

THE SILENT PANDEMIC: ADDRESSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY



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Ebony Chappel
Program and
Communications
Manager Leadership
Indianapolis



Panelist:
Dr. Dentia N. Hudson
Counselor
The Well Counseling and
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Panelist:
Shonna Majors
Director of Community
Violence Reduction
City of Indianapolis



Panelist:
Ash Powell
Training Services
Coordinator, Domestic
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Panelist:
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‘We have the capacity to lead’

Black leaders feel excluded from city’s public safety partnership

By TYLER FENWICK
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Local Black leaders say they were caught off guard and felt disrespected when Mayor Joe Hogsett announced a public safety partnership with the Criminal Justice Lab at New York University’s School of Law earlier this month.

That’s because the city didn’t consult them beforehand, leaving the impression that the mayor’s office would rather turn to an outsider to learn how to address the systemic issues that plague Black Indianapolis. “We have the capacity to lead, and for whatever reason, he’s not interested in seeking out community response before he

makes an announcement on how he’s going to spend money or how he’s going to study us,” Indy10 Black Lives Matter organizer Jessica Louise said of Hogsett. Louise said this is another example of

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Community members discuss what should be included in a Black agenda at an October 2019 event at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. (Photo/Tyler Fenwick)

Police move toward a crowd of protesters May 31 after using tear gas to try to disperse them earlier. (Photo/screenshot from Recorder video)

ACLU of Indiana files suit against IMPD regarding tear gas

By BREANNA COOPER
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When the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) fired tear gas at protesters May 29, the smell — and the burn — lingered in the air. For the following two days, people walking downtown could still smell — faintly — the chemicals that sent protesters running for cover the night before. While the tear gas has long since dissipated from the air, the effects of the chemical weapon are still being felt. That’s why the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of

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Protesters grapple with IUPUI’s troubled history

By BREANNA COOPER
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“Who owes us,” Aahron Whitehead asks a crowd assembled in Military Park on June 19. “IUPUI,” the group responds emphatically. Whitehead, 20, organized a protest as part of the Indianapolis Racial Justice Alliance to shine a light on the troubled history of IUPUI, as well as the disparities he says Black students still face on campus. When Indiana University and Purdue University began accumulating property in Indianapolis — even before their 1969 merger — the neighborhood where IUPUI sits today was predominately Black. Through strategic legal maneuvers, the creation of IUPUI led to the displacement of neighborhoods and gentrification that continues to this day. In recent years, IUPUI administration has been frank about the school’s unsavory history. Lectures, symposiums and plays have all been hosted on campus to discuss the past, present and future of IUPUI in terms of race relations. But protesters say simply acknowledging IUPUI’s history isn’t doing anything to dismantle

the systemic issues they say are still in place. “Where IUPUI is built today, there once stood a strong Black community,” Whitehead said. “IUPUI has exploited that community and broke it apart. They exploited and broke apart Haughville, Indiana Avenue and Lockefield Gardens.” Whitehead, who is in his third year at IUPUI, said the school ought to make more of an effort to partner with Black-owned businesses, and students should be able to use their Crimson Card — a student ID which can be used in certain stores downtown — to shop at Black-owned businesses in the area. Further, he said IUPUI should offer scholarships or freshman year tuition deferments to Black residents of Indianapolis’ west side. “We want IUPUI to basically repay the community for their actions,” Whitehead said. “They need to help and reinvest into the community to help it grow to become a more urban and innovative environment.” Sha-Nel Henderson, a senior at IUPUI and president of the school’s Black Student Union (BSU), also helped organize the event, which attracted a group of roughly 45 people.

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Zola Lamothe, a junior at IUPUI, questions the school’s promise to students. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)



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LEADERS

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why there is distrust between the community and city.

A group of Black leaders had a phone call with Tim Moriarty, special counsel to the mayor, and Deputy Mayor David Hampton to discuss their concerns within a few days of the announcement.

Toby Miller, director of the Race and Cultural Relations Leadership Network, was on the call and described it as a “frank, candid, brutal, honest” conversation about the mayor’s office not consulting Black leaders before getting involved in a partnership to address public safety.

Black leaders on the call laid out a list of demands, according to Miller, which included embracing a Black agenda developed in 2019, reviewing the civilian complaint process and reestablishing the Indianapolis Commission on the Social Status of Black Males.

The city-county council and Hogsett recently announced a proposal to reestablish the commission, which will identify factors such as education and employment that act as barriers for Black males.

Marshawn Wolley, policy director for the African American Coalition of Indianapolis, wrote in a recent Recorder column the partnership was “met with a clear, unmistakable rejection” by Black leaders.

Wolley, who helped spearhead the effort to establish a Black agenda last year, said in an interview city officials have local answers waiting for them.

“In order for the city to have credibility, they need to do the things the Black community has asked them to do first,” he said.

Among those requests is a use-of-force board, which Hogsett and former Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Chief Bryan Roach said they could create following the police shooting of Aaron Bailey in 2017. (There is currently a proposed use-of-force board, but Black leaders say it doesn’t include enough civilian participation.)

None of the Black leaders the Recorder interviewed for this article said the city consulted them prior to announcing the partnership.

Taylor Schaffer, a spokesperson for the mayor’s office, said the office was in contact with Black community leaders and organizers “throughout the past several weeks” but didn’t directly answer questions about if those conversations specifically included the partnership.

Schaffer said members and leaders with the city-county council were briefed before the announcement.

City-county council President Vop Osili did not respond to an interview request.

Leroy Robinson, chair of the city-county council’s Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee, also didn’t respond to an interview request but tweeted at Hogsett: “Shouldn’t the ‘partnership’ be with our ‘local’ activists, community organizers & grassroots leaders? (Asking for a friend.)”

Part of the city’s partnership with NYU includes bringing together “stakeholders” from public health agencies — including community members, educators and law enforcement — to create a new definition of public safety and justice.

But many Black people in Indianapolis say they’ve seen enough of these sorts of task forces and committees.

“We done had enough studies,” said Derris Ross, founder of The Ross Foundation, which serves the east side around 42nd Street and Post Road.

Ross said it doesn’t matter that Ann Milgram, who led the disbanding of the police department in Camden, New Jersey, in 2012, is founding director of the Criminal Justice Lab and part of the partnership.

“It doesn’t matter what accolades and titles you have,” Ross said. “That will never measure up to people who are actually living in oppression.”

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

ACLU

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Indiana has filed a lawsuit against IMPD on behalf of Indy10 Black Lives Matter in hopes to ban the department from using tear gas and other chemical weapons on protesters again.

Ken Falk, executive director of the ACLU of Indiana, said the use of tear gas infringed upon citizens’ rights to protest.

“The First Amendment is not always quiet,” Falk said. “Our right to protests means we have the right to be loud, especially when we are feeling so strongly about issues. The reaction, then, simply cannot be to indiscriminately use chemical weapons on people practicing their constitutional rights.”

Throughout the three days IMPD used tear gas on protesters, unintentional targets — including a church group worshipping at Monument Circle — were tear gassed.

While IMPD concedes it is nearly impossible to target tear gas, representatives argue the effects are short-lasting and non-lethal.

“There are few immediate alternatives to the use of CS [tear gas] for riot control,” IMPD said in a statement. “And while our preference would be to work with our community members to prevent large-scale violent events, once riots have begun, law enforcement officers need tools to quickly disperse violent individuals in a way that does not cause long-term harm to the residents they serve.”

IMPD also cited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to say the effects of tear gas are short-lived.

Jessica Louise, an organizer for Indy10, was tear gassed several times and said IMPD is downplaying the seriousness of tear gas.

“Trying to negate that trauma would be like describing a heart attack as a short-lived event,” Louise said. “[Tear gas] is alarming, it creeps up like a slow fog, and then the air changes and you start getting anxiety. We were seeing a range in responses from people having a light cough and rubbing their eyes because it was a little itchy, and other people were brought to their knees and screaming because of the pain.”

