

# Founder of Black Holocaust Museum dies

MILWAUKEE (AP) — James Cameron, who survived an attempted lynching by a White mob and went on to found America's Black Holocaust Museum, died Sunday at the age of 92.

Cameron had suffered from lymphoma for about five years, said Marissa Weaver, chairwoman of the Milwaukee-based museum's board.

In 1930, in Marion, Ind., Cameron and two friends were arrested and accused of

killing a White man during a robbery and raping the man's companion.

A mob broke them out of the local jail and hanged Cameron's two friends, then placed a rope around his neck.

"They began to chant for me like a football player, 'We want Cameron, we want Cameron,'" he recalled in a 2003 interview with The Associated Press. "I could feel the blood in my body just freezing up."

The 16-year-old shoeshine boy was spared when a man in the crowd proclaimed his innocence.

In 1988, he opened the museum in a small storefront room in downtown Milwaukee. Six years later, he took over an abandoned 12,000-square-foot gym the city sold him for \$1. The museum explores the history of the struggles of Blacks in America from slavery to modern day and was considered one of the first of its kind

in the country.

"It's the most important thing in the world to me to carry on this fight, to explain the history that's been hidden ... from Black people," he told The Associated Press in 2003.

Cameron said in interviews that he was inspired to create the museum by a 1979 trip to Israel and Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial.

Weaver said Cameron counted one of his defining

moments in June last year when the U.S. Senate issued an apology for not standing against the lynching violence that killed more than 4,700 people from 1882 to 1968, three-fourths of them Black.

"I was saved by a miracle," Cameron said at the time. "They were going to lynch me between my two buddies," he said, with thousands of people "hollering for my blood when a voice said 'Take this boy back.'"

Cameron was convicted

of being an accessory before the fact to voluntary manslaughter and spent four years in prison, but was granted a pardon in 1993. He said he had been beaten into signing a false confession.

"The museum is his legacy," Weaver said. "That was his life's work — to share with the world the injustices that African-Americans have suffered... providing an opportunity to repair bridges."

Cameron is survived by his wife, Virginia, and three of their children.

## Workers

(Continued from Page 12) family income. Over that same period, Black income relative to White wages remained unchanged. The Bureau reports that median Black family household income of \$30,134 was the lowest of all.

By contrast, foreign-born households had a median income of \$39,421. But this data includes all foreigners, such as the highly skilled and trained immigrants that labor leader Lucy mentioned.

Peter Holoman, the director of the Male Development and Empowerment Center at the Medgar Evers College at the City University of New York, conducts job training and financial empowerment programs for both immigrant and Black American men at the Brooklyn campus.

While both Andersons cite census data to argue their very different opinions, Holoman sees in his office the faces of frustrated Black men who were turned down for jobs and excited immigrants coming in to tell him they have gotten jobs.

"It does present a problem for that individual who is legal and trying to get that job. Then you look around and you have your (immigrant) neighbor next door going all around the system. They're working odd jobs here and there and maintaining," he said.

Alfred A. Young Jr., a researcher and assistant professor of sociology at the University of Michigan, said Black resentment toward immigrants when it comes to labor issues is nothing new.

Of the hundreds of young men he's interviewed in southeastern Michigan and Chicago, he found there was no direct competition with immigrants for jobs but instead, young, Black men would not and could not work for the wages immigrants accepted.

"These [Black] guys say it doesn't make sense," Young said.

Even members of the His-

panic community, such as Flavia Jimenez, an immigration policy analyst with the National Council of La Raza, a leading national Hispanic rights group, agrees the low wages immigrant workers accept hurts everyone — including the immigrants.

"Big corporations are taking advantage of workers overall. Because of the illegal status of the undocumented workers, they hire them for fewer wages, lowering, of course, the wages for African-American workers," Jimenez said.

The Pew Hispanic Center released a "Latino Labor Report" in 2004 and showed with the constant influx of new immigrants competing with other more established immigrants, weekly earnings for Hispanics dropped in 2003 and 2004.

