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UNITED NATIONS: Chicago rights activists protest during review of U.S. torture policies before the U.N. in Geneva.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCCLATCHYDC.COM

United Nations concludes: US tortures blacks

By **JOSÉ PÉREZ**
 Special to South Florida Times

SOUTH FLORIDA — The United States continues to reel from the social and political fallout of decisions not to prosecute white police officers in the cold-blooded deaths of two African-American men in separate incidents in Ferguson and Staten Island. A recently adopted United Nations report concludes there is grave concern that police interactions with U.S. blacks and other communities of color are systemically deadly.

The UN's Committee against Torture found that the United States is guilty of many instances of what amounts to human rights abuses in particular when it comes to torture at the hands of the military, inhumane incarceration of immigrants seeking asylum, juveniles, and women, and — not coincidentally — what the report calls "the frequent and recurrent police shootings or fatal pursuits of unarmed black individuals."

Shockingly, for South Florida, the United Nations included in its report a scathing indictment of a police killing that occurred in Miami barely a year ago. Included in its concluding observations, the Committee on Torture wrote that it was "appalled at the number of reported deaths after the use of electrical discharge weapons, including the recent cases of Israel 'Reefa' Hernández Llach in Miami Beach." Electrical discharge weapons are commonly known as tasers.

Miami attorney Meena Jagannath brought Hernandez' case to Geneva last month to give testimony in front of the United Nation's Committee on Torture on behalf of Hernandez' family and Dream Defenders. Jagannath testified along with activists from Ferguson, Missouri and Chicago.

Hernandez was an upcoming contemporary artist who was, according to the brief submitted to the United Nations by Jagannath,



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PLEASE TURN TO **TORTURE/6A**

REGION

Soul of Basel brings black professionals to Overtown



DAVID I. MUIR/ FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

SOUL BASEL: Shernette Muhammad discusses her portrait of Purvis Young with patron.

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
 Special to South Florida Times

OVERTOWN, FL. — What do you get when you have a historical black venue filled with acclaimed black art being viewed by a predominantly black crowd, many of whom are graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)? For Fabiola Fleuranvil, a dream come true.

Six years ago, Fleuranvil, a marketing executive, was on the verge of returning to Atlanta due to what she saw as a dearth of blackness, especially among her peers — young, African-American professionals. A conversation with Edwin Sylvain, a friend and fellow Florida A&M University (FAMU) Rattler, about her inability to connect with others who looked like her became what is now 'First Wednesdays South Florida HBCU Alumni Social.'

For Fleuranvil, linking her popular monthly gathering of young HBCU graduates with The Black Archives' opening reception for 'A Man Among the People: A Purvis Homecoming,' was a marriage made in heaven. In addition to introducing many of her peers to

black fine art, the event would also be an introduction of sorts to many venturing into Overtown for the first time.

"With this being Art Basel and this year having a huge black presence at Art Basel, [Ed and I] thought that it would be a great idea to host our First Wednesday here along with Soul Basel to give younger people an opportunity to come into Overtown, which we usually don't do, and to come to the Lyric Theater, which most of us have never been here before. It exposed us to a part of Miami that we've never been in," said Fleuranvil.

Jennelle Griffiths, 29, and Genetta Watts, 30, are first time visitors to the Lyric Theater and they plan to return. Both women are pharmacists and FAMU graduates. Griffiths said she came to the event to "look at some beautiful art work, [and to do some] networking."

Watts' motivation for attending was to experience art from a black perspective. "We're so used to what we see commercially, nationally that's not really representative of us," she said. Both

PLEASE TURN TO **PURVIS/6A**

PALM BEACH



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REALDEAL.COM

Redemptive Life Fellowship Church and its Bishop Harold Ray.

Redemptive Life Fellowship possibly facing foreclosure

By **KYOTO WALKER**
 Special to South Florida Times

WEST PALM BEACH — The nation's economic downturn and its impact on Redemptive Life Fellowship has led to the church defaulting on its mortgage and being on the verge of a foreclosure action, senior pastor Bishop Harold C. Ray said. Ray, who is also the founder of Redemptive Life, said the church is in a default scenario owing \$230,000 in back mortgage payments, which has in turn led to an accelerated balance request from the mortgagors of \$3.3 million.

Redemptive Life Fellowship is located at 2101 N. Australian Ave. in West Palm Beach. Established in 1991, the 46,200 sq. ft. church complex was designed to be a multipurpose center providing space for community meetings and conferences, as well as other uses and which housed an elementary school for many years (1994 - 2011), according to Ray. The building was constructed for \$5.8 million, he said.

Ray says programs may have to be suspended and the church will most likely face foreclosure proceedings without contributions from the community because the internal support from its congregation is insufficient to meet the demands of the community, operational expenses and the mortgage. "The financial difficulties are simply because we're located in the two largest below poverty

zip codes other than the western Glades population in all of Palm Beach County," he said. "The demand continues to increase (for services) to which Redemptive Life has attempted to respond out of its internal support base and membership constituency."

According to Ray, Redemptive Life has cut some programs, downsized its staff significantly and has put a portion of the church's land on the market but financial difficulties still persist. He said the church has raised about \$40,000 but the monthly mortgage payments alone are \$29,000. The mortgagors are very much on the verge of filing a foreclosure action, Ray said. "If we raised roughly \$250,000 right now, then we would probably be current," he said. "And even then, if they want to accelerate (the balance due), it would be a little difficult because there (would be) no debt. We would have a balance but no deficit."

Redemptive Life has a roll membership of about 1,500 and an active congregation of about 300 - 350 members who basically support the church financially, Ray said. He added that the church has never received any state or federal funding but some community service programs that the church supports were funded by local grants.

The church has tried to underwrite its community service programs internally

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Redemptive Church members too few

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but the economic downturn has made that more difficult in recent years, Ray said. "We feed over 2,000 families a month through our food bank," he said. "We have numerous requests for assistance each month relative to anything from light bills to persons who have been victims of domestic assault, things of that nature."

The Urban League of Palm Beach County has supported various programs in conjunction with Redemptive Life as well, according to Ray and Urban League president and CEO Patrick Franklin. Franklin's organization routinely provides foreclosure counseling to its clients. He said that exploring all alternatives is paramount to maintain the church because the foreclosure process usually takes time. "It all depends upon your lending institution and the terms of your mortgage, and your agreement how flexible the bank will be with you," Franklin said. "Sometimes it's just a matter of refinancing the interest rate, but every situation is totally different. Each situation has its pros and cons."

A foreclosure action may lead to an elimination of community service programs, which have become one of the cornerstones of the church, according to Ray. He said that many of those services are run through the church's non-profit agency, which has also had controversial financial issues in recent years.

Reportedly, the Redemptive Life Fellowship Urban Initiative Corp. partnered with the city of West Palm Beach to develop affordable housing for the Coleman Park area and failed to follow federal grant guidelines for utilizing funds to complete the project. An investigation into the matter in 2011 by the city of West Palm Beach revealed the discrepancies. "All of the allegations (concerning) HUD were totally erroneous," Ray said. "We were cleared by the inspector general two years ago after a 30 day inquiry into all finances."

West Palm Beach spokesman Elliot Cohen said the city no longer has any relationship with Redemptive Life Fellowship Urban Initiative Corp. "The homes that were supposed to be constructed were built. The issue has not been the fact that the homes weren't built," he said. "It has been that paperwork tracking that use of HUD money was not properly done by Redemptive."

Cohen said that the city did receive paperwork from the non-profit but it was not complete and did not account for all of the grant money. "HUD originally estimated that \$3 million was not properly documented by Redemptive (Urban Initiative Corp.)," he said. "We were able to cut that amount in half by working with HUD and going over the paperwork. The remaining, \$1.5 million, is what HUD says needs to be recovered."

Ray said that no money was ever missing concerning the federal grant for the Coleman Park affordable housing project. "There's never been a dime of missing money. The only thing that's missing is city records," he said. "We built 31 homes. Some of that we built with our own credit line."

Ray said the church isn't looking for handouts but if anyone is thinking about giving charitably, he is asking that Redemptive Life be considered.

For information or to make a donation visit: www.gofundme.com/RedemptiveLife.

Your pet and why you should care about our changing world

By PIERRE B. BLAND, DVM

No matter if you choose to believe it or not, our world is changing. This is not an attempt to sway your opinion of why or if change is occurring, but a discussion of a specific change that should be of concern to us all.

Ebola is still in the news and unfortunately will probably continue to be so for the foreseeable future. But think back and you will probably remember other deadly diseases that seemingly appeared out of nowhere, bursting on to the news cycle. Remember SARS, Hanti Virus, and HIV? All these are zoonotic diseases: originating in animal populations and making the jump to a human host. In a review of 1,415 pathogens known to infect humans, 61% (863 pathogens) of them are zoonotic. The occurrence of zoonotic diseases is not a new phenomenon, but does seem to be capturing our attention more in the last couple of years and especially as of late. The emergence of pathogens from one species to a new host species, such as humans, is called "disease emergence." This dates back into our history as a species and a civilization.

Much of our prehistory was spent in small groups of hunter-gatherers that were not often in contact with other groups of humans. This facilitated diseases entering into the human population. Once in a population, the disease tended to burn itself out by killing everyone in the first run of the infected population. The pathogens mutated to become a chronic infection in the human population, allowing the infection to stay alive in a host for longer periods or develop a non-human reservoir in which to live and wait for new host to infect.

In many instances, humans are actually accidental victims and a dead end host. Most of human development has been shaped in relation to zoonotic diseases. Among the best known examples of this are the Bubonic Plague of the Middle Ages and the AIDS/HIV crisis. There is good evidence that diseases such as measles, smallpox, the common cold, and tuberculosis may have jumped from animals to humans. Now current research is showing human actions and activities are helping this process along.

Human population booms, habitat encroachment (think the Everglades and the cutting of the rain forest), consumption of bush meat, and climate change are forcing people and animals into closer contact. Species formally living isolated in remote areas and deep in the rain forest are now being forced to eke out a living in very close proximity to humans. The concentration of humans, domesticated animals, and wildlife facilitate the spillover of pathogens between species. Highly mobile species like birds and bats present a greater risk of zoonotic transmission due to their increased mobility.

Thankfully, we have begun to come to a consensus that actions should be taken to combat the climate and environmental changes we are



DAVID I. MUIR/ FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

beginning to experience. Hopefully these actions will not be too little, too late to make a difference.

Dr. Pierre Bland is owner of "Dr. Bland's Vet House Calls" a veterinary house call service. He can be reached at 954 673-8579 or at doctorblandvet.com.



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Nation

Obama: Avoid 'militarized' police



PHOTO COURTESY OF WHITEHOUSE.GOV

President meets with community leaders and youth to discuss police relations with communities.

By **NEDRA PICKLER**
Special to South Florida Times

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday he wants to ensure the U.S. isn't building a "militarized culture" within police departments, while maintaining federal programs that provide the type of military-style equipment that were used to dispel racially charged protests in Ferguson, Missouri.

Instead, the president is asking Congress for funding to buy 50,000 body cameras to record events like the shooting death of an unarmed 18-year-old Michael Brown and look for ways to build trust and confidence between police and minority communities nationwide. He announced the creation of a task force to study success stories and recommend ways the government can support accountability, transparency and trust in police.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced on Monday new Justice Department plans aimed at ending racial profiling and ensuring fair and effective

policing.

"In the coming days, I will announce updated Justice Department guidance regarding profiling by federal law enforcement, which will institute rigorous new standards - and robust safeguards - to help end racial profiling, once and for all," Holder said in Atlanta.

With protests ongoing in Ferguson and across the country, Obama spoke to reporters at the end of a White House meeting with police, civil rights activists and local leaders and acknowledged the participants told him that there have been task forces in the past and "nothing happens."

"Part of the reason this time will be different is because the president of the United States is deeply invested in making sure that this time is different," Obama said. He said he was upset to hear the young people in the meeting describe their experiences with police. "It violates my belief in what America can be to hear young people feeling marginalized and distrustful even after they've done everything right."

At least for now, Obama is staying away from Ferguson in the wake of the uproar over a grand jury's decision not to charge Darren Wilson, the police officer who fatally shot Brown. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating possible civil rights violations that could result in federal charges, but investigators would need to satisfy a rigorous standard of proof. Justice also has launched a broad investigation into the Ferguson Police Department.

Obama is proposing a three-year, \$263 million spending package to increase use of body-worn cameras, expand training for law enforcement and add more resources for police department reform. The package includes \$75 million to help pay for 50,000 of the small, lapel-mounted cameras to record police on the job, with state and local governments paying half the cost. Estimates vary about the precise number of full-time, sworn law enforcement officers in communities across the U.S., though some federal government reports in recent years have placed the figure at roughly 700,000.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN MANN

Art Basel receives the brunt of local protests.

Activists shut down Art Basel with anti-violence vigil

By **JOSÉ PÉREZ**
Special to South Florida Times

Throngs of jetsetters from around the globe descended upon Miami last week for the annual Art Basel contemporary art festival. Activists and local artists held a vigil during the festival intended to draw attention to the controversial non-indictment in the police-related death of Eric Garner in New York City as well as on the deaths of unarmed teenagers Israel Hernandez and Mike Brown in Miami in 2013 and Ferguson, Missouri in 2014, respectively. The vigil, organized by the family of Hernandez and the Miami Committee on State Violence, was organized to demand justice for Hernandez, Brown, and Garner. Hundreds of people participated in the activity which culminated in the shut down of the 195 expressway connecting Wynwood and Miami Beach.

Organizers explained that the blocking of traffic on a busy Friday evening was strategic. "We wanted to stage a nonviolent impactful protest to reach a lot of people," explained Whitney Maxey, of the Miami Committee on State Violence. The purpose of the expressway shutdown was to engage motorists and

dialogue with them, said Maxey.

A Miami Committee colleague of Maxey's, Tiffany Benford, said that there were "mixed responses" from motorists but many were taking selfies with activists as "most were positive and supportive." The warmer reception came from drivers who showed their support by raising their hands up in solidarity with the plight of people like Michael Brown who was, according to some eyewitness accounts, shot dead by police in Ferguson, Missouri after raising his hands to surrender.

In a satirical nod to the attention of the international arts scene being in Miami, Benford referred to the shutdown as a unique work. "The whole point of art is to be seen."

The vigil and expressway shutdown in Wynwood was part of a continuing effort to unite blacks and Latinos in Miami's resident artists' community demand accountability from local law enforcement.

"We're trying to bring awareness to the overall lack of accountability" at different levels of governance, said Benford. She said that the Miami Committee chose Art Basel weekend for its latest protest activity as a tribute to

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Opinion



Letter to the editor:



Levi Williams

Dear Friends:

Again, Brother Al Calloway, in his column "Ferguson, 106 days of showing American democracy" has enlightened us to the historical social elements surrounding a major issue in our community of color. Allow me however to elucidate upon a point of legal clarification.