Louise also takes issue with IMPD using tear gas in the midst of a pandemic that affects the respiratory system. Throughout the country, there have been reports of disrupted menstrual cycles among people who have been tear gassed, and 22-year-old Sarah Grossman died of an asthma attack two days after being tear gassed in Columbus, Ohio.

“I have experienced some disruption to my personal reproductive health and have spoken with medical professionals who have expressed outrage about tear gas being used,” Louise said. “I’m interested in seeing the long-term effect it has on Black and brown people, who it largely affected.”








On June 22, Mayor Joe Hogsett announced an independent review board, which consists of a three-member Response Review Committee (RRC) to examine IMPD’s response to protests.

“This review will give our community a clearer understanding of the events that transpired at the start of this month, and will be a guiding document for tailoring law enforcement responses in the future,” Hogsett said in a statement.

The findings from the RRC will be made available by the end of the year, but Falk hopes the lawsuit results in swift action from the city.

“The best case scenario, the city agrees to sit down with the plaintiffs and work out a result to make sure this never happens again,” Falk said. “There is no need to spend the next year or more litigating this case. It’s about more than just promising this isn’t going to happen again, but also creating other methods to deal with protests. We want a clear resolution to make sure this doesn’t happen again.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



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ESKENAZI HEALTH

Relationship between race, law to be examined

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

The Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (GIPC) recently announced the creation of the Race and the Legal System Working Group to study the relationship between race and the legal system in the wake of a pandemic and civil unrest.

The group is made up of two teams: a pro bono services team and a structural reform team. Karen Bravo, dean of Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis, is the chair of the overarching working group, which oversees the two teams.

Bravo was invited to chair the group after a statement she made regarding the death of George Floyd and the importance of lawyers speaking out against racial injustice was published by the Indiana Lawyer.

"This group came about because of these twin crises that we face," Bravo said in an interview.

The pro bono team will work to address economic vulnerability brought about by the pandemic, including the issues stemming from the soon-to-be-lifted moratorium on evictions.

The structural reform team, co-chaired by John Gaidoo of Cummins Inc., will examine public policy as it pertains to law enforcement.

"The team will look into best practices, funding models done by other cities that have reimagined policing, and we'll make recommendations to minimize and hopefully even eliminate discrimination," Gaidoo said.

While there is no official timeline for recommendations to be made, Gaidoo said he expects it to be swift.

"We're not talking about a year from now," Gaidoo said. "We're talking about a timeframe of weeks and months. We're using



Karen Bravo

this opportunity to do thorough, thoughtful work, and the city needs an urgent response."

Bravo said research and data collection done by both teams will pull from various sectors and fields to make informed proposals relevant to Indianapolis.

"We're going in with an open mind," Bravo said. "There is a great deal of research in many disciplines, a lot of work on race and policing ... so there will be a lot out there for us to pull from."

Gaidoo emphasized that proposals from the structural reform team will help everyone in the community, including police.

"I firmly believe that the same measures that are going to benefit the average Joe on the street are going to benefit the police officers," Gaidoo said. "Really good common sense reforms can make the police officer's job less stressful ... and the community will have a better relationship with the police. I'm not naive, but I'm pretty convinced that if we listen and do good research, we'll get a good, well-rounded perspective that will benefit everyone."



John Gaidoo

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

IUPUI

► Continued from A1

Demands from the IUPUI BSU are very similar to Whitehead's demands. The group's top demands of IUPUI are to require history classes to discuss the gentrification that took place, to partner with more Black-owned businesses, more funding for research into health disparities throughout the Black community, and for the creation of a Black community center on campus, separate from the multicultural center on campus.

In response to the demonstrations, IUPUI Chancellor Nasser Paydar issued the following statement:

"... I am proud that our students are engaged and active in the community, and I am equally proud of all that IUPUI has done to recognize, respect and tell the story of the neighborhood that once stood where IUPUI now exists. We have been vocal in our opposition to the violence that has been perpetrated against African Americans and other people of color and through words and actions will continue our longstanding efforts to combat systemic racism that leads to such violence."

Outside of University Hall, where Paydar's office is located, the protesters chanted "We're the change," as they headed toward Taylor Hall.

As the march continued through campus, with chants of "Unity in community" reverberating off the buildings, it became apparent the demonstration was about more than IUPUI. Chants of Dreasjon Reed, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd's names echoed through the crowd. The group stopped outside of Taylor Hall to take an 8-minute, 46-second moment of silence in memory of Floyd, the exact amount of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck, resulting in his death late last month.

"They take our culture, our slang, our music," Whitehead said. "And then they take our lives."

After the moment of silence, the floor was open to anyone who wanted to speak. Will Horton, a senior at IUPUI, reflected on his experiences with law enforcement.

"I've been pulled over seven times over the past few years," Horton said. "Each time could have been the end for me. ... We need to take this time to plot, plan, strategize, organize and mobilize. We'll rise together, by any means necessary."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

Ivy Tech's new VP of diversity, equity and belonging found her passion early

By **TYLER FENWICK**
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Doneisha Posey heard from a young age that she would be a good lawyer someday.

Posey, then a middle schooler in Wayne Township, started noticing some of the inequities around her. Some of her friends didn't even know what National Honor Society was, for instance, and their teachers certainly didn't encourage them to learn more about it.

So Posey started asking questions of her teachers and school counselors to learn what was going on, as any good future lawyer would do.

Now, skip ahead to present day, and Posey has made it her life's work to make sure diversity and inclusion are priorities for institutions and agencies.

Posey became vice president of diversity, equity and belonging at Ivy Tech in April.

Before that, she was deputy director and general counsel of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. She is also an adjunct law professor at Indiana University McKinney School of Law, where she teaches classes about housing discrimination and segregation, as well as race and the law.

Posey's experience also includes serving as legal advisor for the governor's Commission on Minority and Women Business Enterprises, administrative law judge at the Indiana Civil Rights Commission and immigration litigation attorney in private practice.

"Doing all of that kind of shifted me to come to Ivy Tech," she said, "where I could be more of a proactive participant in creating equity."

When it comes to higher education, talk of diversity and inclusion is usually centered on students, but there is of course the leadership side — from professors to academic advisors to chancellors.

An institution can make "inclusion"



Doneisha Posey

a priority, but Posey said it's best to consider what it means to feel like you truly belong somewhere as a next step. That can hinge on who works with students and if students see themselves reflected in leadership.

"It's a really big task," said Posey, whose job it is to make sure every Ivy Tech campus across the state have policies and procedures that include lenses to consider racial equity and diversity.

Posey, who grew up in Indianapolis and went to Ben Davis High School, said the conversation should shift from equality to equity and equal opportunity.

"You can't talk about equal opportunity without talking about systemic inequities that create privilege for one group and not the other," she said.

Posey was chosen for her new position out of a national pool of about 90 qualified candidates.

"We understand it is our responsibility to serve all Hoosiers and eliminate equity gaps for students and employees," Sue Ellspermann, president of Ivy Tech, said in a press release. "I am pleased to have someone as qualified and respected as Doneisha Posey to lead our College's efforts and engage with the communities we serve across the state."

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

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More ‘Big Brothers’ and ‘Big Sisters’ needed in the community

By MIKAILI AZZIZ

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana (BBBSCI) recently began a virtual initiative to find mentors willing to uphold its commitment to youth in Indianapolis by partnering with the Indianapolis Indians.

A virtual recruitment campaign, “The Big Pitch,” runs from June 1 through June 30 and targets companies, individuals, businesses and community partners across the city to encourage adults to volunteer as a “Big,” or mentor.

