

Black-on-Black homicide hits home, heart

By Kam Williams

Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Mother, mother, there's too many of you crying/

Brother, brother, brother, there's far too many of you dying/

You know we've got to find a way, to bring some lovin' here today/

Hey, what's going on?"

—"What's Going On" by Marvin Gaye

I last spoke to Chauncey Bailey just a couple of days before he was assassinated on the streets of downtown Oakland on the morning of August 2. He was murdered in broad daylight on his way to his office by a thug in a ski mask who pumped three rounds from a shotgun directly into his chest before jumping into a waiting getaway van.

I wish that I could say that Chauncey and I had shared some deeply meaningful exchange during that last chat, but it merely

addressed a mundane concern of mine in my capacity as a syndicated contributor to the *Oakland Post*. In fact, since he took the job as the paper's editor-in-chief this past June, all of our conversations had been brief and of a professional nature.

Still, I was very impressed with his work ethic and publishing acumen, and was quite confident that the *Post* would be in good hands during his tenure. Now, upon his passing, I have come to have my suspicions about the man confirmed by all the glowing tributes and testimonials about him by those who knew him well, both as a dedicated journalist and as a loving father.

The police already have a suspect in custody, Devaughndre Broussard, a 19 year-old ex-con who has reportedly confessed that he committed the crime in response to Bailey's having written an unfavorable review of the Black Muslim Bakery where he was em-

ployed as a handyman. Quite frankly, this tragedy wouldn't have registered more than a blip on the radar, if it weren't for the victim's esteemed status in the African-American community; for, seven more Black folks were shot dead in the City of Oakland in the 48 hours immediately following the slaying of Bailey.

Among those being treated like statistics was Byron Mitchell, 29, who was fatally wounded while being robbed; Jacqueline Venable, 40, was gunned down while eating cake at friend's house; Khatari Gant, 25, perished after his car was peppered with bullets from an assault rifle. Gant's brother and an acquaintance were also shot, but survived. Kevin Sharp, 20, was home watching TV when he answered a knock at the door only to have his head blown off. And there were three others.

Meanwhile, here in New Jersey, the hip-

hop Holocaust exacted an equally-shocking toll in Newark last Saturday night, when three Delaware State University college students — Terrance Aerial, 18, Iofemi Hightower, 20, and Dashon Harvey, 20 — none of whom had any police records, were lined up against a wall, forced to their knees, robbed and executed by bullets to the brain by a gang of "gangstas."

A fourth student, Natasha Aerial, 19, miraculously survived somehow, and is in stable condition in the hospital.

This skyrocketing Black-on-Black homicide rate is a shame which suggests that African-Americans' sense of self-worth has plunged to an all-time low.

And now that it has hit home, it makes me wanna holler: "What's going on?"

Lloyd Kam Williams is an attorney and a member of the bar in NJ, NY, CT, PA, MA and U.S. Supreme Court bars.

We honor Marcus Garvey by employing his creed

By James Clingman

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Because most of you who read my articles already know about Marcus Garvey, and because you know what he stood for and what he did, this will not be a history lesson. For those of you who are not as familiar with Brother Garvey as you would like to be, please go to a Black-owned bookstore and get a few of the many books written about this giant.

No, this is not a history lesson. This is simply about homage, recognition and allegiance to a Black man who loved his people so much that he sacrificed beyond what most of us would say is reasonable. This is about a man among men who told us to "rise up" and do the things we must do for ourselves to prosper in this country and around the world.

Marcus Garvey cared so much about his people that he kept coming back, even after being stymied and stigmatized by the White establishment, as well as by some of his own people.

After all of the negative experiences put upon him by his enemies, he kept coming back to fulfill his mission of raising the con-

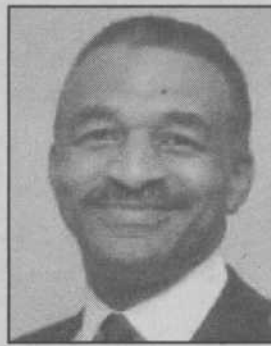
sciousness of Black people, organizing Black people and leading Black people to economic prosperity.

He even promised to come back in death as a whirlwind or a storm, bringing with him millions of Black slaves who would aid us in our fight for freedom and keep the pressure up until we have succeeded.

When you think about how hurricanes that hit the United States originate near the African coast, it makes you wonder if Brother Marcus is not fulfilling some of his prophecy.

In addition, considering the debacle that Firestone Tires suffered with all of the product defect liability lawsuits against it a few years ago, I wonder if Marcus is finally taking his retribution for that company's role in thwarting his work to connect Blacks in the U.S. with our brothers and sisters in Liberia and West Africa via UNIA, the Universal Negro Improvement Association. What goes around comes around. Right?

