

# Book serves up tips on cop interactions

By Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

**'Black Cops Against Brutality: A Crisis Action Plan'**

Author DeLacy Davis;

Introduction by Sergeant Hosi Reynolds; B-Cap Press ; Paperback,; \$25.00; 142 pages, illustrated. ISBN: 0-9745901-0-X

*"Police brutality reminds me of the darkness in history when the master whipped the slaves just because he could... There can be no more blatant racism than that misuse of power by the police who have been entrusted to protect us."*

—Excerpted from Chapter One

"The Vanishing Black Male" was the No. 1 documentary on my annual Top Ten List for 2005. That timely and thought-provoking picture seriously examined how guns, drugs, incarceration, suicide and a host of other societal ills have collaborated to leave African-American men on the brink of extinction.

I start with this sidebar because one of the standouts of that groundbreaking film is Sgt. Delacy Davis, a recently-retired, 20-year veteran of the East Orange, New Jersey Police Department. Ever so eloquently, he bemoaned the breakdown of the Black family while delineating the efforts of Black Cops Against Police Brutality (B-CAP), to support single-moms and their kids in an effective manner.

But he originally founded that organization in order to prevent police misconduct and abuse of power, and to stem the rising tide of violence in the 'hood through the implementation of some innovative techniques and programs. Davis, who has a master's degree in Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson and a Bachelor's in English from Drew University, has found himself to be quite in demand around the country, as of late, as a

motivational speaker on this subject.

Fortunately, he has just published "Black Cops Against Brutality: A Crisis Action Plan," a long-overdue, logical extension of his dedication and commitment to the community.

The book is basically a police encounter survival guide. Besides relating a litany of case histories by folks from all walks of life who fell victim to overzealous law enforcement, it offers plenty of practical advice on how to handle the situation — if you are unlucky enough to get detained by a cop for whatever reason.

Obviously, as a veteran officer, he has sage advice to share, such as to remain calm, roll down your car window, turn on the ceiling light and keep both hands on the wheel during a motor vehicle stop. He also lets you know how to handle the situation when the authorities arrive at your door, whether with or without a warrant, or if they simply begin questioning you right on the street.

Of equal import is how DeLacy addresses what to do when you've become the victim of a profile stop, an unlawful arrest or an unfair search and seizure. Here, he delineates each step of the subsequent civilian complaint process, from keeping a log sheet, to finding an attorney, filing charges, and contacting the press and your political representatives.

Finally, because the author sees the issue as a nationwide crisis, he closes this priceless opus by stressing the need to develop both the leadership and the strategies necessary for eradicating police brutality once and for all. Overall, "Black Cops Against Brutality" is readily recommended as a legally-sound, morally-upright and most practical guide by a brother who breaks the blue wall of silence to help the people about how to deal with the criminal justice system most effectively.

## Coffee

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Francisco and Washington. Its goal is to open 125 locations.

The initial focus of the company has been in African-American and Hispanic communities. The stores look like other Starbucks cafes but reflect the character of their neighborhoods. Each shop also features a framed photograph of Earvin "Magic" Johnson and co-branded items such as a special mural and a plaque signed by the NBA Hall of Famer.

"I'm addicted to the caramel macchiato," said Pamela Burton, while enjoying a recent Sunday-afternoon drink at the Ladera Heights store with her friend Denise Nichols.

Both women — one a senior account director for a multimedia company, the other a radiation therapist — are well within Urban

Coffee's diverse target market.

"I think the whole cafe vibe is great way to meet and talk to people," Nichols said.

Although only a handful of cafes are Black-owned, their numbers are growing nationally. Along with Lucy Florence and Fifth Street Dick's in Leimert Park, one such cafe is the Watts Coffee House. Like Lucy Florence, it is supplied by the Black-owned gourmet coffee company Howling Monk, which has its own store in Inglewood.

In Portland there's Stellar Coffee, in Chicago, Intelligentsia Coffee & Tea Inc., in Washington Farley's Inc. and in Atlanta, Cormier Coffee Roasting Company.

Northern California-based Ola's Exotic Coffee and Tea Inc. bills itself as the only vertically integrated, Black-owned coffee com-

pany in America. The specialty coffee roaster, franchiser and importer currently operates three quick service coffee houses in Oakland, Stockton and Milpitas, where it is headquartered.

Founded by 45-year-old, Nigerian-born businessman Ola Hassan in 2004, Ola's specializes in harvesting coffee beans and teas from the African continent. The beans from countries like Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia and Rwanda are prized for their high quality.

Hassan's ambitions are lofty, with plans to add 20 franchises in U.S. by the end of the year as well as establishing key markets abroad in Europe, Asia and the Far East.

He projects revenues of \$25 million next year.

Olu Alemoru writes for the Wave Newspapers.

# FREEDOM THAT LASTS



Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

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