“We really focus on that inherent potential in every child,” CEO Darcey Palmer-Shultz said. “They’re great kids. Our job is to connect them with people that will work with them, their parents and our team to encourage them to develop that potential.”

The organization creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships for local youth.

Once matched, the youth can remain in the program until they’re 18 years old or until they graduate from high school.

Mentor Willie Little signed up the day a grand jury declined to charge police officer Darren Wilson for killing Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri.

“At the time, I felt like everybody wanted to be a social media activist, but I wanted to be about action,” he said.

Little met his mentee, Nigel Woodfolk, two or three months after signing up. The connection was instant between the two. Due to a lack of mentors in the community, Woodfolk had been on BBBSCI’s waitlist for more than four years. He was finally matched with a “Big” when he was a middle schooler.

“I think this matters in our community because there are so many people that have no direction,” said Woodfolk, a recent high school graduate. “Mentors help them stay on track and give them a good role model to look up to.”

Today, BBBSCI serves more than 1,400 children annually in Marion, Johnson and Hamilton counties. Hundreds of youth in Central Indiana are still waiting for a “Big” of their own.

According to BBBSCI, the youth achieve higher self-confidence, better performance in school and avoid risky behaviors after just one year in the program. Each mentorship is customized to suit a child’s individual needs and interests.

“I think a mentor is somebody who is really interested in learning and growing. It’s a relationship and a friendship,” Palmer-Shultz said. “As much as mentors are there to guide and encourage the young person, it really has to be reciprocal for it to have the best impact.”

Woodfolk and Little were recently awarded Big and Little Brother of the Year at BBBSCI, which honored their long-lasting relationship.

“The Indianapolis community has a ton of little boys that are on a waiting list right now that need help. A lot of the people that are helping don’t look like me,” Little said. “There are a lot of successful Black men in the city that need to step up and be a part of this.”

Woodfolk plans to attend Little’s alma mater, the University of Indianapolis, to pursue a degree in pharmaceutical studies.

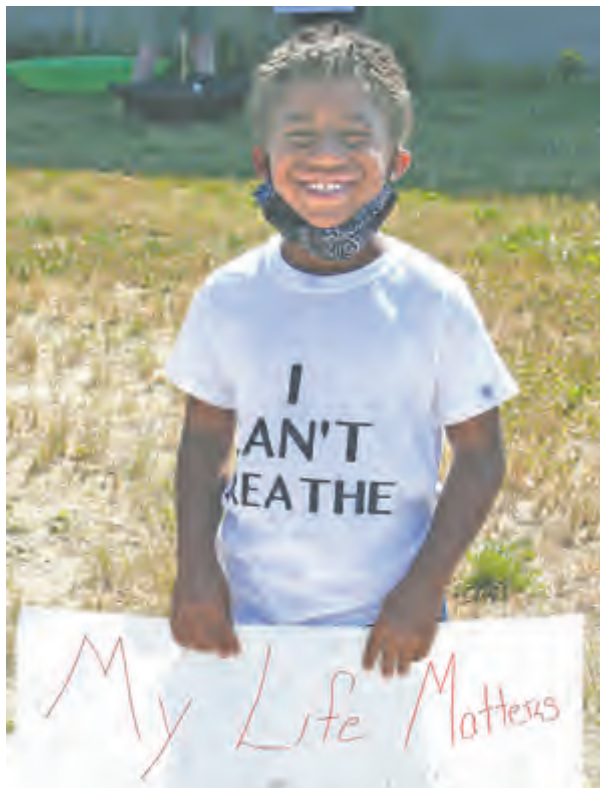
Contact newsroom intern Mikaili Azziz at 317-924-5143. Follow her on Twitter @mikailiazziz.



Brandon Jenkins and Brittney Crawford draw a sign to carry in the march.

Edna Martin Christian Center hosts community walk

More than 200 people gathered recently to celebrate Juneteenth with a Community Peace March, beginning at Edna Martin Christian Center’s Ralston Avenue campus. Participants brought signs and posters to show their feelings as they walked through the surrounding neighborhood.



Jordan Randle, 7, was all set to march with a big smile. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Willie Little and his mentee, Nigel Woodfolk, at BBBSCI’s anniversary party at Dave and Buster’s in February. The breakfast party celebrated long-lasting mentorships. (Photo provided)



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OPINIONS

The lost cause is finally losing

By LARRY SMITH



Last December I wrote about former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley’s failure to unequivocally denounce the Confederate flag. Her badly botched attempt to condemn-without-actually-condemning that flag is symptomatic of the social and political schizophrenia that has bewitched the “United” States since the Confederacy was defeated —

nominally — in 1865.

What transpired when Ulysses S. Grant joined Robert E. Lee at Appomattox is nearly beyond comprehension. For starters, Grant had allowed Lee to select the venue. Disturbingly, it was Lee, not Grant, who raised the subject of surrender. (Grant later admitted that he was embarrassed to bring it up.) Further, Lee said that Grant’s generous terms of surrender would “have a very happy effect on (his) army.” And Lee’s mindset was clear as he spoke not so much about having lost the war as he did about not having enough men to win it.

For his part, Gen. Grant’s eagerness to ensure a smooth transition from war to reunification caused him to order his troops not to jeer at the men who had been intent on killing them just a short time earlier. The future president was much more interested in reconciliation with his erstwhile enemy than he was at humiliating them. (This is unlike, for example, the surrender of the Japanese to the U.S. during World War II.)

Grant’s magnanimity was contagious. His terms of surrender were handwritten by his adjutant, Ely S.

Parker, who was from the Seneca tribe. When Lee (who owned other human beings) learned that Parker was a Native American, he stated, “It is good to have one real American here.” Parker replied to Lee, “Sir, we are all Americans.”

I raise these historical points to give context to what we’re experiencing in America today regarding the Confederacy — flags, monuments, et al. Morning Consult and Politico recently conducted a poll of registered voters regarding their views about that flag. Overall, 44% see it as a symbol of “Southern pride,” whereas a mere 36% see it as “racist.” Older whites, Southerners and those who support Donald Trump see the flag as the former; people of color, people under 40, northerners and liberals see the flag as the latter. Most telling is the fact that Black Southerners are nearly unanimous in their disdain for that flag. (So much for the argument about “Southern pride.”)

There is no way around the fact that the Confederate flag represents traitors who fought and died to perpetuate white supremacy — even if they were too poor to own enslaved people. They caused more than 600,000 deaths in the process, which is still more than any other war in which Americans have fought. Yet, as Ta-Nehisi Coates and others have pointed out, the U.S. government never treated Confederates as traitors.

First, they were not prosecuted as such. Second, they were given pensions! Moreover, Grant allowed Confederate soldiers to keep their horses, mules and (most importantly) guns. There is little wonder as to why the South has never really considered itself to have lost the war — other than during the few years of Reconstruction that President Grant oversaw.

Apologists for the Confederacy point out — accurately — that slavery existed far longer under the “stars and stripes” than it did under the various iterations of the Confederate flag. That is absolutely true. However, the fact remains that the maintenance of slavery was the overwhelming reason for creating the Confederacy. (There are more than 80 references to slavery in the Confederate Constitution.) However, immediately following the war, Southerners quite literally began to rewrite the historical narrative, which is an honor that is generally reserved for the victors.

The racial tension that we are experiencing today is, in large part, a direct result of white Americans’ failure simply to let the Confederacy die. Fortunately, it appears that this anachronism is finally on its way to the dustbin of history. NASCAR has informed its fans that the Confederate flag will no longer be allowed at its events. Similarly, the NCAA, Conference USA and the Southeastern Conference (SEC) have all threatened to pull events from Mississippi unless that state changes its flag, which includes a Confederate symbol.

Our nation’s history is replete with lost opportunities. I’m hopeful that we have now come to a place at which the symbols of “the lost cause” can be placed — as respectfully as necessary — in museums. I don’t want to “forget” Confederate history. I simply want it to be remembered for being one of our nation’s greatest sins.

