YOUNG, BLACK AND AFRAID OF “THE SYSTEM”

I AM MAN

I AM A MAN

AM I A MAN

I AM HUMAN

I AM MANY
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Invisible Young Men

I was surprised last September when I read an article on Randolph County, North Carolina School Board’s decision to ban Ralph Ellison’s novel Invisible Man from its school libraries because of a parent’s complaint. The parent, the mother of a high school junior, argued that the book had “objectionable language and sexual references.” “This novel is not so innocent, instead, this book is filthier, too much for teenagers,” she stated. One of the board members who voted for the ban, agreed, and admitted that after reading the novel, “I didn’t find any literary value.” The book was one of three books on the summer reading list for the district’s high school juniors. A few weeks later, after receiving numerous local complaints and national criticism, the school board held a special meeting and voted 6-1 to lift the ban.

I’m not sure what upset me more. That the elected representative could not find “literary value” in one of the top 100 novels ever written or that a parent whose child probably watches more gratuitous sex and violence on the Housewives of New Jersey, or New York, or definitely Atlanta, would object to Ellison’s modernist masterpiece and its symbolic and highly intellectual social critique.

First published in 1952, Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man won the National Book Award for Fiction in 1953, continues to consistently rank as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th Century, and since 1976 has been the most listed option on the AP literature exam. The novel features a first person narrator, an unnamed Black male, who considers himself socially invisible. His is a symbolic invisibility, “I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me…when they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination, indeed, everything and anything except me.”

Sixty years later Ellison’s “invisibility” remains a powerful metaphor to describe how many of us see the masses of young Black men in America and unfortunately how they often see themselves. As one of the English teachers who campaigned to restore the book reported to the school board during that special meeting, “some of the students in our classrooms right now feel that same cloak of invisibility.” Unfortunately there have been too many incidents in recent memory with deadly consequences where the young Black male as “figment” of the wrong person’s imagination is perceived as a threat becoming, instead, a “screen” projecting their fears, prejudices, and frustrations onto.

As we embark on the second anniversary of the Trayvon Martin shooting, the recent announcement of Michael Dunn’s mistrial on the first degree murder charges for killing Jordan Davis, and as Black History Month once again comes to a close, we would like to offer “Young, Black and Afraid of the System,” a commentary on the plight of young Black men in America. And I suggest you read or re-read Ralph Ellison’s book for insight. President Obama’s recent announcement of his national “My Brother’s Keeper” Initiative and The California Endowment’s efforts closer to home to target boys and young men of color brings some visibility to challenges this group continues to face as they struggle with high poverty rates, violence, and high incarceration rates. In the novel Ellison’s invisible man is forced underground living “outside of time” and communicating “on the lower frequencies.” Hopefully by shining a light on this national problem, our young Black men can move away from living in the invisibility of the underground and ultimately steer toward pathways to success.
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When Andre Andrews signed on to the Covered California website on Feb. 7, he was in the midst of coping with a medical emergency.

A week before, Andrews had been the victim of a hit-and-run. The Burbank resident was walking his bike up the side of a street late one night, when he was suddenly struck by a passing motorist who never bothered to stop. The impact left him with missing teeth, lacerations to his face and an ambulance bill alone of over $1,000.

Uninsured since leaving a job in early January, Andrews has already paid $500 of the bill. But he now feels more secure because of his coverage eligibility under the Affordable Care Act. Also known as Obamacare, it is made available in this state through Covered California, which Andrews is confident will help him better manage medical expenses and aid with any future health problems he might experience.

“I never really go to the doctor, but I still need health insurance, especially since this happened,” said Andrews. “All these other healthcare insurance providers online are expensive.” For the 30-year-old, what he found through Covered California “is less expensive. I’m one of those guys that thought nothing would ever happen. But clearly it can. You don’t know what is going to happen.”

More than 11,000 black Californians — and potentially millions more across the United States — can identify with the peace of mind Andrews enjoys today as a result of Obamacare. Following a difficult rollout, there has been a surge of enrollments over the last two months; on January 25, the Obama administration announced that three million Americans had signed up for private health plans under the law, including 800,000 in the month of January alone.

California accounts for 625,000 of those enrollees, but thus far only 3.1 percent, or 11,153, are African-Americans, despite blacks being nearly seven percent of California’s population. That is compared with whites, who have accounted for 54.7 percent, or 199,186, of Obamacare enrollees, tops in the state.

Obamacare ensures that all Americans have access to affordable health insurance, by offering discounts or tax credits on health insurance plans and enlarging the Medicaid assistance program to include more individuals that can’t afford healthcare in their budgets.

A household with an income between one and four times the Federal Poverty Level is ideal for receiving the health insurance discounts. Despite common misperceptions — that only single mothers can qualify for healthcare assistance, for example, or that a family must be in a deep poverty to get help — even individuals who earn too much to qualify for discounts and tax credits are entitled to buy plans through Covered California.

In California and across the nation, individuals with Obamacare have benefits in 10 categories including ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance use disorder services, including behavioral health treatment and prescription drugs. The health plan also helps cover rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, laboratory services, preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management, and pediatric services such as dental and vision care.

Among those who have yet to enroll in a healthcare plan, despite the fact that he would almost certainly be eligible for coverage and/or

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San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) and the Program Management Office (Kitchell/BRJ) recently held an Industry Day to discuss the district’s procurement of construction projects via the Lease-Leaseback grant offered by the district.

