch(s) salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1/3 cup(s) whole milk
- 1/4 cup(s) crème fraîche
- 2 tablespoon(s) Calvados
- Soft ripened cheese, such as Brillat-Savarin for serving



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. In a large skillet, melt the butter. Add the apples and cook over moderately high heat, stirring, for 1 minute. Add 1/4 cup of the sugar and cook, stirring, until the apples soften and lightly caramelize, 5 minutes. Scrape the apples and all of the liquid onto a plate and let cool.
2. In a bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl, whisk the eggs and remaining 1/4 cup of sugar until pale. Whisk in the flour mixture, milk, crème fraîche, and Calvados. Fold in the apples and their liquid. Pour the batter into six buttered and sugared, 5-by-3 1/2-inch shallow, oval baking dishes.
3. Bake for 35 minutes, until golden and just set. Let cool until warm, then run a knife around the edge of each clafoutis, and unmold onto plates. Serve with a wedge of cheese.



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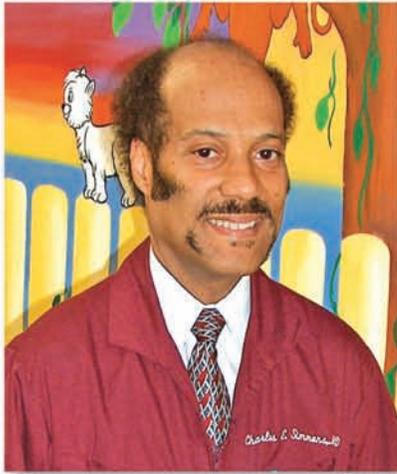


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Dr. Charles E. Simmons

SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME

By Dr. Charles E. Simmons
 Simmons Pediatrics, Jacksonville, FL
 Assisted By Dominique D. Barrs
 Medical Student

Shaken baby syndrome is the accumulation of all the signs and symptoms that result from the violent shaking and impact of the brain and blood vessels hitting against the skull of an infant or child. The head is subjected to a back and forth motion in one or more directions resulting in rapid repeated severe impact of the brain and blood vessels against the skull. A baby has weak neck muscles and a large, heavy head. Shaking makes the fragile brain bounce back and forth inside of the skull. The ending result causes bruising, swelling, and bleeding of the brain and the severity of the damage depends on the force and duration of the shaking.

Signs and symptoms result from the imbalance of the child's nervous system. Minor alterations can cause irritability, lethargy, tremors, and vomiting. Major changes in the nervous system can result in seizures, coma, stupor, and death. All of these neurological changes are all consequent to the brain cells being exposed to the trauma that causes the lack of oxygen and swelling.

The types of injuries sustained from shaken baby syndrome are vastly varied. Bleeding in the brain (subdural hemorrhages), bleeding in the retina (retinal hemorrhages), damage to the spinal cord and neck are a few. In many cases, there is no external evidence of trauma either near the head or body. Sometimes x-rays can show old and new fractures of bones and ribs.

Around 1/3 of cases are fatal within the first few days after injury. However, the remaining 2/3 of infants that survive severe shaking will have some form of neurological or mental disability. Mild handicaps are learning disorders and/or behavioral changes. Some of the more severe handicaps would include mental and developmental problems and retardation, damage to the retina can lead to blindness, inability to eat, or even exist in a vegetative state.



How much force is necessary to cause injuries in shaken baby syndrome you may ask? How many times do you have to shake an infant or young child to cause damage? No firm answer exists as to the exact number of shakes or force. Children under the age of 3 are very susceptible to brain damage due to their anatomy. Their heads are larger in respects to their body than an adult's body. Their neck muscles are weaker and cannot prevent violent motions. Also, infant's brains have a higher water content than adults which results in them having softer brains, and also more susceptible to injury.

Shaken baby syndrome can be prevented! In documented cases, shaking occurs frequently when a care giver loses control with an inconsolable crying baby. A plan of action to deal with the situation and frustration needs to be offered. Parents and other care givers need to have alternatives and better parenting skills before they lose control and get frustrated.

Shaken baby syndrome is child abuse. Most victims are under the age of 2, but may be seen in children up to the age of 5. Medical professionals detect shaken baby syndrome when there are unexplained fractures, bruises and hemorrhages that cannot be correlated to other conditions or accidental trauma.

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Fishers of Men

Darryl A. Barrs, Sr., Publisher/Managing Editor

The shooting of Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman started an outcry of injustice heard around this country and the world that affected the emotions of mothers and fathers, the young and the old, and every other soul regardless of race, creed and social-economic background. This incident based on public outcry is labeled the worst thing that ever happened. However, we have pinched our tent, painted our signs and put on our shoes and marching on slippery ice at the tip of the iceberg, because not enough attention is being paid to the huge mass of the problem that exist beneath the water out of which this tragic situation grew.