Larry Smith is a community leader. Contact him at larry@leaf-llc.com.

Let’s take a look at IMPD’s general orders committee

By MARSHAWN WOLLEY



Now is the time to reimagine policing, and one good first step should be looking at the general orders committee for Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

In 2019, there were 23,745 uses of force by IMPD, and 12,405 of them were against Black people. Research has shown that Black folks experience both more frequent and even higher levels of use of force, which is why the African American Coalition of Indianapolis (AACI) called for a civilian majority on a use-of-force board.

Between 2014 and 2019 there has been a 95% reduction in police-action shootings. I think both community leaders and activists, as well as IMPD, can take credit for this achievement, but a lot of Black people died getting to this point, and I don’t know that we know why the reduction occurred.

The handling of the Dreasjon Reed case has been far from ideal.

We need change and we need to do so thoughtfully, even as we contend with the fact that the city reached 100 homicides sooner this year than ever in city history — and the vast majority of people dying are Black males.

Guess where decisions about IMPD policy are made that could address use of force; that likely impacted the 95% reduction in police-action shootings; changes to the way the police-action shootings are investigated; and potentially even improved requirements for responsiveness of homicide detectives.

The general orders committee. IMPD is facing a critical moment that could be more consequential than previous policing reform efforts.

The national fervor around “disbanding” and “defunding” the police have been among the protest chants over the last several weeks. Disbanding and defunding are not necessarily what you might think. There is an emerging agreement around both ideas that isn’t quite settled yet.

The ACLU’s language around “reimagining” policing seems to be part of the national conversation.

The AACI called for using the city’s

housing strategy to address crime. This may be an example of what crime fighting might look like in the future, but only time will tell.

But if any of these changes are to occur — whether we disband or defund or reimagine — the general orders committee will likely have something to do with it.

We need to be looking at the general orders committee for IMPD.

This three-person board approves policies for IMPD. The chief appoints two members, and the FOP selects the third seat. They are the body that will ultimately approve a use-of-force board, which needs to have majority-civilian representation for it to be viewed as credible in our community.

They don’t write policy, but policy changes must ultimately go through this three-person board for approval. If we are going to move IMPD to the police department we need for the 21st century, there needs to be citizens on that board.

I’ll concede I don’t think it needs to be a majority. I am imaging a five-person board with two additional citizens — maybe one Democrat and

one Republican — or better yet just two community members to remove the politics.

But citizens need to be on that board so that we can help the police understand how their policies look and even feel to the community.

The police should not police themselves — especially when they are in service to the community.

I can respect the fact that police officers will have a deeper knowledge of the nuances of the work of 21st century policing policy, but it needs to happen with citizens at the table because ultimately their work isn’t disconnected to what citizens will face in the streets.

We have reached a point where citizens need to be more engaged in the decisions of the police department in order to achieve credibility, trust and even legitimacy.

Marshawn Wolley is a lecturer, commentator, business owner and civic entrepreneur. Contact him at marshawnwolley@gmail.com.

America needs to redress its sins

By NICHELLE M. HAYES



With all of the turmoil and uncertainty in our country, many of us are wondering, “What can I do to make the world a better place?” There are many organizations in our country doing amazing work in addition to intelligent and committed individuals. I would encourage you to determine what most concerns you and align with a group or work with an individual and create the change you want to see in the world. As the old saying goes, “Many hands make light work.”

There are a multitude of issues we need to work to improve: poverty, hunger, homelessness, voter suppression, police brutality, student loan debt, extreme homicide rates, affordable health care, mass incarceration, food deserts, underemployment, un-

employment. I could go on and on. These issues are systemic.

The system is working exactly as it was designed. In order to affect change, we must break down these systems and rebuild them with a mind toward justice and equality for all. This is a time for us to live up to the ideals that are outlined in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Enslaved Africans have lived in what is now the United States of America since the Spanish brought the first slaves to the colony of La Florida in August of 1526. Those same Africans revolted in October of that same year and sought their freedom. The fight for freedom for members of the African diaspora is not new.

Racism exists in the very DNA of our country. And as integral and insidious as racism is, we do not study it at the K-12 or college level other than a random course here or there. This lack of understanding regarding racism and how it impacts every part of the United States is part of the reason that many white Americans feign ignorance about the plight of Black and brown Americans.

This dearth of study regarding racism helps to create two Americas, both separate and still unequal.

The fact is for several decades, Americans have been watching Black men and women being killed by police and receiving no punishment. And each time it happens, people remain shocked.

Rodney King was beaten by officers of the LAPD in 1991. Those officers were charged and found not guilty despite the video footage. Fast forward to 2020 and we are still seeing videos of Black men and women being beaten and killed by police. Time has come for the warrior police officer to be replaced with the guardian police officer.

I propose two answers to address these myriad systemic issues. These two things won’t solve all of our problems, but I believe it will move us forward toward healing. We need national truth and reconciliation for the citizens of the United States of

America, and reparations for African Americans.

The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was set up in 1995 to address and remedy the many atrocities that occurred during the apartheid regime. No one escaped unscathed.

My sister, Serina M. Hayes, is a returned Peace Corps volunteer who served in the Republic of South Africa after the fall of apartheid alongside Iris Winter and Manuel Zuniga Jr. Recently, Manuel started a petition on Change.org to create a similar commission for the U.S. Please sign the petition by visiting Change.org and searching for the title: “Create a U.S. Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

House Resolution 40, The Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans Act, was introduced in 1989 by the late congressman John Conyers and subsequently every year after.

In 2019, Sen. Cory Booker introduced a bill that establishes the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans. The commission shall examine slavery and discrimination in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present and recommend appropriate remedies.

It is imperative for us to write our congressional and senatorial representatives and implore them to back these two bills. Share this information with your family and friends around the country. According to NCOBRAonline.org, a simple majority in the House is needed (218 votes) to move the bill to the Senate. Currently, there are 122 congresspersons who have cosponsored HR 40. If, for over 400 years, countless laws can be created that injure Black Americans then surely a law can be created to study that problem and determine how a repair can be made.

Nichelle M. Hayes is an information professional, genealogist, civic leader and a lifelong learner. She can be reached at her blog thetiesthatbind.blog.

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Black college students speak out about police brutality



Sha-Nel Henderson, president of the Black Student Union at IUPUI, leads a crowd of mostly college students at a protest June 19. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)
By MIKAILI AZZIZ

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed — the names differ, but for many, the circumstances appear to remain all too familiar.

A ripple effect took place throughout the country as news of the killings spread in many communities.

COVID-19 restrictions didn’t deter protesters in Indianapolis from gathering throughout the city. Following Dreasjon Reed’s death May 6, only a city-wide curfew could slow down the momentum.

Frustrated Black college students make up a large portion of the protesters.

“We’re living in a pandemic and people are outside in large crowds, which is highly recommended against,” said Joyza Johnson, a junior at IUPUI. “People are out here protesting regardless of the risks. It really goes to show that people are tired and ready for change.”

Reed, an Indianapolis native, was shot by an Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) officer after he fled from his car. Contrasting opinions circled throughout the Black community as families and friends discussed the tragic event.

Despite hearing different things from family and friends, Ball State University student Jaylen Moore described Reed’s death in one word: wrong.

“I’ve been hearing a lot of people say that he shouldn’t have run away, and I don’t agree with that,” Moore said. “His actions probably resulted from fear: fear of being incarcerated and fear of in-

teracting with police. Although he could have acted differently, it still doesn’t leave room for overkill.”

Moore added although recent events have made him more aware of his own behavior, people like Breonna Taylor didn’t break the law.

“She was in her home sleeping, so it’s scary to think that you can still be killed for nothing,” he said.

