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Looking Beyond George Zimmerman

BY JULIANNE MALVEAUX (NNPA) Trayvon Martin might not be dead except for the fact that George Zimmerman carried a gun and acted as a wanna-be policeman. Rev. Al Sharpton and others deserve props for rallying people and insisting that Zimmerman be brought to trial. Anytime a gun goes off, I think somebody has to go to trial,

simply to ensure that their actions be accounted for. Zimmerman was found not guilty, but least he has been made somewhat accountable for his actions.

Zimmerman isn't the only one slaughtering young Black men, though. Too many of our young brothers are slaughtering each other. In Washington, D.C., rising senior Omar

Adam Sykes was killed on Independence Day. He was a victim of an attempted robbery, when two men approached he and a friend with guns. The Howard University police say that robberies on campus are on the decline, but I don't think that Omar Sykes' parents find that any consolation. Indeed, one young Black man lost to gun vio-

lence is too many, whether the perpetrator was a vigilante like George Zimmerman, or another young Black man who is so desperate for dollars that he will kill another brother.

Seventy-four people were shot, and a dozen killed in gun violence in Chicago during the July 4 weekend. Two of

See ZIMMERMAN, Page 16

THE TRUTH CLINIC: Justice for Trayvon Martin

BY JAMES W. BREEDLOVE

Death came quite suddenly and violently to 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in the early evening of February 26, 2012.

He was returning to his friend's house in a gated



George Zimmerman

community, The Retreat, on the outskirts of Sanford, FL after purchasing a soft drink and a package of Skittles at a local convenience store. The neighborhood watch volunteer, George Zimmerman, who was patrolling in his car observed Trayvon and felt

that he looked suspicious enough to warrant a call-in report to the police.

The police dispatcher advised Zimmerman to wait for officers to arrive; however, Zimmerman got out of his car and followed Trayvon. During a very

See JUSTICE, Page 6

Taking steps to find money in your house

BY CEDRIC DUKES

We have seen over the past year, *The Great Debt Ceiling Debate*. Whether you are for or against, it was an interesting discussion. We are truly educated about the United States debt ceiling now more than ever. So let me

ask you a question. Are you able to raise your own debt ceiling?

There is a story in 2 Kings 4:1-7 where a widow who husband had died owed some amount of debt. Creditors were coming to take her sons away to make them

slaves. She was distressed and really had given up hope until the prophet Elisha came into her life. He gave her some key instructions to immediately eliminate her debt ceiling. He asked her an unlikely question, "What is in your

See MONEY, Page 11



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COVER STORY

Where Did Prosecution Go Wrong in Zimmerman Trial?



Trayvon Martin

See WRONG, Page 9



Celebrities speak out on Zimmerman trial

See VIOLENCE, Page 10

COMMENTARY

Criminal injustice system failed Trayvon

BY GEORGE E. CURRY

(NNPA) Watching television Saturday night, I sat in stunned silence as the jury returned its not guilty verdict for George Zimmerman in connection with the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla. Then, I was jolted by a comment made by Prosecutor Bernie de la Rionda: "... We live in a great country that has a great criminal justice system. It is not perfect but it is the best in

the world and we respect the jury's verdict."

In what country does de la Rionda live?

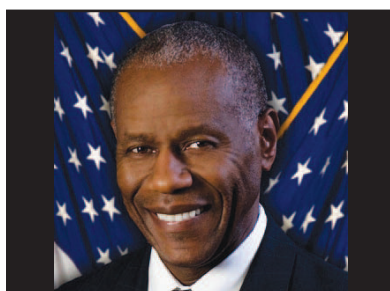
Surely, he couldn't be referring to the United States. Granted, making the prosecutor prove his or her case against a defendant is a great idea. So is the notion of being presumed innocent until proven guilty. But when it comes to African Americans, this is by no stretch of the imagination "a great criminal justice system."

See TRAYVON, Page 3

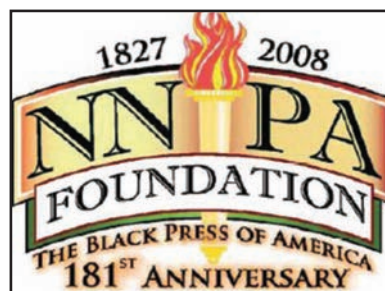
INSIDE...

People In The News	2
Op/Ed	3
Health	4
Community News	5
Education	6
Community Spotlight	7
Cover Story	9
Arts & Entertainment	10
Career Opportunity	13
Church Directory	14-16
Sister Tarpley	15

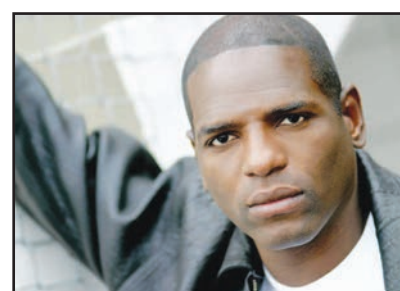
People In The News...



Herbert Austin



Mary Alice Thatcher



Darcell

See Page 2

Herbert Austin

DALLAS - Mountain View College has partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and Capital One Bank to offer a free community forum to help small business owners navigate the open enrollment process scheduled to launch Oct. 1.

Self-employed entrepreneurs, small business owners, human resource managers, CFOs and healthcare executives are invited to attend this free event happening Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to

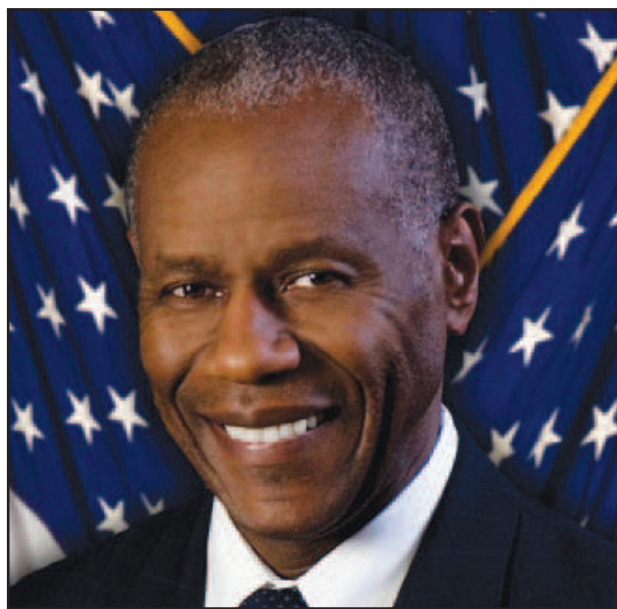
noon located inside the Economic and Workforce Development Center at 4849 W. Illinois Avenue Building B in Dallas.

White House leaders report the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will make health care more affordable to businesses, government, and American families. However, figuring out how to navigate the new Healthcare Marketplace, formerly known as the "exchange," will require some small business owners, managers

and financial officers to find outside help.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates that employers provide health-care coverage for themselves and their employees or pay penalties. President Obama's Administration recently announced the effective date will be pushed to 2015.

"Economic development and workforce challenges are areas our team focuses on to help our local community. We feel this event is needed to help demystify the new law and help our local small busi-



nesses learn how the act may impact their business and help employers understand how they can help their employees choose coverage that is right for them," states Patricia Webb, Executive Dean of Economic and Workforce Development at Mountain View College.

The event will showcase a panel of experts from the United States Health and Human Services, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas, Capital One Bank and special guest speaker Herbert

See AUSTIN, Page 5

Mary Alice Thatch

BY GEORGE E. CURRY

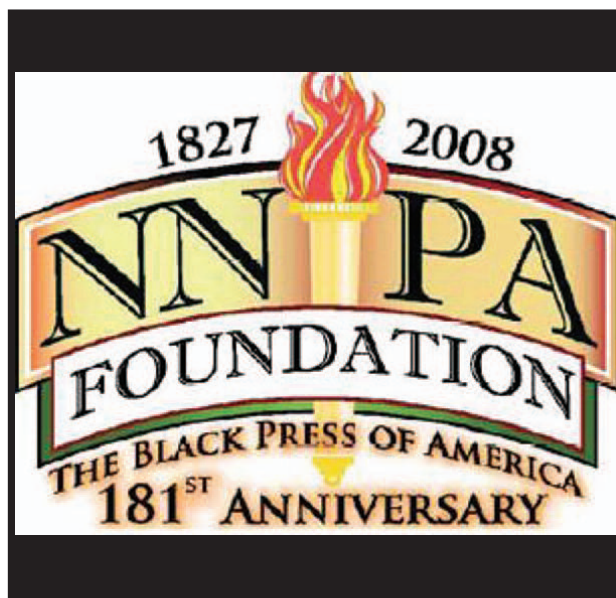
(NNPA) If the *Wilmington Journal* ever holds a contest to determine who began work there at the youngest age, Mary Alice Jervay Thatch would win hands down. Literally.

"My daddy used to say that I started at 3 or 4 months old, when I started crawling around on the floor," Thatch recounted with a hearty laugh. "I was hired as the janitor to clean the floor – with my diaper."

Thatch is now editor-publisher-owner of the newspaper, the same positions her father, Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., held when she was scooting around the office.

She shared, not only a love for journalism with her father, but a strong sense of devotion to the community the *Wilmington Journal* serves.

