

The Nubian News

Loving the Black Perspective

Please - No More Killing



BY AL ALATUNJI

Black girl seven years old leaving a high school game with her mother is killed in a drive by shooting. Her killers were not white police officers. She was shot and killed by people who looked like her.

Rev Al Sharpton and Rev Jesse Jackson will not be at her going home service. There will be no marching, no protesting. There will be no calls for justice from the Black leaders and activists for the murder of the young Black girl.

There will be no fire and fury. There will be no community out cry. No anger, no indignation, no calls for accountability.

There will only be silence. Silence by Black politicians, silence by Black faith based leaders, silence by Black Lives Matter activists, silence by a community which apparently accepts that in reality their lives really do not matter.

Her death is just another number, just another statistic.

Black Lives Matters is nothing more than a hashtag created by some creative, clever people who were able to launch careers and build bank accounts.

According to national crime data close to 90% of Black homicide victims were murdered by other Blacks.

The year 2020 saw the largest year-to-year increase in homicides ever recorded in US history. The homicide rate in 34 cities was 30 percent higher in 2020 compared to the previous year, according to a report by the National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice. Victims of these homicides are disproportionately Blacks. At least 8,600 Black lives were lost to homicide in 2020, an increase of more than 1,000 compared to 2019 (7,484).

A Black male between 15 years of age and 35 years of age has a one and ten thousand chance of being murdered by a white police officer. That same Black youth has a one and ten chance of being murdered by another Black male between the ages of 15 and 35. Blacks are disproportionately both victims and perpetrators of violent crime in the US. That is a cold fact. White dehumanized, sick, deranged, psychopathic, demented racist cops are clearly a danger to Blacks. However, Black people unfortunately are far more a danger to each other. That is also a cold fact.

As a community we must demand that cops are no longer able to get away with the murder of Black people.

As a community we must be just as demanding, if not more so, that Black people stop killing, stop raping, stop assaulting, stop robbing other Black people.



If Black lives matter, truly matters, there needs to be just as much, if not more, concern, outrage and calls for an end to the violence committed by Blacks against Blacks.

There are real problems that Black people face. They require real work. It goes beyond painted tee shirts, murals and political slogans. It also means taking our heads out of the sand.

If the seven year old Black girl had been murdered by a white police officer the story would be at the top of all news reporting. Black people would have made it so.

However, her death was caused

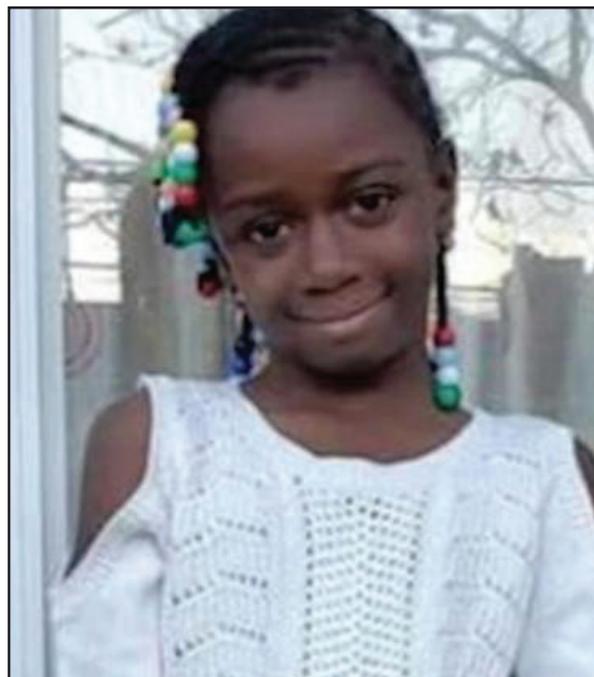
Fanta Bililty - continued on page 2

El Latino News
 En Contacto con la Comunidad
 Trenton - Mercer County

If you do not understand White Supremacy (Racism) --- what it is, and how it works --- everything else that you understand, will only confuse you."
 Neely Fuller Jr. [1971]



Fanta Bilty - continued from front page
 by another Black person. It is only news because of her age. If she had been 17, or 27 there might not even be a mention of it at all outside of a local newspaper. Just another Black person.



The seven year Black girl who lived and died loved her mother and her father. They loved her. She loved her older sister. Her older sister loved her. She loved her grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. They loved her. When she was a toddler each night her father would place her on his lap and slowly and softly run his fingers over her temples until she fell into sleep. She liked to play with dolls. She loved to dance and was a very good dancer. She loved to sing. She loved music, in particular songs by Beyonce. She liked cheeseburgers and french fries. But she loved most of all her grandmother's mac and cheese, potato salad and bread fried chicken. She liked school and was looking forward to her first day of classes. She had already decided on what she was going to wear on the first day of second grade. She was not sure what she wanted to be when she grew up,

she was considering a wide range of choices.