In recent weeks, many of the protests in Indianapolis took place in the downtown area — just a few minutes away from IUPUI’s campus.

Jenee Johnson, a senior at IUPUI, described life at the predominantly white institution (PWI) to be difficult during times like this.

“As someone who attends a PWI, I understand the pressures of being the only Black girl in science classes, and having somebody not want to be my lab partner because of it,” Johnson said.

Differences between the waking lives of white classmates are like night and day from Johnson’s point of view.

African American students aren’t the only ones who find it difficult to cope, however. Others, such as those of direct African and Caribbean descent, aren’t exempt from the discrimination.

“We can put all of this work in, go to school, get our degrees and try to succeed, but at the end of the day our lives still might be taken,” said Karl Nkenzi, a mechanical engineering major at IUPUI.

Nkemzi, a Cameroonian-American, highlighted the effectiveness of protesting. In his opinion, the constant media coverage of protests forces many to take a deeper look at themselves.

With protests becoming smaller and less frequent in Indianapolis, many are wondering what’s next.

Sha-Nel Henderson, an IUPUI senior and president of the Black Student Union, believes the answer is two-fold.

“The next steps for the Black community, from my perspective, should be strengthening our communication and maintaining hope,” she said. “Without hope, all of this is pointless.”

Contact newsroom intern Mikaili Azziz at 317-924-5143. Follow her on Twitter @mikailiazziz.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TOWN HALL

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a light on many other issues the community must grapple with, including domestic violence. Victims who felt stuck before the pandemic have also had to deal with limited access to other people and resources because of health measures meant to slow the spread of the disease.

In an effort to combat this crisis, the Recorder will host a town hall at 2 p.m. June 27 called “The Silent Pandemic: Addressing Domestic Violence Issues and Solutions in the Black Community.”

The event will stream live at [Facebook.com/IndyRecorder](https://www.facebook.com/IndyRecorder/).

Panelists are Dr. Dentia N. Hudson, counselor at The Well Counseling and Consulting Group; Shonna Majors, director of community violence reduction for the city; Ash Powell, training services coordinator for Domestic Violence Network; Danyette Smith, founder of Silent No More; and Sylvia Strom, advocate at La Plaza.

Ebony Chappel, programs and communications manager at Leadership Indianapolis, will be the moderator.



IBE’s claim of a cross shape burned into grass sparks confusion

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Indiana Black Expo says police are investigating an apparent cross shape burned into the grass outside of its headquarters, but the shape appears to have been in the grass for years.

IBE’s headquarters on the east side was previously the building that housed Crossroads Bible College, which had a concrete cross embedded in the ground until 2017, according to a statement from IBE posted to Twitter.

The concrete cross appears to be in the same place where the cross shape is now.

IBE said the area was filled with topsoil and seed after the concrete cross was removed and that the area appears to have been recently burned with a chemical.

Judging by historic satellite images from Google Earth — which shows the concrete cross and topsoil from the past — the cross shape doesn’t appear to be any more pronounced than it has been before.

The Recorder reached out to IBE representatives to clear up the confusion but did not receive a response.

IBE moved to its current headquarters in March 2019.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



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How to keep up with preventive care during the COVID-19 pandemic

By **DR. CAMEUAL WRIGHT**

All of our attention is understandably drawn to the COVID-19 crisis; however, we need to remember that other illnesses that threaten our health have not gone away. We're still at risk of serious issues like heart disease or cancer, and we shouldn't lose sight of that during the pandemic.

At CareSource, a multi-state health plan, we recognize the importance of keeping up with preventive care, or the care you receive to prevent illnesses, like immunizations and regular health screenings. People should still continue to make this a priority. Your risks for COVID-19 and other health concerns depend on several factors, including your age and other medical conditions. Your specific preventive health plan should be made in consultation with your provider.

There are several different factors that play into whether or not you need to visit a doctor's office right now. At CareSource, we created the following tips to keep up with important preventive care visits, while also keeping yourself as safe as possible.

ASSESS YOUR RISK

If you're considering attending an in-person preventive visit, have a conversation with your provider first to determine your risk and find out what precautions their office is taking. Ask your provider what their current policy is on preventive visits. Most likely, the answer they give to a 25-year-old will be very different from a 55-year-old. If you're older or if you have preexisting health conditions or a compromised immune system, it may be prudent to delay your visit.



TURN TO TECHNOLOGY

If you are in a higher risk category for an in-person visit, you can utilize the different means of technology that many health care professionals have turned to during this time. Telehealth and telemedicine are great avenues to use for help with mental health issues like depression or anxiety. Speaking with your provider over video chat to receive education, advice and counseling can serve as a solution if you can't keep up with your visits in person. This is especially relevant now during the pandemic, as most health care providers are now offering telehealth services. For example, CareSource now has a resource called MYideal-DOCTOR, a 24/7 telemedicine solution for our members.

VISIT FREESTANDING LABS

During this time, you can still get tested for conditions like diabetes, high cholesterol levels or thyroid problems. Your provider can send an order for a test to be conducted at a freestanding lab, or an outpatient center that is separate from a hospital. There tends to be less traffic at these freestanding labs, limiting your exposure to other people

during your testing process. You can also easily schedule your visits online and check wait times.

Keep up with OB/GYN checkups, dentist visits and eye exams if you are presenting problematic symptoms. If not, consider postponing.

I would recommend holding off on your annual mammogram screening or pap smear, unless you are exhibiting signs that are concerning for something as serious as cancer. If you are showing symptoms that something is wrong, or if you have a family history of cancer or previous abnormal pap smears, you may need to visit your provider for an in-person test in order to treat a potential illness as early as possible.

I'd also recommend holding off on routine cleanings at the dentist's office. However, if you experience an emergency like sudden bleeding or intense tooth pain, you should visit your dentist. The same goes for eye exams. If you're younger than 50 years old and you're visiting your eye doctor for an annual checkup, this can be postponed. Conversely, if you're older or experiencing a serious eye disease or injury, you should contact your eye provider for advice.

It can be difficult to assess whether or not something constitutes as an "emergency" during this time. You should

try to get in touch with your provider prior to your visit to determine if you need to be seen.

MAINTAIN CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE

It's critical to keep up with children's regular vaccination schedules and Well Child Visits. This prevents them from experiencing other life-threatening illnesses like the measles, mumps or polio. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), delaying vaccines could leave your child vulnerable to disease when they're most likely to have serious complications.

Therefore, children should still be immunized on the CDC's recommended schedule, and this should not be put off. According to the CDC, regular vaccines protect children from 14 potentially serious diseases before their second birthday. Vaccinating children on time not only protects them but also anyone around them with a weakened immune system.

LEARN HOW YOUR PROVIDER IS KEEPING THE OFFICE SAFE

If you're nervous to visit

your provider with your young child, find out the steps your doctor is taking to keep everyone safe. Health care providers are all utilizing personal protective equipment like masks and gloves. They're also enforcing strict hand washing rules and maintaining six feet of distance between patients. Although doctor's offices were already carefully sanitized before the COVID-19 pandemic, they're taking additional measures to deep clean between patients. Providers are doing everything they can to minimize risk.

CONTINUE TO DO YOUR PART

You can also help in keeping preventive visits as safe as possible by wearing a mask, maintaining six feet of distance between other patients and washing your hands with warm water and soap for at least 30 seconds. You should also ask yourself if it's truly critical for you to be seen by your provider. If not, that saves your doctor from unnecessary exposure and allows them to care for higher-risk patients.

At CareSource, we're making it easier for members to be safe during COVID-19. We have suspended all cost-sharing for preventive tests and services that would normally require a copay. We also have CareSource24, our 24-hour Nurse Helpline, available to answer health-related questions, and we offer transportation services to get members to and from their preventive care visits. Visit caresource.com for more information and to read our guidelines for members and providers concerning safety with COVID-19.