The *Journal* is across the street from where Alex Manley edited another Black newspaper, the *Daily Record*, in the late 1890s.



Wilmington was a hotbed of White supremacy. Right-wing Whites rioted in 1898 and forced elected officials from office in the only recorded government coup d'état in U.S. history. A group calling itself the Committee of Twenty-Five issued a document on Nov. 9 of that year called the White Declaration of Independence. It contended that the U.S. Constitution had never anticipated the "enfranchisement of an ignorant population of African origin" and that "the men of the state of North Carolina who joined the union did not con-

template for their descendants a subjection to an inferior race."

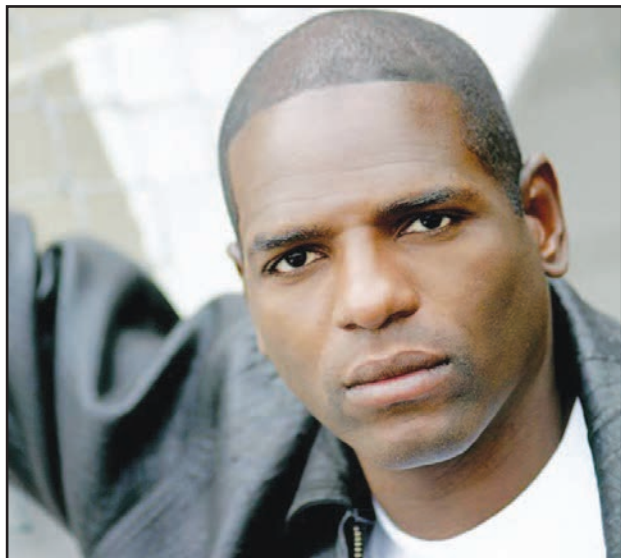
According to an account of that period by an Albany, N.Y.-based research group called Filling in the Gaps in American History, "In August, Black newspaperman, Alex Manley, wrote an editorial in response to a speech supporting the lynching of Black men as a deterrent, as well as punishment for their interest in White women. His comments about White men lusting after Black women

See THATCH, Page 5

Darcell

Since the age of five years old performing artist, songwriter and producer Darcell

cal career he realized his vocal stylings were unique even though he has been compared



has enjoyed singing and performing for others. For Darcell singing is something he was born to do and something he will spend the rest of his life doing. Early in his musi-

cal career he realized his vocal stylings were unique even though he has been compared

to some of the music industry's greatest artists. "I always take a comparison to any great artist as a compliment but I strive in my career to take their legacy in

music, and mine, to another level," says Darcell.

Darcell is a native of Dallas, but quickly realized Los Angeles would be where he needed to be to make an impact within the industry. During his college years Darcell stepped out on faith and moved to L.A.; unfortunately, his dreams of instant success were postponed as he found himself homeless living in his car and taking showers at the gym. Despite the initial setback he experienced Darcell was determined to persevere and by chance he was invited to sing backup for Blackstreet and he has been making waves in the industry ever since.

"When I stopped looking for the hookup and learned how to be the hookup, I started to become successful," adds Darcell.

He began to focus on the songs he had written in high school and continuously

added to his music catalogue. He also began developing his skills as a producer which eventually led him to start his own label, Crayton Entertainment, where he produced his first CD entitled Darcell. While Darcell believes that radio has been paralyzed by major corporations, he still believes that people want to hear feel good music again. Music that deposits a sense of love into their spirits, which he believes his music, does.

"Music has changed so much and I believe people are missing substantive lyrical content in their songs. My hope is that artists find their individuality again," he says.

Darcell receives inspiration from the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson and the late and incomparable Whitney Houston, as well as, James Taylor and Stevie Wonder to name a few. Like these artists Darcell seeks to take his message of love globally. Despite

being an independent artist Darcell has sold more than 70,000 CDs across the coun-

try. He has toured nationally on his Perfect Love tour,

See DARCELL, Page 7

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A More Valuable Type of Protest

BY JOHNNY C. TAYLOR, JR.

(NNPA) As I spent Sunday listening to everyone pontificate their theories about how White racism led to George Zimmerman's acquittal, it struck me how yesterday's and today's protests are – a dollar short and a day late.

Saturday night after the verdict was read, hundreds of Black people gathered in the front of the Florida Governor's Mansion to protest the outcome. Several of our best-known "leaders and pundits" hit the media outlets to express their outrage; and many of us Tweeted-Facebooked-Instagrammed ourselves to

sleep – seething in disbelief. Even our dear president decided to proffer an official statement safely expressing his concern at the outcome. But why all the protests now?

Why weren't these people standing in the front of the Governor's Mansion raising hell when the state of Florida educated a young woman for 12 years in its public school system who admitted she couldn't read cursive? She was the prosecutor's main witness. And we wonder what led to the verdict? It'd be tough for even an all-Black jury to give her testimony any credence.

Why wasn't there a crowd on the steps of the

Miami-Dade School Board building protesting the fact that Black and Latino boys are nearly four times more likely than their White counterparts to be suspended from school for the same infraction? After all, if Trayvon hadn't been suspended from school, he wouldn't have been in Sanford, and therefore couldn't have been killed there that night.

Why didn't our anointed "leaders and pundits" use their media platforms to protest the disparity in funding to HBCU law schools — the very institutions that have historically ensured the country a robust supply of African American lawyers to fight

the very injustices we complain about?

I heard countless commentators point out that a White judge presided over the case and the team of lawyers trying the case were all White. But they failed to call-out the historical and continued funding cuts to schools, such as the Florida A&M University School of Law, that are responsible for creating diversity in the justice system. No Black lawyers equal no Black judges, which means the continued disparate treatment our "leaders and pundits" all described in the media the last several days shouldn't be a surprise.

See PROTEST, Page 8

TRAYVON, continued from Page 1

I don't say this out of any bitterness over the failure of the jurors to convict Zimmerman for murdering Trayvon Martin. Yes, I thought Zimmerman was guilty of murder or, at the least, manslaughter. But as much as it pains me, I must also acknowledge that the state of Florida did a poor job prosecuting Zimmerman.

Trayvon's death is a cold reminder that the Black homicide rate is more than six times that of Whites. According to 2010 FBI statistics analyzed by the Violence Policy Center, the homicide rate for Black victims was 16.32 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 2.66 per 100,000 for Whites.

For Black women, the rate was 4.28 per 100,000, compared to 1.48 per 100,000 for White females. And African-American men were homicide victims at a rate of 29.50 per 100,000, compared to 7.08 per 100,000 for White males.

"America faces a continuing epidemic of homicide among young black males," according to the introduction to a Violence Policy Center report titled, "Black Homicide in the United States: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data." The report, published in January, continued, "The devastation homicide in-

flicts on black teens and adults is a national crisis, yet it is all too often ignored outside of affected communities."

And what happens when criminal cases move through America's "great criminal justice system?"

Richard Pryor used to joke criminal justice in the U.S. means "just us." Although the comedian usually evoked a laugh – unlike Zimmerman lawyer's knock-knock joke – this is no laughing matter.

American Progress, the Washington, D.C. based think tank, collected some interesting statistics and published an article titled, "The Top 10 Most Startling Facts About People of Color and Criminal Justice in the United States."

Among the facts:

- People of color make up about 30 percent of the U.S. population, but 60 percent of those imprisoned.

- Once convicted, Black offenders receive sentences that 10 percent longer than White offenders for the same crimes. In addition, Blacks are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than White defendants and 20 percent more likely to be sentenced to prison.

- Although African-Americans comprise 14 percent of regular drug users,

they are 37 percent of those arrested for drug offenses.

- Although Black juveniles are approximately 16 percent of the youth population, 37 percent of their cases are moved to criminal court and 58 percent of African-American youth are sent to adult prisons.

- Blacks are twice as likely to be arrested during a traffic stop than Whites and four times as likely to experience the use of force during encounters with police.

News coverage and commentary on the Zimmerman trial demonstrated the toxic state of race relations in the U.S., despite having a Black president in the White House.

Geraldo Rivera said on Fox News Friday, "I see those six ladies in the jury putting themselves on that rainy night, in that housing complex that has just been burglarized by three or four different groups of black youngsters from the adjacent community. So it's a dark night, a 6-foot-2-inch hoodie-wearing stranger is in the immediate housing complex. How would the ladies of that jury have reacted? I submit that if they were armed, they would have shot Trayvon Martin a lot sooner than George Zimmerman did. This is self-defense."

This is the same Geraldo Rivera who said last March, "I think the hoodie is as much responsible for Trayvon Martin's death as George Zimmerman."

Fox News even invited Mark Furman, the former detective for the Los Angeles Police Department, to discuss the role of race in jury selection for Zimmerman's trial. Lawyers for O.J. Simpson presented evidence that Furman had used the n-word more than 40 times over a 10-year period. Yet, Furman, who pled no contest to perjury charges and sentenced to three years of probation, appeared on Fox News' "America Live" to talk about race.

When Zimmerman earlier selected Fox News as the only network he would grant an interview to, he was right at home.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emergence* magazine, is editor-in-chief of the *National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service* (NNPA.) He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge and George E. Curry Fan Page on Facebook.