All the rioting, social cajoling, political posturing, and day dreaming will not correct the perceived wrong in the Ferguson shooting. It will not curb any future excessive force against a person of color who may only be guilty of what is colloquially known as "contempt of cop."

Our Black elected officials and our Democrat elected officials who postulate that they care so much about Mr. Brown and all the children of color being killed annually by law enforcement, are disingenuous in their comments and/or intent or are just ignorant of the political realities necessary to fix this problem. Therefore, they should be relieved of our community's trust in sending them to their respective halls of power.

Of course there is possibly another reason; it may be politically expedient and in the Democratic Party's best interest in its relationship to the LEO unions to keep our community frustrated over the increasing deaths of our youth and blame who, the Republicans-seems to have worked for 50 years - but with knowledge, there is another way.

Well, let's do some research. Actually I did it already for you. Nationally, our law enforcement community's response to a threat is dictated by what is called a "matrix-of-force" or "force continuum." Generally, each act by an alleged perpetrator is met with increasing force. Please be mindful that each and every officer/deputy that puts on a shield is risking his/her life for us on a daily basis. Each and every one of these professionals deserves to go home at the end of every shift to their families and to enjoy their lives. The argument around Ferguson, as it was with Rodney King and others, is that our Black males deserve the same too.

The only way to correct the perceived failings between law enforcement doing its job and preservation of the individual's life is for our black elected officials and Democrat elected officials to lead the charge in demanding a change to each state's "matrix-of-force" or "force continuum." These matrices have been tested by law and case law and have been upheld in instances where the community may have believed that excessive force and even maybe murder was allowed. Unless you change the policies surrounding what is considered excessive force, nothing will change; the last 30 years have proven as much.

When our perceived leadership makes this an issue and forces congressional hearings and legislative work committees to bring about a change, then, maybe then, the lives lost on the streets of the USA will have a meaningful impact on the future lives saved by this bold move! There is no other way!

Sincerely,

Levi Williams

Levi Williams is an attorney in Fort Lauderdale

Can black men ever be victims?

In Richard Wright's *Native Son*, Bigger Thomas kills a white woman and is later captured by a mob. As they drag him through the snow someone screams "kill that black ape." Bigger Thomas was in a sense a victim—he internalized social conditions which led him to crime. But for the whites in the story a black man could never be a victim. He was simply an ape or beast.

The image of a black men as a beast resonates in cases that have come before the courts. In March 1991 Rodney King violates local traffic laws and then leads police on a high speed chase through the streets of L.A. When the police finally stop him several officers proceed to "beat him half to death" while King is helpless on the ground. Police break the bones holding his eye in its right socket, and they fracture the bones at the base of King's skull. This is famously captured on video.

Four officers were tried. The officers who brutally beat King counter the video with a story: they portray King as a "hulking beast so dangerous they were justified in beating him" (*Newsweek*) King was not an angel. He had a prior robbery conviction. But that had nothing to do with the beating. The Simi-Valley jury bought the story. They acquitted white brutality.

A similar narrative was used in the Trayvon Martin case. Zimmerman's lawyers portrayed Trayvon as the aggressor despite the fact that Trayvon was unarmed while Zimmerman was. Zimmerman's lawyers brazenly argued that Trayvon was an urban thug who "used the sidewalk as a weapon."

Drugs play in role in these dehumanizing stories. In both the King Case and the Zimmerman case lawyers for the defendants argued the black males were on drugs which gave them superhuman strength.

Three witnesses came forward to testify that Darren Wilson shot

Mike Brown six or seven times while Brown's hands were raised in the air. In response Darren Wilson told a now familiar story that Brown possessed superhuman strength.



DONALD JONES

"The only way I can describe it is I felt like a five-year-old holding onto Hulk Hogan," Wilson, who is 6'4 and 210 pounds, said of Brown, who was also 6'4.

Wilson tells a Detective how after he shoots Brown at the police car Brown runs away but, now shot, Brown turns around and charges back at Wilson, the man who has just shot him. "When he stopped he made like a grunting noise and had the most intense aggressive face I've seen on a person." Later during the Grand Jury proceeding Wilson elaborates on the "intense aggressive" face Brown made at him, when Brown, supposedly turned to charge, "The only way I can describe it, it looks like a demon, that's how angry he looked."

This story about Mike Brown charging back toward the gun that had shot him seems inhuman, more like the behavior of a wounded animal than an unarmed teen. But notice Wilson describes Mike Brown as super human, with Hulk Hogan like strength, "looking like a demon." And "He grunted."

This is a blatant appeal to racist stereotypes of black men as beasts. Again, as in the King Case the jury apparently bought the story. At one point one Ferguson juror asks if Mike Brown's body could not be considered a weapon.

During the grand jury testimony Prosecutor McCullough, acting as

Wilson's lawyer, introduced evidence 40 times that Mike Brown had marijuana in his system. There was a hint that this marijuana was laced with PCP. But no PCP was found in Brown's system. Marijuana is not associated with violent behavior.

Part of the problem is the media has illicitly knotted together black people, violence, drugs and crime. The overwhelming number of blacks are law abiding. But as Robert Entman showed in his famous study news media disproportionately cover violence and drug use in the black community. Three decades of hood films television shows like "The Wire" portray the black community as a "jungle" populated by criminals and thugs-modern day Bigger Thomases. At the same time white police officers are presumed not only to be innocent but protectors of order and justice. Jurors bring these racialized narratives with them into the jury room. What should be a decision about what happened is captured by fear of crime, fear of black men and the narrative these black men are always the aggressor always guilty.

It doesn't matter whether the victim is a big black man like Mike Brown or a twelve year old boy like Tamir Rice.

There are those who say we can solve the problem simply by telling our children to pull their pants up. Denial is not just a river in Egypt. If we are to write a new chapter in this story of police officers killing unarmed black men with total impunity we have to address a pervasive racial mindset in which it is impossible for a black man to be a victim. That mindset is in Ferguson. Ferguson is everywhere.

Donald Jones is Professor of Law at the University of Miami, School of Law. His most recent book is *Fear of a Hip Hop Planet: America's New Dilemma* (2013) available on Amazon.com.

THE POLITICS OF BLACKNESS

These protesters are out of order

First they protested because of the shooting of an 18 year-old Black teenager, Michael Brown, by a white policeman, Darren Wilson, as Brown resisted arrest. Protesters used the mantra, "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," as they marched down the streets of Ferguson, Missouri. Then many weren't satisfied with just marching and chanting, they began to break windows of businesses and looting.

Then they protested because Officer Wilson was not indicted for murder. So they began burning until 25 businesses were burned to the ground, many owned by blacks who had put all their savings to start these small businesses.

Then within days, a black man in New York, Eric Garner, was killed as he resisted arrest, so protesters marched chanting his last words, "I can't breathe." In both cases, professional community organizers, including Al Sharpton, encouraged by President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, began protests all over the country.

Some college students didn't even know why they were protesting, but laid down in the street in a "die-in."

Next hundreds of thousands of protesters marched across major cities blocking traffic, shouting "Black Lives Matter," "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," "No Justice, No Peace" and "I can't breathe." Then dozens descended on malls, including in front of Macy's, shouting "Shut It Down," saying they want to "have their voices heard" about supposed police brutality and the so-called "militarization" of police.

They were determined to shut down major highways and thorough-fares leading to major events. In Miami, they held up traffic for hours as visitors and locals tried to have fun at Art Basel, a great economic engine for South Florida. In New York, they stopped traffic by lying down in intersections. In Oakland and Berkeley, California, they broke windows and looted stores and conducted violent acts.

Professional protesters stopped traffic in Washington, D.C. close to the White House with the intent of shutting down all traffic for four hours, demanding that President Obama come down to listen to them as people tried to make their way to the Nets NBA game where the Royal family from England (Prince William and Duchess Katherine) would be attending.

So I ask, why the protests, with people from the Occupy movement, students and anarchists, who started with the death of a couple of blacks and the refusal of grand juries to indict the police officers who caused those deaths and then continued with other reasons they determined were civil rights?

Seems they just wanted to show they had power. But for what? They say "black lives matter," but nothing about all the people who die at the hands of other blacks. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, a

murder occurs every 37 minutes and over 7,000 blacks died in 2013 with over 96 percent murdered by other blacks.

A few days after Eric Garner died, Tavis Smiley confronted Bill O'Reilly by naming the five (5) black victims murdered at the hands of white cops. But he doesn't seem to care about the Black victims of violent deaths by black criminals. I guarantee there are many more than five. So who marches for them?

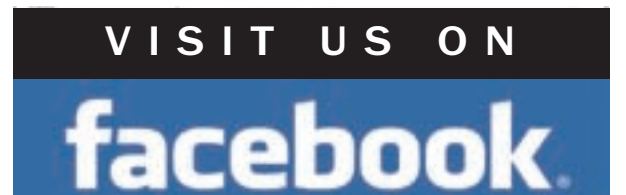
According to the Black Star project, headed by Phillip Jackson, just in Chicago alone, from January, 2012 to January, 2013, 174 black and brown youth were murdered, mostly by gunshot.

So let's pay homage to some of the real innocents.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tyrone Lawson, 17 | Rey Dorantes, 14 |
| Victor Vega, 15 | Michael Santiago, 21 |
| Marcus Turner, 19 | Ulysses Gissendanner, 19 |
| Devonta Grisson, 19 | Ezquiel Velasquez, 17 |
| Octavius Lamb, 20 | Junior Estudillo, 19 |
| Devante Watts, 19 | Neriyah Beller, 4 |
| Joshua Davis, 18 | Hakeem Walton, 20 |
| Kenton Scott, 15 | Jeffrey Stewart, 16 |
| Porsche Foster, 15 | Sherman Miller, 21 |
| Christopher Jacobs, 19 | Keith Noceda, 19 |
| Emilio Palomo, 16 | Freddie Hernandez, 20 |
| Sergio Oliva, 15 | Taylor Fitting, 16 |
| Anthony Bagsby, 20 | Darrell Austin, 19 |
| Rodney Stewart, 17 | Joshua Lowe, 20 |
| Travis Henry, 19 | Tre Henry, 19 |
| Devin Harris, 19 | Earl Cunningham, 18 |
| Marcus Freeman, 21 | Devon Greer, 21 |
| Denzell Williams, 21 | Patrick Robinson, 18 |
| Terrence Johnson, 17 | Terrance Wright, 18 |
| Jamiere Brown, 18 | Modell McCambry, 17 |
| Nawal Aysheh, 20 | Rakiem Douman, 21 |
| Jonathan Williams, 17 | Derek Davis, 17 |
| Francisco Merino, 19 | Dejuan Jackson, 17 |
| Edgar Ortiz, 20 | Thaddeus Tucker, 18 |
| David White, 21 | Jesus Garcia, 17 |
| Julia Duda, 2 months | Muhammed Kebbeh, 19 |
| Joseph Coleman, 18 | Jalen Stogner, 17 |
| Johnny Howell, 19 | Aaron Gaitan, 18 |
| Christopher Spraggins, 20 | Jamal Clayton, 19 |
| Lucian Dreux, 17 | Freddie Williams, 21 |

These are some of the names we need to talk about. And we don't have to block traffic and punish other innocent victims to "make a statement" nor "have our voices heard."

Barbara Howard is a political consultant, radio host and commentator and motivational speaker. She is Florida State chairwoman for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and Trade & Travel goodwill ambassador to Kenya. She may be reached at bhoward11@bellsouth.net.



Focus on the remedy



CALIBE THOMPSON

I've never seen a real noose. Never had someone from another race call me the "N" word. Never been intimidated by someone else based on my ethnicity. The majority of us West Indian blacks likely haven't. But these are experiences that many of our African-American friends have had first hand and I shudder to imagine them.

From my pedestal I can pontificate about who could have deescalated situations and how both police and young black men should carry themselves with more decorum and stop with this eternal power struggle. You see, I actually believe that both parties have a role to play in whether these black man / white man faceoffs end in tragedy. Police need to stop goading confrontation as some of the power trippers do, and black men need to recognize and defer to the authority of law enforcers. With the nooses and racial profiling and "N _ _ _ _" name calling though, I can understand how pent up frustration might lead a black man to talk back... aggressively.

That said, when all the young black man has is a loud voice and a hot temper, a bullet couldn't possibly be the right answer. Amazingly, American law says it is. Reality check - if the laws didn't make it so that open season on young black men could be cloaked under the legal shield of justifiable force, racial profiling would certainly still be an issue, but far fewer of our men would be dead.

In my mind, the nationwide protests that have been crippling families and businesses who had nothing to do with the verdicts we're protesting would be better held outside of police stations, government buildings and the offices of lawmakers. Inconvenience the people who can make a difference to your cause, not the innocent bystanders. Work on the solution instead of brooding on the problem. But people don't want to hear that. They just want to "make their voices heard" regardless of how helpless the people they force to listen are.

No, I don't know first hand the level of racism my African-American friends have endured, but we stand in solidarity with the community knowing that we must find remedies. We just need to find the smart way to make them happen.

Calibe Thompson is the outspoken host and producer of *The Caribbean Diaspora Weekly* and *Taste the Islands with Chef Irie*. Her book of collected opinion writings "Things I Probably Shouldn't Say" will be available in 2015. Contact her or find out more at www.calibe.net.

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Opinion



Black people are guilty until proved innocent

At eleven years old I was almost incarcerated at the Youth House in New York City for beating a white boy for calling me the N-word. My sister and I were two of a handful of black children allowed to attend Joan of Ark Junior High School on 93rd Street and Columbus Avenue, which was in a mostly upscale white neighborhood.

The boy was the son of a prominent Jewish physician and they lived nearby on plush West End Avenue. Lucky for me my mother arrived with a Rabbi family friend and my father sent an Italian lawyer. That Jewish physician wanted me in jail. The compromise worked out sent me to Harlem's James F. Cooper Junior High School and my sister was allowed to remain and graduate.

You see I was guilty, no matter what! In the eyes of the boy's father and white school administrators, I was the criminal. Of course the white teacher could have told how increasingly furious the boy had become because I constantly bested him in everything. That was not supposed to be. Apparently he had been taught that I was inferior to him. The other white students felt the same way, but they gave me

no trouble.

Generally, a great majority of white people and a smaller majority of black people would probably agree that I took the law into my own hands – as that popular preach propounds. However, how does justice prevail where there is no penalty for denigrating me, as a person? What about my inalienable rights? There was (is) no law against my being called the N-word by the progeny of former slavers and their allies.