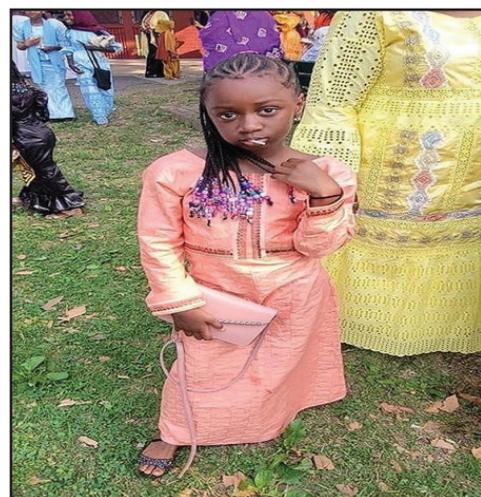
She was fond of pink but she also liked turquoise. She liked "The Jungle Book", "Frozen II" and "The Good Dinosaur." She had been to a couple of weddings for family members and

thought about how it might be to one day be a bride's maid, to be a bride all dressed in white and loveliness.

She enjoyed putting on her mother's high heels and dresses and modeling for her mother, older sister, grandmother and aunts. Snow was alright but she enjoyed walking on the warm sand at the shore as she looked for seashells.

On clear dark nights, she enjoyed looking into the dark night and seeing the various constellations and watching the stars dance. She envisioned the invisible, the unbelievable, the unreal, the unimaginable. As a seven year old she had the hopes and dreams of a seven year old. She was innocent and pure. She was kind.

Her name was Fanta Bilty.



The Nubian News is outraged and condemns Fanta Bilty's death. It also mourns, recognizes and celebrates Fanta Bilty's life because Fanta Bilty's life mattered.



The Richard E. Harmon Men +

COMPENSATORY-FUNCTIONAL DEFINITIONS

Compiled from "The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept by Mr. Neely Fuller Jr.

General Notes Relative to Racism and the Law of Compensation

If a system produces injustice, then the rules that maintain the system are incorrect, even though these same rules, if used to maintain a just system, would be correct rules. White Supremacy (Racism) is an incorrect system, that promotes injustice. Any person who willfully helps to establish, maintain, expand, and/or refine a condition of White Supremacy, and/or , who does not, at all times, strive to speak and/or act against this condition, is a criminal, and/or an agent of criminals.

All "comforts" that come to any white person as a direct or indirect result of the practice of White Supremacy (Racism) are "comforts" unjustly received.

All persons [white] who directly or indirectly practice White Supremacy are equal to each other in that practice. This is true because each individual act of Racism is interrelated with all other acts of Racism.

This means that all white persons who practice Racism in any form, are equally as guilty as those white persons who practice Racism in all forms. Racist Man and Racist Woman, by functioning as the White Nation (White Supremacists, collectively) and by acting to maintain, expand, and/or refine the existence of Racism, have, more than any other creatures in the known universe, "violated" the "natural" Law of Compensation. By doing so, they have deliberately forced and/or directed all other creatures — particularly non-white people — to do the same.

Next issue: The Laws of Compensation

Compensation either is [compensation] or is isn't [compensation]. The law of compensation is applicable to all that is in the known universe.

You can order the digital edition of "The United Independent Compensatory Code/System/Concept online at: <https://producejustice.com/product/the-united-independent-compensatory-codesystemconcept-textbook/>

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Don't Be Late for a Very Important Date A Tea Party



Young Ladies from around Trenton sat down to, what was to some, their very first Tea Party.

Not only was there tea and finger sandwiches but they were treated to a book reading by Assata Green who wrote "Majestic Maya & The Hairy Good Mother" and a poetry reading, "The Ladies Pledge" by Monica Sobers.

GERD

The *Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam*, though first imagined by the Emperor Haile Selassie, was started in 2011 and now it is nearing completion and filling the reservoir has begun. It is that filling that has caused dissension in the area, mainly Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Egypt, which is totally dependent on the water of the Nile for her very existence is in freefall. It is asking the white nations to do what they can to stop Ethiopia from fully operating their newest and best hope for economic prosperity for her people. Instead of sitting down with Ethiopian leaders Egypt is trying to get the white nations to enforce agreements made in 1929 and 1959 which gave Egypt complete control over the waters of the Nile. These agreements never included Ethiopia from where most of the waters of the Nile originate.

We talked with Bistate Aklilu Ph.D Doctor in Economic, who is an Ethiopian who has worked at the United Nation for over 30 years and now serves on many Boards in various capacities. Dr Aklilu has agreed to enlighten us on some of the issues



concerning the GERD. NN One of your present capacities is in support of the GERD?