The report also revealed that wages for Black workers increased in 2003 but declined by 1 percent in 2004, while Hispanic workers wages fell 2.2 percent in 2003 and another 2.6 percent in 2004.

"Black men who take those jobs move in and out of those positions. They're trying to find careers in work and not just do jobs," Young said. "They're thinking about, 'Do I have an opportunity to move up?'"

Aside from the increase in white-collar jobs, construction companies seeking a better profit margin look to immigrants willing to work longer hours for less pay and no benefits.

The Latino Labor report said the construction industry heavily depended on Hispanic immigrants in 2004, and of the 571,000 construction jobs added that year, Hispanic immigrant workers made up almost half of them — 226,000.

More recently, Lucy said the rebuilding efforts in areas destroyed by Hurricane Katrina are a perfect example of how young, Black men are not getting in on work opportunities there at the same rate

of Hispanic immigrants.

A new study from the Census said that 45 percent of the reconstruction workers in New Orleans are Hispanic and at least two-thirds of them came after Hurricane Katrina.

"They (contractors) are hiring workers they can exploit," Lucy said.

Bernard Anderson acknowledges that unemployment among young Black men is a "crisis" but notes some other labor trends.

"Jobs Hispanic women hold in hotels today, Black women held 30 years ago. Black women who used to work in the Hilton are working at Wal-Mart, health services and centers," Bernard Anderson said.

Keith Sutton, president of the Triangle Urban League in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina, said in recent years he's seen an increase in Hispanic immigrants in the area, but only a handful of Blacks there feel immigrants are taking jobs from them.

"The feeling is that many of the Hispanics have jobs or work in jobs that African-Americans probably would not have a whole lot of interest in anyway," Sutton said referring to jobs in landscaping, housekeeping or maintenance. However, members of Choose Black America believe before Blacks can help fight for anyone else's rights, they need to secure their own.

They are also challenging

prominent Black groups promoting immigration to do the same.

"They (Blacks) need to be helping themselves. Put their own self-interest first. It's not Black folks' responsibility to save the world. It's their responsibility to save themselves," said Claud Anderson. "We help gays, minorities, midgets, and lesbians (while) Black people are the poorest in this country."

While Bernard Anderson says Blacks have made progress in the job market.

"We ought to be out celebrating we aren't holding those jobs," he said. "We're holding better jobs. You don't want Black people working for less than minimum wage."

## EMPLOYMENT

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## LEGAL NOTICES

**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA**

**REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS NO. 015-06**

**TRANSIT / FACILITIES PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SERVICES**

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is accepting proposals from qualified and skilled professionals in the security field to provide armed and unarmed guard force security services in support of the agency and its mass transportation system operations. All work will be done in accordance with bid documents and approved specifications.

**PREBID CONFERENCE: 10:00 a.m., June 22, 2006.** The Prebid Conference will start at the RTC'S Administration Building, Room 127, 600 South Grand Central Parkway, North Las Vegas, NV 89106 and continue into a site visit of the project areas. The purpose of the Conference is to review and discuss the project, specifications, and conduct site visits in regards to this project.

All questions, comments and requests for clarification on this RFP must be submitted in writing to Debra Coleman, C.P.M., Purchasing Analyst, by 3:00 p.m., July 6, 2006, via mail, email - [colemand@rtcnev.com](mailto:colemand@rtcnev.com) or facsimile at 702-676-1588.

Proposals will be received at the offices of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, 600 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106 on August 1, 2006. Proposals must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. (Pacific time). Bids time-stamped at 3:01 p.m. or later will be returned, unopened to the Bidder.

Bid packages complete with specifications and drawings will be available beginning June 14, 2006, at the Regional Transportation Commission's Administration Building, located at 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV, 89106, at the second floor reception desk, between the hours 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Requests to receive a bid package may be mailed to the above address, referencing RFP No. 015-06. Questions should be directed to Debra Coleman, C.P.M. Purchasing Analyst at 702-676-1548.

The successful proposer shall cooperate with the RTC in meeting its commitments and objectives with regard to ensuring non-discrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT assisted contracts and shall use its best efforts to ensure that barriers to participation of DBEs do not exist.  
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