There are several things that civil rights leaders touch very lightly, if at all. They include the illicit drug trade and its impact in so-called minority neighborhoods, and the criminal justice industry from street level law enforcement through incarceration and parole. It all begins with cops on the streets. Cops are busy profiling you but they miss how drugs get into neighborhoods and how the money gets out; or do they?

Fear of the Police Benevolent Association's powerful long arms have kept all manner of black leadership from determining the vetting process of white police

officers before they are allowed to patrol in non-white neighborhoods.

It is clearly provable just by the log of recent police violence against black males, that white police officers in black neighborhoods believe black people are guilty until proved innocent. You are black; therefore you may be doing something wrong. If they don't catch you this time they will keep trying. And they will provoke you hoping for an opportunity to beat you down or shoot you.

Too many white cops grew up in areas where the prevailing politics is white nationalism veiled as conservatism. A major point within that world-view is a historical despise of blacks, especially, and a distrust of all non-white people on planet Earth. These people are recruited and trained to control black and brown people with Rottweiler panache.

Some white cops may even be convicted felons or wife beaters. Many were marginal students who barely made it out of high school. Of those numbers the military was a popular safe haven, a place to get skilled at something, and to fight for the USA.



Would you expect a Rottweiler to comprehend social science, including economics? No. Then it is clear from the outset what the intent is for having these types with badges, guns, tasers and patrol cars in non-white areas of cities and towns. These types of cops are placed in non-white neighborhoods to control the people and protect white owned property.

And you can bet that their union tells them they can shoot people who "talk back" (those who foolishly invoke their constitutional right of free speech) and anyone else that even appears to be trouble, like if an officer feels startled by a person's innocent movement.

Remember black folks, in that white police officer's eyes, you may be guilty of something and he or she will make you prove that you are innocent.

Al Calloway is a longtime journalist who began his career with the Atlanta Inquirer during the early 1960s civil rights struggle. He may be reached at Al_Calloway@verizon.net

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Can the President de-escalate the broken trust with the police?



with many inconsistencies. But in Staten Island there was a

In the past two weeks, two local grand juries have made the decision that the presented evidence justified the acquittal of two police officers. In Ferguson, there was no video to support an indictment, so the rule of law prevailed, even

video, and based on the visual evidence, many think there was enough information for an indictment.

As a result of these two incidents, there have been mostly peaceful demonstrations and protests around the country, and no one can speculate when they will end. Some conservatives have charged the demonstrators with having a big party with no goals or purpose. They believe that the demonstrators are breaking the law, and delegitimizing the system of law.

But, the demonstrators feel they are justified with their decision to protest, because the grand juries are not impartial, and justice is not being served. In the advent of a local police murder case, the prosecutor and the police work closely together and many argue it is impossible to make a fair, impartial and credible decision.

Many would like to sweep these two cases under the rug, but injustice, police misconduct, and brutality no longer can be ignored, and allowed to exist. At the beginning of last week the president put together a task force to improve police and community relations. This is a proactive policing task force, but many experts think this is an action in futility.

The police operate as a fraternity, and the high crime areas receive aggressive, and corrupt policing, because violence is the mind-set of the law enforcement agencies. The community does not trust the police and the police do not respect the residents. This is an explosive situation, and there is a need for community organizations to monitor and police the police.

The sentiment all over the country is that police misconduct, brutality, militarism, and murder must end. Potential Democratic presidential contender Hilary Clinton says, "I'm very pleased the Department of Justice will be investigating what happened in Ferguson, and what happened in Staten Island. Those families, those communities, and the country deserve a full and fair accounting as well as whatever substantive reforms are necessary to ensure equality, justice and respect for every citizen."

But, I wonder if President Obama's police task force and the Department of Justice will be another government initiative that writes long reports, but gets little done. To begin with, there is a, them-against-us attitude that permeates in the police force and the community. As a result, there is a fundamental problem in the police department with integrity and many officers are corrupt.

The justice system is broken in America, and the residents in the black community do not feel safe when the police come around. When a black man is involved in an altercation with the police, the end result is usually jail or tragic.

The demonstrations around the country are good for America, because they have started a conversation about race. But, many of the demonstrators are protesting for the wrong reason, and they are shutting down highways and destroying businesses. Many really do not care about what happens in the black community, and the major question is what the young people will do after the protests are over.

There is a crisis with excessive police force in the black community. President Obama and Eric Holder must be applauded for trying to improve relations with the police and the black community. As Black Americans and people of good will fight for justice, everyone must remember, all we ask is to be treated as a human.

Roger Caldwell, a community activist, author, journalist, radio host and CEO of On Point Media Group, lives in Orlando. His book, The Inspiring Journey of a Stroke Survivor, details the story of his recovery from a massive stroke. He may be reached at jet38@bellsouth.net.



Racism is the cancer that is devouring our nation

I am not one to make public statements and, more especially, statements that are not complimentary to the country that I love. Yet, I am now feeling a compulsion to speak out. You see, I am also a member of the "silent majority" – the African-American silent majority that experiences capricious racism everyday but let it go unchallenged. There comes a time when enough is enough. For me, that time is now.

When 80 year Donald Sterling demonstrated unabashed hatred for his fellow Americans, in spite of the fact that they add significantly to his wealth, simply because of pigmentation, he helped me decide that enough is enough. When super rich Mark Cuban, who also is getting richer off people of color, showed more anger at the Sterling disclosure than he did by the blatant racist outburst, I, again, felt that enough is enough. When Grand Jury after Grand Jury exonerate white pathological white policemen, and vigilante would be policemen, for killing unarmed and juvenile black men, every black American absolutely knows and feels that enough is enough. But, actually, I have been feeling that enough is enough dating back to the ascendancy of Mr. Obama to the Presidency of this country.

Nowhere in history will you find those in leadership positions bold enough to actually say that they want the American President to fail. To want the duly elected President of the United States to fail is absolutely no different from saying that you want your country to fail and that you will do everything in your power to make that happen. How is that different from treason? Because this was a white man talking about a black man, the sentiment was tolerated. Never in the history of this country was anyone so emboldened that he could call the President of the United States a liar at a State-of-the-Union address. You fear no repercussions if you are a white man disrespecting a black man, even if he does hold the most powerful position in the world. Racism is a shield that protects such radical fools – and they know it and can rely on it.

When a white minister boldly announces from the pulpit that he wishes the President would die, his reason for that diabolical wish is embedded in racism. When the whole world witnesses the beating of Rodney King, via real time video, and the culprits were found not guilty, that is racism in practice. When a grown white man kills an unarmed, non-threatening black boy and

adjudged not guilty, that is racism. When a Grand Jury, with the tacit approbation of a prosecuting attorney, fails to indict a white policeman for killing an unarmed 18-year-old black youth that is a graphic display of institutional racism. When a former mayor of one of the most impressive cities in the world essentially sanctions the killing on the grounds that blacks kill blacks, as if to say – "what's the difference," it is official racism borne out of ignorance.

We pride ourselves for being a Judeo-Christian nation but are we really? These religions advocate love, peace, justice (as in fairness), and charity. As long as there is racism in this country, we tolerate hate, we allow violence to escape punishment, we mete out justice according to race and not according to fairness, and we denigrate the poor instead of helping them. However, there is a God who stands in judgment of all of us.

If and when we can cure the cancer of racism, I will sing from the mountaintop, God Bless America.

Gilbert L. Raiford is semi-retired after a career in teaching and working for the U.S. Department of State. He may be reached at graiford@hotmail.com

Soul emerges as the essence of Art Basel

PURVIS, FROM 1A

said that this, their first black art exhibit, would not be their last.

"This is a wonderful event that we look forward to participating in every year," said Griffith.

An artist whose work got significant attention is Shernette Muhammad. Her portraits of Purvis Young greet visitors as they enter the Lyric's lobby and offer a beautifully detailed, vibrant and accurate rendering of the artist whose work is the subject of the exhibit.

Muhammad said that she was introduced to Young in 2009 by a mutual friend who wanted the two artists to meet.

"He brought me over to his warehouse, I sat there, spoke with him for a little bit. Learned some things about his art, like the angels that he paints in his work and the horses and why he paints those things," said Muhammad, who asked Young if she could take the photo from which she eventually painted his likeness.

Besides reinforcing that she has a tremendous talent for painting portraits, creating the Purvis Young pieces helped Muhammad to realize much more.

"People have asked me before who influenced my work and I could never tell them anyone until now, I can finally say an artist that influences my work," said Muhammad, whose work focuses on conveying positive images of blacks.

Another first time visitor to the Lyric was investment banker, Emilio Coppin, 35, who said he was "just looking to explore a little bit of art, and the fact that it was black art sparked my interest even more."

Coppin said he's pleased to see Miami's black art scene expand. "I lived in New York for seven years prior to Miami so when I moved to Miami that's what I felt was lacking the most. But I've seen the exposure to art increase over the last few years."

Antoine Myers, 36, who works in accounting, was born and raised in Miami and is also visiting the Lyric for the first time. He said attended the exhibit because "anything that has to do with my culture I want to support."

As he enjoyed the exhibit's art, especially 'Revolting Hearts: The Terrorizing of Unarmed Males' by JaFleu, Myers sent text messages to other friends to encourage them to join him.

"I had a great time. This is a really laid back, marvelous atmosphere. I will be back and I will bring others."

Fleuranvil said the enthusiasm of the exhibits' patrons is an indication of black Miami's future.

"This year's Art Basel is a sign of what's to come with black Miami, black art. We're in a renaissance. I thought last year was big as far as black exhibits, black art, but this year is huge. We're probably going to start to see a transformation of how black is represented here in Miami."



DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

JAFLEU'S: Revolting Hearts: The terrorizing of unarmed males.

Blacks, minorities, targeted by police abuse of power

TORTURE, FROM 1A

the victim of an "intentional killing by Miami Beach Police Officer Jorge Mercado's unwarranted use of an electroshock device" in August 2013. The documentation submitted to the UN added that Hernandez' death "amounts to torture under Article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment."

Available data indicates such torture is alarmingly high. According to a 2012 Amnesty International publication, that organization "recorded the largest number of deaths following the use of Tasers in California (92), followed by Florida (65), and Texas (37)."

With outraged Americans all over the U.S. – including in South Florida – protesting peacefully about the decision not to move forward with criminal cases in the police killings of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Gardner in New York, the chilling findings in the UN report appalled local attorney activists.

"Clearly, we have a problem in communities across America that must be addressed with urgency and deliberate purpose," said Miami attorney Marlon Hill, in an emailed response. "it's time for institutions to change," said Alana Greer who works with Jagannath in Miami's Community Justice Project. "We're asking for accountability."

While much of the report's findings

about police violence were based on data with the Chicago Police Department, its recommendations were written with broad strokes that addressed police agencies nationwide. For example, the report called on police to "ensure that all instances of police brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement officers are investigated promptly, effectively and impartially by an independent mechanism with no institutional or hierarchical connection between the investigators and the alleged perpetrators." It further insisted that police "prosecute persons suspected of torture or ill-treatment and, if found guilty, ensure that they are punished in accordance with the gravity of their acts."

Such punishment would be relatively ground-breaking in Miami where it has been a quarter century since the last time a police officer has been even charged with breaking the law after killing a person. William Lozano, whose killing of Clement Lloyd in the late 1980's sparked Miami's most recent civil uprising there, was convicted on two counts of manslaughter (another person with Lloyd died from injuries from the motorcycle accident that ensued as a result of Lozano's shooting) in 1989. Lozano was acquitted four years later when his case was retried in Orlando.

Levi Williams, an attorney in Fort Lauderdale, was troubled by the apparent roots of the police violence. "We no longer have community policing," said

Williams who pointed out that – for the most part – gone are the days when a police officer lived in the neighborhood he or she was patrolling. "He or she was a neighbor. Now they are policing a neighborhood where they never grew up. There is no real vested interest in the community."

He added that this dynamic is not unlike how a military force relates to the people of a conquered territory, only, he added, "the rules of engagement are a little better" with the army than the police.

Greer wants to push a paradigm where communities are "building police departments that are responsive to communities and not at war with them."

Hill believes that all police officers should be held accountable to the professional expectation of their roles in society. "These incidences of police brutality indicate either a breakdown or complete disregard of law enforcement's professionalism in treating all our citizens equitably and with dignity under our Constitution. At its worst, it is an abuse of power."

That police power that Hill referred to is becoming more and more lethal as concerns mount over the ever-blurring lines between local and state police and a de facto military force. "Over the next decade we will see a full militarization of our police," predicted Williams.

Another area cited in the United Nations Torture report was the treatment

of under-aged criminal offenders. From concerns about sexual violence committed against younger inmates by adult inmates to long sentences, the UN report painted a bleak picture of conditions for minors accused and/or convicted of a crime in the United States: "The Committee remains concerned at the notable gaps in the protection of juveniles in the [U.S.] criminal justice system. In particular, the Committee expresses once again its concern at the conditions of detention for juveniles, including their placement in adult jails and prisons, and in solitary confinement."

While the UN report offers many suggestions and recommendations, Hill and Williams also have their own insight into what needs to be done to offer meaningful redress for the all-too-familiar crisis of black victims of police interactions.

"It will only be corrected in how the leadership of law enforcement agencies address issues of training and policies of accountability," said Hill, who is a past president of Caribbean Bar Association.

Williams sees the heretofore unchecked police violence against Americans of color as "a symptom of what's already in society." For him, that symptom points to a socioeconomic malady. Williams feels that if one is "not fighting for an expansion of economic rights" then he/she is being discriminatory.

"Economics is the new civil rights," said Williams.



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Business

The philosophical basis of the right to a decent wage

Much before the labor movement in America acquired legitimacy and power, the theoretical infrastructure was being laid down by an unlikely source.

We are talking about the nineteenth century, a time in which the terms "social justice" or "collective bargaining" were not in vogue - certainly not among the intelligentsia, or what today we would call the pundits and commentators.

This was an era much before the appearance of labor leaders like Joe Hill (born Joel Emmanuel Hagglund) and also much before Marx and Engels began to speak of workers' rights and pushing for class struggles and other radical ways of bringing about fairness in the workplace. It was more than a half century before the united nations of the world proclaimed, in 1948, the charter of human rights.

It was more than seven decades before an American judge, in Washington, D.C., proclaimed a principle under which a contract freely entered into by two parties could be broken by a branch of government and remade to reflect a more equitable allocation of rights and obligations. In American jurisprudence, until about 1960, the right of private property was considered so sacred that it was inconceivable for anyone except a rabble-rouser or an anarchist to suggest that it could be limited or scaled back by government in order to provide some measure of welfare to the poor or the workers.