Hampton U receives \$13.5 million grant to combat health disparities in minority men

SPECIAL TO THE NNPA
FROM THE SEATTLE
MEDIUM

Hampton, Va. – Hampton University President William R. Harvey recently announced that Hampton University has received a \$13.5 million grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to combat and reduce selective health disparities in minority men.

Hampton University will serve as the lead insti-

tution on the initiative and has asked several other Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) to partner in the implementation and advancement of innovative transdisciplinary research to effectively reduce health disparities in minority men. The other universities involved are Jackson State, Clark Atlanta, Howard, North Carolina A&T and St. Augustine.

Hampton University Men's Health Initiative is focused on reducing health

disparities, however, the ultimate goal is to improve the health of all Americans. For example, according to the American Cancer Society African-American men have a 59 percent higher incident rate of prostate cancer than white men. The Hampton University leadership believes that ones health and longevity should not be dependent on where you live, socioeconomic status, gender or race and ethnicity.

This Initiative has identified six areas to re-

ceive a comprehensive approach to narrowing the gender gap of health disparities. These areas are prostate cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, melanoma in Hispanics and violence prevention. The researchers will implement a sustainable and transferrable collaborative research model in all of the six areas to positively influence the healthy outcomes of minority men.

"African-American men are disproportion-

ately affected by major health issues," Harvey said. "This important initiative will focus on research, education, training, and intervention outreach."

Harvey praised the Hampton Team for their hard work and said, "this could not have been done without the leadership of Dr. Pamela V. Hammond and the Hampton team of Drs. JoAnn W. Haysbert, Charrita D. Danley, Elnora D. Daniel, Raymond Samuel, Nicholas Kenney,

Linda Malone-Colon, Bertha Davis, Patricia Sloan and Ms. Alisa Rodgers. "

Samuel, will serve as the principal investigator and Kenney, the co-principal investigator.

"Health disparities among African-American men are striking and apparent in longevity and death rates," said Samuel. "We are very pleased that this initiative was funded by the NIH and we are ready to go to work."

This is the moment for action on climate change

BY BENJAMIN
TODD JEALOUS

President Barack Obama kicked off the summer with a high-profile environmental speech at Georgetown University. He put forth a plan to limit carbon emissions for coal-fired power plants, and called for America to double renewable energy sources. As the details of this plan emerge, it is important to remember who is most affected by coal pollution: low-income communities and communities of color.

Pollution from coal-fired power plants is estimated to cause 13,200 premature deaths and 9,700 hospitalizations in the United States every year. It has been linked to asthma attacks, lung inflammation, chronic bronchitis, irregular heart conditions, and birth defects. None of the so-called "emissions controls" introduced in the past few years have gone far enough to diminish those numbers.

If we look deeper, we can see exactly which communities and neighborhoods bear the brunt of the impact. According to Census data, the six million Americans who live within three miles of a coal plant have an average income of \$18,400, compared with \$21,857 nationwide. Thirty nine percent are people of color. As a result, emissions from coal combustion often harm those who are



least able to afford the effects of exposure.

This is no accident. The simple fact is that very few people want a coal plant in their backyard. Therefore, power companies have a strong incentive to maintain plants in the area of least political resistance. To add insult to injury, the sight of spewing smokestacks often

brings property values down even further. The coal-fired power plant has come to serve as cause and symbol of urban and suburban blight.

In November 2012, the NAACP and our partners released a report to raise awareness about the disparate impact of coal pollution, titled, Coal Blo-oded: Putting Profits Before People. The report created the first ranking system that judged coal plants based on their demographic impact as well as their emissions levels.

Coal Blooded was written as a guide for local NAACP units and other

community groups to take action. Each of the nation's 378 plants operating at the time of the report received an easily-referenced "Environmental Justice Performance" score based partly on the race, income, and density of the surrounding neighborhood. Already, NAACP units have started to host education and advocacy activities in communities that are host to the most harmful power plants.

The message of these activities is straightfor-

ward: we need to transition away from coal power and replace coal plants with profitable, clean energy alternatives. And we need to focus our energy on coal plants that have the most harmful impact on their surrounding communities.

Coal power is not without its supporters, even in the communities most affected by pollution. However, the negatives almost always outweigh the positives. No coal plant is worth the cost - in emotional loss

and loss of productivity - when children are getting sick, grandparents are dying early, and mothers and fathers are missing work.

Moreover, it is possible to maintain jobs and livelihoods without relying on dirty coal. As President Obama rightly noted in his speech, the future of American energy independence lies in clean energy - an emerging sector that is poised to create millions of

See CLIMATE, Page 14

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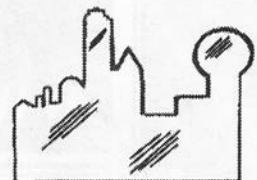
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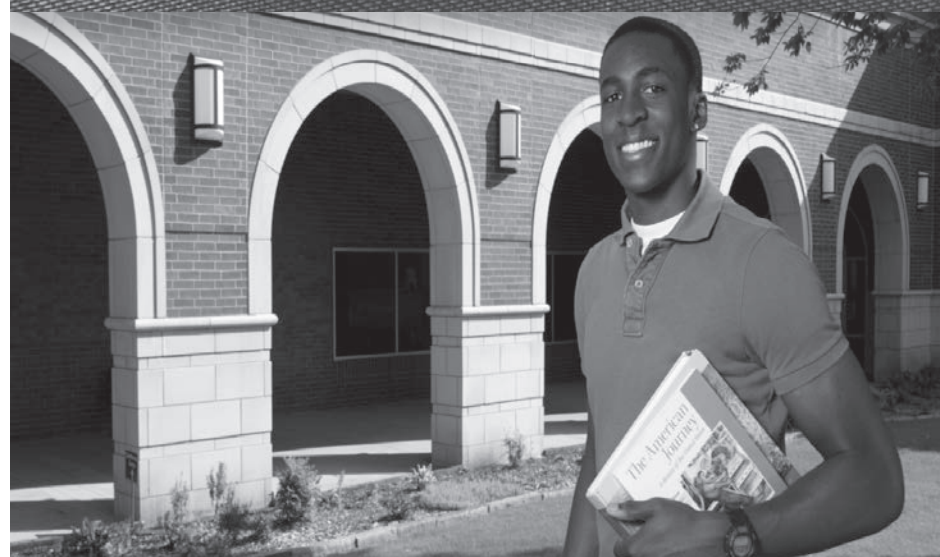
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Natural Hair Expo officials expecting a sell out crowd



Texture Revolution: The Science is expected to draw 1,200 natural hair enthusiasts to the Addison Conference Centre on August 10, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. to hear about the latest innovation, new products and techniques. Last year more than 600 people packed out the center and this year organizers are expecting the crowd and vendors to double.

The move toward nature hair has helped to recession proof the \$9 billion ethnic hair care industry that has seen increase revenue while segments of the hair care industry has struggled to stay afloat.

This year, Dallas area natural hair enthusiast will be treated to a larger hair expo overflowing with national speakers, vendors, on site catering and information workshops.

"The purpose of the event is to further educate African-American women about their natural hair and how to maximize hair growth through nutrition and proper hair care," said

Audra Cooper, event sponsor and owner of Naturally Divine Beauty Supply and Salon in Dallas.

This year speakers will be Audrey Davis-Sivasothy author of the book *The Science of Black Hair*. Charnika Jett aka Chary Jay is a journalist and videographer based in Detroit, Michigan.

Karen Wilson is a licensed cosmetologist and instructor with over 15 years experience in the beauty and hair industry. Betty Murray, CN, HHC, RYT is on a mission to radically change the health and health-care in America.

Workshop topics will include the science of Black Healthy Hair Growth Seminar; Maximizing Your Hair's Potential, Going Natural? Transition VS Big Chop; The Natural Hair Boom; All About Texture and Natural Hair Styling and Nutrition and Eating for Optimal Hair Growth.

For more information, go to the web site <http://naturallydivinebeauty.com/events/>

AUSTIN, continued from Page 2

Austin, District Director for the Small Business Administration Dallas/Fort Worth District Office. Kent Eastman, Texas Market President for Capital One Bank will facilitate the panel discussion. Presenters will share information on how to navigate the enrollment website, how to select cov-

erage, and how the act may impact a small business' bottom line.

Tickets are available now and are free to the public. Attendees can visit www.mvcewd.ticketleap.com/affordablehealthcare to learn more or to register to attend.

THATCH, continued from Page 2

were the subject of heated talk among all communities. One of the loudest voices was that of Alfred Moore Waddell, a former Confederate Officer and Democratic US Congressman. He wanted to oust Republicans and Populists from local and state government in the upcoming election. Waddell used Manley's editorial to incite anger towards people of African descent being allowed to vote, let alone hold public office and implored White citizens to 'choke the Cape Fear with carcasses' if need be to remove the Republicans in power during the 1898 elections."

The account of the Wilmington Riot continued: "On November 10, hundreds of White men met at the armory and headed to the building which housed the only daily Black newspaper in the country. Manley had gotten word of the intended action and had already left town. He was able to relocate and continue his journalism career but never returned to Wilmington. The crowd increased to over a thousand White men, armed with handguns and rifles, as they followed Waddell through the streets of Wilmington. They broke into the Daily Record building, damaged printing equipment, set fires, and watched as the building burned. Later they posed for photographs in front of their handiwork."