Through this method to award construction contracts, the district is looking to engage and secure local contractors and sub-contractors in the construction of two new projects (one on the San Bernardino Valley College campus and the other on the Crafton Hills College campus).

The program funded through a multi-million dollar approved bond is intended to not only stimulate the region’s shaky economy but also set up in essence, a mentorship between big local contractors and smaller local sub-contractors.

According to the District’s attorney, John Dacey of Bergman, Dacey & Goldsmith, “this (Lease Leaseback) will provide greater local participation so that more money stays in the community.”

The Lease Leaseback (LLB) is a contracting approach that offers several advantages over the competitive bidding method currently used for Measure M bond projects. Unlike competitive bidding, which requires contracts awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, LLB provides the flexibility to tailor a search to find the right contractor at the best price for each project.

According to a district memo, “At the District’s option, the selected contractor can provide preconstruction services. In cooperation with the architect, it can review and improve plans prior to bidding and help correct errors and omissions. This improves the quality of the contractor’s bid. SBCCD can also require preapproval of subcontractors, including their location, experience and reputation. This helps ensure that all subcontractors are qualified and experienced on like projects, and that local and emerging businesses are given careful consideration. LLB advertising, outreach and contractor selection processes are more effective. Based on the final construction documents, the contractor and its performance bond surety will provide a final guaranteed maximum price, protecting the District from cost overruns or change orders with the exception of District requested changes and unforeseen conditions. LLB increases the probability of on-time delivery and on-budget costs. LLB is a team approach that has been successfully used by the Los Angeles Community College District, the Los Angeles Unified School District, and others.”

For local contractors, barriers such as bonding, insurance, and normal business operations have been problematic. The District will be evaluating the Request for Proposal (RFP) for these elements in order to protect the bond dollars locally.

For more information on submitting a bid proposal visit the SBCCD website at: www.sbccd.org.
The Botanic Gardens of the University of California, Riverside will greatly benefit from a bequest of $1.3 million from Victor Goodman, who helped found the gardens, and his wife, Marjorie — both longtime supporters of the gardens.

The only museum on main campus open on weekends, the Botanic Gardens receive around 40,000 visitors a year. Nestled in the foothills of the Box Springs Mountains on the east side of the UC Riverside campus, the gardens constitute a natural preserve, displaying plants, animals, birds and insects (especially butterflies) that thrive in inland Southern California.

“We are thrilled and grateful that the Botanic Gardens were remembered with such a significant gift,” said Jodie Holt, the divisional dean of agriculture and natural resources in UC Riverside’s College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. “With it we will be able to bring some key projects to completion and invest in additional maintenance of important plant collections. Additionally, this generous gift will enable us to make significant progress towards realizing the long range plan and financial security of the UCR Botanic Gardens.”

Victor Goodman was the first botanist hired by UCR’s Division of Life Sciences — later to become the Department of Biology — in 1954, and was, therefore, a founding faculty member of the College of Letters and Science. He joined the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences in 1978, retiring the following year. He died in May 2011.

Marjorie Goodman started, organized and directed the UCR Bookstore in the student union, her education in humanities and geology serving her well in coordinating campus requirements for published materials across all the liberal arts and science divisions and departments. She died in January 2012.

“The idea for what eventually became the UCR Botanic Gardens was Victor Goodman’s,” said J. Giles Waines, the director of the gardens. “He saw the need for them and proposed that UCR establish the gardens. He and Marjorie lived close to campus and cherished this museum. It comes as no surprise to me that they left their estate to the gardens.”

Victor Goodman was instrumental in having 40 acres on the east side of campus set aside as the “Life Sciences Research Area.” Subsequently, this area was renamed the UCR Botanic Gardens. A former army officer, Goodman was a skilled administrator and served as an advisor to students. He was an expert in lichens and amassed an extensive photographic documentation of lichens in the Riverside area. He taught a variety of courses in botany, including plant anatomy, plant morphology, plant physiology and field botany.

In 1954 he hired Frank Vasek, a new Ph.D. in plant taxonomy from UCLA, to share the teaching load, particularly in field botany. Vasek was appointed the first director of the Botanic Gardens, in 1962. Since Vasek, the gardens have been led by George Gillett (1967 to 1973), Louis Erickson (1973 to 1981), and Waines (1981 to present).

Maintenance of the gardens costs about $100,000 annually. Plans are underway to place the major part of the funds received from the Goodman estate into the Victor and Marjorie Goodman Endowment for the Botanic Gardens, which will help maintain the much-loved gardens in perpetuity.

The Friends of UCR Botanic Gardens Support Group, formed in 1980, has more than 1,000 paying members, and helps raise funds each year to support maintenance and development of the Botanic Gardens. The gardens also receive some funds from donors.

The Botanic Gardens offer a rich diversity of vegetation, creating a hospitable sanctuary for wildlife. Adult education garden tours and classes are offered in fall, winter and spring. A continued on page 20
Hardy L. Brown

Stan your ground sounds almost like a good old gospel song that one should sing in church. Here in the US, most states have some form of a stand-your-ground law, but the spotlight has most recently been on the State of Florida since the ruling in the George Zimmerman and Trayvon Martin case based on this law.