They were assisted, in many instances, by charitable organizations, such as churches and other "eleemosynary" institutions, but not by government. In effect, the system of private enterprise was divided clearly between capital and labor; and capital hired labor as needed, paying for it as little as the market would bear — much in the same way as

consumers pay for products as cheaply as they can be found in the market.

It all began to change in 1891. In a document called an "encyclical," Pope Leo XIII shattered the myth of the absolute right of capital to set wages, pronouncing a higher "dictate of natural justice more imperious and ancient than any bargain between man and man." "Wages," argued the Pope, "ought not be insufficient to support a frugal and well-behaved wage-earner." And then the kicker: If through necessity or fear of a worse evil the workmen accepts harder conditions because an employer or contractor will afford him no better, he is made the victim of force and injustice."

The encyclical was called *Rerum Novarum* and subtitled "On the Conditions of the Working Classes." Almost fifty years later, according to Jonathan Alter (in his recently published book, *The Defining Moment*), an aide to Franklin Roosevelt suggested he read the famous encyclical. He apparently did, and soon was proclaiming his own version of a philosophical foundation for social justice as a basic human right.

He made it one of the Four Great Freedoms, and called it "Freedom from Want." Historians credit one, Frances Perkins for its inclusion with the more traditional listing, the trio that included: "Freedom of Speech," "Freedom from Fear" and "Freedom of Worship."

And who was Frances Perkins? Why, she was the first woman member of the cabinet and held the title of Secretary of Labor.

Xavier Suarez is a former mayor for the city of Miami and is currently Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 7. He has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Law Degree from Harvard University.



XAVIER SUAREZ



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Cruise ships docked at PortMiami.

PortMiami breaks another cruise passenger record

Staff Report

(MIAMI) — PortMiami, the Cruise Capital of the World, broke another world record processing approximately 4.8 million multi-day cruise passengers in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014.

FY 2014 CRUISE STATISTICS

Multi-day passengers: 4.77 Million
Daily passengers: 167,000
Total Cruise Brands: 13
Total ships: 32

In the 2014 cruise season MSC Cruises began sailing one of its newest ships, *MSC Divina*. Additionally, PortMiami welcomed Norwegian Cruise Line's newest ship, the *Norwegian Getaway*. PortMiami's cruise future looks even brighter.

New for 2015 is the arrival of Norwegian Cruise Line's 4,300 passenger new-build ship, the *Norwegian Escape*. The *Escape* will sail year-round from PortMiami beginning November 2015.

Many of PortMiami's current cruise partners are also expanding their Miami fleets. Carnival Cruise Lines' *Carnival Splendor* recently started sailing year-round from Miami. Aida Cruise Line is also adding three cruise ships to its line-up, *Aida Mar*, *Aida Vita*

and the *Aida Diva*. Additionally, Costa Cruises will introduce a second seasonal vessel to Miami, the *Costa Mediterranean*.

"Cruise passengers are essential to the continual growth and development of the tourism industry in Miami-Dade County," said Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez. "Cruise passengers contribute millions of dollars to our local economy annually including air travel, hotel nights, entertainment and shopping."

"PortMiami offers passengers enticing vacations for every taste and budget," said Port Director Juan M. Kuryla. "Additionally, our facilities are the most modern in the world. We want passengers to begin their vacation experience the minute they arrive to our Port. PortMiami's number one priority is our customer."

For Fiscal Year 2015, PortMiami will service 34 ships and 15 different cruise brands, including: Aida Cruises, Azamara Club Cruises, Carnival Cruise Lines, Celebrity Cruises, Costa Cruises, Crystal Cruises, Disney Cruise Line, Hapag-Lloyd Cruises, MSC Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, P&O Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Resorts World Bimini, and Royal Caribbean International.

Art Basel ends with protests



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN MANN

Activists in Miami outraged.

ART BASEL, FROM 3A

the memory of Hernandez, a local visual artist, who was tasered to death by Miami Beach police during the summer of 2013 as well as to maximize the potential for international exposure. "This is not just a local struggle."

While the struggle is not, for organizers, local, the location of the vigil was also symbolic. Art Basel moving into Wynwood is, according to Benford, "a very interesting contradiction." Like many other "historically black and Latino communities" in Miami like Allapattah, Little Haiti, said Benford, Wynwood continues to see more and more longtime residents displaced via the avaricious encroachment of developer-fueled gentrification. "We want to link national struggle to local sentiment," said Maxey. Also, Hernandez was a graffiti or "tag" artist and, historically, graffiti is associated with hip hop culture and poverty. "We wanted to make that economic link during one of the biggest money making weekends in Miami," said Benford.

When activists like Benford and Maxey speak of Art Basel as a huge money maker, they are not exaggerating. In a December 2013 article published in *Miami Today*, Michael Spring, director of Miami-Dade County's Department of Cultural Affairs, estimated that "more than \$2 billion of economic activity attributable to the arts and cultural events" rang the proverbial cash registers at Art Basel.

Those figures add fuel to the drive of activists. "Our pain and struggle is at the heart of creating the United States' economic system," said Maxey. She drew a direct connection between economics and aggression saying that violence has been used throughout U.S. history to maintain a social order that keeps people of color marginalized. Maxey described the intersection of money and death as an "intergenerational and multiethnic issue."

All told, organizers estimate that "over 600 people showed up." Maxey was pleased though not surprised. "We were able to catalyze energy that was already there. People are really itching to be a part of transformative processes."

At the same time that the vigil was held, the Miami Committee on State Violence published a document entitled "Vision for a Strong Community" which concludes with a four point "program of action" that endeavors to end state violence. The pillars of the Committee's vision are community driven public safety; restorative justice; support for trauma healing and family strengthening; and treatment of immigrant families and communities with respect.



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Soul Basel 2014



SOUL BASEL: First Wednesdays South Florida HBCU Alumni Social co-founders, and event co-hosts, Fabiola Fleuranvil and Edwin Sylvain.

SOUL BASEL Ashley Moncrieff with Michelle Hollinger at Soul Basel.

JaFleu's art expresses pain of recent tragedies

By **MICHELLE HOLLINGER**
Special to South Florida Times

When informed by a reporter that Eric Garner's killer would not be facing trial, JaFleu gasped, shook his head and said, "That's twice."

At 30, his physical presence mirrors the heavysset Garner, the Staten Island black man killed on July 17 when a police officer placed him in a choke hold; the deadly encounter captured on video.

Tall and large, JaFleu smiles easily and frequently, especially when talking about his art, which was on display at the Lyric Theater for the Black Archives' opening reception for 'A Man Among the People: A Purvis Homecoming' exhibition on Dec. 3, part of the Overtown Soul Basel events.

JaFleu's smile turned to an anguished expression when he learned that the Staten Island grand jury decided not to indict NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo for his role in Garner's death, ruled a homicide by the medical examiner.

"It frustrates me, it's so blatant, He gets choked and it's recorded, and it's illegal for you to choke in general, but the whole thing is recorded. How are we supposed to feel? Am I not supposed to be angry? Am I not supposed to be scared?" he said.

Referring to the Garner case as well as a Missouri grand jury's decision to not indict Officer Darren Wilson for the Aug. 9 murder of unarmed teen Michael Brown, "It's two for two. It's frustrating," he said in an exasperated sigh. "I'm glad that I have art and I can express it through that."

He also wants black children to be able to express themselves through art, so the internationally renowned artist teaches a free art class twice weekly in the Pleasant City community in West Palm Beach, where he resides. He said that helping the kids to go inside of themselves and use their feelings to express what they see and how it makes them feel is key.

"The whole objective of the class is for [them] to create [their] own interpretation so [they] can learn how to get a deeper understanding," he explained.

One of his teaching assignments called for his students to read Maya Angelou's poem, 'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,' and to then select six words "that really hit you." From those words, the young charges were to create their own poem and then a painting to express the poem.

Teaching young black children to use their minds and be creative is a part of the legacy that JaFleu is manifesting. He said that he tells the youth in his class, "We have minds, and I want you to use your mind and dig deep and find that thing in you because it's amazing."

He is mindful of children's tendency to respond to adults' expectations of them.

"If you keep telling people that they're royalty, they'll believe it. And then they act as if. Same thing with creativity, show them that they have that in them and then they use it," he said of his efforts to help his students to express themselves.

Expressing the inexpressible is what JaFleu has been doing since Jan. 10, 2010, the day a massive earthquake hit Haiti, his parents' birthplace.

"Literally the day of the earthquake in Haiti is when I started making art. I was at work and it just triggered something in me, I was seeing the images on TV and it did something in me and so I just kept drawing and drawing and posting it and everybody was like 'you should try to paint it.' So I started painting," he said.

In the nearly five years since, his work has been exhibited across the country, internationally and online as a part of the Google Open Gallery. He quit his job as a salesperson two years ago to pursue his dream full time.

He takes a minute to consider the question of legacy; and then flashing his easy smile says, "I want my legacy to be that he chased his dream and lived it to the fullest. And that he made work that mattered. It wasn't just pretty, but it mattered," said JaFleu.

One of his pieces that matters, especially now, is 'Revolting Hearts: The Terrorizing of Unarmed Males,' which he said was inspired by Brown's death.

"There's one where a guy is hanging on a cross and there's nooses. Realistically, that image could be harsh to look at, but...using colors and making it inviting so that you can have that conversation. I just want it to mean something," he explained. "I want people when they feel my work, they feel it on a different level. It's deeper than what's on the canvas, there's a real emotion there, something that they can connect to."



SOUL BASEL: Emilio Coppin examines art.

DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES



SOUL BASEL: JaFleu discusses his art with exhibit patrons.

DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES



SOUL BASEL: Antoine Myers appears to be in deep thought as he examines art.

DAVID I. MUIR/FOR SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES

PALM BEACH

Quantum Foundation awards \$750,000 to agencies



Musicians from Faith's Place Center in West Palm Beach entertained the crowd with steel drums and singing.

Staff Report

WEST PALM BEACH — On Tuesday, Nov. 18, Quantum Foundation hosted a celebratory breakfast event at the Gaines Park Community Center to award grants totaling \$750,000 to 66 small, grassroots organizations in Palm Beach County. The annual Quantum in the Community initiative provides funds for operating support in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 to qualifying nonprofits that help meet the basic needs—like food, clothing and transportation—of the county's most vulnerable residents. The 66 grantee organizations represented all four corners of the county,

from Tequesta to Boca Raton and from Belle Glade to Riviera Beach.

"We're a health-focused foundation," said Quantum Foundation President Eric M. Kelly. "We want to make a real impact on the health of the county. Our goals are for people to manage their own health, have access to resources for health and to strengthen the connections between organizations in the health system. But we understand that it's impossible to live a healthy life if your basic needs aren't being met. Good nutrition, adequate clothing, secure housing, transportation to help you get to work — these are some of the building blocks of good health and a healthy community.

We are humbled by what these organizations do, often on a shoestring budget. We're so grateful to be able to continue supporting them."

This year, four of the 66 organizations receiving grants are:

FOOD

Church of the Harvest, Pahokee: This project provides food to local people in need — 400 to 600 bags of food every single week! The food pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A satellite site, which provides an additional 150 bags of food, is open every other Thursday in South Bay. Those needing to make use of the pantry or anyone who would like to support this worthwhile endeavor should contact Barbara Iderosa at pahokeeharvest@aol.com, 561-924-7776.



Quantum Foundation President Eric M. Kelly with Program Officer Shannon Hawkins, Board Member Donna Mulholland and the foundation's CFO, Joe Paskoski.

TRANSPORT

Wheels from the Heart, Boca Raton: This wonderful organization was founded in response to a desperate need in the community — low-income single mothers who need dependable transportation in order to work and support themselves and their children. Since it officially started operating in January 2014, the organization has given away 15 cars to worthy working moms. If you could donate a vehicle that would be wonderful but there are many other ways to help. Contact

PLEASE TURN TO GRANTS/2B

MIAMI-DADE

Teacher turned children's author shows work at Book Fair

Staff Report

MIAMI — Robbin Times-Dudley is a winner in the classroom, judging by the respect she gets from her fellow educators. Now she's gaining respect for stories she creates based on childhood memories.

"I don't think I will ever forget the time when one of our cats killed a mouse, and placed it next my little sister's pillow as a gift. Although we were left speechless and a little startled at the time, we knew his intentions were good," said Dudley, a celebrated South Florida elementary school teacher and now published children's book author.

This is one of many unforgettable memories of the antics of her family's colorful cats that had plenty of attitude and pride that provided Dudley with material to help fulfill a long-life desire—to become a children's book author.

Dudley recently scored two victories: first, she was voted 2014-2015 Teacher of the Year at Natural Bridge Elementary School located in North Miami. Secondly, she debuted as a children's book author at Miami-Dade College's 31st Annual



Candace Lynn reads to kids.

Miami Book Fair International, reading excerpts from her first book titled *Jasper, the Fetching Cat* to a packed house of children and parents at the Children's

Storytellers Pavilion.

Dudley is one of several African-American, Latin and Caribbean authors who participated in book signings,

reading and one-on-one sessions at the Miami-Dade Colleges' annual book fair, which is one of the largest literary festivals in the country.

"The laughter, the gasps, the curious looks and smiles on the faces of the children and their parents as a read about Jasper's escapades were priceless. I have always believed that if reach a child and pique their interest you can teach a child," said Dudley.

Jasper, the Fetching Cat, which is published by Author House under Dudley's pen name Candace Lynn, tells the story about a cat's comfort and security in once "purrfect" home threatened by the arrival of a newcomer.

"I hope Jasper's antics will help children and families recognize their pets' talents and worth. More importantly, I want to encourage our students to read by providing them with thought provoking and fun reading material," said Dudley. I also enjoy nurturing the gifts of the students in my care every day. Writing this book allows me to reach and teach children of all ages around the world," Dudley added.

PLEASE TURN TO AUTHOR/2B

SOUTH FLORIDA

Tri-Rail holds kids' talent contest



South Florida transit system searches for young super stars.

Staff Report

POMPANO BEACH — Tri-Rail invites talented kids ages 5 to 17 to audition for "South Florida's Kids Got Talent," a singing competition held as part of Tri-Rail's "Rail Fun Day." Kids throughout Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties are encouraged to audition for the chance to compete in the judged event. Auditions will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday at SFRTA/Tri-Rail's Administrative Offices, located at 800 NW 33rd Street in Pompano Beach.

"Tri-Rail is excited to continue its annual tradition of showcasing the incredible talent of our local youth during our annual Rail Fun Day event," said Bonnie Arnold, public information officer of SFRTA/Tri-Rail. "This is the perfect platform to connect with the communities that we serve and further our position as the way to travel throughout the region."