From what I recently read on Jamey



JAMES CLINGMAN

Wooten's ministry website, www.faithinmotion.net, Firestone is once again doing some dirt in Liberia with the rubber industry and the workers over there. We probably need Marcus to make a "return."

Marcus Garvey — yet another brother who departed this life much too soon, following Booker T. Washington's shortened life and preceding our dear

brother and warrior, Amos Wilson — stood tall among all men.

He was principled, he had backbone, and he was fearless — all because he loved his people dearly. Love is the most powerful weapon we have. If Black folks had "Marcus Garvey Love" for one another, imagine where we would be as a people.

Brother Garvey's life should be celebrated, just as other icons of the Black experience are commemorated. After all, Garvey did what many of the others only talked about: he demonstrated the viability of economic control of our resources.

Garvey showed our people how to pool

our dollars and how to do for self; he carried us to new heights, collectively, by building numerous Black institutions and businesses.

Ironically, it was Brother Garvey's dedication to true nationalism that led to his demise among those for whom he so valiantly and relentlessly fought. Unfortunately, some Blacks were jealous and envious of Marcus' ability to rally the people, to get Black people to raise huge sums of money, to march and demonstrate in overwhelming numbers, to turn out the vote in unprecedented fashion, and to deny the takeover of the UNIA by "outsiders."

Black "leaders" of his time even came up with a "Marcus must go" campaign. Can you imagine that?

I certainly can. Been there, done that. Any time a strong Black man or Black woman stands up for our people, it is almost inevitable that another Black person will lead the charge against them.

Too often we forget — if we ever knew it at all, the importance of our brothers and sisters who stood tall on our behalf. Marcus Garvey, born August 17, 1887, is certainly

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region and as many thousands of displaced evacuees as can manage to return and have their presence register in Washington, in the media and the national consciousness.

We want all presidential candidates to take heed of the national discontent and our resolve to hold them accountable.

Americans are unaware of how gravely people of the Gulf Coast region are still suffering.

Mayor Nagin said, "We are physically, emotionally and spiritually tired."

A flood of media nonsense has washed over the facts of life for the people of New Orleans: Nearly two years later, 200,000 people are still living in trailers. More than 250,000 evacuated residents are still scattered throughout the nation. Two year later, 70 public schools in Orleans Parish remain closed. There are no mental health services, no hospitals to serve the uninsured poor.

And yet, as Barack Obama pointed out the evening he spoke at the festival, \$165 million a day is being spent on the war in Iraq.

Other research puts the number at an average of \$259 million each day, an amount that could pay for a full year in Head Start preschool programs for 35,000 three- and four-year-olds. For less than the amount spent in one month in Iraq, all of New Orleans could have been completely rebuilt.

Marian Wright Edelman noted that the Day of Presence is taking place at an opportune moment, just before Congress reconvenes to make its final decision, along with the President, on whether or not to fund the State Children's Health Insurance Program and help the dispersed children of Katrina get the mental health support and health coverage they desperately need.

Regional co-conveners include Mayor Nagin; Councilwoman Cynthia Willard-Lewis, who represents the Ninth Ward; committed activist lawyers Tracie Washington, president and CEO of The Louisiana Justice Institute, and Judith Browne, co-director of the Advancement Project; and the Rev. Norwood Thompson, Jr., president of the New Orleans chapter of SCLC.

The Louisiana Justice Institute is the lead organization and is forming a broad coalition of regional and community-based groups to plan the day's program and work on the regional turnout.

Marian Wright Edelman will help to organize our faith communities, and Marcia Dyson is working on a framework to sustain the movement beyond 8/29.

Who will step up as national co-conveners, along with Melanie Campbell, executive director and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Essence Cares and those leaders who joined me in meeting with the mayor?

Please contact Melanie Campbell at melaniec@ncbcp.org and me at taylor@essence.com.

On August 28, The Louisiana Justice Institute, Mississippi Economic Policy Center, Gulf Coast Young Leaders Network and a coalition of regional organizations, with support from Oxfam, Rutgers University and other institutions, are also convening a policy forum: Recovery and Renewal for Gulf Coast

Working Families.

For more information about the policy forum and the time and place of the 8/29: A Day of Presence rally, log on to the Institute's website, louisianajusticeinstitute.org, after July 17.

We need all hands on deck. Our job, all of us, is to mobilize the masses to act. Together we have the compassion, the will and spiritual resources to help our sisters and brothers in the Gulf region to reclaim and better their lives.

They matter and deserve to be treated with the dignity and respect due every human being, none more than taxpaying African-Americans, whose ancestors helped build and make the nation the wealthiest on earth.

Please give this email, and the related ones that will follow, the widest possible distribution. Let's organize our community to stand up and stand together as we haven't done in decades. With the needs of our people, not our egos, leading the way, we will win.

No forces arrayed against us can withstand our unity and love.