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Media Also Abused Black Youth

Fox News blowhards will never admit that in covering the racially-charged swimming pool incident in McKinney, Texas, they blew it. But that's exactly what they did. And rather than acknowledge that they went overboard in defending the misconduct of the police officer involved – conduct that the chief police later described as “out of control” – some of the network's personalities are attacking those who pointed out that they messed up.

Fortunately, there was videotape of the unfortunate June 5 incident at a swimming pool in Craig Ranch, a predominantly white subdivision in McKinney, Texas, about 30 miles north of Dallas.

The video, which has received more than 11 million views on YouTube, shows a police officer identified as Cpl. Eric Casebolt attempting to throw Dajerria Becton, a slim, 15-year-old, bikini-clad African American, to the sidewalk.

“He told me to walk away and I did,” Becton told KDFW-TV. “Next thing I know I'm on the ground.”

The video, shot by a white teenager, shows Casebolt throwing Becton to the ground as she starts to walk away, yelling to her, “On your face.” He is seen grabbing her by the hair and placing his knee in her back while she was pinned to the ground under the weight of his body.

At one point, Casebolt drew his revolver and pointed it at two Black males until two of his fellow officers intervened and restrained him.

More than a half -dozen Fox



George E. Curry
NNPA
Columnist

commentators defended Casebolt, despite the video. One guest, Bo Dietl, was allowed to speculate about what one of the teens might have told the officer. Fox Business host Lou Dobbs asked, “What in the world” are police supposed to do when people “refuse to obey” their orders?

Fox News Host Megyn Kelly

‘Some conservatives, unfortunately, are falling over themselves to defend the police’

said, “The girl was no saint either. He had told her to leave, and she continued to linger. And when the cop tells you to leave, you get out.” Kelly added, “I'm not defending his actions, let me make that clear.”

After mediamatters.org, the watchdog group, reported her remarks, Kelly took to the air to charge that “some of the left-wing press continue to use this incident to dishonestly push their own agenda.” However, she neglected to note that even some conservatives had criticized her.

For example, Reason.com stated, “Some conservatives, unfortunately, are falling over themselves to defend the police – the one kind of public employee who can do no

wrong in the eyes of all-too many people on the right. Media Matters compiled a disheartening list of Fox News personalities raising baseless hypotheticals that could (maybe) justify Casebolt's rash actions.”

Meanwhile, Casebolt's behavior was so abhorrent that he has resigned and apologized for his actions.

Police Chief Greg Conley said, “Our policies, our training, our practice doesn't support his actions. He came into the call out of control, and as the video shows was out of control during the incident.”

Fox News wasn't the only offender.

Below are some excerpts from the AP story, written by Mark Gillispie, with *Daily Kos* commentary in italics.

AP headline: “Boy with pellet gun warned by friend before police shooting”

Comment: *That's right! Tamir was warned! No word if Tamir was warned that he would be shot without warning for the crime of being in a public park, because the only quotes in this article come from the prosecutor, an unnamed FBI agent and the shooter's lawyer.*

AP: Investigators were told that Tamir used the airsoft gun, which shoots non-lethal plastic projectiles, to shoot at car tires that day.

Comment: *Not only non-lethal, but non-able-to-shoot-out-a-freaking-tire. Not to mention, that's not why the police confronted Tamir.*

AP: The video appears to show Tamir reaching for the pellet gun, which is tucked in his waistband, after he was shot.

Comment: *It does? The only thing I see is Tamir reaching for his his stomach when he's shot.*

The reason I became a journalist was because I subscribe to a quote that has been attributed, with some variation, to both journalist Finley Peter Dunne and social activist “Mother” Mary Jones: “The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.”

In this instance, Fox News and the Associated Press got it backwards.

Hillary Evokes ‘Collective Anesthesia’

In March of 2007, I wrote a column under the headline: “Obama Drama.” It began, “Will the euphoria sweeping through our ranks over the possibility of a Black President eventually dominate our collective psyche? Will it overwhelm us with notions of ‘equality’ and ‘victory,’ and ostensibly cause us to subordinate our primary interests and abandon the pressing issues that negatively impact Black life in America?”

Just when I thought we had learned our political lesson, along comes another one.

Our collective anesthesia began in the first week of June, when Hillary Clinton made voter suppression her major theme.

She went to Texas and called out Rick Perry, Chris Christie, Scott Walker, and Jeb Bush, all of whom she said supported voter suppression laws in their respective states.

Not only did she go into that lion's den called the state of Texas, she gave her speech at Texas Southern University, a Black college. “So what, you say? Take your anesthesia mask off for a moment and think about this. In 2007, Black people started inhaling the nitrous oxide and fell into what has now become nearly a 7-year state of political euphoria. Some of us are still laughing from the gas we inhaled.



James Clingman
NNPA
Columnist

Now, with Hillary's foray into the sacred bastion of voting, saying she will fight against voter suppression, while surrounded by smiling Black folks on a Black college campus, the fix is in once again.

We are being numbed out and

‘She's for voting rights,’ many will say, and that will simply be enough for them

dumbed down, and many of us will traipse to the polls and vote for Hillary in 2016 simply because of this one issue. “She's for voting rights,” many will say, and that will simply be enough for them. Yes, voting is very important, but that one issue must not be used as the panacea for Black political empowerment.

There will be no other issue on the minds of many Black voters since they will have been programmed while under anesthesia. They will demand nothing more

of Hillary, or any of the other presidential candidates.

They will not make demands around criminal justice; they will not demand some form of reparation for Black people; they will not demand a student loan bailout; and they will not demand a Marshall Plan for America's urban areas where Blacks reside.

Hillary is already playing the voting card with Black folks because she knows that's what wins us over.

I am sure she will be in Selma next year, lending her shoulder to John Lewis as he weeps, saying, “Don't worry Black folks; I will

protect your right to vote, for real this time.”

She will attend the NAACP national convention in a staunch show of support for that organization's fight against voter suppression, even though the NAACP has shown no penchant for outlawing voter suppression in its own ranks. That's right; there are several open cases of the NAACP allowing and maybe even supporting voter suppression in local branches across the nation, led and promulgated by Gill Ford.