Over the past four years, South Florida's Kids Got Talent has brought together several talented

acts all on one stage. Last year, twelve-year-old Jade Master of Royal Palm Beach took home the \$500 grand prize with her rendition of *The Girl in 14G* by Tony-winning actress Kristin Chenoweth.

The competition is open to solo or group singers who are South Florida residents ages 5-17. Each act will have a 4-minute opportunity to perform at the auditions. A panel of judges will select the acts that will compete in the final competition, which is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24, during Tri-Rail's "Rail Fun Day." Only one act will be selected to win the \$500 grand prize.

Over the past six years, Tri-Rail's "Rail Fun Day" has welcomed more than 12,000 families to experience the convenience of riding the train to get to work, school and local events and attractions. The event has become an annual tradition for South Florida families to provide a free afternoon of interactive games, arts crafts, food sampling and entertainment while promoting the benefits of riding commuter rail system.

MIAMI-DADE

South Miami-Dade Alphas and UM AKAs package Hope Totes for the homeless residents



Brothers Paul King Jr. (left) and Leslie Elus delivering hope totes to the Miami Rescue Mission.

Staff Report

SOUTH MIAMI — Members of the Iota Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, based in from South Miami, partnered with the ladies of the Iota Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to create hope totes for homeless residents of Miami-Dade County.

The totes consisted of toilet paper, hair combs, hair brushes, toothbrushes and paste, soap, sanitary wipes, disposable razors, shaving cream, body wash, deodorant, lotion, washcloths, tampons, maxipads, and hair shampoo and conditioner. Donations were solicited from members of both groups and the University of Miami community.

The hope tote collection campaign is an initiative led by the Miami Rescue Mission to distribute basic hygiene essentials to displaced residents. In total, over 40 complete bags and 1 large box of assorted items were donated by the group. The retail value of the donation was designated at nearly \$500.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE ELUS

Around South Florida



ELGIN JONES
EJones@SFLTimes.com



STARBUCK'S BEER?
Starbucks is known for its world famous coffee, but now the Seattle-based company has announced it will begin selling beer at its stores as well. CEO Howard Schultz says the company will also begin providing mobile ordering and more menu choices.

SCHULTZ

Palm Beach County



EBBOLE

LEADERSHIP CHANGE
Tana Ebbole is stepping down as CEO of the Palm Beach County Children's Services Council. She joined the agency in 1989 and was promoted to CEO in 1994. She is retiring and has expressed a desire to "pass the torch" to a younger generation. Lisa Williams-Taylor, the organization's chief programming officer, is taking her place as CEO. It remains unclear if the appointment is permanent.



TAYLOR



WARDRUP

RAPE REPORT
Robert Wardrup, 56, is charged in the kidnapping and rape of a 15-year-old girl at John Prince Park in Lake Worth. According to the police report, the girl was fishing when Wardrup approached and pulled her into the woods and molested her. He then told her to wait at the park while he went to buy cigarettes. She was then able

to summon someone, who called 911 to report the incident.



TAYLOR

DIRECTOR RESIGNS

Dennis Coates resigned as executive director of the South Central Regional Water Treatment Plant in Boynton Beach. He is under criminal investigation for allegedly stealing more than \$60,000 worth of copper and other metals from the agency and selling it to scrap yards. The agency provides wastewater treatment services for the cities of Boynton Beach and Delray. Boynton Beach Mayor Jerry Taylor expressed surprise and sadness over the news about the well-liked Coates who was hired in 2008.

Broward County



BARREIRO

TRI-RAIL CONTROVERSY

The South Florida Regional Transportation Authority is the agency that operates the Tri-Rail commuter trains. They are about to select a company to build their new \$40 million headquarters in Pompano Beach and it is chock full of controversy. Two companies, Gulf Building and MCM are in the running. Even though MCM is more experienced and submitted a bid some \$700,000 less than Gulf, a committee has recommended awarding the contract to Gulf. South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Chairman, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Bruno Barreiro, and other board members are questioning how the selection committee made its recommendation.

FRAUDULENT SALES

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission has fined Hallandale Beach-based Gold Distributors and its owner Jordan Cain, \$1.3 million for allegedly conducting illegal, off-exchange transactions in precious metals and

never providing the metals they sold to investors. It is unclear if any criminal charges are under consideration.

MORE CHARGES

Jeffery London, 51, the former youth mentor at Bible Church of God in Fort Lauderdale and dean at Eagle Charter Academy in Lauderdale Lakes, was acquitted on charges of molesting dozens of boys in his care. He now faces federal charges for allegedly using his cell phone to lure boys for sexual purposes. If convicted, London faces up to 10 years in prison.

Miami-Dade County

ILLEGAL HARVEST

Operation Rock Bottom has snagged the operators of D.R. Imports Inc., a Miami marine-life company. Operation Rock Bottom targets who people that illegally harvest coral and other protected species from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary waters. Robert V. Kelton and Bruce Brande are accused of conspiring to sell live coral and creating fake import invoices indicating the items came from Haiti. Live rock, which is fossilized coral, is highly sought after by aquarium owners. If convicted, they face up to five years in prison.



BROWN

FERGUSON IN MIAMI

Demonstrations against police shootings of black men have come to Miami. Protesters disrupted traffic during demonstrations over the police killings of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. and Eric Garner in New York, an incident captured on video. Still, no charges. What does that say about body cameras on law enforcement officers? Clearly more needs to be done. There are protests taking place around the country; some have turned violent and involved

looting. Demonstrations in South Florida have been peaceful.

Monroe County

FOUNDATION WINNERS

The Key West Art & Historical Society will receive \$20,000 in cash, and a \$15,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to coordinate a "Kinetic Sculpture Parade" and begin a children's education program. The Foundation reached out to organizations in the Florida Keys and encouraged them to apply for grants.

ANOTHER SETTLEMENT

The City of Key West has settled another discrimination lawsuit, to the tune of \$100,000. Plaintiff Kia Scott was a security guard and custodian at the city's Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. When she requested leave under the Family Medical Leave act to have a baby, she alleged harassment and threats of termination. When Scott returned to work about two weeks after giving birth, she was fired.



RAMSEY

NO CHARGES

Charges have been dropped against two off-duty Monroe County Sheriff's deputies involved in a 2013 road rage incident. Deputies Darnell Durham and Kyle Page were riding motorcycles when they passed a vehicle driven by Brian Moore, with Sandra Willis as a passenger. Durham allegedly kicked the passenger-side door of Moore's truck and sped off. They then followed the truck and Durham brandished a handgun and pointed it at Moore. The incident occurred in Monroe County, but the investigation was handled by the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. A sheriff department internal affairs investigation determined the deputies violated policy and engaged in misconduct. Sheriff Rick Ramsey suspended both and ordered Durham taken off the road and reassigned to work at the courthouse.

Grassroots agencies get funding help

GRANTS, FROM 1B

Steven Muschlitz at sfmwheels@aol.com to learn more or visit wheelsfromtheheart.org 561-445-7444.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Hugs and Kisses, Royal Palm Beach: Hugs and Kisses pays living expenses directly to creditors of cancer patient families to ease the stress and anxiety of a difficult time in their lives. The organization assists with mortgages/rent, utilities, car payments and other urgent bills. In 2014, Hugs & Kisses received 23 applications for support totaling \$40,000. If you'd like to ease the struggles of a family coping with cancer, via financial assistance or by volunteering your time and skills, please contact Mavae Andrea at mavae.andrea@hugsandkissesinc.org or visit hugsandkissesinc.org 561-819-9471.

BASIC NEEDS FOR FOSTER YOUTH

My Own Home Project, West Palm Beach: This organization provides young adults exiting foster care in Palm Beach County with the basic household items needed to begin independent lives. The project provides these young people with a bed, microwave, toaster, pots & pans, towels, bedding, tool kit, etc. so they can begin their lives like any fortunate teenager heading off into the world. Since operations started in 2012, My Own Home Project has given away \$80,000 worth of goods to foster children aging out of the system. There are many ways you can help, directly and indirectly. If you could help warm the heart of a foster child, please

contact Erin Udell at erin@myown-homeproject.org. Visit myown-homeproject.org, or call 772-807-2235

Applications for Quantum in the Community grants open in the fall every year and funds are awarded each November. To qualify, applicant organizations must be based in Palm Beach County and have annual cash expenses of less than \$500,000. The board of Quantum Foundation approved the Quantum in the Community initiative in 2011 when economic surveys showed local nonprofits were struggling to keep their doors open in the troubled economy. Since then, the foundation has awarded a total of \$2.5 million to these projects in addition to the approximately 6.5 million it invests each year in other major health-related initiatives.

To learn more about the Quantum in the Community initiative, please visit the organization's website at: www.quantumfund.org/quantum-in-the-community



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACEY BENSON

Quantum Foundation Board Member Donna Mulholland addresses 66 local nonprofits at the Quantum in the Community breakfast.

Brightstar Credit Union, Family Central hold toy drive

Staff Report

SUNRISE -- BrightStar Credit Union, one of the largest credit unions in South Florida, is holding its annual Holiday Toy Drive at its headquarters in Sunrise and at each of its seven locations in Broward County. The drive is in partnership with Family Central, a not-for-profit that for 42 years has played a pivotal role in the lives of South Florida families.

"The toy drive is a great way for BrightStar members and employees to join forces to help make a difference in the community," said Sam Chesser, BrightStar Credit Union's Vice President of Marketing. BrightStar has held an annual Holiday Toy Drive for the past six years and has donated more than 1,000 toys.

A Toy Drive drop box has been placed at each BrightStar location for employees and members to provide unwrapped toy donations. Unwrapped toys will be accepted with the exception of toy weapons. Gift cards and movie passes are also welcome.

For a list of BrightStar's seven locations and headquarters in Sunrise, visit <https://bscu.org/Locations/index.html>. The deadline to drop off toys is Monday, Dec. 15.

Teacher goes from classroom to Miami Book Fair stage



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUND OFF MEDIA CONCEPTS

Candace Lynn holding book.

AUTHOR, FROM 1B

Dudley feels blessed to play a role in the education of our children who will one day blaze their own trails to success. She has taught at Coral Gables, Rockway, and Scott Lake Elementary Schools before joining the staff at Natural Bridge seven years ago.

She takes pride in using her creative writing and public speaking skills to enhance her students' performance, build bridges with parents and guardians, and interact with colleagues.

She is a native of South Florida, born in Miami Beach. She earned a bachelor's degree at Florida State University and later a Master's of Education degree from American International University.

Jasper, the Fetching Cat is now available online at major book retailers. She is already working on her second and third books which are expected to be released next year.

Living WITH ETIQUETTE

Hosted or Unhosted: Misappropriation of an invitation

During the holiday season there are many events to attend that there just don't seem to be enough time or calendar space. However, what is the appropriate time, or method, to extend an invitation to guests when the request is "pay-your-own-way"?

For many, planning an event whether for a holiday social, birthday, bridal shower, etc., there are very important rules to social engagement and one of those rules is the manner in which an invitation is used, or extended. The social decorum rule for inviting guests with an invitation is the person who is inviting and "hosting" the event is the person who is expected the pay for the event. Why would you invite a person to lunch, dinner, or wherever and not pay unless, you clearly state the meeting is specifically "Dutch"— which is both parties agreeing to pay the bill separately.

However, what shall one do when an event or social gathering is organized and the event is "un-hosted?" One thing for certain, an invitation should not be used as the initial form of communication to notify guests only because essentially when inviting guests to spend their own funds is considered a social faux-pas. Who needs an invitation to spend their own funds?

So the dilemma presented is, what is the appropriate way for guests to be invited to attend a party that is organized, un-hosted, requesting guests to pay to attend?

For starters, when the word "hosted" is used on an invitation it is insinuating the event is paid by the host, or a party of people working with the host. The point here is the event is paid for and guests should not be expected to pay to attend.

When planning an "un-hosted" event, make a list of the guests to attend. This list will come in handy as the organizer or coordinator, not the host, of the event will need to contact each person or guest, via phone or email, in lieu of sending a formal invitation.

When organizing or coordinating an event which is "un-hosted" a formal invitation should not be the initial method of communication to guests. Rather a phone call and/or email is sufficient - though this form of communication, not sending an invitation, may seem very informal, is quiet an appropriate action for an "un-hosted" event.

Once the organizer establish contact with guests of the party, a simple invitation may be released to attendees indicating "as a reminder" of the date, time & location of the event. Additionally, to remind guests of the average cost of the meal expected to be paid which should be reflected on the invitation note. This way the organizer is not inviting guests with an invitation - rather reminding guests of an event which was already discussed, and organized.



Rose Hedgemond is CEO of Avenues of Excellence and an etiquette and social protocol professional. Do you have an etiquette or social protocol question? Email her at info@avenuesofexcellence.com or follow her on Facebook at Rose Hedgemond and Twitter @AOE_IN.

Obituaries

Post-Dispatch sports columnist Burwell dies



Bryan Burwell

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Bryan Burwell, a longtime sports columnist with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, died Thursday after a short battle with cancer. He was 59.

The newspaper made the announcement on its website, stltoday.com. Sports editor Roger Hensley said in a statement that Burwell was one of the most well-respected

journalists in his field.

"As great as Bryan was as a journalist, he was even better as teammate, as a co-worker and as a friend," Hensley said.

The Associated Press Sports Editors named Burwell one of the top 10 sports columnists in the country in 2007.

Among those posting condolences on Twitter were Albert Pujols, Chris Long and Warren Sapp. Fellow Post-Dispatch columnist Bernie Miklasz, who had carried on a friendly rivalry, lamented the loss of a "dear, sweet friend and colleague."

Professional sports franchises in St. Louis offered condolences for a man whose last assignment was the Rams' Monday night game against the 49ers in mid-October.

"Bryan had a tremendous presence and was always a pleasure to work with," Cardinals general manager John Mozeliak said. "His energy and passion for sports will be missed. I always appreciated his banter and smile."

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig said

he was shocked by the news.

"From his recent coverage of the Cardinals to chronicling the national pastime as a whole, Bryan's passion and professionalism were evident throughout his long and distinguished sports media career," Selig said.

"We are saddened by the loss of a man who was a true gentleman, professional and friend to so many of us," the Rams said in a statement. "Bryan was passionate, honest, insightful, hard-working and fair."

Burwell joined the Post-Dispatch in 2002 after working as a correspondent for HBO's *Inside the NFL*. During a long career, Burwell also wrote columns for USA Today and The Detroit News, and worked in New York at the Daily News and Newsday.

Among the major events Burwell covered was Michael Jordan's comeback and sprinter Ben Johnson's expulsion from the Seoul Olympics after a positive drug test. He authored a biography of John Madden.

Burwell is survived by his wife, Dawn, and a daughter, Victoria.

