

## Be Very Afraid Of Being Made Very Afraid

Over the St. Patrick's Day weekend there were 40 shootings in Chicago, 10 of which resulted in deaths—including at least one child. Most of the victims were black. Several victims were struck by stray bullets from drive-by shootings. Where do Obama and Attorney General Eric "my people" Holder stand on those black-on-black shootings and injustices? Do any of *those* victims look like the son Obama never had?

I assume George Zimmerman will be indicted and prosecuted for something. That will, of course, not un-do the death of Trayvon Martin but it is more justice than is being rendered in Chicago... and Los Angeles and Detroit and New York City and Washington, D.C. What about those 40 shootings in Chicago? Who is doing anything about those tragedies? Did the former Mayor Daley do anything during his several terms in office? Is the current Mayor Rahm Emanuel doing anything? Is Holder doing anything to help put a stop to black-on-black crime?

A few days ago there was an incident in Chicago in which police officers tried to arrest a black man. He pulled a gun on them and in defense the cops shot him and killed him. Now the city is enraged about that, with some claiming it was murder and racism, and that the college-educated victim would never have been carrying a gun. The article also listed the address—a neighborhood I know because I used to live in the general area. That neighborhood is incredibly poor. If you do not live there, you visit for only one reason (college degree or not): to make a drug deal. I don't know if the police overreacted. But I know their lives are constantly at risk—at least in that neighborhood. But because a white cop shot a black man, many people automatically assume racism was involved.

Our society cannot survive if every incident is viewed through a racial prism. What do people expect? Must we only have black cops patrolling in black neighborhoods, in order to avoid charges of racism? Must we prohibit black cops from serving in white neighborhoods? Should we have no cops in Chinatown if we don't happen to have any cops with Chinese ancestry?

Every crime is not a race crime. There are a lot of bad people out there, of all stripes. Arrest them and get them off the streets, to be sure. But juries must weigh the evidence, *not* outraged crowds ginned up by Jesse Jackson, or Al Sharpton, or MSNBC, or anyone else.

I tried to raise my kids to understand that race is irrelevant. But I always felt like my efforts were being contradicted by the media. I remember when Colin Powell was named Secretary of State. I was watching the news with my kids and the reporter made an issue of his being the first black Secretary of State. My son asked why Powell's being black was important—because I had always told him race was irrelevant. I answered that it was *not* important. He wisely asked, "Then why is the reporter making it sound important?" (Why did I have to deal with that situation? Whose fault was that? I don't believe it was mine.) Powell was the first black Secretary of State. Madeline Albright then became the first female Secretary of State. Condoleezza Rice then became the first black female

Secretary of State. If a President Romney selects John Bolton as his Secretary of State, will he be the first white, mustachioed Secretary of State from Baltimore, Maryland? Why should I care about anything other than Bolton's experience and ability to properly serve the United States and defend the Constitution?

Life experiences, like serving in the Armed Forces, help people learn to ignore race and background. I was drafted at age 20 and met people from all walks of life. Whatever our preconceived notions may have been before we went into boot camp, they were gone a few weeks later. A couple nights into the experience, my only prejudice was against those who snored the loudest. (Skin color and regional accents seem suddenly irrelevant when you realize everyone has to depend on each other in a war in a rice paddy on the other side of the world.)

I *hate* what has happened to this nation since then. When I grew up in the 50s and early 60s I saw race relations slowly improving. I lived in a "mixed" neighborhood in Chicago, but I can state that we did not have "baby mommas" or mothers with five children from five different fathers. What happened to make that not only something that is no longer shameful, but common?

Yes, there were prejudices. My older brother invited a black friend from school to join the boy scouts. Not long after, my parents received a visit from "concerned" neighbors. One could argue that we lost the battle because my brother ended up leaving the troop, but I think we won the war of principles.

Despite the problems, I saw *progress* in race relations. I saw strong Italian families, and strong German families, and strong black families. I did not see divorces. If there was a single mother it was because her husband died unexpectedly, not because he was in prison for selling drugs or holding up a convenience store. Yes, some of the grandparents in the neighborhood used the "N-word," but few parents did; and the children my age certainly did not. We didn't care about race—at least until 1968, when Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and the rioting and fires came perilously close to our house. Then we became frightened, and race relations that had been improving suddenly began deteriorating.