DR : Basically I work on the planning side on how the GERD is beneficial to all three Nile Basin countries. Certainly to Ethiopia it is beneficial to a country which produces 80% of the water of the Blue Nile to date has not utilized it for itself. Where 60% of Ethiopians do not have access to electricity, they are in the dark. so this hydro power dam is basically going to change the situation in Ethiopia. Number one it does no significant harm to either Sudan or Egypt. Like any hydro dam it will utilize the water to turn the turbine and then

Dr. Aklilu - continued on page 10

MERCER COUNTY PARK

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AND MOVIE NIGHTS

MERCER COUNTY MOVIE SERIES

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9
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RAYA AND THE LAST DRAGON
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FRIDAY, SEPT. 10
7:30 - 9:30PM
BATMAN (1989 VERSION)
ROSEDALE PARK
PARENTAL DISCRETION IS ADVISED

FRIDAY, OCT. 1
6:30 - 9:30PM
SCOOB!
FESTIVAL GROUNDS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 18
6 - 9:30PM
OLD-SCHOOL R&B NIGHT
EARTH WIND & FIRE TRIBUTE
& THE SOUNDS OF SANDSTORM
FESTIVAL GROUNDS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26
4:30 - 7:30PM
FUNK NIGHT
INSTANT FUNK
& EPIC SOUL
FESTIVAL GROUNDS

SATURDAY, OCT. 2
2 - 8PM
CARIBBEAN/LATIN NIGHT
FUNK SALSA URBAN,
THE VERDICT & SON 7
SOUTH RIVERWALK PARK

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& THE OUTCROPS
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MOVIE NIGHTS:
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Guests welcomed to bring lawn chairs and blankets
No coolers, outside food and beverage, no glass bottles
Dates, locations, and times are subject to change - check www.mercercountyparks.org



Trenton Elite Giants: Trenton's Real Finest

BY AL ALATUNJI

Around the same time as Athing Mu was winning gold medals at the Tokyo Olympic Games, another group of athletes also from Trenton were displaying their athletic abilities at the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League's 30th annual Inner City Classic in Richmond, Virginia. The Trenton Elite Giants, a travel team of Trenton area little league age baseball players, was one of the predominantly Black teams that came from across



the US and the Caribbean to compete in the all Black run tournament.

The Metropolitan Junior Baseball League Inc. was founded in and is generally acknowledged as one of the oldest Black owned and operated inner-city youth baseball leagues in the US. The league was established during the days of segregation when there were very limited opportunities for Black youth to participate in organized baseball.

The Trenton Elite Giants the past few years have played their home games at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on Brunswick Avenue. The team over the last three years with the exception of last year due to the pandemic when they were unable to play has traveled up and down the state and across the river into Pennsylvania to play some of the best little league age baseball players in the region.

The founder of the Trenton Elite Giants is Head Coach Paul Sumners and is aided in managing the team by coaches Justice Jones and Branford Colvin Jr..

"I am pleased to see how the players have continued to develop their knowledge of the game and advance their skills level. I am also happy that

these very gifted athletes are learning that the sport of baseball can provide opportunities just like basketball and football," stated Head Coach Sumners.

"Some of the greatest baseball players to have ever played the game were Black. I would love to see more and more Black youth rediscover baseball to increase the number of African American playing in the Majors." added Head Coach Sumners.

What was scheduled to be a three day

double elimination tournament due to rain was forced to be a two day single elimination tournament. The Trenton Elite Giants recorded a win and a loss, but conducted themselves with class and style, talent and desire. They may not have won the tournament, but they showed why they are elite and true winners. I am not certain about a lot of things, but one thing I am certain is that Trenton area residents and others will be seeing the names of some of the Trenton Elite Giants displaying their athletic skills for many years to come. Would not be surprised at all if some of the Trenton Elite Giants follow in the footsteps of Trentonians Al Downing and Danny Napoleon who made it to the major leagues.

The Trenton Elite Giants will be moving up to the 13U Division and plan to play their home games at Mercer County Park.

For more information about the Metropolitan Junior Baseball League and its Inner City all Black baseball classic readers are encouraged to visit its website at <http://www.mjbl.org>

Young Sistah Writes Through Covid

BY EDNA E ROMAN

Amid the Covid-19 many people suffered and continue to suffer. All of our lives were affected. Lost and young people had a tough time not seeing friends or some family members. Ann Salley, kept busy by penning her second book. At age fifteen, Salley published her first book. Now 16, she is currently writing her third.

TNN: How did the Covid shutdown affect you?

AS: Covid-19 affected me in a couple different ways. One of them was because I thought I would never be able to publish my first book during because everything was shut down. Then I thought about how people

more, poor decisions.

TNN: What has been your motivation? What or who prompted you to author not one but two books?