Thomas C. Jervay, Sr., an outspoken supporter of the falsely convicted Wilmington Ten, never forgot about the path Manley had paved, especially after his own newspaper was bombed in 1973. The bomber wrote a letter to Jervay, which he turned over to prosecutors.

"Mr. Manley's paper was right across the street from where the Journal is housed now," Thatch stated. "Both were bombed because of positions the papers took, which really shows the power of the Black Press."

Recalling her conversations with her father, Thatch said, "He would say, nobody is going to do to me what they did to Manley. I am going to be vocal, I am going to represent my people, I am going to say what I want to say, but no-

body is going to run me out of town. This man is going to be prosecuted for what he did."

And he was. In 1974, Lawrence R. Little, who identified himself as propaganda minister of the militant Rights of White People organization, was found guilty of planting dynamite that exploded at the Journal's office. After four days of testimony, an all-White jury found him guilty and a White judge sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Despite hate mail from White supremacists over the years, Jervay, who served as chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) in the 1950s, never tempered his demand for justice and equality. Neither has his daughter, Mary Alice.

At an event in 2011, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Wilmington Ten's false convictions, Louis Hines, a local International Longshoreman Association official, issued a challenge.

"He said, 'There are two things we have got to do in Wilmington,'" recalled Mary Alice Thatch, who was in the audience. "'And those two things are to seek compensation for these 10 folks, and we've got to always make sure that the doors of the Wilmington Journal are open.'"

The next day, in a meeting in her office, Thatch told several members of the Wilmington Ten: "I don't know how we're going to do it, but we're going to do it. I'm going to take this to somebody much bigger than I. I cannot do this by myself in Wilmington, but I promise you that I will get

somebody that can help us."

And she did.

"The next day or the day after, I was talking to Dorothy [Leavell]," Thatch recalled. "I was serving on the NNPA Foundation Board at the time. I was secretary, and she was chairperson of the foundation. I was talking about what had been said, and she said, 'That's an NNPA project.' I said, 'If you say so.' She talked to Danny [Bakewell, then president of the NNPA] and the rest is history."

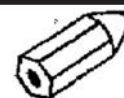
Not yet.

The Wilmington Ten Pardons of Innocence Project was officially launched in Washington, D.C. at the 2011 Black Press Week luncheon at the National Press Club.

The two-year campaign resulted in outgoing North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue issuing pardons of innocence

on Dec. 31, 2012 to the Wilmington Ten. Although a federal appeals court had overturned their convictions in 1980 because the prosecutor had, among other things, failed to turn over evidence that was favorable to the defense, the Wilmington Ten were released from jail, but they were not fully exonerated. Not until the governor pardoned them.

"The box of papers was the real key to getting the pardons," Thatch said. "What was contained in [prosecutor James] 'Jay' Stroud's papers was what convinced Gov. Perdue that this was truly, as she put it, 'naked racism.' When the announcement was made, I hollered all over the house," she said. "This was the biggest accomplishment that we have ever made in North Carolina."



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SMART STARTS HERE.

JUSTICE, continued from Page 1

questionable altercation that ensued Zimmerman fired a single shot from his 9 mm pistol into the chest of Trayvon Martin killing him.

Police initially declined to charge Zimmerman because of Florida's "stand-your-ground" law, which permits those in fear for their lives to use deadly force. Finally, on 11 April 2012, after protests erupted across America the Florida State Attorney Angela Corey charged George Zimmerman with murder. A jury of six women heard testimony from more than 50 witnesses during the five-week trial the culminated in an acquittal on February 13, 2013.

Was justice served? First, we must understand the nuance of justice perception and justice reality. What is Justice?

In America, Lady Justice is the personification of justice depicting it through three symbols: a sword symbolizing the court's authority and power; a human scale weighing, using a rational process, the competing claims of plaintiff and defendant to arrive at a verdict; and a blindfold indicating that justice is ren-

dered fairly without passion or prejudice.

Justice is often used interchangeably with the word "fairness." Fairness is a center piece of our moral compass. In any situation in life, be it in a courtroom, at the workplace or waiting in line at a local store, we want to be treated fairly. We feel we deserve equal and impartial treatment regardless of our skin color, religion, sexual orientation, or age.

Of course, American history is littered with examples of injustice and unfairness to some citizens. One such example would be the era of slavery in the United States. Black people have never been afforded the same rights as white people, and it took many years for the government to theoretically recognize black people as equal to whites.

The Trayvon Martin case is yet another example that begs the question of what should be done when an injustice is committed. Justice fairness remains an elusive topic because people often disagree over what they deserve and whether they're receiving it. In such disagreements, we

want reasonable and impartial decisions made. We want blind justice. And when people feel that they aren't getting it, then society may become unstable. As proof, recall the civil rights marches, the occurrences of Watts type riots, and the spontaneous protests following the Trayvon Martin verdict.

But the Zimmerman trial was bigger than George Zimmerman or Trayvon Martin. At stake were the gun laws not only in Florida but also in states all across America. The years of lobbying and millions of dollars that special interest groups such as the NRA have invested in "second amendment" legislation was too powerful a force even for Lady Justice. This is just another of the many times that she peeks under the blindfold of impartiality to influence the balance scales. This is the reality of justice versus the perception of justice.

Yahoo Columnist Shawn James wrote, "A life was lost. A life was forever altered by deciding to pull the trigger. Mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers have wept for the loss of a loved one and wept for the

freedom of a loved one. These emotions are real, and should not be disregarded as we are human with feelings and culture that dictate how we react to these extreme situations. But all this emotion is still not bigger than the "law," and the verdict in this case, right or wrong in the public's eyes, was just another justification in a long history of a state that protects its gun owners and arm bearers at all costs."

Trayvon Martin's name prior to February 25, 2012 was not a household word; he was not a community leader or a mentor of his peers. But in death Trayvon has achieved a renown that in his short 17 years was beyond any of his expectations. He is now famous. His name is instantly recognized in communities and households across the nation, even worldwide.

Trayvon has paid a huge price for the notoriety that he has achieved in death. We can only imagine the jolting nightmares that will haunt his mother, father friends and family as they search for answers on why God chose Trayvon for this moment in history.

Based on statements that Trayvon's father and mother made following the verdict we must assume that they would want those that mourn his passing to understand that while God's purpose may be a mystery it is not to be questioned.

Tracy Martin stated that, "Even though I am broken hearted my faith is unshattered. Mother Sybriana Fulton said, "Lord during my darkest hour I lean on you. You are all that I have. At the end of the day, GOD is still in control."

So, while we continue our quest to make our perceived justice coincide with the reality of justice we also continue to bury our Trayvon Martins. We shake our heads in disbelief, offer our condolences, march in protest and hold endless conferences and symposiums on what should be done. Granted there is still systemic racism that impacts and undermines the social, economic, and civil justice of blacks. Justice is not always served fairly.

As the Guardians Gary

Young writes, "what ground is a young black man entitled to and on what grounds may he defend himself? What version of events is there for that night in which Martin gets away with his life? Or is it open season on black boys after dark?"

Several years ago following the fatal shooting of superstar Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor CNN felt obliged to produce a one hour special, Violence In America-Black Men In Crisis, using Sean's murder as the platform from which to regurgitate the heart wrenching and frightening black murder statistics accumulating across America. Their conclusion then is just as potent today:

If you are a young black male in America less than 25 years of age you are 15 times more likely to be murdered than a white male of similar age.

Justice requires perpetual diligence.

Comments or opinions may be sent to the writer at: jaydubub@swbell.net.

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Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith stresses importance of education and persistence in quest for dreams

Dressed in colorful caps and gowns, 124 children eagerly awaited their graduation from Kids' University. Whispers of excitement quickly spread as they learned that Emmitt Smith, former Dallas Cowboys running back and Football Hall of Famer, would be the guest speaker.

The children were from 24 homeless shelters across Dallas and Collin County. The goal of the four-day long camp was to make sure that this was not the last graduation in their lives.

Smith emphasized the importance of education, focus and persistence for realizing your dreams.

"It's not always going to work out the way we wanted," Smith said. "So what happens when things don't work out? When you



Dallas Cowboys legend Emmitt Smith was the featured speaker at this year's Kids' University graduation ceremony.

get knocked down, you learn how to pick yourself up, dust yourself off and get right back in the race. Because it's not the end – the race is not given to the swiftest or the strongest – but it's given to the one who endured it."

Kids' University Summer Day Camp was the result of a partnership between UT Dallas and Rainbow Days Inc., a non-profit organization charged with preparing children from challenging backgrounds for a hopeful future. Now in its

18th year, the camp brought together volunteers, professionals and organizations to teach more than 300 children about topics, such as health and nutrition, financial planning, algebra and computers.

"Summer days at homeless shelters are very long for most children because of the lack of organized activities," said Dr. George Fair, dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. "We founded Kids' University to enrich the summer days for one week and to give these students a glimpse of what takes place on a university campus. Our hope is that this experience will help these children to set a goal of entering a university as a student in their future."

In addition to promoting education, Rainbow Days helps children learn to cope with difficult life situations, set

and achieve goals, make healthy choices and remain free from substance abuse.