Dr. Cameual Wright is CareSource Indiana medical director.

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Take Precautions to Avoid Mosquito Bites, West Nile Virus

The Marion County Public Health Department reports the first mosquitoes of the season to test positive for West Nile virus. While much of the focus right now is on COVID-19, residents are reminded about the steps everyone can take to reduce the mosquito population and protect against bites.

The four Ds of mosquito control include:

- **DUSK** – Stay indoors from dusk until dawn. If you do spend time outdoors....
- **DRESS** – Wear long sleeves and long pants when outside during these times.
- **DEET** – Use insect repellent containing DEET or other EPA-registered insect repellent.
- **DRAINAGE** – Remove all standing water outside the home.

"Mosquitoes only need a small amount of water for breeding, so please take a few minutes to walk around your yard or property and look for areas of standing water, said Matt Sinsko, coordinator of Marion County Mosquito Control." One easy way to control the mosquito population is by emptying water from containers of any size and flush out bird baths every week. Check for old tires, clogged gutters, small recreational pools, and poorly operating septic systems."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not develop any symptoms. People with certain medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes and kidney disease are at greater risk experiencing symptoms which include headache, body aches, joint pains or rash.

Less than one percent of people who are infected with West Nile virus will develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis.

At this time, CDC has no data to suggest that COVID-19 or other similar coronaviruses are spread by mosquitoes or ticks. The main

way that COVID-19 spreads is from person to person.

For questions about mosquito prevention, please call the Marion County Public Health Department's Mosquito Control program at (317) 221-7440. Information about West Nile virus is available at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Agencies in Indianapolis City-County Building Reopen

In addition to police services and criminal courts, which opened in mid-June, the vast majority of other city and county agencies in the City-County Building, 200 E. Washington Street, are now open.

Juvenile and Civil Courts will continue to operate remotely and will begin limited in-person hearings on July 6. Traffic Court will continue to operate remotely for the foreseeable future.

All public services will be consolidated on the first floor, including property tax payments, property tax assessment and valuation, and other property services. The County Assessor, Recorder, and other county services will also be open. There will be floor markers to maintain a 6-foot social distance while waiting to access public services.

Anyone planning a visit to the City-County Building should check [Indy.gov](https://indy.gov) first for information and to schedule an appointment when needed. A wide variety of public services are also available at the website.

Information on the courts' re-opening plan can be found at [Indy.gov/courts](https://indy.gov/courts). Designated court and public elevators will be open for use. However, access to floors for any reason other than a court appearance is limited to city-county employees and building staff.

Face coverings are required for everyone entering the building at all times. Designated staff will hand out reusable face coverings to those who need one and can also help those who need special assistance.

Black Catholics: Words not enough as church decries racism

By DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Black Roman Catholics are hearing their church’s leaders calling for racial justice once again after the killing of George Floyd, but this time they’re demanding not just words but action.

As protests against racism and police brutality continue nationwide, there are rising calls for huge new investment in Catholic schools serving Black communities; a commitment to teach the complex history of Black Catholics; and a mobilization to combat racism with the same zeal the church shows in opposing abortion.

“As a church, we’re very good with words. The church has made clear it stands against racism,” said the Rev. Mario Powell, a Black priest who heads a Jesuit middle school in Brooklyn.

“What’s profoundly different this time is folks aren’t looking for more words — they’re looking for actual change,” he said.

Noting that hundreds of Catholic inner-city schools have closed in recent decades, he’s among those urging church leaders to make the necessary spending to reverse that. He also said all Catholic schools should teach the history of Black Catholics in America.

“It’s a history of discrimination and oppression,” said Powell, 38. “It’s also a very rich history that should be celebrated, of a population that has overcome a lot.”

In 2018, after what it called an accumulation of “episodes of violence and animosity with racial and xenophobic overtones,” the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a pastoral letter condemning racism and vowing to combat it. Numerous bishops issued similar statements following Floyd’s death under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer.

Professor Shannen Dee Williams, a Black Catholic who teaches history at Villanova University, argued in a June 15 article in the National Catholic Reporter that such responses are insufficient.

The recent statements “fall way short when it comes to acknowledging the church’s role in the contemporary crisis and direct complicity in the sins of anti-Black racism, slavery and segregation,” she wrote, noting that the church was a major slaveholder in several states and engaged in segregation of parishes, schools, hospitals, convents and seminaries for decades after emancipation.

In an interview, Williams said the U.S. church hierarchy should formally apologize.

“We want them to own up to that history, and then atone for it,” she said.

The same day her article appeared, Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Washington, D.C., the highest-ranking



In this Saturday, June 6, 2020 photo provided by The Record, Black Catholics walk from the federal courthouse building in downtown Louisville, Ky., to 12th and Broadway, in the “Black Catholics Unite: Stand For Justice March” which was organized by young adults. Black Catholics across the U.S. hear their church’s leaders once again calling for racial justice, but at this volatile moment they want action as well as words. (Ruby Thomas/The Record via AP)

Black leader in the U.S. church, joined eight fellow bishops from his region in acknowledging the church’s “sins and failings” on racial justice.

“Prayer and dialogue, alone, are not enough. We must act to bring about true change,” their statement said, calling for greater equality in health care, education, housing and criminal justice.

Black Catholics’ somewhat marginal place in the U.S. church is illustrated by statistics compiled by the national bishops’ conference.

According to the conference, there are about 3 million African American Catholics, roughly 4% of the nation’s 69 million Catholics. But there are just 250 Black priests, or less than 1% of the total of 36,500, along with eight active Black bishops out of more than 250, or about 3.2%.

Some are calling on church leaders to engage more energetically with youth at the forefront of the protest move-

ment.

Earlier this month scores of young Black Catholics staged a march in Louisville, Kentucky, to protest racial injustice and also signaling they want their local church leadership to do more.

One of the speakers, retired priest John Judie, included the church in a list of institutions that have favored white people over Black people.

In an interview, Judie said some young people in the archdiocese are uncertain about their place.

“When is the leadership going to sit down with the young adults who organized that protest and listen to what drove them to do this?” Judie said. “So far, I’m not seeing it happen.”

That’s a notion shared by Ansel Augustine, who as a young priest in New Orleans in 2005 worked in the youth ministry of his parish on rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina.

“We see our youth and young adults

leading these movements, putting their faith into action,” said Augustine, now executive director of cultural diversity for the Washington archdiocese. “Now is the time to empower them, to listen to what these young prophets are saying.”

Gregory, the Washington archbishop, echoed the idea that racial justice should be part of pro-life advocacy.

“Birth is only the first moment of a person’s human dignity, which is never lost throughout the journey of life,” he said via email.

That message heartens people like Lorelean Jordan, a parishioner of the predominantly Black congregation of the Church of Saint Peter Claver in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“Black Lives Matter should be a pro-life issue, getting the same amount of resources and same amount of zeal as the pro-life movement,” she said.

County health department adds new COVID-19 testing sites



Mount Zion Apostolic Church is one of the sites offering free drive-through and walk-up testing for COVID-19. The church is located in an area that has been identified as having a greater risk of complications from the virus, according to Dr. Virginia A. Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK

When a grown man groans “Momma!”

By IMAN MICHAEL SAAHIR

When the pleas of a fully grown, 46-year-old man reach the point of moaning for his mother, that man is broken in heart, mind and spirit. The oppressors knowingly — with a false sense of superiority, sprinkled with glee — self-appointed themselves to be the judge, jury and executioner of Mr. George Floyd as they disregarded the fact that they were in the public in broad daylight and being recorded for the world to see.



When a grown man cries out for his deceased mother in tones reminiscent of the painful moans uttered by his former slave parents, such

punishment is sending that man’s soul back to a time when there was absolutely no hope and no relief, except for the relief ushered in by death. But the “slave masters” in the case of George Floyd were four inhumane individuals, while disgracing the uniform of the Minneapolis Police Department, and thought that the “blue code of silence” would once again protect them from the wrath of a public seething with “No justice, no peace!”

