## The Portland Observer

July 24, 2013

**New Prices** Effective May 1, 2010 Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery** Cleaning **Residential & Commercial Services Minimum Service CHG.** \$45.00 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

CARPET CLEANING 2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area

**Pre-Spray Traffic Areas** (Includes: 1 small Hallway)

1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum Area/Oriental Rugs(Wool): \$40.00 Minimum

**Heavily Soiled Area:** Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

## OPINION



## 'Black Man 101' Curriculum Revised Again

'The talk' just got even harder

to deliver

turning the clock back.

As a parent, I'm a Black Man 101 professor as well as a lifelong stories of unarmed African-American men beaten, brutalized, and killed by the police. Their names haunt us, their faces

His killer's acquittal illustrates how emerge alive and unscathed. We the rules have changed once more, steel ourselves for the question that first hoodie. The moment he put it always follows: Why?

are born, all parents work hard to student. All parents of African- keep them safe. You want them to American sons must have "The feel safe. But, the parents of black about Trayvon. That led to an early Talk." We know too well the boys have to flip the script at some version of "The Talk." At the end point. We explain to our kids that the world is not a safe place for them in ways that it is for other people. Black Man 101 students once learned "Jim Crow etiquette." Their lives depended on being agreeable and non-challenging with white people, even when whites were in the wrong. Under no circumstances were they to even appear to assume equality with whites.

Last fall, my oldest son got his on and pulled the hood over his From the moment our children head, I saw Trayvon Martin's face. I saw my son in Trayvon's place.

He's old enough to have heard

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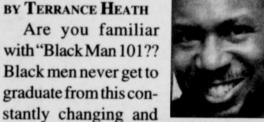
**UPHOLSTERY** CLEANING Sofa: \$69.00 Loveseat: \$49.00 Sectional: \$109 - \$139 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

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mandatory course in survival and loom in our minds, and we imagine behavior modification.

With the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer, the Black Man 101 curriculum has been revised again. The unarmed teen's shooting made millions of African-American parents realize that any of our sons could be the next Trayvon Martin.

our sons being in their sons' places. So we tell our sons that, as young black men, they'll be held as suspects and sometimes treated as criminals, even if they've clearly done

nothing wrong. We tell them how to conduct themselves in encounters with the police so that they may

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The acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer harkens back to those old deferential rules.

We already teach our sons to be "agreeable" and "non-challenging" with police. Must we now teach our sons to conform to some modern form of "Jim Crow etiquette"? Just teaching our sons how to behave when stopped by the police no longer suffices. Just as in the bad old days of lynching, they have to behave a certain way when they are confronted by anyone vested with self-declared authority.

Why must we now teach our sons to defer to all potential bigots who come their way? Yes, those bigots may be armed and inclined to start shooting. But why?

came the inevitable question: "Why?"

I held my son close. I told him that some people only see the color of his skin and what they choose to project on him because of it.

It's not fair. It just is.

The answer is as heartbreaking to give as it is to receive. It's the moment when a child's safe world is permanently shattered.

Now, having been acquitted of killing Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman not only has his freedom back, he's got the gun he used to end that young man's life.

As the father of two African-American boys, this is the stuff of nightmares. "The Talk" just got even harder to deliver. We not only have to tell our sons that they live in a world where the color of their skin makes them vulnerable. We have to tell them their killer could ultimately walk away a free man.

For our children, the world is neither safe nor just. That's the ugly truth.

Terrance Heath is the online producer at Campaign for America's Future.