"One of the biggest benefits of Kids' University is that it addresses a serious need of homeless children living within the confines of homeless shelters: the lack of normal, safe, and fun summer activities," said Kelly Wierzbinski, director of the Family Connection in Rainbow Days. "Kids' University makes it possible for children to practice their life skills in a fun, child-appropriate setting away from the shelters. Another significant benefit of Kids' University is that it exposes the children to higher education and encourages them to pursue the dream of college."

It's not all classrooms for the children at Kids' University. Dance lessons from Michele Hanlon, senior lec-

turer in the School of Arts and Humanities, and golf and baseball lessons kept kids moving throughout the day. Atlanta Braves draftee Tony Portugal gave one-on-one pointers on the perfect pitch. They even learned how to make potato chips from Frito Lay's Partners in Education.

"Algebra was my favorite class. We got to build things to learn about math. I also liked Rosie, the therapy dog. She's 25 in dog years," said Bryan, who wants to be a professional basketball player.

Bryan pointed out that he was 75 in dog years, or nearly 11 by human standards.

A second Kids' University class graduated the following week, June 24-28, with guest speaker Je'Mone Smith, former football player for the Philadelphia Eagles.

DARCELL, continued from Page 2

which were sold out venues. Darcell has even graced the stage with Babyface, Rafael Sadiq, and the late Luther Vandross

"To me it's time to take music to another level, to a place where love rules," he says. "My music helps people

connect on a human level again."

Darcell is a performing artist who believes that it's his destiny to bring music back to its roots. He wants the world to know that love is always the answer, regardless of the question. He is an artist who truly

cares about his audience and knows his music offers a positive influence in people's life. Darcell maximize his potential as a performer by surrounding himself with a team who balances him as an artist and who supports the vision God gave him.

Fans can purchase his CD online at www.Darcell.net, iTunes, CDBaby as well

as other popular online music stores. They can also find him on Facebook.com/Darcell.net and

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a customer purchasing a Samsung Galaxy® S 4 would have no down payment and pay \$32 per month, in addition to the monthly wireless service plan they choose, with the option to trade in

their device and upgrade after 12 payments or to keep using the device and pay off the installment plan in full after 20 months. There's no penalty for paying off the installment plan early.

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More information is available at www.att.com/next or at any AT&T retail store.

PROTEST, continued from Page 3

Why has Mr. President not issued a statement directing his Education Secretary to (a) reverse the funding decline to HBCUs, and (b) immediately restore pre-2011 student loan credit guidelines, which has made it really difficult for Black families all over the country to provide a college education for their children?

If these attacks on education are allowed to continue, we will certainly see more incarceration disparity because, as we all know, an uneducated people will have higher levels of poverty, commit more crime, and receive more hefty sentences. For the record, the Republicans in Congress aren't responsible

for the above-mentioned funding and credit check changes.

Why is it that there were hundreds of people marching on the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee, Fla. for Trayvon, but no one marched to protest the fact that FAMU, the only public HBCU in the state and the largest HBCU

in the country, is currently threatened with loss of its accreditation?

So, while all of the media voices do a brilliant job describing the injustices meted out to our people through a racist and biased criminal justice system, I would encourage this chorus to spend a little more — no, a lot more —

time protesting the everyday injustices that inevitably lead to verdicts like the one issued Saturday night. If we are not going to protest everyday injustices such as educational disparities, I don't see the point of jumping on the bandwagon to protest the natural result of those disparities.

My grandmother used to always tell me to be on the lookout for the people who cry the loudest at the funeral; they are usually the ones who did the least for the deceased while he or she was alive . . .

Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is President and CEO of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund

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Where Did Prosecution Go Wrong in Zimmerman Trial?

Street Soldiers Radio, Interview, Dr. Joseph Marshall / Malcolm Marshall, Posted: Jul 16, 2013

Editor's Note: In an excerpt from an interview with Street Soldiers radio hosts Dr. Joe Marshall and Malcolm Marshall, Oakland-based civil rights attorney John Burris discusses the recent not-guilty verdict for George Zimmerman in the Trayvon Martin murder case. Burris is the attorney who represented the family of Oscar Grant, a young African-American man who was killed by a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) officer early on New Year's Day, 2009. In that case, the shooter was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

I guess the first question on everybody's mind is: How does a jury come up with this ruling?

I know it was a surprise to many within the African-American community but it really should not be, given the way the evidence... was not presented in a way that you could prove second-degree murder. At best, you could prove involuntary manslaughter. And I say all that because the prosecution, which had the burden of proof, never put forth a theory of how this happened. The jury was really only left with the defense's version -- and the defense's version was that it was a self-defense case. And there is evidence, obviously, to support that. I mean, all you have to do is know that George Zimmerman had a laceration on the back of his head, he had a bloody nose, and there was another independent person who said... they [Zimmerman and Martin] were involved in a fight. And so, when you're involved in a fight -- putting aside who started it, because they couldn't prove who started it -- if one person is getting beat up really

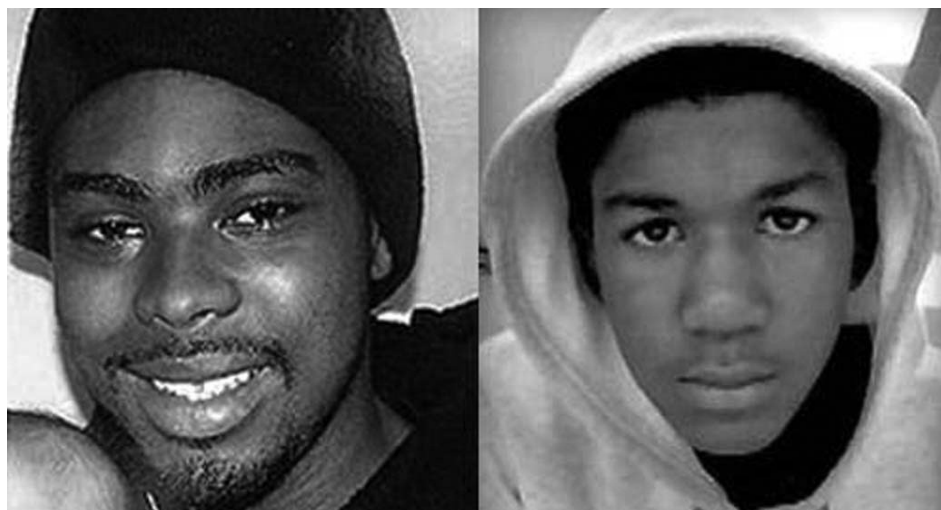
bad, then they have a right to defend themselves. And [then] the question is, should it have been deadly force or not?

My argument was, and is, that it should not have been deadly force, because Zimmerman was not beaten in such a way that a reasonable person would have thought their life was in danger. On the other hand, the prosecution never put forth an argument to show that it was not reasonable for him to believe his life was in danger. What really happened is, the defendants put on [the stand] an expert who basically said that the injuries he did receive are the kind of injuries that can be serious, and that a person receiving those injuries may think their life is in danger. The prosecution never countered that particular evidence... And so, it was very hurtful to see this unfold.

Now, did I think the prosecution did a good job? No I do not. I think they did... a terrible job. I don't know all the evidence that they had, but I do know that the evidence they did present. They did not present it well. They did not screen their witnesses; they did not protect their witnesses. They let this young lady, Rachel Jeantel, testify, and they never prepared her so that she would know how challenging the cross examination was going to be.

You're telling me that the case was not charged properly?

It was not charged properly. It never should have been charged as a second-degree murder case. Now, I understand why they did -- there was a lot of publicity, a lot of public pressure. But in terms of a professional judgment, they made a decision based on the fact that George Zimmerman had made some improper statements. He used profanity [during his encounter with



Martin] and he basically profiled Trayvon Martin -- I think that that's a given, that he was profiled. The judge would say you couldn't use race [as a trial argument], but he was profiled. So, that gets you into the game. But ultimately, you can stop someone; you can follow someone -- that doesn't automatically make an illegal act. You can do that. It's only when you become aggressive and you physically touch them. But beyond that, you can follow them. You can say that this person looks like he's committing a crime or something, and you should call the police. And he [Zimmerman] did call the police, but he should have stopped right there. What everyone was upset about, and rightfully so, is that he was told [by the police dispatcher] that he didn't need to follow [Martin], but he continued to follow. And by doing that, he created this confrontation.

The problem with the case was, you don't know what happened once the confrontation took place. We do know this: that there is another witness that says that George Zimmerman was on the bottom, and Trayvon Martin was on top. And Trayvon Martin was beating this guy up, and then a few seconds later you hear this shot, and then you see Trayvon Martin

lying off to the side. And so it looked like Trayvon Martin was on top of this guy, getting the best of him, because this guy has a bloody nose and he has lacerations on the back of his head, so George Zimmerman thought his life was in danger and so he shot him. The point is, did he really have to do that or was that excessive? And that's where the manslaughter case comes in -- it never was a second [degree murder]. And so the prosecution overcharged the case and couldn't prove it. And then they didn't even argue very well about the manslaughter.