AS: My motivation for my first book, "Depression, Stress, Sadness & Tears" was confidence. A lot of people knew me and wanted to hear about me so I had decided to put my hurt in poems and turn it into a book for people to read and relate too. My motivation for my second book was from my first book. I had gotten a lot of love shown back from my first book, so I stepped it up a little and gave people a story of half of my life.

TNN: What is your advice to a young person who has gone through pain at a young age?

AS: Life is not easy and I'm still healing and going through different phases in my life. Some advice, I would give to a girl or boy dealing with the things I went through would be to always have your head up, never doubt yourself, don't punish yourself with the hurt and pain your parents went through, and always remember who you are as a person and as a young adult.

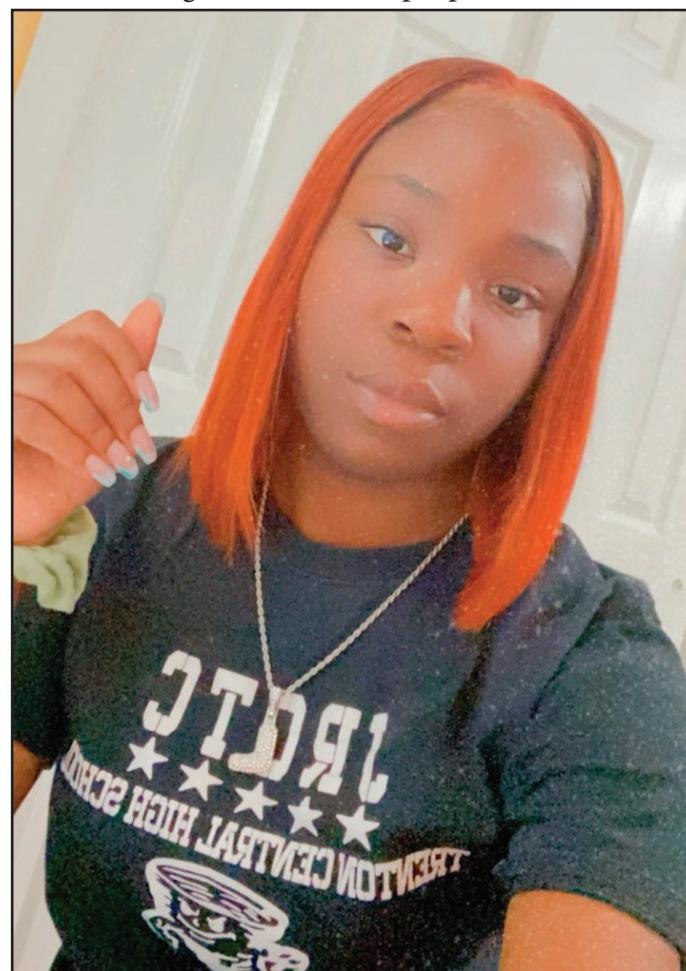
TNN: I love the fact that you have implemented a back-to-school supply and book bag drive. You are giving back. How did that come about?

AS: September 4, 2021 I will be giving back

to my community by having a back-to-school drive for kids that are in need of it. I chose to do this because I love my community. From the experience I went through they helped me and supported me through it.

TNN: What can we expect from you in the near future?

AS: In a couple years from now you all can expect me to have at least a total of 5 books published and in the library. As time goes by, with God willing, I plan to open up a black owned authors book store to sell all my books from and to have other black owned authors there along with local community residents that want their product sold in the facility as well. These are my plans and dreams as I choose to go higher.



would buy my book if they were too afraid to come outside.

TNN: Did you focus on mental health?

AS: During covid I focused on my mental health. It definitely taught me to be relaxed and to have patience even when things are not going as planned.

TNN: With many painful situations in your life. You've taken it upon yourself to heal differently. You've taken the "high road!" What was your saving grace during Covid?

AS: As my life went on, I faced more and more obstacles in my life. As this took place. I chose to do the better things. Things I was good at such as writing poetry. I had no other choice and I couldn't afford to make any

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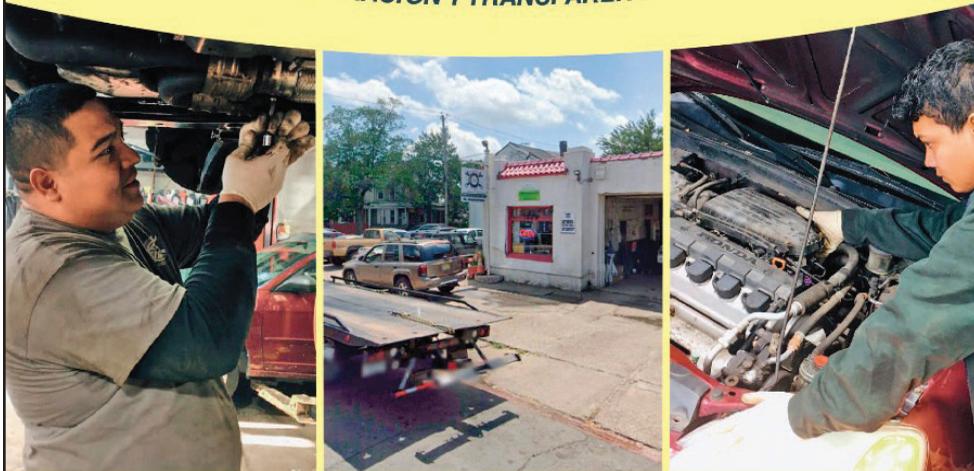
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Bajaré impuestos en la gasolina de New Jersey