Classifieds

LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLICATION OF BID SOLICITATIONS

Broward County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting bids for a variety of goods and services, construction and architectural/engineering services. Interested bidders are requested to view and download the notifications of bid documents via the Broward County Purchasing website at: www.broward.org/purchasing.



Tell us what you think... The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization invites you to review and provide comments on our Public Participation Plan.

We invite you to review and comment on our draft Public Participation Plan (PPP), available on our website under the "Public Involvement" tab at www.browardMPO.org. This plan guides our community outreach and public participation efforts. The draft plan will be taken to the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization's (Broward MPO) Board for approval on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the MPO Board Room, located in the Trade Centre South Building, 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 850, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309. You may submit your comments until close of business on February 11, 2015. Comments can be submitted in various ways:

- Email: info@browardMPO.org Please insert Public Participation Plan in the title of the e-mail.
- Mail: Trade Centre South Building, 100 West Cypress Creek Road, Suite 850, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309.
- Phone: 954-876-0036.
- Fax: 954-876-0062.

For further information regarding the PPP or to request a copy, contact 954-876-0036 or email to info@browardmpo.org

For complaints, questions or concerns about civil rights or nondiscrimination; or for special requests under the American with Disabilities Act, please contact: Christopher Ryan, Public Information Officer/Title VI Coordinator at (954) 876-0036 or ryanc@browardmpo.org

William Mays dies at 69



William Mays

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Prominent Indianapolis executive and black community leader William Mays has died at age 69.

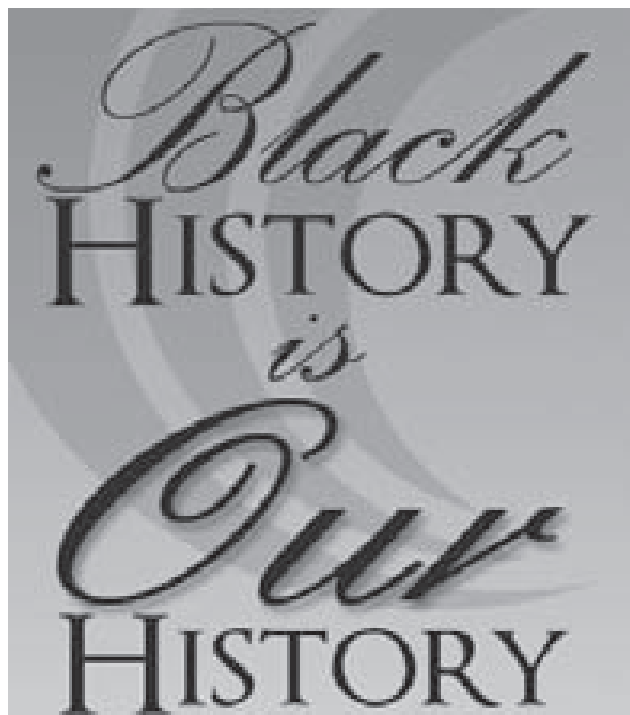
The Indianapolis Recorder newspaper that Mays owned says he died Thursday.

Mays was an Evansville native who graduated from Indiana University. He established Mays Chemical Co. in Indianapolis in 1980 and also owned radio and television stations and commercial and residential properties.

He was the first black person to be board chairman of the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard says the city has lost a titan of industry and philanthropy.

Indiana Black Expo president Tanya Bell says Mays was an advocate for the African-American community who mentored numerous small businesses.



JAY'S FUNERAL HOME



BENITO ABRAHAM, 66, Security Guard, died December 3. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday, at Kingdom Covenant.

ANNIE BELL COLSTON, 93, Laborer, died December 4. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday, at Jay-Johnson Chapel.

VERGIE HAMMETT, 89, Home-maker, died December 7. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday, at Jay-Johnson Chapel.



CLAUDE MARS, 53, Mechanic, died November 29. Funeral will be held 3 pm Sunday, at Jay's Chapel.



JOHN MINGO, 54, Maintenance Man, died December 7. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday, at The Bethel Church.



RANGE FUNERAL HOME



ASHLEY HOWARD WILKINSON, 56, Vocal Virtuoso, died December 5. Service 11 am Monday at Range Chapel.



GREGG L. MASON FUNERAL HOME



MILDRED WALLACE, 93 died November 29. Survivors include: two daughters, Winifred and Norma (Hansel); two sons, Roy (Rosie) and Paul Hugh (Ruby); grandchildren, Vernon (Teddy), Marilyn, Wayne(Kristi), Kildare (Charlene), Kingsley, Nada, Vivine Vashti (Jerome), David (Michelle) and Gordon; a host of other relatives and friends. Memorial service from 4-6 pm Friday, December 12, at Church of the Open Door, 6001 NW 8th Avenue, Miami, FL.

PAX VILLA FUNERAL HOMES - Orlando



MARIE FRANCOIS, died December 1, in Orlando, FL. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at First Haitian Baptist Church of Orlando - Orlando, FL.

LOUIS MARI SAINT HILAIRE, died December 1, ouis Mari Saint Hilaire died December 1, in Orlando, FL. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints - Orlando, FL.

WADE FUNERAL HOME



GERALD VINCENT LAUDATO, 82, Retired Marketing Director, died December 5, at Home, Memorial Services will be held 5 pm Thursday at Wade Funeral Home Chapel.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - MLK



MARY IVORY, 70, Retired Nurse, died December 8, at Miami Jewish Nursing Home. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Life Ministries.

BONITA JOHNSON, 60, Home-maker, died December 6 at home. Funeral will be held 4 pm Saturday in the chapel.

ELLEN PRINGLE, 75, Home-maker, died December 1, at North Shore Hospital. Funeral will be held 12 pm Saturday at First Deliverance Fellowship Church.

MILTON ALLEN SAMUEL, 26, Deli-man, died December 2, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

THELMA TURNER, 60, died November 26, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

STEPHANY WILLIAMS, 54, Housewife, died December 2, at North Shore Hospital. Funeral will be held 2 pm Saturday in the chapel.

DAVID WILSON, JR., 30, Laborer, died December 3, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at MLK Chapel.



MITCHELL FUNERAL HOME



GLENDIA PIERCE COOPER, 59, of Miami, died December 6, at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Viewing 4 pm to 8 pm Friday. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Greater Fellowship M.B. Church. Mitchell Funeral Home Directing.



MANKER FUNERAL HOME



DOROTHY LEE LUCKY, 84, Nurse, died December 3, at North Shore Medical Center. Funeral was held Saturday.

ETHEL MAE MATHIS, 59, Home-maker, died December 3, at her residence. Funeral arrangements are incomplete

LOUISE O'BRYANT, 85, Home-maker, died December 4 at Memorial of Pembroke. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Manker Memorial Chapel.

BARBARA JEAN OWENS aka "BJ", 66, died December 3, at Jackson North Medical Center. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Manker Memorial Chapel.

IRVING ROBINSON, 51, Construction Worker, died December 3, at Baptist Hospital. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Temple Missionary Baptist Church.

ROBERT TILLMAN, 85, Cab Driver, died December 1, at Arch Plaza Nursing Home. Funeral was held Monday.



HALL-FERGUSON-HEWITT MORTUARY



ALBERTHA DAWKINS, 75, Retired Nurse, died December 7th. Litany will be held 6 pm Friday at Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Chapel. Funeral Service will be held 1 pm Saturday at Hall-Ferguson-Hewitt Chapel.

LOTTIE RIVERS, 82, Machine Operator, for Borden's died December 3. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at New Beginning Baptist Church, 2125 NW 155 Street.

DOROTHY MAE SMITH 84 died December 7. Arrangements Are Incomplete.

JAMES C. BOYD FUNERAL HOME



JESSIE D. ARCHIE, 73. Funeral will be held in Valdosta, Georgia.

VARIE BAKER, 96. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

MINNIE BLACK, 89. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday at Springfield Baptist Church located at 925 NW 12th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

ANDREW EUGENE RICHARDSON, 60. Memorial Service was held 11 am Wednesday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.

DIAMOND SELF, 16. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Greater Mt. Pleasant A.M.E. Church located at 2341 Forrest Street, Hollywood, Florida.

TOMMY SHERROD, 74, died Monday December 1.

JAMES TAYLOR SMITH, 64, died December 4.

LOYD WILLIAMS, 77. Funeral will be 2 pm Saturday at James C. Boyd Funeral Home.



WRIGHT & YOUNG FUNERAL HOME



NATHANIEL DOYLE, 17, Student, died December 5. Funeral will be held 1 pm Saturday at Peace M.B. Church.

LEROY MCKENZIE, 72, died December 2. Funeral 11 am Saturday at New Jerusalem Primitive Baptist Church.

ANDREW SMITH, 54, TV Tech II, died December 5. Funeral will be 11 am Saturday at Antioch M.B. Church of Miami Gardens.

TIMOTHY SMITH, 55, Laborer, died December 2. Funeral 2 pm Saturday in the chapel.

HADLEY DAVIS FUNERAL HOME - Miami Gardens



OTIS BURNS, 82, Retired Truck Driver, died December 4, at Jackson North Hospital. Funeral will be held 11 am Saturday at Mt. Carmel Missionary Baptist Church.

WILLIAM CASION, 91, died December 7, at Aventura Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.

ROSE GREEN, 50, Retired Manager, died November 29, at North Shore Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete.



PAX VILLA FUNERAL HOMES - Miami



JEAN EVENS BELLEVUE, died, November 28, in Homestead, FL. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday, at Mount Calvary Community Faith Church, 755 NW 2nd Street, Florida City, FL.

MICHAEL BLANCHARD, died November 20, in Miami, FL. Services were held on Saturday, December 6, at Trinity Church of Miami (Miami Gardens, Florida).

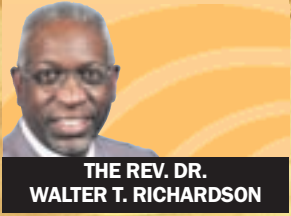
ROGER BY, died November 27, in North Miami Beach, FL. Funeral will be held 10 am Saturday, at Eglise Evangelique Baptist Mount Zion, 6720 NE 5th Avenue, Miami, FL.

ROSELINE LEROY DUQUENE, died, November 29. Funeral will be held in Gonaives, Haiti on December 17.

DANIEL GEFFRARD, died November 29, in Miami, FL. Services were held on Saturday, December 6, at First Interdenominational Haitian Church (Miami, Florida).



Prayerful Living



THE REV. DR.
WALTER T. RICHARDSON

I can't breathe, but I can Pray

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you." ~ Luke 13:31, NIV

According to the Christian Scriptures, at least twice in the life of Jesus, Herod the king wanted to kill him. When Jesus was born, Herod was jealous and incensed that another king would be worshipped (Matthew 2: 1-22). When Jesus as an adult performed miracles, preached good news to the disinherited, and spoke out against evil, another Herod wanted Jesus to be killed (Luke 13:31-35). Herod wanted to stop Jesus from breathing, thus cutting short His marvelous message and His mesmerizing miracles. Jesus, by many accounts, was a powerful black man and was killed violently!

Ferguson, Missouri and New York, New York have become the flashpoints for the moral outrage related to the violence against black men and their disproportionately high rates of arrest and incarceration. To those who argue that African American males, particularly youth, commit more crimes involving weapons, the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports something very different. In its 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, whites and African Americans reported similar rates of carrying a weapon (whites 17.9 percent and African Americans 15.2 percent) and similar rates for carrying a gun (whites 5.5 percent and African Americans 6.5 percent). However, African Americans accounted for 32 percent of all weapons arrests, and were arrested for weapons offenses twice the rate of whites (69 per 100,000 vs. 30 per 100,000). A community leader said when this report was made public, "If young white males were dying or being imprisoned in these numbers there would have been a political protest raised up long ago. Something would have been done." It appears from these statistics that there are some glaring disparities.

Many are working to promote nonviolent protests, civil disobedience and prayer in response to these most recent events of disparate treatment, where neither victim was armed, but both were black. The church (both black and white) must raise the level of moral outrage within our congregations against what is happening to young black men to the intensity during slavery, segregation and apartheid.

We face a moral and social crisis related to black males. It is a crisis that many are blind to or ignore as long as it doesn't spill over into their lives. It is a crisis

that is turning us into the largest penal colony in the world. And although it is a skin problem, it's a sin problem.

And, so we pray:

O God, our help in times past:

We come in this season of Advent and wait for new light!

We come in this normally joyous season remembering that our human family is broken and divided along lines of race, religion, power and privilege.

Our prayers go out to the families of Mike Brown and Eric Garner as they grieve their profound losses under the glare of the public eye.

Our prayers go out to the communities of Ferguson and New York and elsewhere as people hurt, cry, shout, and struggle to express their deep rage and disappointment in rational ways. Our prayers are with them as they do the hard work of responding and rebuilding.

Our prayers go out to Darren Wilson and Daniel Pantaleo, men whose lives have been changed forever, living with the burden of knowing that they ended the lives of other human beings.

Our prayers go out to law enforcement officers whose work is often hard and lonely. Our prayers go out to them knowing they are caught in systems designed to uphold the status quo. We pray that law enforcement agencies heed the call to review, reform, and in some cases remove practices and policies that are not fair to all peoples.

May we find the courage to speak the truth of our own fear that it may not harden into hate. May we seek to balance the imbalances, right the wrongs, fill the empty, and forgive the seemingly unforgivable. O God of our growing and changing world, give us the grace that endures incredulity and fortify us to possess and maintain moral and spiritual integrity.

We breathe now, and say the name of Him that matters, Jesus! Amen

Dr. Walter T. Richardson is pastor-emeritus of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church in South Miami-Dade County and chairman of the Miami-Dade Community Relations Board. He may be contacted at wtrichardson@bellsouth.net. Website: WTRMinistries.com



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DECEMBER 11—17, 2014

4C The Colors Of Christmas

Jennifer Holliday,
Peabo Bryson and others
bring cheer in holiday concert

3C Exodus Review:
Bible story goes off script

7C Events
Calendar

 **SOUTH FLORIDA TIMES**
Elevating the Dialogue

sflt.com

technology

Gift Guide: How to choose a new cellphone

NEW YORK (AP) — Now is a good time to get a smartphone. The latest devices hit shelves in time for the holiday shopping season, and there's likely to be a lull in new releases until next spring. So why wait?

Here are some things to consider before hitting stores. If you're upgrading from an older model, you can skip the first part aimed at first-time smartphone buyers.

Do you need a smartphone?

Maybe you've been doing fine with just a basic cellphone, but many people who get smartphones discover things they never thought they could do. You can install a museum's app to get a map or learn about the current exhibits, or you can catch up on e-books with a reading app. You can also check email and Facebook more easily and take great pictures and quickly share them.

