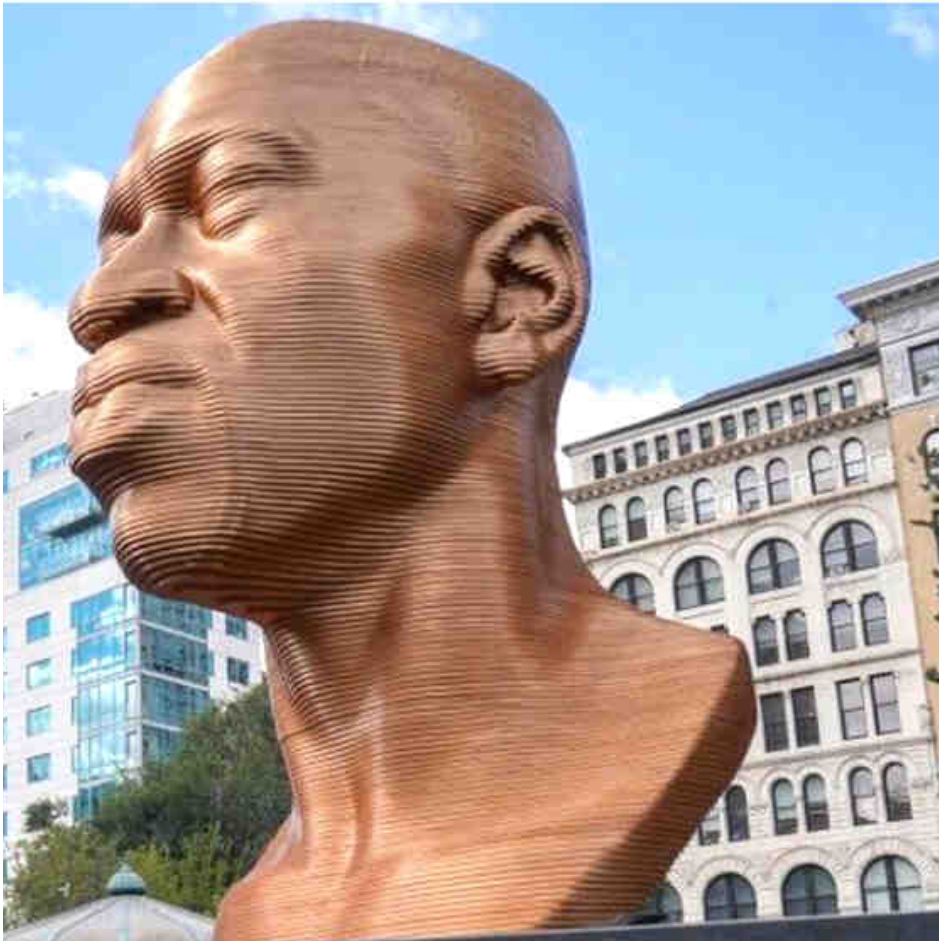


DETROIT

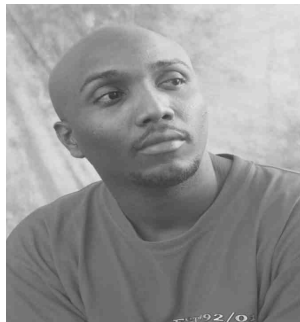
NATIVE SUN

Devil’s Advocate

Black and Business



By Larry Gore Jr.
SUN COLUMNIST



It has been two years since the heart-breaking demise of both Breonna Taylor, from Louisville Kentucky, and George Floyd, from Minnesota, with both incidents still being talked about as of this very day. Are the incidents as harmless as the media and the Black community portray it to be?

Both occurrences have a couple of things in common: the cost of life at the hands of white law enforcement officers, and as sad as it is, many people tend to overlook the glaring facts of both matters.

For instance, in the Breonna Taylor case, to break it down in term, she was caught in the cross hairs of deadly gun-play, after police came to the apartment that was occupied by her and boyfriend Kenneth Walker. Police were amidst a drug investigation involving Walker and with Walker being cautious regarding his illegal activities, he responded in kind with shooting at the officers which he claimed did not properly announce themselves as officers. Unfortunately, an innocent life was lost.

The advocacy is that Breonna Taylor was not murdered; she absolutely did not pose a threat to the officers but was struck with bullets that was meant for her boyfriend, who was under suspicion for drug activity. That is one of the hard-hitting consequences of living that lifestyle. People were distraught at this case, but when it involves white police and a Black victim, then usually the race card is going to be played.

Not long after this fateful event came the demise of George Floyd, a Black man from Minneapolis Minnesota that was killed ill-advisedly by the cold hands of white law enforcement. Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin detained Floyd while he was seen attempting to purchase items with a counterfeit \$20 bill and having a drug-induced rage from Methadone.

After nine minutes of having his knee on Floyd’s neck, he then died from the altercation. One may say the actions of the

police officer was justified, but it was indeed taken entirely too far. Anyone who is aware of the drug Methadone knows it causes the user to have rash and destructive behavior and as a result having the officers use excessive force.