Por CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON – Una disminución de 8.3 centavos de la tasa del impuesto a la gasolina entrará en vigencia el 1 de octubre, 2021. El portavoz de la Asamblea Craig J. Coughlin (D) señaló que un impuesto más bajo a la gasolina, no solo proporcionara

consigo buenas noticias para todos. Un impuesto a la gasolina más bajo no solo proporciona algunos ahorros, sino que también indica que los ingresos anuales excedieron las proyecciones, lo que significa que NJ está bien encaminado para financiar mejoras en nuestras carreteras y puentes". Indicó el portavoz de la



ahorros en la economía, sino que también muestra que Nueva Jersey está por buen camino para financiar y mejoras las carreteras y puentes que se encuentran en mal estado.

"El resultado de nuestra sólida recuperación económica, trae

Asamblea Craig J. Coughlin (D-Middlesex). Sin duda asegurar una infraestructura de puentes y carreteras para el transporte es crucial para el éxito de la economía del Estado Jardín.

Crean ley para financiar proyectos de energía limpia en Nueva Jersey

Por CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON- Como parte de los esfuerzos por cuidar el entorno donde vivimos e implementar programas en beneficio del medio ambiente, se convirtió en ley el pasado martes una propuesta patrocinada por el asambleísta Raj Mukherji que requi-

para ayudarlos a construir, instalar, adquirir y / o modificar proyectos de energía renovable, agua o resistencia a las tormentas.

Los participantes elegibles podrán utilizar el financiamiento de C-PACE para cubrir los costos del proyecto, incluidos los gastos de equipo, materiales y mano de obra. El dueño de la propiedad luego reembolsará el financiamiento mediante una tasación especial agregada a su factura de impuestos a la propiedad que tendrá tasas de interés bajas y un período de pago de hasta 30 años.

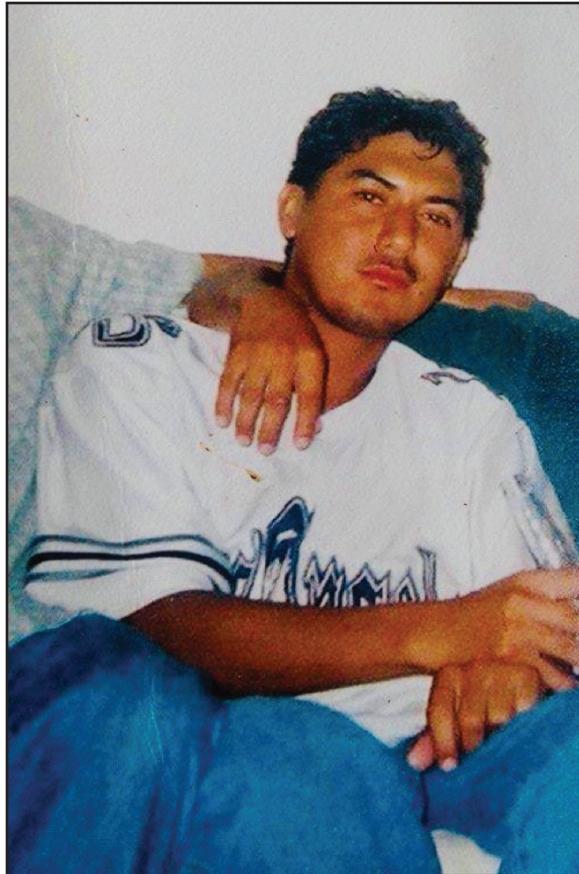


"Este programa será un gran paso adelante en el logro de importantes objetivos de energía limpia para nuestro estado. Es muy probable que más propietarios estén dispuestos a realizar mejoras ambientalmente beneficiosas a sus propiedades si pueden acceder al financiamiento para hacerlo" señaló, el asambleísta Raj Mukherji (D-Hudson), tras convertirse el proyecto en ley. Sin duda todo esfuerzo por cuidar nuestro medio ambiente será tarea de todos.