The challenges of the Minneapolis police-public relations are no different than that in many cities and towns around America. Race and racism compounded by cultural incompetency are a big part of the problem; however, actually the real problem and the associating challenges are a very serious universal problem that supersedes police and public engagement. Someone sold a lie and a bunch of folks bought the lie.

When a grown man cries and moans for his momma to the point of urinating on himself, he is — at that moment of anguish — desperately reaching out for that which his original essence inherently knows is his right: namely, “that all men are created equal and endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights ... life,



liberty and the right to breathe.” But someone told the lie that these “self-evident” inalienable rights were not the inherent property of the children of Africa; and too many of America’s police bought that lie.

Not only did the police buy that lie, our education system also bought that lie, as well as many of our faith leaders. They, too, bought that lie and even tried to use Bible stories such as Noah’s sons to support that lie. They wrongfully concluded that

Noah’s son Ham is the father of all Africans, a people cursed to be “hewers of wood and drawers of water” for the world. Such lies and religious misinterpretations make it easy for one race to look down upon another race. This is the root problem of America’s systemic racism.

So putting the knee on the neck in order to cut off the lifeline that connects the heart to the intellect (brain) didn’t start with Minneapolis’ or America’s police. It started when lies were sold in the name of religion that allows one to mute their own human consciousness and sensitivities in order to falsely justify the mental, social and physical killing of another human being.

However, even a muted conscious will respond to a grown man moaning for his momma. Prophet Muhammed said, “Paradise is at the foot (the foundation) of the mother.” Christ Jesus said in his moment of anguish, “Behold, your mother!” When you hear a grown man cry for his mother, even the police “blue code of silence” will shout, “No justice, no peace!” and even kneel with the protesters. Yes! Even “white silence” will shout, “I can’t take it anymore!” But sadly, the White House remains silent.

The necessity of Black Lives Matter will continue as long as people continue to buy the lie that the children of Africa don’t matter. The BLM movement is an indictment against white racism, white silence and white patronizing. An indictment that will continue until the lie has been crucified and removed eternally from our society. Now is the time to uproot and destroy the lie. A time period that was birthed when a grown man groaned, “Momma!”

Michael “Mikal” Saahir is the resident Imam of Nur-Allah Islamic Center. He can be reached at nur-allah@att.net or at 317 753-3754.

BIBLE TRIVIA

By WILSON CASEY

- 1 Is the book of Matthew in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2 During a famine, who set out with another man to find grass to feed his horses and mules? Abishag, Ahab, Abner, Agrippa
- 3 From Exodus 34, who was frightened of a man who came down a mountain with a shining face? Laban, Stephen, Aaron, Cornelius
- 4 At what city’s public bonfire were books worth thousands of dollars burned? Ephesus, Derbe, Perga, Lystra
- 5 From Acts 5, who fell dead after lying about a property deal? Nehemiah, Shimei, Levi, Ananias
- 6 Where did Lot meet angels? City gate, Field, Temple, Oak tree

ANSWERS:
1) New; 2) Ahab; 3) Aaron; 4) Ephesus; 5) Ananias; 6) City gate

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson’s Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.

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Martindale-Brightwood library branch opens to the public

Branch Manager Nikki Johnson welcomed visitors recently to the grand opening of the new Martindale-Brightwood li-

brary. The library replaced the original one, which was built in 1972 in the Brightwood Shopping Center. The original

Brightwood Branch opened in 1901 and was the sixth public library in Indianapolis.



Nikki Johnson



The library is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is closed on Sundays. (Photos/Curtis Guynn)



Aunt Jemima brand retired by Quaker due to racial stereotype

By ALEXANDRA OLSON and MATT OTT
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — America's painful struggles over racism have finally caught up with Aunt Jemima, that ubiquitous fixture served up at breakfast tables for 131 years. Quaker Oats announced June 17 that it will retire the Aunt Jemima brand, saying the company recognizes the character's origins are "based on a racial stereotype." Indeed, the logo was inspired by 19th century minstrel celebrating the "mammy," a Black woman content to serve her white masters. A former slave, Nancy Green, became the first face of the pancake product in 1890. Aunt Jemima's downfall is the latest signal of the power-

ful cultural moment unleashed by the Black Lives Matter protests, which have spread around the world and prompted companies to rethink their policies, from hiring practices to giving employees off for Juneteenth, the anniversary of the end of slavery in the U.S. Other companies said they are reconsidering racial imagery in their branding. The owner of Uncle Ben's rice says the brand will "evolve" in response to concerns about racial stereotyping. Caroline Sherman, a spokeswoman for parent company Mars, said the company is listening to the voices of consumers, especially in the Black community. Geechie Boy Mill, a family-owned operation in South Carolina that makes locally-

grown and milled white grits, said it is "listening and re-viewing our overall branding," though no decisions have been made. Geechie is a dialect spoken mainly by the descendants of African American slaves who settled on the Ogeechee river in Georgia, according to Merriam-Webster.com. In a statement to The Associated Press, the company said a name change has been under consideration for the past year and discussions have ramped back up given the current climate. Earlier this year, Land O'Lakes announced that it would no longer use the Native American woman on its packages of butter, cheese and other products since the late 1920s. But reconsideration of the images also raises questions about why they have endured for so long in the first place, beyond the Civil Rights Movement and ensuing decades of

protests against discrimination and violence against African Americans. Brands with ethnic and racial stereotypes still abound, from Nestle's Es-kimo Pie and Miss Chiquita of banana fame, to the ongoing debate over the Washington Redskins football team. Riche Richardson, an associate professor of African American literature at Cornell University, called for Aunt Jemima's retirement five years ago in a New York Times opinion piece — part of a wider discussion about Confederate statues and other imagery after the massacre of nine Black parishioners at a church in Charleston, South Carolina. Richardson said Aunt Jemima epitomizes the dark comfort that some Americans take from imagery of Black servitude, so normalized that it's on their box of pancake mix. She said it was problematic that Aunt Jemima is such a ubiquitous symbol of Black femininity when there are so many real women who are icons of African American history. "The question becomes, 'Do we want to hold onto images that hearken back to a past when Blacks were servants and expected to know their place?'" Richardson said. "People who are holding onto these symbols are almost suggesting that those are times they are nostalgic about. I don't think people intend to send that message but at this time, we cannot afford to send mix messages." Quaker, which is owned by PepsiCo, said its overhauled pancake mix and syrup will hit shelves by the fourth quarter of 2020. The company will announce the new name at a later date. PepsiCo also an-

nounced a five-year, \$400 million initiative "to lift up Black communities and increase black representation at PepsiCo." "We recognize Aunt Jemima's origins are based on a racial stereotype," said Kristin Kroepfl of Quaker Foods North America. "While work has been done over the years to update the brand in a manner intended to be appropriate and respectful, we realize those changes are not enough." Quaker tried over the years to purge Aunt Jemima of her "mammy" roots, exchanging her kerchief for pearls by 1989. Still, the image was of eager domesticity and her name could not be dissociated from its racist origins. Aunt Jemima's years of success as a marketing image made it risky for the company to part with it completely, said Brenda Lee, founding director of the marketing research firm Vision Strategy and Insights. "It's a huge deal. They've invested quite a bit in establishing that brand with all that goes along with the logo," Lee said. "The calling to make this change has been around for years and the most they had been willing to do was update her looks, but they were not willing to relinquish the name." Lee said the risk calculation for companies is quickly changing, in part because of the Black Lives Matter movement's effort to draw attention to where Black dollars are spent. Recently, the singer Kirby posted a TikTok video called "How to Make a Non Racist Breakfast" explaining some of the backstory of the Aunt Jemima brand. That video went viral.