As a society we did some things right and many things wrong. We learned that discriminating against someone because of his skin color was unjustified, but we strangely decided that discriminating in favor of someone because of his skin color was somehow justified. Even when intentions are good, however, the cures are sometimes worse than the disease. As an example, I know someone who owns a business who does his best to hire young white males. But his hiring practices have nothing to do with prejudice. They have to do with economic survival. He knows what many people seem not to know—that the cost of hiring a person includes the potential cost of firing that person. If he fires a young white male it probably means he will never see him again. But if he fires a middle-aged, overweight, Hispanic or black woman, he may very well see her in court. An unjustified discrimination lawsuit may end up destroying his business and

exhausting his life savings. So, in the interests of economic self-preservation, my friend hires people who are least likely to sue him if he ever has to fire them.

Is that fair? Of course not. Is it understandable? Certainly. People need to realize that laws meant to help them may end up harming them in the long run. The solution to ending discrimination is to change people's attitudes, not legislate activities.

I have no idea whether George Zimmerman is a racist moron or someone who simply made a tragic mistake. I have no idea whether Trayvon Martin was out looking for trouble or was merely a kid who also may have made a tragic mistake. I assume both Zimmerman and Martin acted unwisely, and allowed emotion to overtake reason. But it does not help matters to have Jesse Jackson tell a crowd, "Martyrs have power. ...He [Martin] represents all of us. ...How do we go from a moment to a movement that creates fundamental change? If it's a moment, we go home. If it's a movement, we go to war. Movements are made of serious substance. ...There is power in the blood of the innocent." If the shooting of an Arizona Congresswoman can be blamed on Sarah Palin for having campaign literature with a bulls-eye on a Congressional map, then Jesse Jackson certainly ought to be convicted of inciting a riot if one occurs.

The recording of George Zimmerman's conversation with a 9-1-1 dispatcher the night he shot Trayvon Martin reveals Zimmerman stating, "This guy looks like he's up to no good, or he's on drugs or something. It's raining and he's just walking around, looking about." The 9-1-1 dispatcher asked, "Okay. And this guy, is he white, black or Hispanic?" Zimmerman responded, "He looks black." NBC's *Today* show played an *edited* version, with Zimmerman saying, "This guy looks like he's up to no good. ...He looks black." The Media Research Center's Brent Bozell correctly noted, "This isn't bias, this isn't distortion, this is an all-out falsehood by NBC News. When you hear him say, 'he looks black,' anyone watching that believes that there are racial overtones to what this man did. How could you *not* believe that? It goes with the narrative of the profiling. The only problem is, they edited out the dispatcher asking him, 'what does he look like?'" (NBC News has declined to comment.)

Why is it that when Democrat Senators voted against the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court it was considered a defense of their principles, but when Republican Senators voted against the nominations of Sonya Sotomayor and Elena Kagan they were labeled anti-Hispanic and anti-gay? If Zimmerman's shooting of Martin is a hate crime, what is NBC's editing of the 9-1-1 recording?

I do not want to live in a world with Supreme Court Justices who are labeled black or white or Latino or gay or anything else. I simply want nine Supreme Court Justices who understand and defend the U.S. Constitution. I do not want to live in a world where cops are labeled black or white or Hispanic or Chinese. I simply want to be protected by police officers who follow the law. I do not want to live in a world with the first black this or the first female that. I want to live in a world with the best this and the best that.

These race-based attitudes have to be eradicated, or we will face in 2012 riots that are far worse than those that scared the daylights out of my family in 1968. If millions of people automatically believe that race is the determining factor in almost every action involving blacks and whites and Hispanics, and if they are ready to lynch a “white Hispanic” for shooting a black youth, what will the reaction be if Obama loses the November 6 election? The answer, of course, is that white voters do not know what the reaction will be... and Obama fully understands that those fears work in his favor. That is why he eagerly injected himself into the Trayvon Martin shooting, and that is why NBC edited the 9-1-1 recording. Obama cannot win reelection based on his accomplishments. He can win only by making the voters afraid of what might happen if he loses. That is why we must be very afraid of being made very afraid.

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*<http://www.colony14.net/id630.html>*