ere que la Autoridad de Desarrollo Económico (EDA) establezca un programa que fomente proyectos de energía limpia en todo el estado. Según la ley (A-2374), la EDA creará un programa de energía limpia evaluada para propiedades comerciales (C-PACE). El programa proporcionará financiamiento público o privado a los propietarios

BUSCAN A SU HIJO EN TRENTON...desde hace años no saben nada de él

POR CARLOS AVILA



hace 13 años no saben nada de él. Isabel Constanza y Víctor Manuel Olivar, son los padres de un joven salvadoreño que según dicen vino a vivir en Trenton, pero desde hace 13 años no saben nada de él. Será que perdió la memoria ¿Por qué no ha vuelto a comunicarse con su familia que dejó allá en el pueblo de San Vicente en El Salvador? Dicen que tal vez perdió la memoria por beber...” Un doctor le dijo que si sigue bebiendo puede perder la memoria”. Su padre y su madre lloran su ausencia, piden la ayuda de la comunidad, dicen que no quieren morir sin antes saber qué paso con su querido hijo. Si alguien conoce o ha visto a este joven por favor comuníquese con sus padres o su hermana Licy Olivar. Antonio mide 1,80 mts y tiene un lunar en su mejilla izquierda. Teléfonos en El Salvador: 75869106 o al 73501336.

TRENTON- Desde el Departamento de San Vicente, en El Salvador padres de familia buscan a hijo que desde

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FAMILIARES DE JOVEN ASESINADO PIDEN JUSTICIA

POR CARLOS AVILA

TRENTON- Familiares del joven Herberth Eliú Ramírez Pimentel

Eliú era un buen muchacho que no se metía con nadie, indica que esa mañana su hijo caminaba cerca de la casa donde vivía con su esposa y que supuestamente alguien le atacó y le quitó la vida de un balazo. “Pido a la comunidad que si saben algo se comuniquen con las autoridades” para que este crimen no quede en la impunidad.



(37), quien fue asesinado el pasado jueves 19 de agosto, 2021 en Trenton claman por justicia, piden a las autoridades que este delito no quede en la impunidad.

El crimen ocurrió en el callejón 'Ditmar' cerca de la South Clinton Ave., en Trenton New Jersey. Herberth Eliú “era nuevo aquí y no sabía bien qué sectores son malos” señaló su hermano Byron Ramírez. El joven asesinado era padre de familia, tenía esposa y dos niños que ahora quedan huérfanos. Su padre Israel Ramírez por su parte señala que Herberth

Indicó que hasta el momento la Policía no les ha dado mayor información sobre quién le quitó la vida a su hijo. “Que agarren al culpable yo sé que mi hijo no era un delincuente”, aseguró Israel padre del joven asesinado. En lo que va del año se han registrado 18 muertes violentas en la ciudad capital de Nueva Jersey.

Las personas que tengan información sobre este homicidio pueden comunicarse con el Grupo de Trabajo de Homicidios del Condado de Mercer al 609-989-6406 o enviar la info por correo electrónico a mchtftips@mercercountytv.org



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Doing Business in Mercer County Hybrid Event

Presented by:



Mercer County Executive
Brian M. Hughes



NJSBDC at
The College of New Jersey

The Board of County
Commissioners

September 9, 2021
10am-11:30am ET

Location: Lawrence Library or
virtually! See registration
details below.

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National Black Women's Group Sues Johnson and Johnson

BY AL ALATUNJI

In late July, the National Council of Negro Women announced the filing of a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson on behalf of the National

corrective action to inform Black women and all other consumers about the risks associated with using the products and their connection to ovarian cancers.

Johnson & Johnson continues to deny that its talc products are harmful, despite an overwhelming amount of research, dating back to the 1960s, of the carcinogenic dangers of using talc-based products.

Black women were the subject of Johnson & Johnson's marketing and advertising campaigns for decades and were a central part of the company's business strategy. A 2009 company business plan noted that the "multicultural consumer [is] highly important to business -- need to maintain," and expressed concern that it was becoming difficult to efficiently retain core [Black] consumers. "This company, through its words

and images, told Black women that we were offensive in our natural state and needed to use their products to stay fresh," said National Council Negro Women Executive Director Janice Matthews. "Generations of Black women believed them and made it our daily practice to use their products in ways that put us at risk of cancer -- and we taught our daughters to do the same. Shame on Johnson and Johnson."

It seems that Johnson and Johnson put profits over people, in particular Black people, ignoring and hiding a mountain of research about the risks of its talcum-based baby powder.

The National Council of Negro Women has hired nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump of Ben Crump Law to litigate its lawsuit.

"This lawsuit is about the lives of our grandmothers, our mothers, our wives, sisters and daughters -- all of whom were cynically targeted by Johnson and Johnson," Crump said. "All the while, company executives knew the risk of ovarian cancer from talc." Internal documents from Johnson & Johnson reveal the company's intent to market its talc based products specifically to Black Women.