But you'll pay more — not just for the device. Monthly fees for voice, text and data tend to be higher compared with basic phone plans.

Which system should you pick?

This is the most important decision because it will influence your future smartphones. It's not easy to switch once you have all your apps, contacts and favorites on one system.

With Apple's iOS, you can choose between a variety of iPhone models — ranging from the giant iPhone 6 Plus to the older and smaller iPhone 5s and 5c. The iPhone 6 is a good choice in between and comes with all the bells and whistles, including a chip to make payments in stores that accept Apple Pay. Phones running Google's Android operating system include even more choices from several



PHOTO COURTESY OF
TECHORUNCH.COM
iPhone 6



PHOTO COURTESY OF
TECHNOBEZZ.COM
**Samsung
Galaxy S5**

manufacturers, including Samsung, LG, Motorola, ZTE and Sony.

Android is more flexible in the sense that phone makers can customize it to their liking, and app developers have more say in what they write for Android phones. That flexibility has led to a free-for-all environment, though. Settings and features vary so much from phone to phone that it's tough to ask a friend or look online for help. And some Android apps won't work with all phones.

Because Android gets too fragmented many app developers work with iOS first. Apple is the only company that makes iOS phones, and it must approve what goes into its app store. That helps ensure quality, but it means trusting Apple to make those choices for you. One advantage of iOS is that iPhones work well with other Apple devices, including iPads and Mac computers. Android can't pull that off because the hardware and the software aren't as tightly integrated.

There are several other systems vying for third place. Microsoft's Windows is the most promising, after BlackBerry tumbled from pioneer to also-ran. Windows is a good system, but it has fewer apps.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.
AMAZON.CO.UK
Motorola G

How should you pay for it?

You used to simply pay \$200 for the best phone, and the phone company covered the

remaining \$450 or so, making up for it in higher service fees over the life of your two-year contract. Lately, phone companies have been trying to wean customers off subsidies by having customers bring used phones or pay full prices in installments. With T-Mobile, that's the only option. In return, you pay less in monthly service fees.

If you forgo subsidies, you generally come out ahead if you sign up for a larger data plan — 10 gigabytes or more with AT&T and Verizon and 20 gigabytes or more with Sprint. The monthly discounts aren't as big with smaller data plans, so you're giving up more in subsidies than you get in discounts. But the installment plans have other advantages, including the ability to trade your phone in for a newer model before the typical two-year contract is up.

You can buy phones through your wireless carrier or go to a retailer such as Best Buy or Wal-Mart. You can also find phones on eBay and Amazon. Check with your carrier first to make sure it'll work, as networks in the U.S.

vary.

How much should you pay?

It might be tempting to spend a lot for the latest iPhone or Samsung Galaxy phone, but you should ask yourself whether you need all that power. This is especially so if you are paying full price. (If you're getting a subsidized phone with a contract, then why not make the phone company pay for the best?)

There are several phones available for \$200 or less, at contract-free prices, compared with \$600 to \$700 for the typical high-end phone. You're typically giving up a better camera, a better screen and a faster processor. But what you get in a budget phone is often good enough for such basics as email, Facebook and even video. First-time smartphone owners will notice a huge difference over their basic phones.

Smartphone veterans might want something more, especially if the phone is their primary access to the Internet. Heavy users might even consider paying more for additional storage. Phones fill up quickly with photos and video and downloaded music.

Twitter tracks app usage

NEW YORK (AP) — Twitter said it is now tracking what other apps its users have installed on their mobile devices so it can target content and ads to them better.

Twitter Inc. said last week that users will receive a notification when the setting is turned on and can opt out using settings on their phones. On iPhones, this setting is called "limit ad tracking." On Android phones, it's "opt out of interest-based ads."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE
NEXTWEB.COM
Twitter App

San Francisco-based Twitter said it is only collecting the list of apps that users have installed, not any data within the apps. It won't collect the app lists from people who have previously turned off ad targeting on their phones.

Besides advertising, Twitter said knowing what apps people have downloaded can improve its suggestions on what accounts to follow and add relevant content to their

feeds that isn't advertising.

A recent Pew Research Center poll found that people sometimes have conflicting views on privacy. About 80 percent of Americans who use social networking sites are concerned about third parties, such as advertisers, accessing data that they share on the sites, according to the poll. At the same time, most are willing to share some information about themselves in exchange for using such services for free.

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film

'Exodus' is too bad to be believed

By **KIMBERLY GRANT**
Special to South Florida Times



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIEPILOT.COM

Moses (Christian Bale) and the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses (Joel Edgerton) prepare for battle in Exodus: Gods and Kings

their bodies, and the death of the first born. This and some not-so-nice scenes of frogs and alligators eating people are brought to its audience in vivid 3D. It will test one's upchuck reflexes.

By the way, a (dirty) little boy named Isaac Andrews plays the supposed messenger of God. In the story, God is supposed to be a voice within a burning bush that never burns. This brings me to casting, which had me scratching my head. John Turturro is a lovable guy, but his accent couldn't save his Pharaoh Seti. Bale as Moses looks more like a homeless man, than a Hebrew or an Egyptian. Will someone, please, wash Christian Bale's face?

Sigourney Weaver plays Queen Tuya but doesn't really muster up the presence to embody someone who's supposed to be regal. Likewise, Joel Edgerton as Pharaoh Rhamses looks a lot like Yule Brenner, but his character's use of slang just cheapens the whole experience of the film. Making your actors use British accents, while speaking slang during a historical period piece does not a good biblical film make.

None of these characters seems to connect with the actors that are playing them. That's unfortunate, because given a better script the bad casting wouldn't be so obvious. The only bright spot in the film is Ben Kingsley's portrayal of Nun, an elder of the Hebrew people.

Scott, in all of his talent, has managed to make a film

that is so terrible, it's actually laughable. Most filmmakers, when they set out to make a film based on biblical stories, usually read the Bible and then consult with religious leaders to make sure they are depicting the story accurately. It appears the screenwriters were trying so hard to set themselves apart from all of the religious films that the film has suffered and they've missed the whole point of the story: God will deliver His people, not man.

It would be something if some of the historical elements (ahem, Moses' staff) were kept in the film to pay homage to the Bible book that the film is based on. And, it wouldn't piss people off who are familiar with the story. Instead, the audience gets Moses 2.0, complete sword and Batman-like voice.

With its inconsistent lighting, mis-casting, total disregard for its source material, and hurl-worthy 3D, this film is terrible. Scott, who dedicated the film to his late brother Tony, probably had good intentions for making *Exodus*, but he allowed his need for creative license to crowd his judgment for what would have been a nice, true-to-form biblical story. Instead, it's a mish mash of events weaved together. So, the next time someone decides to tell a biblical story, here's a suggestion: make sure you understand the source material first.

 KAliciaG@aol.com
[facebook.com/fashgirl83](https://www.facebook.com/fashgirl83)

Delta Sigma Theta Society, Inc. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
South Broward Alumnae Chapter Eta Nu Chapter

JULIEN

Yacht Party

on the Lady Windridge

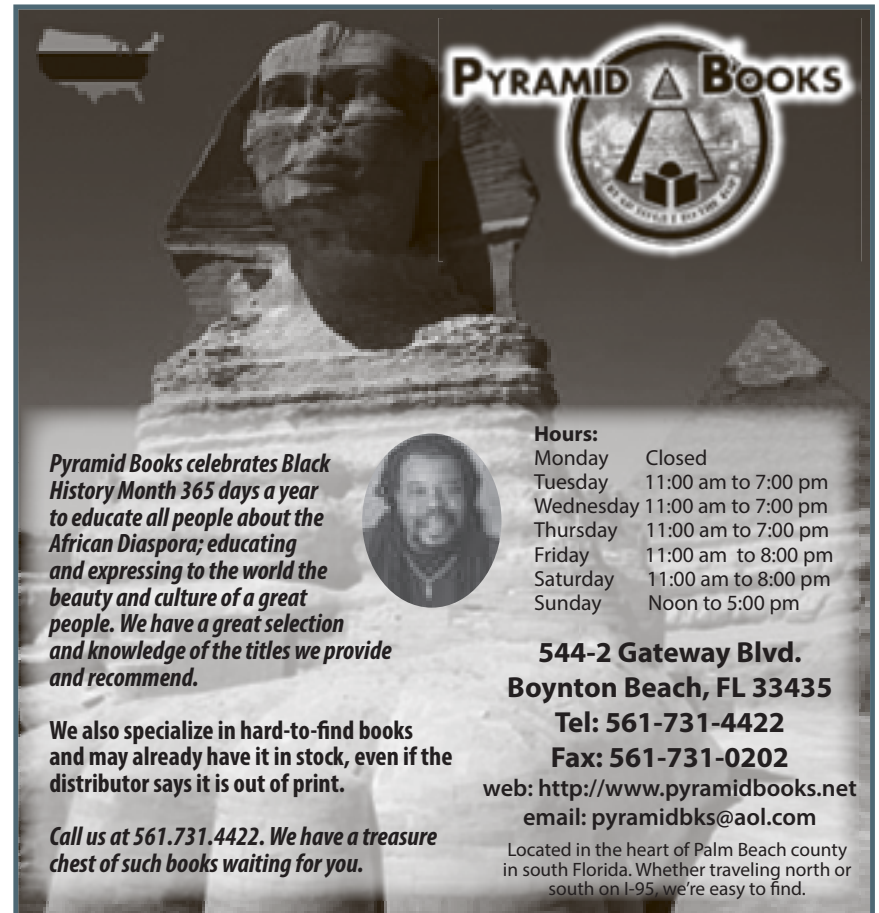
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music and pop culture

The Soul of Christmas: 'Colors' concert at Arsht; Chocolate Nutcracker at Broward Center



Peabo Bryson and Ruben Studdard

Staff Report

MIAMI — Christmas gets an injection of soul this week as two holiday-themed productions open for one night in Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

Tonight, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County presents *The Colors Of Christmas*, a holiday concert featuring four superstar performers in one amazing show.

Meanwhile, just up the road at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Ashanti Cultural Arts Inc. presents the annual production of *The Chocolate Nutcracker*. The performance takes place 7 p.m. Saturday.

In "Colors", the all-star tribute to the musical spirit of the season will bring a dazzling group of artists:

2 0 0 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT

"American Idol" winner Ruben Studdard; Grammy-nominated freestyle singer-songwriter Taylor Dayne; Broadway songstress Jennifer Holliday; and two-time Grammy Award winner Peabo Bryson. This quartet will ring in South Florida's holiday season at 8 p.m. in the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, 1300 Biscayne Blvd.

Tickets to *The Colors Of Christmas* are \$39, \$59, \$69, \$89 and \$114, and may be purchased through the Adrienne Arsht Center box office by calling (305) 949-6722, or online at www.arshtcenter.org.

The timeless Peabo Bryson spans 20 albums offering a mix of pop and soul in a way only he can. The two-time Grammy award winner is famous for his duets with Natalie Cole (*What You Won't Do for Love*) and Roberta Flack (*Tonight, I Celebrate My Love*) and his two Oscar-winning songs for Disney animated films, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*.

Jennifer Holliday is a two-time Grammy Award-winning recording artist and the Tony Award-winning Broadway star of the smash hit musical *Dreamgirls*. Holliday's heart-wrenching torch-song ballad *And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going* was a show-stopping moment in the history of Broadway musicals and catapulted her into

international stardom.

Taylor Dayne stands out as one of music's most dynamic artists of all time. Helping to usher in freestyle music with the hit *Tell It To My Heart*, her unique vocal style has sold more than 75 million albums and singles worldwide and earned her numerous best-selling gold and platinum albums. Taylor has garnered three Grammy nominations and appeared in many film, television, and Broadway stage roles such as Elton John's Aida.

Over 10 years, pop sensation Ruben Studdard's smoothly soothing vocal style has won the hearts of many around the world. The American Idol winner pulled 24 million votes while on the show and became a household name across the country. Studdard has released five albums and has toured with stars such as Peabo Bryson, Melissa Manchester, CeCe Winans and David Foster.

Ashanti Cultural Arts presents *The Chocolate Nutcracker* at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Amature Theater of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, 201 SW Fifth Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets cost \$15 at browardcenter.org.

The Chocolate Nutcracker gives an African American perspective to the age-old tale, *The Nutcracker* by George

Balanchine, that has been a holiday tradition for many years, featuring performances by African drummers and multi-cultural modern dancers that depict the story of Kwanzaa through a musical score ranging from classical to jazz.

Ashanti was founded in March of 1990 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida by Linda Houston Jones. The name Ashanti is a royal West African tribe known for its cultural richness and diversity.

Ashanti Cultural Arts provides a variety of programs to enrich lives of all youngsters and adults through instruction in dance, music, literacy and wellness. It is dedicated to providing outreach programs to the underserved communities throughout Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

Ashanti's classes and programs are held at the African-American Research Library & Cultural Center, 2650 Sistrunk Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

For other information email: ashanticultural@bellsouth.net.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER HOLLIDAY
Jennifer Holliday



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHANTI CULTURALARTS.COM
Star Actress "Leah"



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT
Taylor Dayne

Weight loss and exercise, according to Rick Ross

ATLANTA (AP) — Rick Ross had two seizures in a single day, sending him to the hospital three years ago.

Health didn't concern the 300-pound rapper then, but he's shed nearly 100 pounds in the last seven months by eating healthier foods and embracing a high-intensity workout plan.

Ross, 37, says he continues to work long hours creating music, including his seventh album, *Hood Billionaire*, released Nov. 24. It's the second album Ross has put out this year after the March release of *Mastermind*, which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

But in the middle of making music and running his Maybach Music Group record label, Ross has made his health a main priority.

And now, he believes if he can drop pounds, you can, too. In an interview with The Associated Press, the Grammy-nominated rap star offered tips on how to lose weight.

No soda on the side

Ross has given up a few things since changing his lifestyle.

First, the rapper stopped drinking



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAP-UP.COM

Rick Ross, before

soda, unless it's diet. He also said it's better to eat heavier meals earlier in the day. As a result, he said he's able to burn calories faster.

"I used to eat big meals at 2 a.m. and base it on my schedule," he said. "But I don't do that no more."

Ross said you should drink water throughout the day. He also said to treat yourself when you work hard.

"I just went to Prime 112 (in Miami) the other night, and I had some fried Oreos and fried velvet cake," he said. "I treated myself. You wake up in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMGKID.COM

Rick Ross, after

morning, you might regret it. But you got to get back to work."

Every day he's hustling

Ross credits a CrossFit program introduced to him by Reebok last year — calling it "Ross Fit" with helping him lose weight. It's a highly active workout plan where Ross completes a series of exercises within a 20-minute span, including pushups, sit-ups, boxing, squat jumps and Olympic-style weightlifting.