They let a jury get selected with all women, five white, one maybe Hispanic, and no blacks -- the blacks got kicked off the jury. There was no one to explain to the other members of the jury that this was racial profiling and this is how it happened, and this is what it means. And so as a consequence of that, the jurors really weren't placed in a position where they could make an intelligent decision on facts that would have been helpful for the prosecution of the case.

As a lawyer, you must have been sitting there saying, 'What are these guys doing?'

First off, the opening statement [by the prosecutor] that everyone thought was terrific -- it wasn't ter-

rific. It was very emotional. There were no facts in it... Well, the truth of the matter is, cases are not about heart; they're about evidence, and rules of evidence.

What we were upset about was that a young boy goes to the store, buys whatever he's buying, he's walking back, he's talking on the phone to a girl, and someone says he looks suspicious. And they follow him. And within minutes, the kid is dead. Well, there's something fundamentally wrong with that. Except that the lawsuit wasn't the place for that [racial profiling argument] to occur.

What can be done now? I know there's talk of a civil suit.

There are a lot of discussions going on. First off, they want to see if the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., will file criminal civil rights violations based on this being a hate crime. I can tell you, I've sent maybe 10 to 15 cases to the Department of Justice for prosecution. In many of them, people have been shot any number of times. The Oscar Grant case, I sent there. And I got a case out of Manteca I'm working on now -- a kid was shot 20 times. And the Justice Department has not prosecuted any of those cases. And the reason being is that unless they have clear, bona fide evidence, like a Rodney

King, [a case] which I did many years ago, with video tape, it's pretty clear that they're not going to take action on a case like this. What they're looking for is impact cases -- the city of New Orleans, when they had all those problems; the city of LA; they would have done Oakland [for the Oscar Grant case] but for the fact we did Oakland. So they're looking for impact cases that are going to impact discrimination... Now, when Al Sharpton and the NAACP get involved, it may be that the Justice Department will be more responsive....

The other thing is, they can sue Mr. Zimmerman in a civil case. Now, that's easy to do -- you can sue him, and then he'd be required to testify and you may get a judgment in your favor. But if it [the civil trial] is in Seminole County... you may not. The difference is this: the Martin family, or the mother, does not live in that county. And Trayvon didn't live in the county. The lawyer doesn't live in the county. So in a way, it was outsiders coming into the county, and George Zimmerman was one of them [a local]. That's an undercurrent of a political thing that a jury is not to consider, but this is an all white jury from Seminole County who, you know, basically didn't have the same value system as you and I may have... You or I might say, 'Why would you say he's suspicious?' Walking in the rain, on the phone, trying to get back to his house. [Zimmerman] could have easily said, 'What are you doing? I'm the neighborhood watch commander,' and say that in a polite way. [Martin] could have responded, 'I'm here with my mom, my dad is here, and I live over here....' That was a confrontation that did not have to happen.

See TRAYVON, Page 13

NDG Gossip: Celebrities speak out on Zimmerman trial

BY SHENICE SANDERS,
NDG INTERN

The most watch criminal trial by far this year has come to an end. On Saturday six jurors found George Zimmerman not guilty for the murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. Many celebrities had much to say about the verdict and about Zimmerman. Lance Gross shared via Instagram, an interesting open letter to George Zimmerman in the aftermath of the “not guilty” verdict the former neighborhood watch captain managed to get for admittedly killing unarmed teen Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla.



Lance Gross

Halle Berry marries again

Halle Berry is officially off the market. The Oscar-winning actress, 46, walked down the aisle on Saturday to wed the French actor, 47, at Chateau des Conde, The Associated Press reported. The couple tied the knot in an intimate ceremony at a

chateau in France's Burgundy region

Jay-Z disrespects Harry Belafonte

Rap artist Jay-Z finally speaks out on his new album about Harry Belafonte comment. Nearly a year ago, Harry Belafonte publicly criticized Jay-Z and his superstar wife Beyoncé because they've “turned their back on social responsibility.” Beyoncé's camp responded to the criticism almost immediately with an “abbreviated list of the unselfish work Beyoncé has done and continues to do.

To read more Gazette Gossip visit our website at <http://www.northdallasgazette.com/>

Ryan Gosling and Nicholas Refn better hope it is true that *Only God Forgives*

BY RUTH FERGUSON,
NDG EDITOR

Ryan Gosling has been on my radar since he was the likeable Alan Bosley 13 years ago in Denzel Washington's *Remember the Titans*. Oh where did that sweet, innocent Ryan go? Who do we have to blame for corrupting him, is it director Nicholas Refn? *Only God Forgives* reunites the duo from *Driver* released in 2011. It has been nearly two weeks since I saw the movie, and it still intrigues, but disturbs me.

Gosling stars as Julian a drug dealing, boxing club owner in Bangkok. Now guess who is his ultimate boss ~ his mama. Kristin Scott Thomas plays his mother in what is surely the most unflattering role of her career. The harsh makeup job they do aged her horribly and it still does not match the depth of horror that is Mama Crystal.

She has flown to Bangkok because a vengeful father murdered her beloved older son, Billy. The fact Billy murdered a teenage prostitute does not cause Crystal a moment of



Ryan Gosling

shame, nor does she not believe his death is unworthy of avenging. And she expects Julian to handle it. The added twist is the sick relationship between mother and son – most likely sons.

Somehow Gosling manages to engender sympathy for his character with probably saying less than 200 words in the movie. But his eyes says it all, as does his virtual paralysis at times. Your heart just wrenches for him and then sometimes you do get a little bored but you just enjoy looking at his beautiful blue eyes. Speaking of color, throughout the movie color especially red feels almost like another character in the production.

The other performance, which captures your atten-

tion, is Chang, described as a retired cop leading a band of others who administer justice as they see fit. Vithaya Pansringarm plays Chang, and he is determined to be the judge and jury for the underworld of drugs and prostitution. Pansringarm is seen walking so deliberately for so long that it drives you to drink. On one hand you really want to like, or at the very least admire what he is doing. However, the ridiculous singing scenes and the “how slow can I walk down the street” really sort of ruins it.

When the movie was shown at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, the audience booed and some reportedly walked out. Critics around the globe have panned it. I say see it for yourself, which you can do at locally at the Angelika Film Center in Dallas and Plano. Or you can download it via iTunes or VOD. It is available either way on Friday, July 19.

No idea if you will enjoy the *Only God Forgives*, but you likely will continue to think about it.



Fact:

Seven types of commonly used herbicides and pesticides washed down our storm drains can be found in the Trinity River. Lawn chemicals and pesticides can pollute the storm drainage system, including area creeks, lakes, and the Trinity River, potentially harming plants and aquatic wildlife.

Tips:

- + Don't apply yard chemicals when it is very windy or about to rain.
- + Try using natural and organic alternatives.
- + Follow the instructions for the chemicals including organic alternatives.



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Protect yourself against credit discrimination

BY JASON ALDERMAN

Have you ever been turned down for a credit card and wondered why? Or gotten approved for a car loan or mortgage but suddenly the interest rate and fees are much higher than in the initial quote?

There are many legitimate reasons why people are denied credit – insufficient income or a poor track record on past loan repayments, for example. But sometimes people are denied credit because of discriminatory lending practices – which are not always easy to spot.

Fortunately numerous federal and state laws prohibit lenders from discriminating in any part of a credit transaction on the basis of many personal characteristics. What's more, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and other governmental agencies provide avenues for filing complaints if you feel you've been discriminated against. And, offending lenders face lawsuits and stiff penalties if found to be discriminatory.

Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) it's illegal for creditors to discriminate against credit applicants based on their



race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status or age, because they receive income from a public assistance program, or because they have in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.

Based on those criteria, lenders cannot:

- Refuse you credit if you qualify for it;
- Discourage you from applying for credit;
- Offer you credit on terms that are less favorable than those offered to someone with similar qualifications; or
- Close your account.

Another federal law, the Fair Housing Act (FHA), prohibits discrimination by

direct providers of housing, such as landlords, real estate companies, municipalities, banks or other lending institutions and homeowner's insurance companies.

Warning signs. Red flags that may indicate credit discrimination include:

- You are treated differently in person than on the phone.
- You are discouraged from applying for credit.
- You hear the lender make negative comments about race, national origin, sex, or other protected groups.
- You are refused credit even though you qualify for it.

• You are offered credit with a higher rate than what you applied for, even though you qualify for the lower rate.

• You are denied credit, but not given a reason why or told how to find out why.

• Your deal sounds too good to be true.

• You feel pushed or pressured to sign.

• If you believe a lender has discriminated against you for any reason, you can submit a complaint to the CFPB (www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint), which will review and route your complaint to the lender and work on your

behalf to get a response. Once your complaint is logged, you will receive email updates and can log in to monitor the status of your complaint.

• To better protect yourself against credit discrimination – or from pursuing credit products that aren't right for you:

• Learn about the various features and downsides of the credit product you want. Research current interest rates and compare products from several lenders.

• Creditors make decisions based on your credit history, so make sure there

are no mistakes or missing items in your credit reports.

• Be sure you understand the rates and fees you'll pay over the long run and ask whether they could change in the future. If a creditor doesn't want to answer your questions, this could be a bad sign.

Don't let lenders make you feel rushed or unnecessarily delay action on your application.