This law caught my attention when George Zimmerman shot and killed Trayvon Martin on a rainy night in a Florida housing community. Zimmerman told the police that he felt threatened and was a victim of Martin. Martin did not have a gun but Zimmerman did have one and used it to kill Martin during a hand-to-hand scuffle. Zimmerman initiated the encounter by following Martin after being told not to do so by a 9-1-1 operator. He was advised to wait until the police arrived.

Zimmerman ignored that command because he thought that “young thugs” get away with too much and he intended to not let that happen again.

During that incident another shooting came to my attention that involved a woman firing a warning shot to prevent her ex-husband from beating her. He had a history of beating women and had a court ordered restraining order to stay away. She was safely in her home and told him to leave, which he was in violation of the law by being there. Since he would not leave and told her “I am going to beat you to death”, she picked up her gun and fired the warning shot into the air and said, “if you come any closer I will shoot you.”

He filed charges against her and she was taken to jail and court.

Now I hear of another shooting and killing in Florida of an unarmed young teenager, Jordan Davis who was sitting in a car with friends playing music. They were at a convenience store when another customer, Michael Dunn, pulled into the parking lot and parked next to them.

The youths were minding their own business until the uninvited customer decided that they were playing their music too loud and asked them to turn it down. He said the youth, “thugs,” talked back to him and words were exchanged which led to him reaching into his glove compartment for his gun, killing one and attempting to kill three others.

Dunn proceeded to wait for his fiancée to return from inside the store where he told her what had happened. They left the scene to finish the night by ordering pizza and having wine. This man did not call the police about what happened but waited until the police contacted him.

He told the police what happened and that he was a victim and was defending himself from those thugs as he called them. He told police that the youths had a gun but one has yet to be found by anyone and he never mentioned to his fiancée that they had a gun even though he told her everything that had happened to him.

During his trial, the three remaining youths told their version of what happened which was the opposite of his.

If you have been following these incidents and court cases you know that in the Zimmerman case he was found not guilty of killing an unarmed youth. Zimmerman is White while the youth was Black. Zimmerman was caught saying “they” are always getting away with wrong doing of breaking into homes stealing things.

In the second case, the woman is Black and the man is Black and in violation of a court order but the woman is found guilty of firing a warning shot into the air and sentenced to twenty-years in prison.

In the third case, the man is White, found not guilty of killing a Black youth, but is found guilty on three counts of attempted murder for shooting at the car they were sitting in.

In all three cases the defendants pleaded not guilty because they were standing their ground to defend themselves from being harmed.

In my opinion the only one defending herself was the woman who had been beaten by her ex-husband in the past and was trespassing by being on her property. She did not initiate the visit and she warned him to leave. When he would not leave but told her what he was going to do to her, she reached for her gun and fired a warning shot to protect herself and family.

These “Stand Your Ground Laws” must be changed because they are unjust and if you are Black and a victim or protector you are guilty of a crime. You are guilty if you have a gun and use it or you become a victim if you do not have one and end up killed in the process.
Prefering Your Finances for Marriage

Disagreements about money are often a key factor in many arguments between couples, and according to many experts, it is the top predictor for divorce and marital dissatisfaction for both men and women regardless of income and net worth.

If you are planning to tie the knot, following are tips to help you prepare your finances as a couple, and is second in a five-part financial planning series Getting and Staying Prepared for Life’s Opportunities, Challenges and Milestones.

Start Talking Now

Many couples find it hard to talk about money, but it’s smart to start talking about financial topics early in a relationship and definitely before your wedding day. Make time to discuss any outstanding debts, your combined income as a couple, credit scores, savings goals and spending styles or priorities. You and your partner may have different attitudes towards money, credit, saving and investing, and putting off discussions about these matters can often lead to problems and marital strife if not addressed early.

Develop Goals and a Budget

It’s fun to dream about your future together. Whether you aspire to buy a house and start a family, or retire early and travel the world together, start by developing a household budget. Set aside money not only for household bills and savings goals, but also for an emergency fund. Most financial experts recommend having six to nine months’ income saved for emergencies, but even $500 accumulated at $10 a week could come in handy if your car breaks down or for other unexpected bills.

Decide How to Combine Incomes

An essential aspect of living together is learning how to manage your finances jointly. Find a way to share responsibility for household expenses and savings. You might decide as a couple to combine your incomes and develop your budget from the combined total. Some couples decide to each contribute to the budget in proportion to their incomes, while others decide to divide up the bills that each will pay. Banking is another consideration — will you open joint checking and savings accounts, or keep separate accounts? Only you and your spouse can decide what works for your situation, but it is wise to discuss your options early.

Review Your Insurance Policies

If you or your partner are covered by a health plan through your employer, when you get married you are allowed to change your health insurance election without waiting for the open enrollment period. Take advantage of this time to carefully review your options. Also, review life and disability insurance policies to ensure that you have enough coverage to protect your assets and to provide your dependents with income in the event of your death or disability. You may need to change the policy beneficiary if you had previously designated somebody other than your spouse as the recipient of benefits.

Consider a Prenup

Prenuptial agreements are not just for the wealthy; anyone with personal assets, property, liabilities or children from a previous marriage might consider this type of arrangement. A prenuptial agreement is a private contract entered into by two parties before a marriage or civil union that clearly delineates what is solely yours before marriage, protecting those assets in the event that the relationship ends in divorce or death. Ideally, discussions should take place before the engagement and certainly well before the wedding date. Books and online sources can provide information and forms that you can use, but experts usually recommend that you each consult an attorney to prepare the document.