Women is an "organization of organizations" (comprised of 300 campus and community-based sections and 32 national women's organizations) that enlightens, inspires and connects more than 2,000,000 women and men. Its mission is to lead, advocate for, and empower women of African descent, their families and communities.

It was founded in 1935 by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, an influential educator and activist, and for more than fifty years, the iconic Dr. Dorothy Height was president of the Council.

Today, the Council's programs are grounded on a foundation of critical concerns known as "Four for the Future". The Council promotes education with a special focus on science, technology, engineering and math; encourages entrepreneurship, financial literacy and economic stability; educates women about good health and HIV/AIDS; promotes civic engagement and advocates for sound public policy and social justice.

To learn more about the National Council of Negro Women, we encourage you to visit the organization's website at <https://ncnw.org>.



Council of Negro Women, citing the company's specific marketing of talcum-based baby powder to Black women, despite links to ovarian cancers.

According to the lawsuit, many National Council of Negro Women members used Johnson and Johnson products and may have developed cancer as a result -- and many more may develop ovarian cancer in the future. The complaint requests

Nubian News Book Review

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

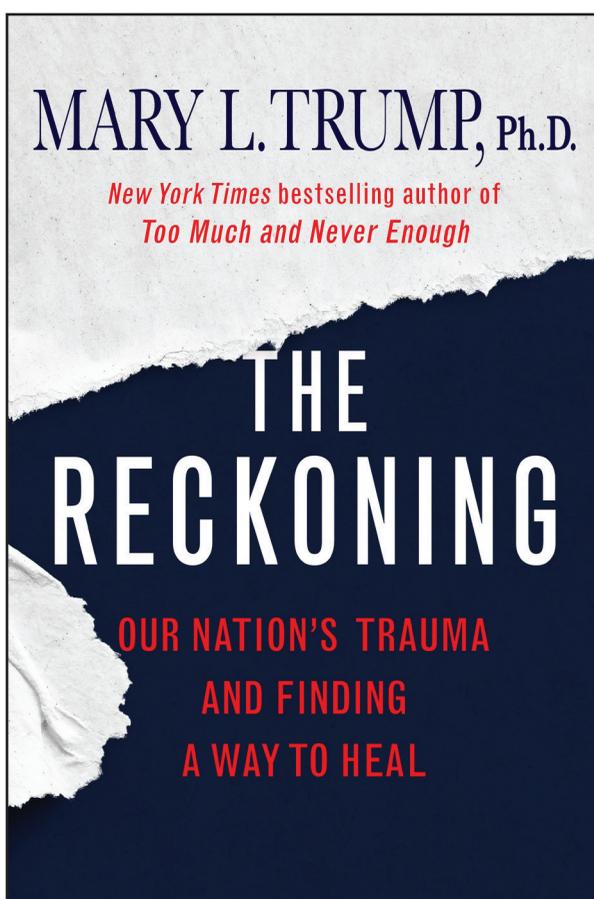
"The Reckoning: Our Nation's Trauma and Finding a Way to Heal"

BY MARY L. TRUMP, Ph.D.

c.2021, St. Martin's Press \$28.99/
\$38.50 Canada 195 pages

You can barely stand to look.

You open your eyes quick, though, and scan because you need to be informed but the news is sometimes hard to take lately. Consuming in small bites may be best, or devour



it if you can, but take care. In "The Reckoning," Mary L. Trump, Ph.D. says you may've been the victim of trauma, and she offers a way to work beyond it.

"This country was born on trauma..." says Trump, through war, hardship, theft of land, slavery, and betrayals of all sorts – not to mention disease. As a psychologist, she wondered what things "might be like" for America after months of divisive politics and pandemic.

Trump, who was diagnosed with Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, blames much of her PTSD on her uncle but for America as a whole, she says we've been through something deeper and wider-ranging: the trauma of slavery, injustice, and ongoing inequality – mostly for Blacks but also for Native Americans, and LGBTQ people – that continues to permeate every corner of American life.

White people inherently enjoy white privilege, Trump says plainly, and

they might try to deny it but the fact is that the world Whites walk in so blithely is not the same one Black citizens live. That causes trauma to extend both ways because "Trauma shapes us in ways we may not be aware of, and will always do so unless we face what has happened to us... [and] what we've done to each other."

And that's where politics enter, especially since the end of the Civil War: politicians have become adept at convincing white America, subtly or overtly, that Black people are lesser; that "moving on" without reckoning is possible; and that we should put transgressions aside by whitewashing them, minimizing them, and by refusing to demand accountability.

"But as seductive as it is, wiping out chapters in our history," says Trump, "...leaves future generations vulnerable. We know this. Only remembering will heal us. Maybe it will even set us free."

