



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

JERRY FOSTER
Advertising Manager

LISA LOVING
News Editor

HELEN SILVIS
Multimedia Editor

PATRICIA IRVIN
DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established
in October 1975, is a weekly publica-
tion, published each Wednesday by
IMM Publications Inc.,
415 N. Killingsworth St.,
P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228.
Telephone (503) 285-5555.

E-mail: info@theskanner.com

World Wide Web site:

<http://www.theskanner.com>

Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the
National Newspaper Publishers Associ-
ation and West Coast Black Publishers
Association.

All photos submitted become the
property of *The Skanner*. We are not re-
sponsible for lost or damaged photos
either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2014 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART
WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

To see *The Skanner*
News on your smart
phone go to
theskannermobile.com
or scan this QR code
with your app.



- Local news
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Music reviews
- Bulletin board
- RSS feeds

Cops Lied about ‘Suicides’ of 2

Caught cheating by his wife, comedian Groucho Marx asked, “Who you gonna believe, me or your lying eyes?”

In case after case, when police are caught killing an unarmed African American – and trying to cover it up – they expect us to suspend our sight and our common sense. This is particularly true in the case of 22-year-old Victor White, III in New Iberia, La., about two hours south of his family home of Alexandria, La. and more than two hours west of New Orleans.

Authorities want us to believe that White, who died March 2 in the back seat of a police cruiser, shot himself in the back while his hands were cuffed behind his back. Even the nimblest among us couldn’t pull off such an acrobatic feat.

In a press release issued March 3, Louisiana State Police said, “The initial investigation indicates that last night at about 11:22 p.m., deputies with the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office were responding to the report of a fight in the 300 block of Lewis Street. Upon responding to the area, deputies located [Victor] White and discovered he was in possession of illegal narcotics. White was taken into custody, handcuffed behind his back, and transported to the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office for processing. Once at the Sheriff’s Office, White became uncooperative and refused to exit the deputy’s patrol vehicle. As the deputy requested assistance from other deputies, White produced a handgun and fired one round strik-



THE CURRY REPORT

George E. Curry

ing himself in the back. White was transported to a local hospital by ambulance where he was pronounced dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.”

According to the coroner’s report on White, “A small caliber pistol was found and a projectile was found within his shirt.” How-

Authorities want us to believe that White, who died March 2 in the back seat of a police cruiser, shot himself in the back while his hands were cuffed behind his back

ever, two separate police searches of White prior to his being placed in a patrol car produced no weapon.

An investigation by NBC News revealed that the Iberia Parish coroner’s report found that White was shot in the front, not the back as police had contended. The bullet entered White’s right chest and exited his left armpit. That White could have shot himself in the back while handcuffed behind the back is difficult to fathom. White was left-handed, making it even

more implausible that he could have shot himself in the right chest while in police handcuffs.

NBC said the forensic pathologist found gunshot residue in the wound, but not the kind normally associated with a close-range shooting. White’s hands were never tested for gunpowder residue. Two lacerations were found on the left side of White’s face. Still, Dr. Carl Ditch, the Iberia Parish coroner, declared White’s death a suicide.

The Louisiana case is strikingly similar to that of Chavis Carter in Arkansas. Carter also supposedly committed suicide July 28 while in the backseat of a Jonesboro patrol car.

“He was cuffed and placed into a police car, where apparently he produced a weapon, and despite being handcuffed, shot himself in the head.”

Like Victor White, III, Carter was Black and left handed. Also like the Carter debacle, authorities want us to believe that he managed to conceal a pistol – in Carter’s case, a 380-caliber semi-automatic – during two police pat downs. Despite being left handed, police would have us believe he used his right hand to shoot himself in the right temple.

The Associated Press reported, “Carter’s death came after police stopped a truck in which he was riding. The driver and another passenger eventually were allowed to go, but police said Carter had an outstanding arrest warrant. Court records show it had to do with a drug charge.

“Carter was searched twice and police said they found a small amount of marijuana, but no gun. After the first search, an officer put Carter into a patrol car without handcuffing him. He was later searched again, handcuffed and returned to the same car.

“Officers a short time later saw Carter slumped over in the back-seat and covered in blood, according to the report, which concluded he had managed to conceal a handgun with which he shot himself. He later died at a hospital, and the report listed his death as a suicide.”

Unlike Groucho Marx, you don’t have to worry about your lying eyes. Instead, we need to worry about lying police.

The Lessons of Ferguson, Part I: Economics

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am haunted by the words spoken by Lesley McSpadden immediately following the shooting death of her son, Michael Brown, at the hands of Ferguson, Mo. police officer Darren Wilson almost a month ago. She said, “Do you know how hard it was for me to get him to stay in school and graduate? You know how many Black men graduate? Not many. Because you bring them down to this type of level, where they feel like they don’t got nothing to live for anyway.”

Lesley McSpadden’s words reflect more than her own deep anguish. They have been echoed by many of Ferguson’s citizens and civic leaders who have rallied for justice since Brown’s killing. They also expose the pervasive problems of joblessness and hopelessness fueling so much of the anger and tension in communities of color across America.

Michael Brown’s death was the spark that ignited a long-smoldering fire in Ferguson; and while the immediate goal of the National Urban League and our affiliate network is the arrest and indictment of Officer Darren Wilson,



TO BE EQUAL

Marc Morial

this column represents the first in a three-part series that aims to examine some of the root causes and identify solutions that must be implemented to avoid crises similar to Ferguson in the future.

Let’s begin with the lack of jobs

chasm of misunderstanding and distrust that is behind much of the violence that has erupted between police and citizens.

Four years out of the recession, America’s private sector is expanding, but too many people have been left behind. In fact, many communities like Ferguson are worse off. According to a recent Brookings study, “Between 2000 and 2010-2012, Ferguson’s poor population doubled.”

The National Urban League has long been leading the charge for targeted federal and state action to bring jobs and opportunity to

ough federal investigation of the shooting death of Michael Brown and targeted legislation to bring jobs to Ferguson and similar struggling cities. Sanders points out, “There is an economic crisis facing our nation’s youth, particularly young African-Americans. Nationwide, the youth unemployment rate today is more than 20 percent and African-American youth unemployment is nearly 35 percent. The legislation would provide \$5.5 billion in immediate funding to states and localities to employ 1 million young Americans between the ages of 16 and 24.”

At Michael Brown’s funeral service, Rev. Al Sharpton called on the nation and our community to task: “We can’t have a fit, we’ve got to have a movement. We’ve got to be here for the long haul and turn our chants into change, our demonstration into legislation.”

One of the big lessons of Ferguson is the importance of investing in jobs, education and other tools to combat poverty in our communities instead of militaristic weapons for use against our communities. We hope that Washington and America are listening – and preparing to act.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

‘We’ve got to be here for the long haul and turn our chants into change, our demonstration into legislation’

and the epidemic of unemployment in Ferguson, a city that is 67 percent Black. The National Urban League’s 2014 “State of Black America Report” found that the St. Louis metro area, which includes Ferguson, had a Black unemployment rate of 19.6 percent and a White unemployment rate of 6.9 percent – resulting in an unemployment Equality Index of 35.2 percent on a 100-point scale.

This level of economic inequality reflects a glaring disparity of opportunity and has created a

hard-pressed communities across the nation. Our “Jobs Rebuild America” campaign is a \$100 million, five-year effort to engage federal government, business, and nonprofit resources to create economic opportunity in 50 communities across the country through the Urban League affiliate network with a special emphasis on vulnerable youth.

In response to the crisis in Ferguson, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders sent a letter to his Senate colleagues calling for both a thor-