Consult a Financial Planning Professional

It may be helpful to turn to an unbiased, third-party to help navigate uncharted financial territory. Prior to the wedding, consider scheduling a financial planning session with a trusted advisor or credit counselor who can answer questions about budgeting, investing and other issues, and help you devise a money management plan that works for both of you.

The foregoing article is intended to provide general information about preparing your finances for marriage and is not considered financial or tax advice from Union Bank. Please consult your financial or tax advisor.
SAN JACINTO
SAN JACINTO VALLEY WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
Thursday, February 27
7:30a - 3:00p
Location: Soboba Springs Golf Club, 1020 Soboba Road, San Jacinto, CA. We are hosting this exciting event for the benefit of women in the San Jacinto Valley. The Conference offers its attendees inspiration, personal development and resources. It is a marketplace of ideas, exhibits and networking designed to benefit women from all walks of life in the San Jacinto Valley. Funds generated provide scholarship opportunities for deserving local women. Please visit www.SJVWC.com for more info and registration.

RIVERSIDE
FLOASIS PRESENTS...”HARLEM NIGHTS”
Thursday, February 27
8:00p - 11:00p
Featured poets, Musical Performances, Open Mic Session (Poetry Only). Location: Back to the Grind Coffee Shop, 3575 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501. Cost: $3.00. For more info, please email tiantimhonae@floasisspokenword.com.

SAN BERNARDINO
16TH STREET SDA HOSTS RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY
Saturday, March 1
The public is invited to join 16th Street SDA Church for Religious Liberty Day on Sabbath, March 1st. The guest speaker of the 11 am service will be Edward Woods III, Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the Lake Region Conference. He will also be conducting a workshop at 3 pm. Lunch will be provided immediately following the 11 am service.

Please contact the Religious Liberty Department at 951.212.6368 or email bruce_hall9@yahoo.com to RSVP for lunch.

RIVERSIDE
MT. MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH 52ND CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
Sunday, March 9
Pastor Willie Chambers Jr. and the Mount Moriah Baptist Church Family will be celebrating their 52nd Church Anniversary on Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. The Theme: “Our Church: Discovering the secret to, I shall not want.” (Psalms 23:1). Please join them as they celebrate 52 years praising and serving God in this Soul Saving Station. Morning services will begin at 11:00 a.m. and concluding with the afternoon service at 3:30 p.m. Mt. Moriah is located at 18991 Mariposa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92508. For more information please call the church office at (951) 780-2240.
Dear Dr. Levister:

To my disbelief my 13-year-old daughter says she is stressed out. She’s too young to know what stress is! Before I discuss this with her, please help me consider some reasons why life might seem overwhelming to a young teenage girl. R.G.

Dear R.G.:

Take your daughter’s stresses seriously. There are a host of reasons why she might feel ‘stressed out’ to include physical and emotional changes, onset of the menstrual cycle and social pressure.

At a time when girls are maturing faster than ever and, for reasons doctors don’t completely understand, teen girls are hitting puberty younger than any generation in history.

About 15% of American girls now begin puberty by age 7, according to a study of 1,239 girls published last year in Pediatrics. One in 10 white girls begin developing breasts by that age — twice the rate seen in a 1997 study. Among black girls, 23% hit puberty by age 7.

“Over the last 30 years, we’ve shortened the childhood of girls by about a year and a half,” says Sandra Steingraber, author of a 2007 report on early puberty for the Breast Cancer Fund, an advocacy group. “That’s not good.”

The growth spurt of puberty can cause a girl considerable anxiety, especially if she is behind or ahead of her peers. Bullying among teens male and female is also a very serious stressor.

Encourage your daughter to talk about her stress. At first, she may be reluctant to talk. Be patient, quick to listen, slow to speak.

Do not burden your daughter with too many extracurricular activities. Make sure she gets enough rest. Help her find healthy outlets for stress. Encourage her to limit time on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Unlimited exposure puts teenage girls in a confusing situation where a girl’s image is not always what it seems, as nearly 74 percent of girls agree that most girls use social networking sites to make themselves “cooler than they really are.” Surveys show that girls downplay several positive characteristics of themselves online, most prominently their intelligence, kindness and efforts to be a positive influence.

Suggest that your teen curb cell phone use instead read a book or visit a grandparent ‘just for fun’.

Be a good role model. Remember, your teenager is watching your example and learning from it – for better or for worse.
Advancing the Way We Serve Our Customers and the Community

Southern California Gas Company's new Advanced Meter is the latest example of our on-going efforts to improve our technology, add convenience and empower our customers to save energy and money. With the advanced meter technology, you will be able to:

- View up-to-date information about your usage and costs
- Set and achieve your savings and conservation goals
- Take an energy survey to learn how you can save
- Analyze your usage over time

For more information on the additional benefits of Advanced Meter, visit socalgas.com (search “ADVANCED”).
Young, Black & Afraid of "The System"

The Michael Dunn verdict and 2-year anniversary of Trayvon Martin’s death lead young African-American men into the 21st century cynical of their justice system

By Corey Arvin
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, today’s young African-Americans are not more skeptical of their value in the eyes of the U.S. justice system compared with previous generations. There is no reignited understanding of civil rights inequities in modern society, nor any renewed sense of duty to overcome systematic failures. According to Brenda Stevenson, Professor of African-American History at UCLA, recent high-profile judicial cases involving young black men underscore a disparity in the justice system that African-Americans have always been aware of—and never forgot.

