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## The Portland Observer

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# The Emergence of a New Jim Crow System

Blocking health care coverage for millions of Americans



BY EMILY SCHWARTZ AND WILLIAM A. COLLINS

Remember that inspiring 50th black New Yorkers to jail. birthday party for the March on summer?

speeches didn't slow the emertem.

off its celebration of the occasion a month early by gutting the Voting Rights Act. Then,

several states then showed their weeks before the election makes Have a Dream" speech by passing new laws making it harder for black Americans to vote. New York City's voters are Lhota.

honoring the great march's legacy in a much more appropriate way: They're rejecting the Big Apple's "stop-and-frisk" racial profiling that Mayor Michael Bloomberg cherishes. While Wall Street's casino economy has priced countless poor out of that town, stopand-frisk has sent legions of

Washington at the end of the hopeful to fill Bloomberg's wingtips, is the father of a teen Unfortunately, those moving son named Dante with a monumental afro. Bringing his fagence of a new Jim Crow sys- therly fears that Dante would be unfairly targeted by the over-The Supreme Court kicked reach of stop-and-frisk helped de Blasio clinch the highly competitive nomination.

disrespect for the eternal power the Democrat's lead appear unof Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I beatable: 67 percent of likely voters prefer him and just 23 percent intend to cast their ballots for Republican nominee Joe Latinos.

> among black New Yorkers. An overwhelming 89 percent support him and only 4 percent prefer Lhota, who has pledged that he would fight in court to preserve the parts of the stop-andfrisk program that a federal judge rejected in a mid-August ruling.

probably going to be harder to Latinos. Bill de Blasio, the Democratic vanquish than racist policing. White families typically bring home twice as much income as African-American and Latino A poll released less than four and Latino counterparts.

Meanwhile, 13 percent of costs accompanied troubling rewhites live in poverty according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, compared with 35 percent of black Americans and 33 percent of

De Blasio's lead is staggering line is health insurance, another Kaiser study found. There's a big disparity between which communities have coverage and which don't. Before the Affordable Care Act's key provisions began to roll out, only 13 percent of whites too young for Medicare lacked coverage, compared with 21 percent Racial economic disparity is of blacks and 32 percent of

the Affordable Care Act became the law of the land. It has withstood Supreme Court scrutiny managing editor of OtherWords, families earned, according to the and misleading propaganda that a non-profit national editorial Urban Institute. And the racial tried to make the 2012 elections service run by the Institute for wealth gap is much bigger. On a referendum on health care Policy Studies. Other Words colaverage, white families have more reform. When the health insur- umnist William A. Collins is a than \$600,000 in wealth, about ance exchanges began to oper- former state representative and six times as much as their black ate a few weeks back, unex- a former mayor of Norwalk, pectedly high demand and low Conn.

ports about software shortcomings.

OPINION

Wouldn't it be nice to know why conservative Republicans, especially those in southern The killer, literally, in this plot states, oppose helping millions of Americans get health care coverage?

Well, one reason is racism.

Yes, millions of the poor uninsured are white. But since a smaller percentage of whites lack coverage, compared to people of color, it's hard not to see the racism behind the nonsensical objection to improving the quality of life by making Three and a half years ago, health care coverage more universal.

Emily Schwartz Greco is the

## Washington NFL Team Should Change Name

### Time to drop the racial slur BY MARC H. MORIAL

tions and political leaders from people have." both the left and right who correctly point out that the term "Redskins" is a racial slur. Suzan Shown Harjo, a

man being, the National Urban Team owner, Dan Snyder dis- League stands with all those football game this year was agrees. He has vowed to never demanding the Washington foot- played on the eve of Columbus change the name and in a recent ball team stop using the R word. Day, another reminder of the

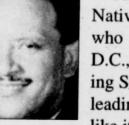
The Dallas vs. Washington letter to season ticket holders Ray Halbritter, leader of the legacy of discrimination and opstated his opposition this way: Americans. Demanding the

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Last week, as Dallas and Washington revived their annual NFL football rivalry, they also found themselves in the middle of an escalating

fight over the name of the Washington football team.

the Mascot" campaign; the Oneida Indian Nation is running radio ads in Dallas and the other cities where storied history - that was ofthe Washington football team is fending a sizable group of playing this year calling for DC's people, I'd think about chang- Indian Nation and the NFL are slavery, immigration, women's team to drop the "R" word from ing it." He added that he did not scheduled to meet next month rights - so we think one thing its name.



who lives in Washington, badge of honor." D.C., and directs the Morn-

leading this fight and others like it since the 1960s.

In fact, as part of its "Change the owner of the team and I knew that there was a name of

This is all part of a larger move- ticular name should override the with our commitment to equal- country is when many people and chief executive officer of the

Native American woman he called the team name, "a Oneida Indian Nation, recently pression inflicted on Native

NFL officials. NFL Commis-President Obama recently sioner Roger Goodell recently and making sure that we're domy team - even if it had a ing the right things to try to address that."

USPS 959-680

Obviously not everyone "Let's be clear, the R word is Washington football team reing Star Institute, has been agrees. The controversy has defined in the dictionary as an move the "R" word from its now gotten the attention of top offensive term. It was the name name is a simple request for that was used against our people respect. when we were forced off our a change."

with people who have vowed And officials of the Oneida never to change something believe "attachment to a par- to discuss the issue. Consistent that's really great about this ment among civil rights organiza- real, legitimate concerns that ity and the dignity of every hu- speak out, change can happen."

As the Oneida Indian Nation weighed in, saying, "If I were said, "If we are offending one lands at gunpoint. So it is has a radio ad states, "This country person, we need to be listening sordid history and it's time for may be politically divided...but we should all be able to agree that He added, "History is littered racial slurs are unacceptable and they shouldn't be used to market this country's capital city. We deserve to be treated simply as what we are: Americans."

> Marc H. Morial is president National Urban League.

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