Both of these young men took different paths in their life that united them on the narrow sidewalk that divided the back patios of the gated condominiums on that dreadful Sunday night. It is my opinion that we only kick against the pricks when we try to solve a problem without researching and discovering the root of the problem. That is if problem solving is our goal... maybe some only wants to complain. A Problem without a Solution is a Complaint.

We know a lot about these young men by what has been uncovered by the media, although not presumed to be exact; it paints a picture worth noting. Trayvon Martin's past shows trouble spots that reveals him as a teenage searching for identity down some trouble paths. His school suspensions for absences, marijuana traces, and the women's jewelry found in his possession are again – the tip of the iceberg, of the many things that may have been troubling his life. The break-up of his mother and father, the two people he loved the most, may have played a factor in his acting-out. We do know that it was his suspension that leads him to Sanford at a time he should have been in school in Miami.

George Zimmerman's past also showed indicators that may lead him to this destructive path with a gun in his hand. Born in a family of a white father, a judge who married his Hispanic clerk, the life of privilege in the suburbs may not have fared well to George's mixed heritage creating anger issues that lead to him having two restraining orders placed on him and an arrest for assaulting a police officer. Having a father of influence, however, allowed him to expunge his charges and record so he could pursue a career ironically as a police officer, and also purchase a gun and obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

The combination of George's anger problems, unsuccessful ambitions, life of privilege that cover his mistakes instead of correcting his mistakes, created the person who thinks he is entitled to defy authority and take matters into his own hand which by-the-way has a gun in it.

George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin are two young men, but not the only two young men in our communities whose troubled paths led to situations of senseless death. At the start of this month in Pasadena, California an unarmed young man Kendrec McDade was shot and killed by police because it was falsely reported that he and his friend had stolen a backpack from

another young man at gun point. The backpack was recovered in their possession but the story of a gun was fabricated by the victim. The police said Kendrec McDade made a movement toward his waistband which made them shoot. Maybe this young Black college student was simply reaching to pull up his sagging pants?

Then there was the young Asian man L. Goh who went into Oikos University a Christian College in Oakland, California with a gun, killing 7 and wounding 3 before turning himself in at a grocery store down the street. And there was T.J. Lane, a white high school student at Chardon High School, in Ohio, who took a gun to his school killing 3 of his schoolmates and wounding 2 others.

What about Jared Lee Loughner, 22, who shot 18 people at a Safeway Supermarket in Arizona. His target was Congresswoman Gabrielle Gifford. 6 people died, including Judge John Roll, and 9-year old Christina-Taylor Green. And let's not forget Timothy McVeigh who killed 168 people which included 19 children in the daycare, and wounded 450 in the Oklahoma City Bombing before the troubled path he traveled ended.

There is a recorded police tape in the Trayvon Martin and George Zimmerman incident of a cry of Help. May I conclude that it was the cry of Help for both these young men before that dreadful gunshot. There is always a cry of Help. In each of the lives of the young men mentioned above, there was a cry of Help. Maybe unheard... Maybe ignored? Either way – unassisted in time.

Jesus gave an invitation in Matt 4:19 saying "follow me and I will make you Fishers of Men". He who came to Love, Heal and Forgive and lived the perfect life, asked us to follow him, and as a result we will pull men from the seas of despair, pain, disappointment, and shame... fish them from the treacherous seas that causes them to destroy their lives and the lives of others.

Our churches are 80% women which underscores the fact that we need Men to be Fishers of Men. Men who are willing to follow The Perfect Example and live exemplary lives that other men can see and be willing to follow. Men that stay with their wives and honor all women because they realize their actions are seeds planted in the lives of young men for generations to come. We need Men whose words today produce Love, have the ability to Heal, and can foster Forgiveness.

On the occasions when Jesus fed the multitudes he only counted the men. In our society the well-being of our Men has great implications and great impacts. We need our Men to be present and counted among the family as Men of action and determination. Therefore let's examine not just the tip of the iceberg, but instead go into the deep seas and discover the problems that are drowning our young men. Then, let's seek and support those Men among us who by the life they live show evidence that they are blessed by God to be Fishers of Men.

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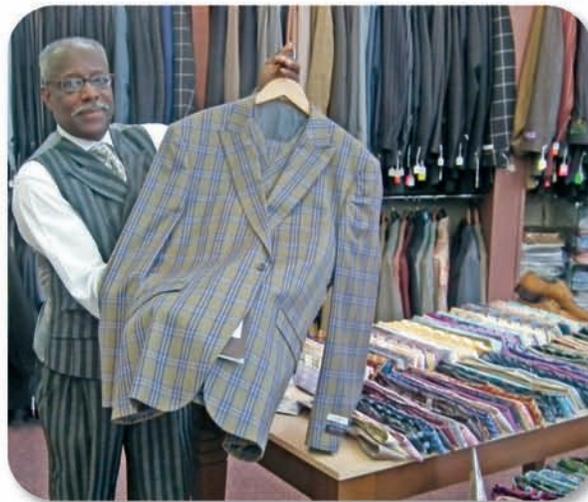
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