Earlier this month, the parents of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old black teen killed by neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman, organized a rally in memory of his death two years ago. Zimmerman was acquitted of second-degree murder charges. The case returned to the national spotlight on Feb. 15 when Michael Dunn, a white man facing first-degree murder charges in Florida after fatally shooting a young black teen, Jordan Davis, received a mistrial on the first-degree charges from a hung jury of 3 to 9 on his verdict. Dunn was found guilty on four lesser counts, including attempted second-degree murder.

“These aren’t just the opening of new wounds, it’s a combination of fresh and old wounds for African-Americans,” said Stevenson.
Stevenson is author of “The Contested Murder of Latasha Harlins: Justice, Gender, and the Origins of the LA Riots”. Harlins, a 15-year-old black girl, was fatally shot in the back of the head in 1991 by a Korean storeowner in South Los Angeles. The owner was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter, yet sentenced to five years of probation, community service, and a $500 fine. Similarities to Harlins’ death were frequently recalled in the media during the Zimmerman trial.

While the Zimmerman and Dunn trials have inspired a national discourse on racial equality – a necessary conversation to improve race relations in America, according to civil rights advocates – it has also contributed to young African-Americans inheriting the attitudes and perceptions their families have always maintained about authority figures and the judicial system, said Stevenson.

“Younger African-Americans coming of age see what has happened with Trayvon Martin, they see what happened with [Jordan] Davis. They talk about it with their parents and their parents will say ‘that is what happened with Rodney King’, or ‘that is what happened with Latasha Harlins’, and their grandparents will say ‘that’s what happened with Emmett Till’ and so on,” said Stevenson.

Young African-Americans, particularly men, are informed early in life that they are more susceptible to being regarded as guilty by nature – and the lessons aren’t learned in the home, it’s on the streets. A police officer can detain someone who is black and they witness the ordeal, wondering if it was because of their race. They also see the victimization of blacks at the hands of other races is largely disregarded compared to their white counterparts, she said.

“I didn’t feel like any justice was served”

Riverside resident Devon Johnson never harbored any animosity to law enforcement or the justice system. He never stood subjectively in front of a judge before, nor found himself the target of police officers.

From first sight, Johnson may seem as harmless as the average young man. The 20-year-old student maintains a virtually non-threatening demeanor, with a waify 5-foot, 10-inch frame and signature red bucket hat. Johnson is more inclined to smile at his peers and strangers in passing than to sneer or intimidate. But placing himself in “the wrong place at the wrong time” contributed to an unforgettable encounter with authorities.

Johnson didn’t realize that his innocuous stature could easily transform to a guilty target at night while idling with his friends last month. A typical party-hopping night that attracted Johnson and his friends to a Cal State University Northridge dormitory landed Johnson in jail after several young visitors were reportedly vandalizing one of the buildings. According to Johnson, he was unaware who exactly was to be blamed as the suspected individuals responsible had already fled. Johnson left the building and he saw five campus police officers “charging” at him and fled on foot into the street where a police officer detained him.

According to Johnson, five girls, who he described as white, identified him from across the street to police as the vandal based on his clothes, not his face.

“They said they recognized my black jacket and red hat ... there were a lot of people wearing black and red,” said Johnson.

According to Johnson, he was the only person arrested for vandalism that night and was transported
to jail in Van Nuys. Others occupied his cell, but he felt desolate as he worried his family would wonder about his whereabouts. Johnson was released on bond, but recalls being told before he left not to "plead not guilty" to avoid more trouble. His family advised him to follow his instincts and plead not guilty, but his public defender insisted he plead "no contest" to avoid more court appearances. Johnson felt confused about his alternatives and pressured to plead "no contest" so he chose the latter option to move forward. He was sentenced to 2 years probation. Within the span of a night, in a small jail cell where he slept to kill time, Johnson found himself a part of a distressing statistic for African-American men. African-Americans represent 26 percent of juvenile arrests, 44 percent of youths who are detained, 46 percent of the youths who are judicially sent to criminal court, and 58 percent of the youth admitted to state prisons, according to the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice.

“I have no court smarts whatsoever. I was looking for help and I thought that's what the public defender was there for,” said Johnson.

“I didn’t feel like any type of justice was served. I don’t feel angry towards it or sad, I just feel like I got the bottom part of the stick this time.”

Johnson tried to preserve an indifferent attitude toward the justice system, but said he understands first-hand the cliché of being “unfairly” treated.

“I always knew the law was kind of a mess. You hear all of these stories of people being wrongfully convicted for what they haven’t done and you are aware of what the cops can do. It just reassures you. It’s nothing we don’t already know, he said.

Intervening Before the Problems Begin

There’s little doubt young African-American men are at-risk youth, susceptible to violence as both perpetrators and victims. Last week, President Obama introduced his executive program “My Brother’s Keeper” in an attempt to intervene with at-risk African-American men.

According to the American Community Survey, nearly one in every three African-American men between 20 to 29 years of age are under some form of criminal justice supervision whether prison, jail, parole, or probation. In addition, according to the Justice Policy Institute, more black males are in prison than enrolled in colleges or universities. In 2000, there were 791,600 black men in prison and 603,032 enrolled in college compared with 1980, when there were 143,000 black men in prison and 463,700 enrolled in college.