"CrossFit overall is more of an intense workout," he said. "So instead

of doing 20 minutes on the treadmill, you'll (do) a 20-minute CrossFit workout and you'll be not only building your endurance, but also muscle simultaneously."

Ross said the number of people who work out with him has grown from four to 20, including hitmaker DJ Khaled and producer E Class.

Enduring a tough workout isn't foreign to Ross, who played offensive line at Albany State University in Georgia.

Winning with wings

Ross stopped eating certain foods such as bread, white rice and fish filets, and began drinking less alcohol. But he hasn't eliminated one of his favorite foods: lemon pepper wings.

The rapper, who owns nine Wing-stop franchises around the country, said he stops by the restaurant at least twice a week when he's in town. He's trying to keep a good balance, though, by eating foods like Branzino and fruits such as pears.

"I'm not under no stress of what I'm eating," he said. "There are no restrictions. I'm not trying to make a particular weight. I'm just working out and doing what's best for Rozay."

Miley Cyrus dazzles at Art Basel Miami Beach show

By KELLI KENNEDY
Associated Press

MIAMI BEACH — In a bizarre and emotionally transparent performance, Miley Cyrus mocked her own music, opened up about her dark year and belted out some Led Zeppelin. Oh yeah, and she smoked pot onstage.

Wearing a silver metallic Cleopatra wig and bright turquoise eye shadow, Cyrus kicked off a private, poolside show at the Raleigh Hotel in South Beach singing a duet of *Super Freak* with a topless woman. Cyrus was among the top-billed acts during the star-studded week of the prestigious Art Basel Miami Beach.

The 22-year-old singer performed mostly covers, including Led Zeppelin, the Beatles' *Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds* and Johnny Cash, telling the audience she understood they were serious about real art and probably weren't fans of her pop-music style.

"You thought (Art Basel) was a respected place where you could escape

me," said Cyrus, who talked about her difficult year after her twerking performance at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards and the death of her dog.

The former Disney star said it took her to a dark place and made her realize many things she was doing seemed meaningless.

"This year has constantly challenged me, and that's why I started doing art," she said before launching into a song she wrote after her friend's cat spoke to her in a dream. She also played the macabre song on the piano, abruptly banging on the keys at the end, saying she was sick of talking about death and wanted to move on to something fun.

Later in the show, she donned a massive rainbow with a cutout for her head, while two other performers wore mushroom costumes.

"Usually I don't smoke weed and drink, well that's a lie ... usually I don't smoke weed and drink on show days, but I felt like it was fine in Miami," said Cyrus.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.FREEALLIMAGES.COM
Miley Cyrus

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Art festival lights up Amsterdam in dark winter

AMSTERDAM (AP) — As a canal boat slides along Amsterdam's elegant Herengracht canal, a man walking over a bridge pushes down and pulls up on a bicycle pump. As he does, a model tulip — its flower glowing purple — rises sedately from beneath the water.

The art installation — titled *Tulip Mania!* — is a playful part of the Amsterdam Light Festival, which opened Nov. 27 with the aim of bringing a little illumination and color into the gloomy days and nights of winter that are settling over the Dutch capital.

In a giant open-air exhibition that lasts until Jan. 18, the waterways and web of canals that make up the historic heart of Amsterdam form a backdrop for dozens of works of art, ranging from a huge glowing origami-style boat to a sphere of lights that changes color according to the mood of the city, gauged, its creators say, by online posts.

There are two ways to see the festival: on foot, with or without a guide, or on a canal cruise in one of the long, low boats that glide through the city. For the more energetic, there's even a rowing tour organized by a local club.

The boat route, appropriately named Water Colors, takes about 75 minutes and is already open. Most of the city's canal cruise operators are offering nighttime trips to see the art along a route that takes visitors through Amsterdam's ring of canals and the Amstel River.

The 90-minute walking route, titled *Illuminated*, opened Dec. 11 and ends Jan. 4.

While you have to pay for guided tours and boat cruises — prices vary depending on the level of luxury on board — you can also walk around town and see the art works for free.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TRUEAMSTERDAM.COM

HOME SWEET HOME: Homeowners participate in the festival by lighting their houses that sit along the canals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TRUEAMSTERDAM.COM

LIGHTING UP THE RIVER: Brightly lit boats sail around the Amstel River and canals during the Christmas Canal Parade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TRUEAMSTERDAM.COM

WATER VIEW: Visitors can board a tour boat to see several lighted buildings along the canals.

This year is the third edition of the light festival and features several interactive exhibits. A striking wave-shaped creation called *Lightbridge* is made up of tiny lights that change color and react to movements like bicycles passing over the bridge it is attached to or boats passing beneath from the Amstel to the Herengracht canal.

Another installation is a giant heart made up of 178 bottles — one for each nationality said to live in Amsterdam — containing LED lights that can be controlled by visitors. Via

the festival's app, you can have the heart light up in the color of your national flag, its creator says.

A giant ring called *Circle of Life* formed around a narrow pedestrian bridge also changes colors as boats pass by, simulating the flickering lights on canal walls created by the movement of water.

Another highlight is a giant but fragile-looking house of cards close to Amsterdam's central railroad station built of 125 light boxes decorated as playing cards by 40

contemporary street artists.

The house of cards is followed in quick succession on the boat tour by a series of glowing balls floating in the water that change color as boats pass by and a floating bridge that also pulses with different colors as boats maneuver their way under its arches.

While the festival comes alive at night, there are also events tied to the light theme at galleries and museums around the city to keep visitors busy during the day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.TRUEAMSTERDAM.COM

JOYFUL EVENT: The world's best light artists display their work.

IF YOU GO

GETTING THERE: Amsterdam is an easy train ride from Schiphol Airport. Most of the canal boat operators are based near the central railroad station.

TULIP MANIA!: The festival's website <http://www.amsterdamlightfestival.com> includes maps, descriptions of the art works and links to canal boat operators offering tours. An Android app is already available and an app for iPhones and iPads should be available soon.

events calendar

COMPILED By MARISSA CLARKE
Special to South Florida Times

Dec. 11-17



Dec. 11

THE ART OF WINE AND FOOD: Wayne Ballard of Champagne Nicolas Feuillatte hosts a relaxing evening of wine and champagne, perfectly paired with small bites. Check out the museum's exhibits including the Martin Z. Margulies Collection, and *Café Dolly: Picabia, Schnabel, Willumsen*. 6 to 8 p.m. at Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, One E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale. \$40. 954-262-0249.

BEING ESTHER: Author Miriam Karmel discusses her debut novel, which follows 85-year old Esther Lustig, who reflects on her life as she deals with aging, the search for meaning in life and growing old gracefully. 1 to 2 p.m. at Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT

Ruben Studdard

PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER HOLLIDAY

Jennifer Holliday

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT

Taylor Dayne

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTIST MANAGEMENT

Peabo Bryson

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS:

Make a joyful noise and listen to the stirring sounds of Ruben Studdard, Jennifer Holliday, Taylor Dayne and Grammy-Award winner Peabo Bryson! The four singers will share the stage to perform a variety of holiday tunes and a few of their hit singles. 8 p.m. at the Knight Concert Hall at the Arsht Center, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. \$39-\$114. 305-949-6722 or www.arshtcenter.org.

Dec. 12

HOLIDAY CONCERT: The Greater Miami Youth Symphony, the Youth Artists in Residence at the Deering Estate, perform a variety of holiday tunes. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Deering Estate at Cutler, 16701 SW 72nd Ave., Miami. \$7. 305-235-1668, ext. 233.

STARLIGHT MOVIES: It's a holiday double feature as *Merry Madagascar* and *Home Alone* are screened. *Merry* follows Santa and his reindeer as they crash into Madagascar and Alex, Marty, Melvin and the penguins work to save Christmas. The classic *Home Alone* stars Macaulay Culkin as Kevin, an 8 year-old who has to protect his home from a pair of bumbling burglars during the holidays. Before the screening, kids can take part in the Gift Yourself parade, by wrapping cardboard boxes to become walking presents. 6:30 p.m. parade, 8 p.m. film screening at Centennial Square, 101 N. Flagler Dr., West Palm Beach. Free. 561-822-1515.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS.COM
Alex

RUDOLPH'S WINTER WONDERLAND: Have a holly jolly night of fun arts and crafts, take pictures with Santa and more! The evening also includes bounce houses, pony rides and an appearance by the red-nosed reindeer will drop by and kids can bring their letters for Santa to have them dropped off at the North Pole. 6 to 8 p.m. Tamarac Park, 7501 N. University Dr., Tamarac. Free. 954-597-3620.

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL BALLET: Students from Dillard Center for the Arts perform this ballet based on Hans Christian Anderson's tale of a dying child's hopes and dreams. A poor girl tries to sell matches in the freezing cold in spite of hypothermia. In the cold, she sees visions of an amazing Christmas tree and holiday feast and visions of her grandmother. 8 p.m. today and 3 p.m. Saturday at Dillard Center for the Arts Theater, 2501 NW 11th St., Fort Lauderdale. \$10, \$5 students. 754-322-0838.

Dec. 13

HOLIDAY CONCERT: One Caribbean Music Festival: More than 20 artists perform will hit the stage over the two-day festival including Nestor Torres, Tabou Combo, Bunji Garlin and more! The weekend also includes arts and crafts, food and a talent search where the winner will have a chance to perform at the Jamaica Jazz & Blues Festival! 2 to 11 p.m. today and Sunday at Central Broward Regional Park & Stadium, 3700 NW 11th Pl., Lauderhill. \$48 general, \$87.50 VIP. 954-361-5062.



Bunji



Marcia Griffiths



Sean Paul



Arturo VI



Fayann



Nestor Torres

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ONE CARIBBEAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

FROZEN: Catch the hit film on the big screen again with Moonlight Movies in the Park. Watch as Anna teams up with the dashing Kristoff to find her sister Elsa, whose ice powers have brought an eternal winter to their kingdom. Along the way Anna meets up with Olaf, the snowman, and proves that true love conquers all. 7:30 p.m. at Weston Regional Park, 20200 Saddle Club Rd., Weston. Free. 954-389-4321.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOVIEPILOT.COM

Elsa

Dec. 14

TUBA CHRISTMAS 2014: Dress festively and hear a group of tuba players as they perform holiday music. For more 40 years tuba players across the globe have gathered for Tuba Christmas to promote awareness and foster good will toward the unique instrument. Interested in playing your tuba? Bring the instrument along with a stand at 3 p.m. 5 p.m. at Mizner Park, 327 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. Free audience, \$10 tuba players. 561-297-3883.

Dec. 15

YOGA IN THE PARK: Bring your yoga mat, water, and a towel to relax and unwind with a yoga session by the bay. A certified instructor will lead you through the movements and the atmosphere is perfect to reduce your stress before returning to the weekday grind. 6 p.m. at Bayfront Park Amphitheater, 301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami. Free. 305-358-7550.



STOCK PHOTO

Dec. 16

THE GRAPES OF WRATH: John Steinbeck's novel about poor Midwesterners during the great depression. Directed by John Ford this 1940 classic stars Henry Fonda and John Carradine as the family tries to find their fortune out west. The evening also includes a screening of *The Human Stain* starring Nicole Kidman and Anthony Hopkins. Presented by the Miami Jazz and Film Society. 6:15 p.m. at African Heritage Cultural Arts Center, 6161 NW 22nd Ave., Miami. Free. 305-638-6771.

Dec. 17

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB OF NORTHEAST BROWARD: Celebrate the season at the group's annual holiday party. The meeting includes refreshments and new members are welcome to join. 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Emma Lou Olson Civic Center, 1801 NE Sixth St., Pompano Beach. Free. 954-942-8711.

Please email your event to news@sfltimes.com by the preceding Thursday at 10 a.m.

food



Recipe created
by Dirk Yeaton on
murphygoodewinery.com
Servings: 10–12

WINTER Wine

(Family Features) Winter is a great time to experiment with new culinary creations that incorporate the bold flavors of wine for delicious results. Nothing pleases the senses quite like a comfort food dish on a chilly evening. If you're planning a menu for just you and your mate, a small group of close friends or a full-blown dinner party, stock up on great wine selections to complete the menu.

Chili with Pepato Cheese

- 6 dried chili pods, seeds and stems removed
Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 1/2 pounds top round cut into cubes
- 1 1/2 pounds chuck steak cut into cubes
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 small cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 ounces chili powder
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 3 tablespoons cumin
- 2 tablespoons oregano steeped in 1 cup of red wine
- 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon cocoa powder
- 2 cups beef broth
- 10 ounces stewed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup grated Pepato cheese



Toast dried chilies over medium heat for about 2 minutes. Add 2 cups of water and simmer for 10 minutes. Strain out chilies to cool, then chop and reserve.

Season meat liberally with salt. Heat oil over high heat in large, heavy bottom pot until it begins to

smoke. Carefully place beef into pan and brown on all sides until moisture cooks out and light brown film forms on bottom of pan. Reduce heat to medium. Drain meat of oil and fat.

Add onions and garlic, cooking until soft. Add chili powder, paprika and cumin. Cook until fragrant. Add

reserved chopped chilies and rest of ingredients (except for cheese) and stir well with wooden spoon, scraping browned bits off bottom of pot.

Reduce heat to low and simmer for 1 hour, occasionally stirring. To serve, place in bowl and sprinkle with grated cheese.

Chicken Thighs with Potato, Lemon & Castelvetrano Olives

Recipe created by Tracey Shepos on lacrema.com

Servings: 4

- 8 sprigs oregano, leaves picked (1/2 cup packed)
 - 5 cloves garlic
 - 2 lemons, one zested and one cut into eight wedges
 - 2 teaspoons cumin
 - 3 tablespoons olive oil
 - 8 chicken thighs (1 1/2 pounds), bone in, skin on
 - 2 large Russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch circles
 - 4 teaspoons kosher salt
 - 1 cup Castelvetrano olives, pitted and drained
- Preheat oven to 350°F.

In food processor, combine oregano, garlic, lemon zest, cumin and 2 tablespoons oil. Process until chopped. Place mixture in large bowl and toss with chicken thighs.

In 10-inch cast iron pan, layer 1 tablespoon oil and top with potatoes and sprinkle with 2 teaspoons salt. Place chicken thighs on top and sprinkle again with 2 teaspoons salt. Scatter

lemon wedges in between chicken thighs.

Place pan over medium heat, cook for 5 minutes or until edges start to brown. Immediately place pan on top rack in oven and bake for 10 minutes. Adjust oven temperature to 400°F and cook for another 25 minutes or until chicken is browned and internal temperature reaches 160°F. Scatter olives on top and serve.

