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Opinion

Blackonomics: Elections Won't Change Anything, Until We Vote with Our Wallets

By the time you read this, I trust you will have wiped away the slime and the grunge, regurgitated a few times, taken a good bath or shower, relentlessly scrubbed the stench from your bodies, and maybe even found it necessary to delouse, because the dirty, filthy, hateful, distasteful, embarrassing, vile, toxic, grimy, polluted campaign we all witnessed is likely the worst in the history of electing a President.

At the time of this writing (Nov. 4, 2016) the results are unknown, but in light of the lies, slander, vitriol, vulgarity, hypocrisy, hyperbole, false accusations, innuendo, leaks, assaults, and even physical threats of murder, it matters less than usual who wins. No matter the result, there will be millions of people in this country who will be so angry that very little will get done for "The People." Jan. 20, 2017 will be a very sad day for many voters depending on which side is victorious. That's a terrible commentary on this country, and an even worse reflection on the leadership we have chosen.

But what does it say about us? We have fought one an-

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Columnist

other over the two candidates, neither of whom is held in high regard by the majority of the electorate. It has been suggested that our choice is between the "lesser of two evils," and some say the "evil of two lessers."

Some have even dropped

“Irrespective of who won this election, Blacks and poor folks are going to be in the same shape we have been in for awhile

out of the system altogether because they cannot stand to be a part of such downright evilness. Some have said they will start a civil war if their candidate does not win; some say they will "take out" one of the candidates if things don't go their way; some have said they will move to another country; and some say the whole system is corrupt any-

way, so why care about it at all?

We have former candidates who called the two finalists insulting names: "pathological liar," "con man," "woefully unqualified," "criminal," "predator," and the like; but those same self-righteous folks, some of whom profess to be of high moral character, are telling us to vote for the very persons they disdained and denigrated during the primaries. What kind of people are they?

Talk about trouble, folks, we are deep into it. This nation is

and poor folks are going to be in the same shape we have been in for awhile.

Maybe this will be the final wake-up call Black people need to understand that until we get our economic act together, we will continue to be viewed as mere child-like voters instead of a true force to be reckoned with.

Here's a solution: If you are a conscious and conscientious Black person, go to www.iamoneofthemillion.com and join the movement as we move closer to economic and political empowerment. We know that in order to attain the levels of power and influence we seek there must be an organized critical mass of people and a vehicle through which that can be done. This is not a knock on anything anyone else is doing; it's simply a call for just two percent of Black people in this country to join forces, offering their time, talent, and treasure to help our people. The One Million is the only active movement of its kind.

So after you have cleaned up and disinfected yourself on November 9th, get into a game you can win—The One Million!

The 2016 Presidential Election Exposed America's Racist and Sexist Patriarchy for the World to See

Just a few days before the corrosive 2016 election, it occurred to me that no matter what the outcome, our social fabric has been shredded by the ugliness of this campaign. Sure, there have been ugly campaigns before, but this one has revealed the extent to which racism and sexism are acceptable features of life in these United States. Women, including Hillary Clinton, have been routinely disparaged, not only in politics, but also in their roles as television talking heads and anchors. While I'm not weeping for Megyn Kelly (she's a big girl, and she can take care of herself), her on-air collision with Newt Gingrich was classic — with a jowly male bully loudly talking over a television host and accusing her of being "obsessed" with sex. And the disparagement of women flowed down the ticket — in Illinois, Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) had the nerve to disparage challenger Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.) because of her Thai heritage. Her dad traces his family's military service back to the eighteenth century, while her Mom is from Thailand. When she cited her military background, Kirk nastily said he was unaware that her family had come all

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the way from Thailand to fight for the United States. Shame on Kirk for demonstrating his ignorance by criticizing the military service of a woman who lost both her legs in the

“Gendered criticism is woven into the fabric of our nation's racist patriarchy

Iraq war.

All's fair, they say, in love and war, and many see politics as a special kind of war. And certainly, those women who play the politics game have to have thick skin and broad shoulders, because men are not likely to treat women with kid gloves because of their gender. However, gendered criticism ("she lacks stamina," "look at that face") is woven into the fabric of our nation's racist patriarchy, and the "other" (women, people of color) is often put down using gendered or racialized code words. In some cases, as with Tammy Duckworth, people

don't even bother to use code words.

The backlash from eight years of the Obama presidency means that plenty of racists have come out to play. I thought we'd seen the last of David Duke, the reported KKK member who again ran for the U.S. Senate from Louisiana. Instead, he seems to have slithered from under some rock, just in time to endorse Donald Trump, throw shade on Evan McMullin

Lives Matter Movement has raised, not the least of which are the police killings of young Black people. And the Black Lives Matter Movement has been routinely been disparaged during this 2016 campaign. The disparagement of the Black Lives Matter Movement really disparages all Black people and reminds us that, despite progress, race still matters.

If racism and sexism are woven into the fabric of our nation, how do we pull those threads out without ruining the fabric? Or has the fabric already been so fully shredded that we have the opportunity to "start over." Actually, there will be no starting over. Our economic structure and the credo of predatory capitalism depend on the ability of capitalists to extract surplus value from the work of those that are "other." Capitalists maximize profits by minimizing expenses. Thus enslavement, though an inhumane institution, was also an efficient one for those who were able to use free labor. We've come a long way from enslavement, but the exploitation of workers continues, which is why the "Fight for \$15," which will disproportionately benefit women and people of color, is so important.

(the Utah native and former CIA operative who is running a long-shot campaign for President), and attack Jewish people. Most listeners recoiled from Duke's hateful words, and the Trump campaign quickly distanced itself from the Duke endorsement. Shocking, though, that this level of racist hate is so open. And Mr. Trump's racial rhetoric suggests that the Duke endorsement, if unwelcome, was at least somewhat consistent with that which Mr. Trump has been preaching.

The use of terms like "law and order" or "stop and frisk" ignores the issues the Black