Reaching at-risk youth early is integral to their future success, deterring crime, and sustaining healthy communities, according to Sgt. Barry Montgomery, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD).

LAPD is actively involved in community programs throughout Southern California aimed at juvenile men who could find themselves the victims or perpetrators of crime, said Montgomery. The programs, which include juveniles and parents, are even designed to address some of the nuances in approaching African-American at-risk youth compared to Hispanic youth, for example, he said.

The “Jeopardy Program” is one LAPD gang prevention and intervention program that targets children and teens from 8 to 17 years of age. The program is active in several communities that have high African-American populations, Montgomery said.

Montgomery, an African-American, credits the LAPD Cadets program, previously known as the Explorer Program, for inspiring him to become a police officer. He credits older African-American officers already employed with the department with motivating him to be directly involved with improving Los Angeles communities as a police officer.

“I was taught "If you want to make change, you don’t make change on the outside, it’s on the inside,"” said Montgomery.

Joining the Black Press and civil rights organizations like the NAACP are faith-based programs that have been the bedrock for African-Americans throughout U.S. History as an outlet to galvanize communities and educate congregations on civil rights issues. By-in-large, its commitment to African-American social issues remains, but has expanded into educating and shaping young African-Americans.

West Angeles Church of God in Christ, founded in 1943, is one of the most prominent African-American churches in Los Angeles. The church’s outreach division, West Angeles Community Development Corporation (WACDC), hosts at least programs for at-risk, such as “Young N LA” and Manhood 101. LAPD has also worked in conjunction with the WACDC’s programs, said Irvin Shannon, program manager.

“Our calling is to ‘develop the beloved community’. As such, investing resources in our youth, specifically young men, is a part of developing our community. The vitality of South Los Angeles rests in the future success of our youth and it is our role to actively prepare them for success,” said Shannon.

“Historically, the church provided the African-American community with hope, a voice, and platform to advocate for social change. The opportunity is immense for other faith-based organizations to continue to engender change within our community.”
Welcome to health insurance made affordable.

We’re Covered California, your destination for quality, affordable health insurance. We provide financial assistance for those who need help with their monthly insurance bills, and nobody can be denied because of a pre-existing condition.

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Cheryl Brown Announces Re-election Bid

Assembly Member, Cheryl Brown recently held a reception at the Colton Hampton Inn where she announced her candidacy for re-election to the California State Assembly. Many family, friends, and supporters were in attendance. Janice Rutherford, Amina Carter, Fontana Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Cheryl Brown, Darren Parker, and Ted Alejandre. Photo by John Coleman

City of Fontana Celebrates Black History

Congressmember Gloria Negrete McLeod was unable to be present but on her behalf, a staff member presented a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to Vietnam War Veteran, Alvin Hicks. Photos by John Coleman
Be a Safety Xpert.

The Omnitrans sbX E Street Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project is the first-of-its-kind express service in the Inland Empire. With service set to begin in April 2014, you’ll see buses being tested along the 15.7 mile BRT line in San Bernardino and Loma Linda. Safety is always top priority for Omnitrans. Let’s work together to keep bus drivers, motorists, pedestrians, and construction workers safe. During the testing phase, please:

1. Pay attention. sbX buses will be on the road daily.
2. Stay out of the dedicated Bus Only lane.
3. Watch for new signs and obey at all times.

6 NEW SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

sbX BUSES TESTED
Monday – Friday every 10 minutes

23 STATION PLATFORMS
- 6 Center-boarding stations
- 17 Side-boarding stations

60-FOOT Articulated Buses

NO LEFT TURN SAFETY BARRIERS
Yellow curbs in median prohibit left turns into dedicated bus lane.

sbX BUSES WILL HAVE TRAFFIC SIGNAL PRIORITY
Detection keeps green or yellow signal longer to allow bus to safely pass through.

TESTING IN FEBRUARY 2014
City of Fontana Celebrates Black History

1-The Xplosive Drill & Drum Squad had a little help from a friend as they provided their usual crowd-pleaser performance. 2-The Southern California Black Chamber of Commerce was one of the sponsors of the Fontana Black History Parade and Expo. President Tammy Martin-Ryles and members: Navarre Bell; daughter, Bailey Ryles; Stacey Bettis; Richard Wallace; and Dr. Floyd Milner. 3-The Expo was held in the Home Depot parking lot and Home Depot provided an area where young attendees could build and paint articles they could take home. 4-A Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition was presented to Vietnam War Army Sgt. James Saunders. Photos by John Coleman

Get reliable auto insurance for less.

To drive responsibly—and legally—you need auto insurance. California’s Low Cost Automobile Insurance is a state-sponsored program that costs $338 or less for California residents. Prices vary by county. Payment plans are available for as little as 15% down. Major credit or debit cards are accepted. These policies are issued by California-licensed insurance companies for one year’s coverage.

Who qualifies?

Qualifying drivers must:
- Have a good driving record
- Be at least 19 years old
- Be continuously licensed to drive for the previous three years
- Own a vehicle valued at $20,000 or less
- Meet income eligibility requirements

Act now!