A box of Aunt Jemima pancake mix sits on a stovetop Wednesday, June 17, 2020, in Harrison, N.Y. PepsiCo is changing the name and marketing image of its Aunt Jemima pancake mix and syrup, according to media reports. A spokeswoman for PepsiCo-owned Quaker Oats Company told AdWeek that it recognized Aunt Jemima's origins are based on a racial stereotype and that the 131-year-old name and image would be replaced on products and advertising by the fourth quarter of 2020. Quaker did not say what the name would be changed to. (AP Photo/Courtney Dittmar)

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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER



Wallace shows he's more than just a race car driver

By **DANNY BRIDGES**

I've been fortunate enough to speak to a number of NASCAR drivers over the years, yet never had the opportunity to meet Darrell Wallace Jr.

The talented and affable 26-year-old from Mobile, Alabama, has established himself as a tough competitor as the only Black driver in NASCAR's top-tier series. Wallace served notice of his racing prowess as he piloted the Richard Petty Motor Sports entry to an impressive second-place finish in the 2018 Daytona 500, which he followed up with a rock solid third-place result at the 2019 Brickyard 400 at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

A racer since his childhood days, there can be absolutely no debate in terms of his ability to compete at the elite level of motor sports.

Yes, NASCAR is big business and as with any similar entity, minorities must always work harder to distinguish themselves, and Wallace has done a solid job in that department. He's handsome, articulate and has grown significantly in the last three years in terms of his professional endeavors as the driver of the No. 43 car, which is synonymous with his iconic owner, Richard Petty.

However, Wallace has been in the headlines for far more substantial reasons recently, as he's taken an important stance against systemic racism in this country. Just two weeks ago he denounced one of the most blatant symbols of racism in the history of the United States when speaking of his disdain for the Confederate flag, which had been a staple for ages as it flew from the rooftops of the many recreational vehicles in the infields of race tracks in the South.

"NASCAR's next step in demonstrating its commitment to fighting racism needs to be banning the Confederate flag," Wallace stated in an appearance on "CNN Tonight" with Don Lemon.

The powers that be in the sport agreed with him and quickly adopted a ban of the flag at all tracks effective immediately. The outspoken driver also conveyed his feelings by wearing a black T-shirt with the words "I Can't Breathe" on it, as well as running a #BlackLivesMatter paint scheme on his Chevrolet entry at the Martinsville Speedway event recently. He continues to conduct numerous interviews about his passion for change, not just in his sport, but in America.

Wallace learned personally just



Driver Bubba Wallace, right, is overcome with emotion as he and team owner Richard Petty walk to his car in the pits of the Talladega Superspeedway prior to the start of the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega Ala., Monday June 22, 2020. In an extraordinary act of solidarity with NASCAR's only Black driver, dozens of drivers pushed the car belonging to Bubba Wallace to the front of the field before Monday's race as FBI agents nearby tried to find out who left a noose in his garage stall over the weekend. (AP Photo/John Bazemore)

how ugly things can get in the state of Alabama when it was discovered that the rope used to close the door in the garage his team was assigned had been configured into the shape of a noose. Both NASCAR and the FBI investigated the matter and, while they determined the closing rope had been in that configuration for months prior and wasn't directly aimed at Wallace, the question as to why that ever occurred remains unanswered.

In light of the matter, Wallace's fellow drivers also rallied around him in a pre-race sign of solidarity. Wallace proceeded to drive the wheels off his race car, running as high as third place before a late pit stop for fuel jettisoned him to a 14th-place finish.

Afterwards, in a post-race interview on Fox Sports, he addressed those responsible for the incident by saying he wanted them to know his resolve

was strong and the sport will change despite its objections to equality for all. Pretty solid stuff for a young man under an intense spotlight, but he handled it with grace and dignity as millions of people looked in ready to dissect his every word.

Long after the checkered flag dropped and the adrenaline that flows with auto racing had subsided, Wallace undoubtedly reflected on a turbulent week and had to wonder what the road ahead will hold in terms of the volatility surrounding the path he is now upon.

It's clear he will not be deterred from speaking out for change in a sport in which he is the only Black competitor, but it's also obvious that the despicable element that placed a symbol of oppression in his garage will always be out there. Handling a race car at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour

is one thing, dealing with lunatic bigots is quite another.

Wallace's talent has shown he belongs in NASCAR, and by what he's demonstrating off the track, there is no doubt he will ultimately win in his quest for change, which he has been attacking in the same wide-open style in which he drives a race car.

Keep your eye on this exceptional young man as he navigates through the pressure cooker he has gladly hopped into. If you think he can't win the most important race of his life, you better think again.

Danny Bridges, who hopes to live long enough to see equality for all in this crazy world we're living in, can be reached at (317) 370-8447 or at bridgeshd@aol.com.

SPORTS QUIZ

By **RYAN A. BERENZ**

- 1 What racetrack on the NASCAR circuit is nicknamed the "Monster Mile"?
- 2 The Tour de France is one of three races that make up the Grand Tours of European road bicycling. Name the other two races.
- 3 Who scored the controversial winning touchdown reception for the Seattle Seahawks in the 2012 "Fail Mary" game vs. the Green Bay Packers?
- 4 What two sports disciplines do Winter Olympians compete in for the Nordic combined event?

ANSWERS

1. **Dover International Speedway.**
2. **The Giro d'Italia and the Vuelta a Espana.**
3. **Golden Tate.**
4. **Ski jumping and cross-country skiing.**

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U of Cincinnati removing Marge Schott's name from stadium

By **JOE KAY**
AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — The University of Cincinnati is removing Marge Schott's name from its baseball stadium and a library archive in light of her racist comments while owner of the Cincinnati Reds.

The school's board of trustees unanimously approved the move June 23, a dozen days after a Catholic high school also decided to remove references to Schott from its facilities. Over the years, UC students, faculty and alumni have objected to Schott's name on school facilities, but no changes were made.

"Marge Schott's record of racism and bigotry stands at stark odds with our university's core commitment to dignity, equity and inclusion," said school President Neville G. Pinto, who recommended the change.

The national push for racial justice sparked by George Floyd's death has prompted local institutions to revisit Schott's history.

After her death in 2004, most of her estate went to a foundation that funds a wide range of philanthropic ventures. Her name is featured on many facilities in the city.

As Reds owner, Schott was repeatedly suspended and ultimately ousted by Major League Baseball for her slurs and praise of Adolf Hitler. Team employees said Schott used slurs for Black players and made derogatory remarks about Jews and Japanese. She said Hitler was "good at the beginning" but then "went too far."

Major League Baseball banned her from the team's day-to-day operations for the 1993 season and levied another suspension after she returned and continued to make offensive remarks. Ultimately, she was forced to sell controlling interest in the team in 1999.

The university built Marge Schott Stadium with a \$2 million donation from the Marge



Marge Schott

& Charles J. Schott Foundation in 2006. In addition to removing Schott's name from the stadium, trustees agreed also to remove it from a space in its archives library.

"I hope this action serves as an enduring reminder that we cannot remain silent or indifferent when it comes to prejudice, hate or inequity," Pinto said. "More than ever, our world needs us to convert our values into real and lasting action."

Earlier this month, Saint Ursula Academy in Cincinnati decided to remove Schott's name from a science, language and arts building that was constructed with the help of her donation. It's also renaming its athletic facility, which was called "Schottzie Stadium" in honor of Schott's dog.

Schott's foundation has encouraged discussions about naming rights.

"While we cannot make excuses for the rhetoric made by Mrs. Schott decades ago, we can ask you to learn from Mrs. Schott's mistakes as well as her great love for Cincinnati," the foundation said in a statement this month. "We appreciate what these great organizations bring to Cincinnati and we fully support the decisions made by the organizations who have received grants from the Foundation."