Bottom line: Before you sign on the dotted line, make sure the credit product is right for your needs – both today and down the road.

CLIMATE, continued from Page 4

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Saturdays in July Addison Summer Series from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Beckert Park

Saturdays in August

Addison Summer Series from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Beckert Park

Through July 26

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland at Hip Pocket Theatre in Fort Worth, starting at 9 p.m. 817-246-9775

Through July 30

Writing Mechanics July at Discover Church in Irving

Through August 11

Jubilee Theatre: Mirandy and Brother Wind at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St. in FW, 8 p.m. 817-338-4411

Through August 31

Justicia: the Struggle for Mexican American Civil Rights in Dallas, Texas 1920-2012 at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

Malleable Forms: an Exploration of Texas Sculpture and Clay at Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak Street, 214-671-0052

July 19

The Crow Collection of Asian Art: Crow Collection

After Dark at The Trammell & Margaret Crow Collection of Asian Art Museum, 2010 Flora Street in Dallas, TX 75201, starting at 6 p.m. 214-979-6430

Vitruvian Park Summer Dance Series at Vitruvian Park, 3875 Pointe Ave in Addison from 7 to 9 p.m. 214-219-2290

Til Midnight at the Nasher at Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St, starting at 6 p.m. 972-514-2099

Mexican Guitarrists Rodrigo y Gabriela at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora Street, starting at 8 p.m. 214-880-0202

Jubilee Theatre: Mirandy and Brother Wind at Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main Street in Fort Worth, Texas 76102, starting at 8 p.m. 817-338-4411

Sheldon Nunes Velarde Miceaceous Clay Workshop at Yarmouth Studio 6524 Orchard Dr. in Flower Mound, Texas, starting at 9 p.m. 817-266-0780

July 20

Countries, Cultures and Kids at Perot Museum at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field Street, 214-428-5555

Dealing With Anger - A Meditation Workshop at Kadampa Meditation Center Texas 609 Truman St in Arlington, 817-303-2700

Nigerian Ladies Association of Texas Health Expo at Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel, 4440 W. John Carpenter Fwy.in Irving, from 2 to 6 p.m. 214-460-1681

Summer Talk Weekly (ESL in Plano) at Davis Library, 7501-B Independence PKWY in Plano, from 2 to 4 p.m. 972-208-8000

Independencia de Colombia Cena de Gala at Asociacion Colombiana del Metroplex, from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. 972-900-5390

Citizenship Drive - Free Citizenship Application Assistance at St. Helen's Catholic Church , 2700 E. University Ave in Georgetown, TX 78626, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. 512-703-0228

Peoples Club Of Nigeria International (National) Convention at Embassy Suites Dallas - DFW Airport North Outdoor World 2401 Bass Pro Drive, Grapevine, Texas, 76051, USA in Grapevine, starting at 7 p.m. pcni-world@yahoogroups.com

Fun Barn/Contra Dance in Dallas at First United Lutheran Church, 6202 Mockingbird Lane, from 8 to 11 p.m. 972-546-8858

50 Hoops Cancer Breakfast, Tournament & Health Fair at Lancaster Recreation Center, 1700 Veteran's Memorial Parkway in Lancaster, TX, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. 800-677-8429

Texas Persian Cultural Center Dance Party at 525 W. Arapaho Rd. Suite # 10 in Richardson TX 75080, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. 214-570-8500

July 21

Cowtown Opry in FW at Fort Worth Stockyards, 130 East Exchange Ave in Fort Worth, starting at 2 p.m. 817-366-9675

FREE Guided Tours of Islamic Center of Irving at 2555 Esters Road in Irving, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. 972-812-2230

Beth Torah: PJ Enjoys Bagels and Storytime at Benny's Bagels and Lonestar Judaica, 6911 Frankford Road in Dallas, TX 75252, from 4 to 5 p.m. <http://www.congregationbeth-torah.org/>

July 23

The DEC Open House at the Dallas Entrepreneur Center

Dallas DEMA Meeting at the New Life Hardwood Floors Event Center and Showroom

July 24

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July 25

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MONEY, continued from Page 1

house?" She responded, "I only have a jar of oil." He told her to go and borrow as many jars as she could and pour oil into them. She did exactly that. She poured the oil until she ran out of jars. Afterwards, she came back to Elisha and asked, "What shall I do next with the jars of oil?" Elisha said these life-changing words - "Go sell the oil, pay off the debt and live off the rest."

There is something valuable in your house that will immediately lower your personal debt ceiling. There is an absolute truth common to everyone - "There is oil in your house to break the cycle of debt." Here are a few suggestions to eliminate that debt ceiling.

- Find the oil (money) in your house - Proverbs 10:22 - 23 says, "The blessing of the Lord makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. Doing

wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible." What things in your house are causing you to have sorrow? Is it your house, car, askin furniture, clothing, credit cards, purses, shoes, suits or expensive electronic items? If one of these items is causing an issue, sell it! There is pleasure in wise living and spending.

- Figure out your net worth. Net worth not only determines your wealth; it can determine the health of your financial future. Net worth is composed of assets and liabilities. Assets include residences, automobiles, and items that have significant monetary value. Liabilities are short term and long term debt which includes consumer bills, credit cards, real estate, and other properties in your possession. To get your net worth subtract total liabilities from total

assets. There are three types of net worth: positive, negative, and sum zero. A negative net worth is the result of more liabilities than assets, which may mean too much debt. Again the net worth can easily point to you the real issue of spending; nevertheless a plan can now be devised to reduce and eliminate debt. A zero sum net worth is when assets equals liabilities. This position can be tricky because one bad decision can bring debt to your household.

- Differentiate between needs and desires for future purchases - You now must make a choice based upon needs and desires after understanding your debt situation. Most of the time, we make desires a need therefore we put ourselves in an uncompromising position of debt. Again we never want to be held hostage to any debt be-

cause Jesus has freed us from all debts. Proverbs 22:7 says, "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender." Always strive to become a lender. The borrower will always dictate your terms and conditions.

The woman in this story was in dire straits and according to scripture the husband was servant of Elisha which explains their predicament. We don't have the luxury to raise our debt ceilings. Creditors will come after us quicker than the government. They have years to pay even decades; you don't. The one thing that I have learned through this economic rollercoaster is that we truly have control over our money. We decide what we want to do with our money, no one can tell us differently. I say again, "The breakthrough of debt is in your house - find the money!"

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TRAYVON, continued from Page 9

I would say to all young people -- you have to look at how to de-escalate a situation, particularly when you know you can be viewed suspiciously, even when you're not doing anything wrong. You've got to have a way to handle that, just in case. And that is, you talk to the person to find out what the problem is, if you can, in a polite way, and tell them who you are and what you're trying to do, which maybe will prevent the problem from escalating -- because in certain states, people carry guns. And the other thing you should keep in mind: there are going to be a lot more neighborhood patrol groups. I know in the city of Oakland we have them, and these people have guns. So if you walk into my neighborhood or a neighborhood like mine, and they don't know you, you may get accosted. So, young people have to be very mindful of that...

Listen to the complete interview on Street Soldiers Radio



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August 2-3
Join our youth group for a fun-filled back to school weekend.

August 11
You’re invited to our Youth Day program, Sunday School and our fall day campaign.

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And 9:30 a.m.
You’re invited to our Worship Services as we praise God for the victories in our lives. Come and grow with us. You’re also invited to a new series of teaching, “Guaranteed Victory”. God will “Equip, Elevate, and Empower” you; call the church for details.

July 24, 7 p.m.
Join us for Wednesday Night Live in the Joycie Turner Fellowship Hall on Belmont Drive, with old school prayer and testimony. Also, come to our Corpo-

rate Prayer and our Kidz Zone (an environment to equip children to grow and to show God’s love.)

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Join us for Worship Service as we praise and honor God. After both services ministers and deacons are available to meet with you for prayer or questions.

July 24, 7 p.m.
You’re invited to our Wednesday Evening Service as we worship and praise God.

August 3
All Kindergarten-College Freshman join our Deacon’s and Minister’s wives as they host their 3rd Annual Back-2-School Fashion Show in conjunction with our Back-2-School Summit. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall after both morning services.

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July 22, 7 p.m.
Come to Monday School as we study the Word of God. We will worship Him and praise His Holy name.

August 15-17
Everyone is invited to our P.O.T. (Parents of Teenage Boys) Conference. Call for details or register by visiting www.potboysconference.com. There’s an art to raising a responsible and well-adjusted teenage boy, and there’s an art to surviving those often turbulent years. Not his survival—yours. The event is designed to encourage, motivate, and inspire, the P.O.T. Boys Experience brings a shocking awareness to the adults in the teen’s life.

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Dr. Gregory E. Voss,
Senior Pastor
2765 Trinity Mills Road
Building 300
Carrollton, TX 75006
214-514-9147
www.wordoflife09@live.com

How to set parental controls on video games

For many families, video games are a part of everyday life.

Many games allow players to talk and play with other people — or buy more content right from the console or game. And plenty of games are designed with a grown-up audience in mind. That’s why it’s important to find out your parental control options.

Depending on the system, parental controls might include:

Game Rating Restrictions: This setting this lets you decide which games can be played on a console or handheld gaming device based on the rating from the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). For example, you might set the system to allow games Rated E for Everyone to be played, but not games rated Teen or above.