Try any one of three easy ways to get started:
1. Visit mylowcostauto.com/lowcost
2. Text VOICE to 65374
3. Call toll free 866-602-8861

Sponsored by the California Department of Insurance
Covered California, continued from page 5

subsidies, is 30-year-old Clint Thompson of Santa Monica. Thompson, who recently returned to California from New York City, is debating whether to enroll in a plan through Covered California, or try the insurance offered through his employer, a clothing retailer.

“I’m weighing the options of each,” said Thompson, “but I really haven’t looked as in-depth as I should.”

Thompson and others like him, those who remain on the fence about obtaining healthcare coverage, have until the March 31 open enrollment deadline to either enroll in a plan of some kind or be subject to a penalty.

Covered California this month launched an outreach campaign covering 21 counties across the state — Kern, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara and Ventura among them — that includes opportunities for free enrollment assistance at libraries, community centers and other locations. Opportunities to enroll and information about outreach locations can be found on the website www.coveredca.com.

Although online enrollment remains a viable and popular option, Covered California Executive Director Peter V. Lee said many people are more comfortable with face-to-face discussion.

“Many people want to speak with an expert in person in their own language,” he said recently, “rather than over the phone or on the Internet when making such a personal decision about health insurance.”

Next week: As a Covered California deadline approaches, African-American consumers, healthcare experts and advocates assess the effectiveness of healthcare outreach to the black community.

Botanical Gardens continued from page 7

rose pruning demonstration is held each January. The Botanic Gardens and Friends of UCR Botanic Gardens hold two plant sales a year — in early April and late October — with plants for sale typically including water-wise cacti and succulents, California natives, hummingbird and butterfly plants, and a host of patio and indoor plants.

The popular Primavera in the Gardens, an annual wine and food tasting event, is held in May in the Botanic Gardens, and features offerings from local restaurants and wineries.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 school children visit the gardens annually. Tours of the Botanic Gardens are immensely popular. In the summer evenings, the gardens offer twilight tours.

Admission to the gardens is a $5 suggested donation. They are closed New Year’s Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

The Need For Foster Parents Grows Each Day

At Guardians of Love, FFA we provide:

- A training program designed to give prospective parents the knowledge and tools needed to meet the demands and challenges of welcoming foster children into their home.
- Adoption and Permanency Services
- CPR/First Aid Training
- 24-hour on call support

Monthly Payment Rates for Foster Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age of Placement</th>
<th>0-4</th>
<th>5-8</th>
<th>9-11</th>
<th>12-14</th>
<th>15-20</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster Parent Payment</td>
<td>$846</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>$937</td>
<td>$972</td>
<td>$1,009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CE0 Rev. Ralph E. Butler
225 W. Hospitality Lane Suite 302
San Bernardino, CA 92408
(909) 383-5088 • (909) 383-5090-fax
www.guardiansoflove.org
golfa@guardiansoflove.org

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NOTICE OF SALE OF VEHICLE:
The undersigned will sell...

BOND:
The successful bidder to whom a bond is required shall...

LABOR & PREVAILING WAGES:
The Department of Industrial Relations...

MANDATORY JOB WALK:
There will be (1) one Pre-Bid Job Walk at the attendance of...

SUMMARY OF WORK:
Removal and replacement of the following two locations: Heritage Health Science Building (CHS) and the Claremont Library.

BID SECURITY:
In accordance with California Public Contracts Code,...

NOTE: I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTE: The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk.

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code). Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-01030
p. 212, 203, 227, 2014

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-00676
p. 216, 230, 227, 2014

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Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-00502
p. 26, 213, 202, 2014

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Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-00074
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

I thereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000879
p. 23, 213, 202, 2014

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

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A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000999
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

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NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the Clerk.

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000975
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the Clerk.

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000978
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the Clerk.

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (See Section 14411, El Seq., Business and Professions Code).

Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000976
p. 215, 213, 227, 2014

I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the Clerk.

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Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000974
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

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Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000975
p. 3, 210, 203, 2014

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Larry W. Ward, County Clerk

FILE NO. R-2014-000976
p. 215, 213, 227, 2014
A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in the state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law. (See Section 144011, Business and Professions Code.)

The following fictitious business name(s) has (have) been abandoned by the fictitious business person(s):

RAMIREZ, AND IRMA RAMIREZ

You are being sued by plaintiff: IRMA KENIA PARGETT

FILE NO. R-2013-05048

Date: FEB 15 2013

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 14411, Business and Professions Code, that a new Fictitious Business Name Statement was filed with the County of Riverside on 2/13/14 I hereby certify that this copy is a correct copy of the original statement on file in my office.

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

SOCAL ICON

A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in the state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law. (See Section 144011, Business and Professions Code.)

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

MONICA P. OSIBIN

You are being sued by plaintiff: IRMA KENIA PARGETT

FILE NO. R-2013-01048

Date: FEB 10 2014

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En su condición de secretario, debo hacer que compre un libro de contabilidad para el ejercicio del año fiscal, los gastos de los cuales serán pagados por la empresa. Debe ser correcto, debe cumplir con las normas de contabilidad del estado y deberá estar en español. Necesita ser un libro que tenga una sección para los gastos y otra para los ingresos. Debería tener una tabla de flujo donde se pueda encontrar fácilmente el estado de resultados y los balances. Tampoco debería incluir información financiera falsa. Si no se entiende alguna parte del libro, deberá recibir formación adecuada.