Not long after George Floyd’s death came the Black Lives Matter movement coming to fruition once again, but it is taken way beyond measure. On one hand it is merciless of law enforcement to view minorities as somewhat of a threat and to assume the worst case out of an individual based on their appearance, but on the other hand not all cases are deemed as innocent.

The nation has immortalized George Floyd, a local drug addict, with statues and murals on buildings across the nation, and the B.L.M movement indeed found a way to get compensated from the ill-fated circumstance. It may very well be a harsh and apathetic statement, but George Floyd is not a hero, just another Black man that was killed by law enforcement and caught the attention of millions.

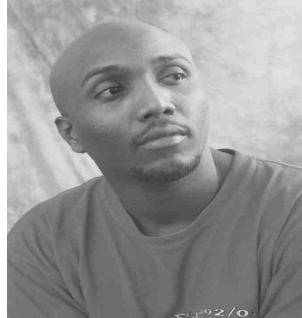
Would the dynamics change if Breonna Taylor and George Floyd were white, and the police officers were Black? It is right to say that the police only responded out of instinct and not from hatred because of one’s skin color. Still, it does not justify lethal force on anyone unless their lives were truly in danger.

On April 13th, 2022, in Grand Rapids Michigan, Patrick Lyoya, who is not an African American but from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was killed by a white police officer when he was pulled over for having an improper license plate. After a short tussle with police, it awkwardly led to the officer shooting him in the back of the head. This happening is self-apparent because not only Lyoya had a taser on hand, but he fled from the officer and if a person, despite race or gender flees from law enforcement, it only makes matters worse.

Everyday across the nation, the police force is killing people. Black people are at a high percentage of those people. The number one rule of law enforcement is the preservation of life and to protect and serve. Many have kept that oath, but it becomes quite difficult to sustain that oath when some individuals who happen to be African American or a different skin color tend to be seen as a danger and drastic methods are hesitantly implemented.



By Larry Gore Jr.
SUN COLUMNIST



Ambition: defined in the Merriam Webster dictionary as an ardent desire for rank, fame, or power. Pride, popularity, and prestige are the key hallmarks of having a successive and fruitful business everyone wishes to take satisfaction in.

Various individuals have it embedded in their heart to become an entrepreneur one day but exactly what does that require and what limit one is willing to go to realize their objective.

For starters, one must know and understand the instinct difference between a business and a hustle. It is shown all over social media and in the music industry about the incentives as well as the pitfalls of hustling, which is to acquire financial solidity by underhanded means i.e. to lie, deceive, rob, and sell out all for currency and position. It is seen on videos and heard in many rappers’ music about the condescension and boasting of their lavish lifestyles and how foolish they have become when it comes to their money. Regarding Black people in general, we seem to have forgotten the importance of education, the challenging work and labor it takes to truly become effective and be taken seriously. Some neglect the discipline of reading and studying for countless hours and doing extensive research of having just the minimum essentials of having business etiquette.

Unfortunately, most Blacks have been deprived and are destitute of the power of intellect, cannot speak proper English, and only live in the moment opposed to laying a treasure for their offspring. Laying a secured foundation and having necessities such as college funds and investing in life insurance whenever the inevitable happens should not go ignored especially if

one is financially sound. Many have been raised in impoverished surroundings, thus bringing forth the hustler mentality. It has been said for years that Black businesses tend to overcharge to get an instant profit off their merchandise even if the product is unexceptional and expect customers to support based on the point that it is Black-owned. It can also be agreed upon that it is not wise to employ certain family and friends because most family members already feel that they have the right to have their garden showered from their loved one’s sweat. There are countless amounts of Black businesses that have subsided because of poor judgment and dealings, not investing the necessary time and funds it takes to truly run a successful enterprise. Millions are looking for fast profit to keep up with the joneses and to provoke jealousy upon their own people and not bearing in mind the end game. The world has sown illusions of pride, lust, and covetousness in millions and that illusion continues to become more in depth. What are the signs of a just business and a business-person? Not just Black society but for any ethnic group, presentation is paramount.

One should know the fundamentals of how to apply for a job, presenting a resume, refraining from speaking Ebonics, being repetitive with words, and looking the potential employee in the eye amidst the interview. To gain and maintain the support and respect of your own people is to be fair-minded when it comes down to price and quality and not treat it as a hustle just for a quick buck. Other cultures have capitalized on the want and need of the black community. One example are beauty supply stores, which are owned by Koreans and majority of the customers are African American with products such as eye lashes, du-rags, weave hair, and fingernails. This poses a serious concern because there should be Blacks operating and owning beauty supply stores across the nation since the product is made for Blacks and bought by Blacks. As a people of color, we must be more business conscious, abstain from the negativity of pessimists and continue to strive to become great businessmen and women.

ADVERTISE WITH US

313.457.5944