Disabling Internet Access: This setting can prevent your kids from accessing online features. For example, some systems include parental controls that allow you to mute or disable online chat, which might include profanity or bullying by other players. Some systems that offer online gaming also give parents the ability to approve friend requests or create approved lists of friends their kids can play with or talk to.

Time Limits: Some game systems let you set days and times your kids can play, and for how long.

Profiles: Some systems let



you create multiple profiles with different settings for each. So while your password-protected profile might allow you to play any game, your nine-year-old’s profile might be limited to games rated E for Everyone. If your system doesn’t have profiles, you may have to reset the preferences each time you play.

In-game Purchase Restrictions: Sometimes you can buy downloadable games or downloadable content with the credit card tied to your account. But in most cases, you can set a password to restrict those purchases.

To find out about a game system’s parental control options, look it up in the ESRB resource section, or check with the manufacturer. Microsoft, for example, offers parental control information at getgamesmart.com. You’ll find information for Nintendo systems at www.nintendo.com/consumer/info/en_na/parents.jsp, and for Sony atus.playstation.com/support/parents/index.htm.

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Send email to: salesmanager@northdallasgazette.com to sign up for Sister Tarpley's weekly electronic newsletter.

--by Linda Shelton

Have you ever wondered what a camel's humps are for? Camels are a marvel of adaptation for desert living. For example, their lips are covered with an extremely thick skin that even cactus spines can't puncture. Although camels prefer a diet of wheat, oats, grass and dates, they can eat almost anything that they find in the desert, including cactus and desert scrub.

Also camels can drink up to 30 gallons of water at one time. And then there's the hump. Most animals have a layer of fat stored under their entire layer of skin. Camels store fat in humps that can weigh up to 80 pounds.

This stored fat enables camels to travel through the desert for five to seven days without food and water; they can loose up to 40 percent of their body weight without injury. Human beings can learn something from the camel.

Store up Provisions. God did not create human beings with humps on their backs and we know that excess fat is harmful to our health, but God's Word instructs us to store up provisions for desert experiences too.

You may be surprised at what God tells us to store up: "He commands those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant or to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

He commands us to do good, to be rich in good deeds and to be generous and willing to share. (Now here's the camel part.) In this way we will lay up treasure for ourselves as a firm foundation for the

coming age, so that we may take hold of the life that is truly life." 1 Timothy 6:17-19.

So God is saying, "Do you want to take hold of the life that is really life? A life that will sustain you even during the dry desert experiences of your life?" Then He explains how, "Put your hope in God and not in your wealth."

He adds, "Do good, be rich in good deeds and be generous." In other words, He's telling us to have compassion and a genuine concern for our fellow human beings.

And when we do this, He says we're not only preparing to live in heaven, but live a better life right here; right now on this earth, we're going to experience the life that is really LIFE.

Carry a Cross. Jesus gave instructions for another form of preparation, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." St. Luke 9:23.

Crosses come in various shapes and sizes. But none of them are comfortable to carry. Most are heavy and can make blisters, not only on the body but also on the heart. But when we are carrying



Sister Tarpley's grand-nephew, Jorge Ruiz Fielding (Little George), the only grandchild of David and Rose Demus Fielding visiting from California

crosses for Jesus, He brings beauty out of them.

The gospel commission itself is a cross, because the principles of the gospel are opposite from the principles of the world. But look at carrying crosses from this perspective, when we get to Heaven, we will never again have the privilege of suffering for Christ's sake.

Never again will we have the opportunity to pour out our blood, sweat, and tears in an evangelistic effort. Never again will we be able to praise God in spite of the pain and hurt we have and never again will we be able to show the universe that carrying our

crosses is a privilege worth even the most intense sacrifice.

Will we listen to the quiet still, small voice that whispers to us today, "Will you do well and live a life rich in good deeds? Jesus said, "Will you take up your cross and follow me?"

Store up on love

All time is relevant. Time is relevant to all times. Whatever you did today is gone; even if you do the same thing tomorrow, it is not today.

Every day changes brings forth new changes,

new situations. If you only take the time from your monotonous schedule and realize the change, you will see, no two days are alike.



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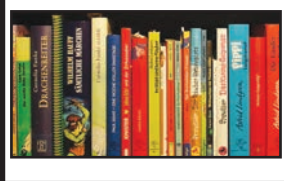
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NDG Bookshelf



BY TERRI
SCHLICHENMEYER

The haters are out in full-force tonight.

They're out, and they're hating on you because you're fly, fine, and fabulous. They can't stand to see you just being you – because they want to be you, too. They want the clothes you're rockin', the moves you're bustin', and the attitude you're carrying.

Yep, haters gonna hate. And in the new novel *"Dirty*

If you love a little nastiness, *Dirty Rotten Liar* is the book for you

Rotten Liar" by Noire, they're gonna hate because there's a big-money oil inheritance at stake.

Selah Dominion mourned the loss of her baby girl every day.

It was twenty-some years ago that little Sable Dominion was kidnapped right out of her stroller on the streets of New York. Selah cried every day of those years and secretly blamed her husband, Viceroy, for the tragedy.

Viceroy Dominion, patriarch and CEO of Dominion Oil, thought he had a great marriage. He thought he was some kind of stud, that his wife had gotten over Sable's loss and everything



was cool. He thought all that, anyhow, before he went into a coma.

The truth was, Selah was a little disgusted by her husband and his lack in the sack. She'd found another

lover who happened to be Viceroy's enemy, and if Viceroy ever found out, he'd go into another coma!

As oldest son, Barron Dominion was reluctantly left in charge of the family business after his father's hospitalization. Barron was perhaps the only one who knew what was up, and it was a load of responsibility. He wanted to do things right. His family depended on it, so that little party he went to – and the very embarrassing photos that resulted from it – yeah, that could be bad.

In the middle of everything, con-mami Mink LaRue sat with her best friend, Bunni, scheming.

At first, it wasn't hard to convince the Dominions that Mink was Sable, all grown up. Everyone kinda believed Mink, and a share of the family fortune was almost hers. But then Dy-Nasty Jenkins showed up, living up to half her name, claiming to be Sable and shaking her ghetto booty everywhere.

Millions in Dominion money rested on a DNA test. Would a little blackmail make any difference?

For sure, *"Dirty Rotten Liar"* is one of the nastiest, freakiest, most four-letter-word-filled, bed-hopping novels I think I've ever read. And I loved ever page.

Not one character in this book is nice. Only one

comes close to being good-hearted, but I enjoyed watching the drama as scams fly, backs are stabbed, and everybody schemes their way to trouble. Author Noire lays the 'hood on thick here, and her Mink LaRue (the main character) is over-the-top sassy, funny and smart. Mink's basically a criminal in designer clothing, but I still liked her a lot.

Yes, this is the third book in a three-book series (so far) and while you could read it by itself, you'll be happier if you at least grab the one previous. So go do that now... because if you love a little nastiness, *"Dirty Rotten Liar"* is a book you'll hate to miss.

ZIMMERMAN, continued from Page 1

them were young boys, aged 5 and 7. Much of this is gang violence, and too many of the victims were in the wrong place at the wrong time. No matter. This scourge of gun violence is a plague on our nation, but especially on the African-American community.

The online website Slate estimates that more than 6,500 people have been killed this year through gun violence. The Centers for Disease Control says it is at least twice as many. Since the massacre of 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn., there has been a marked concern about gun violence. Concern, however, does not move legislation. Those politicians who

have been purchased by the National Rifle Association lament gun violence but are unwilling to do anything about it. So the violence continues.

There are heart-breaking stories of those who are massacred. Young men and women at the cusp of adulthood who happened to be "hanging out" with friends on the wrong corner. Fathers who agitated an enraged driver. Children who "got in the way" of a random bullet. The NRA says that guns don't kill, people do. But people without guns can perhaps wreak havoc without creating a fatality.

While the population of the United States exceeds 300 million, there are about 280

million guns in civilian hands. Every year, 4.5 million firearms, including about 2 million guns have been sold. While many do not own guns, those who do keep acquiring them – the average gun owner had nearly seven guns in 2004, up from four guns 10 years earlier. More than 30 people are victims of gun violence each day. A third of them are under 20; half are between 18 and 35. Gun violence is the leading cause of death of African Americans in that age group.

What if George Zimmerman had not had a gun? If he did what he was told to do, police officers may have come and questioned Trayvon as he proceeded to the house of his

daddy's friend. Or perhaps there may have been a fist fight. There surely would not have been a deadly bullet, and while Zimmerman was the slayer, our gun laws are complicit in Trayvon Martin's execution.

How many young people have been victims of unintended violence, victims of drive by violence, people just minding their business and losing their lives for minding their business? How many people with axes to grind would whoop and holler instead of carrying guns to workplaces, schools, and other places? How many crazy legislatures are relaxing gun laws to allow people to carry guns in bars

and near schools? How many retailers, such as Starbucks, refuse to ban guns in their establishments (in states where openly carrying guns is legal)?

As we mourn for Trayvon Martin, let us also recognize the scourge of gun violence. If we restricted gun ownership,

this tragedy, and thousands of others, may not have happened.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

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