Let's start here: readers who come to "The Reckoning" for another dose of author Mary L. Trump's family story will

not be disappointed. She has plenty of acid left to spray on the last presidential administration's years, but that's not this book's primary focus.

White privilege and the dismantling of racism is, and that comes as some surprise, in both the history Trump uses to make her points and in the obvious passion in her arguments. What she writes, however, and the lofty ideals she espouses are nothing new, yet here they feel like small terriers at your feet, nipping for unwavering attention, demanding focus and deep consideration.

You may not like what you read but it's going to force you to think, hard, about the future, individually and nationally.

Unfortunately, "The Reckoning" is going to be politicized, when it's not, not entirely. Though it shouldn't, that may chase away politics-weary readers who would otherwise get a lot out of a book like this, one that may be an absolute eye-opener.

Dr. Aklilu - continued from page 3

the water will go. It is not being used for irrigation which would keep the water in Ethiopia. It is basically a win-win. And in fact, on the contrary to what may be thought, to Sudan the GERD is very very beneficial to them because during the rainy season, which is currently here in Ethiopia, it starts in May to September, when the Nile waters in all in force. That is when, if you have been to Khartoum, it is where the White Nile and the Blue Nile join, the Blue Nile coming from Ethiopia and the White Nile from as far away as Uganda, Kenya etc. Where they join there is major, major flooding that happens, where many farms are flooded, houses are damaged and at the same time because Ethiopia is very mountainous and there is a lot of silt which comes with the Blue Nile. While silt is advantageous in depositing new soil to grow crops, at the same time it causes major problems because it damages the dams in Sudan and Egypt. All of this is major advantage to Sudan and Egypt, they really don't have to have these problems. They get the Nile waters on a regular flow. If the water is retained in Ethiopia it can flow regularly throughout the year. Which allows Sudan to grow not just one crop but two or three crops a year. Without sedimentation and without flooding. That is a major save.

Also because of Ethiopia's topography the rate of evaporation is much less, which is a benefit to all three countries. This is why we call it a win win situation. Had it not been for the political issue, it is a political issue currently.

NN: Why do you say it is political?

DR: Political because number one Egypt does not want to see Ethiopia, which has a hundred and ten million people, come out to become a major country in Africa. Egypt believes that in that area it wants to be the lead country and so it feels that Ethiopia would be a competitor.

NN Ethiopia's economy has been growing at about 10% per year and with electricity it would probably pick up from there right?

DR: It will pick up and because of that Ethiopia has a much higher requirement for energy in the industrial area compared to Egypt, which has 20 times. Sudan which politically through their military is aligned with Egypt, they are now opposing the GERD for no good reason, it's most unfortunate. They are trying to de-stabilize Ethiopia. It's unfortunate people cannot see the picture where we can all prosper together. Egypt

has one foot in Africa and the other in the other world and it wants to be in charge of both. But that era is gone, you can't count on colonial agreements which were signed by Britain in 1929, 1959.

By the way the GERD was built 100% by resourceful Ethiopians, everyone from the simple teacher to the simple farmer to the simple civil servant had to give their part of their monthly salary and the people had to contribute because Ethiopia could not get any loan from international institution because of the objection of Egypt and Sudan. So we built it entirely with our own resources. That's why we say it is basically my dam, we built with our contribution. It isn't something the government did, it is the people who did this. It is a source of national and individual pride. It really has become the biggest national symbol for Ethiopia.

NN: I've heard that small farmers, businessmen, bus drivers have contributed to the dam, why would they all do that?

DR: We have a saying in Ethiopia: 'The son of the river died of thirst' meaning you have your own resources that you can't even use it, others are using it.

NN: I've been told that this started back in the 50s with Emperor Haile Selassie

DR: Yes, he asked, in fact, the US Corps of Engineers back when Egypt was building the High Aswan Dam with Russian help, to do a feasibility study on the Blue Nile, where a dam could be built. At that time Ethiopia did not have the resources. There was a saying that 'we can prepare the ground work, our children will have the foresight to build this dam and make it a reality.'

NN: Why is Egypt so concerned that the building of this dam will decrease the flow of the Nile?

DR: The only objection they have is in case there is drought there is not enough rain, what will happen? We should of course all agree. Water is not only kept in Ethiopia, the Aswan Dam is also keeping water. So they should all agree on releasing water from their lakes in times of drought.

Post Script

*there will 74 billion cubic meters of water in the reservoir when complete

* the dam will provide more than 6 gigawatts

* the power from the dam will provide electricity to more than 60 million Ethiopians who presently don't have any.

*Ethiopia will be able to sell 2 gigawatts to neighboring countries.

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- Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm
- Wed. - Day Prayer 12:00pm
- Wed.- Bible Study/Prayer 7:00pm
- Fri. - Evening Worship 8:00pm

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