La siguiente información es correcta y se encuentra en el libro de contabilidad:

1. Gastos generales:
   - Alquiler: $1500
   - Salarios: $3000
   - Suministros: $500

2. Ingresos:
   - Venta de libros: $4000
   - Ventas de publicaciones: $2000

3. Estado de resultados:
   - Ganancia neta: $1500

4. Balance:
   - Activos:
     - Patrimonio: $5000
   - Pasivos:
     - Deudas: $0

Por favor, confirme que esta información es correcta y complete el libro de contabilidad.
of the original statement on file in my office.

NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the Office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not release the registrant from service of process in any pending or future lawsuit or action that may be brought against him or her to enforce a liability of the registrant or of any other person for any cause of action which existed or arose at any time prior to the filing of this statement. Statement filed with the county Clerk of Riverside County on January 16, 2014.

Larry W. Ward, Riverside County Clerk.

FILE NO. R-2014-001511 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

EQUIPMENT STORES & DESIGN

FILE NO. R-2014-001524 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

THE RUBY SLIPPER EVENTS & DESIGN

FILE NO. R-2014-001506 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

SPECIALTY PHARMACY CONSULTING E. PEAK PERFORMANCE SALES TRADING BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. R-2014-016004 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

PUBLIC NOTICES

SUE KASTEN

FILE NO. R-2014-002002 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. R-2014-003098 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. R-2014-002096 p. 207, 36, 313, 320, 2014

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

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The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE

WE WILL BE RELOCATING
On September 30th, 2013 to
3030 North Del Rosa Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92404

CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE
International Ministries
1521 South Riverside Ave., Rialto, CA
Tel: (909) 874-8676 Fax: (909) 874-1062

Praise Tabernacle
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
JOIN PASTOR
ANN HILLIARD

Sunday Services
9:00 am
Wednesday Bible Study
5:00 pm

2883 Mission Inn Ave • Riverside, CA • 92507
951-205.3159
www.praisetabernaclecmechurch.com

JOIN BISHOP
J. Faraja Kafela

Sunday Services
8:00 am | 10:30 am
Youth Church
10:30 am

510 West Monterey Ave • Pomona, CA • 91768
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For advertising opportunities, contact Lee Ragin at
951.682.6070
This month the Palm Springs Art Museum hosted, “Civil Rights in America: Where Do We Stand Now?,” the first full art exhibit of African-American artwork in Palm Springs. We spent 15 minutes with event organizers and asked them to share their thoughts on the historic project:

We had an two hour art show in 2013 and because of the overwhelming success of that event when Wes Rankins, vice-president of the organization and chair of the 2013 event approached the Palm Springs Art Museum, the museum asked if the we would sponsor and create a full African American exhibit and they would house it. We then approached the City of Palm Springs for sponsorship and Palm Springs overwhelmingly said yes.

We selected the work of Synthia SAINT JAMES and Charles Bibbs because we wanted perspectives from both the African American female and male points of view. “Civil Rights in America: Where Do We Stand Now?” is actually our theme for this year and it seemed fitting for an art exhibit. I spoke with each artist about the theme and asked if they had pieces that reflected the theme. Both said yes and were allowed to curate from their own body of work.

The overwhelmingly positive response from the community has been more than we ever imagined. What surprised all of us are the tourists from Canada and the East Coast who have come to view the exhibit. The exhibit has broken so many boundaries.

**About the artist:**
Riverside artist Charles Bibbs is an internationally acclaimed artist, entrepreneur and philanthropist, who is most noted for his exquisite artistic renderings that convey deep senses of spirituality, majesty, dignity, strength and grace.

Bibbs’ work displays a unique, strong and stylized quality done in a combination of abstract and realistic interpretations of contemporary subjects that are beautifully fused into multifaceted ethnicity, larger-than-life images.

In his effort to support the arts and other artists, including young and emerging artists, Bibbs has founded a number of organizations and businesses: Art 2000 Visual Arts Association (also a mentorship program), Art On Tour, Images Magazine, The Inland Empire Music and Arts Foundation. Bibbs’ own corporation, B Graphics and Fine Arts is recognized as one of the leading publishers and distributors of his beautiful art images.

In his 30-year art career Bibbs has received over 100 recognitions and awards for his art and philanthropic spirit, including the “Key to the City” awards in 7 major cities across the United States. Some of his collectors include songwriter and producer Frankie Beverly, actor, comedian and radio host Steve Harvey, actress and entertainers Queen Latifah and Tkeyah Kemah, Songwriter Smokey Robinson, the University of Arizona and Fox Searchlight Pictures, just to name a few.

“I have some notoriety, in terms of exaggeration of the human figure, and using natural imagery-birds and other symbols out of nature. However, my most important goal is to make profound aesthetic statements that are ethnically rooted, and at the same time arouse spiritual emotions within us.”

- Charles Bibbs, Artist
Celebrating our nation’s promise and progress.

Black history isn’t just words on a page. It echoes in the footsteps of civil rights marchers. It comes to life with the words of great leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And it continues to ripple through generations, changing us all for the better. Wells Fargo honors Black history, which is American history.

Wells Fargo is proud to present *The Kinsey Collection: Shared Treasures of Bernard and Shirley Kinsey — Where Art and History Intersect.* This nationally touring exhibition helps share the often untold story of African American achievements and contributions to American history. Join us in our celebration and visit wellsfargo.com/kinseycollection to learn more.

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