

# Editorials

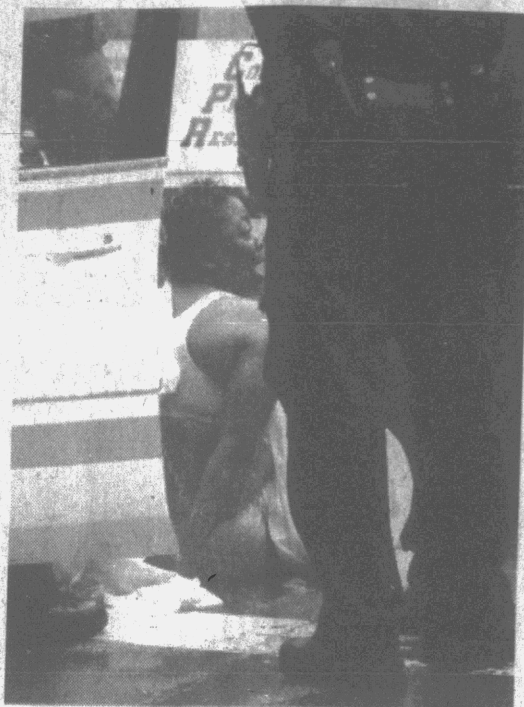
## Jackson Death Set Stage For Legal Battles Semi Naked Woman

### Tasered !

By NAYABA ARINDE and

CYRIL JOSH BARKER

Amsterdam News Staff



a white woman in the same predicament in the same way," charged Councilman Charles Barron. "This lady was already cuffed, why did they keep tasered her? They learn in academy how to restrain a person. They don't know her condition. They could have worsened any medical situation she had. They could have given her a heart attack."

Recalling the incident last September year where Iman Morales, 35, an emotionally disturbed man was Tasered with 50,000 volts by cops in Bedford-Stuyvesant, and fell to his death off a ledge, Barron continued, "Once again, they think they can treat us like animals—cuffed and tasered in front of us." In February this year, Morales' mother, Olga Negron, filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the city; Officer Nicholas Marchesona, who fired the taser; and the estate of Lt. Michael Pigott, the officer who ordered Marchesona to do so and later committed suicide. "Are you telling me that in 2009, with a woman in cuffs, they don't know a better way to restrain her? Like with Iman Morales, they could have caused her death," said Barron. "Even the NYPD regulations indicate that Tasers are not a mere tool for compliance of detainees or arrestees," explained retired Detective Marquez Claxton. "You never know when a person has a pre-existing medical condition that may result in death because of Tasered. Like discharging a firearm, the Taser should be used as a tool of last resort and it should also be regulated the same way as a 9 mm. To repeatedly Taser a semi-nude woman on the streets of Harlem shows that the NYPD has not learned anything after the death of Iman Morales in Bed-Stuy."

Lt. Mike Wysokowski told the AmNews, "We responded to an emotionally disturbed person at the location. When officers got there, she was partly nude and violent. She was a 32-year-old female. They were able to put her in the patrol car, but she tried to kick out the windows. When they took her out of the car, she was still violent and lunging at the officers." Asked about the constant tasered, Wysokowski said that the woman was only tasered once after she "spat at the sergeant in the face. They shot the taser once." He insisted that "only one dart was in there," so she was not being tasered as often as people thought. When told that she screamed out in pain several times and that eye witnesses, including the two AmNews reporters, saw the sergeant seem to repeatedly taser the woman, the lieutenant replied, "No, she may not have been in pain—she was acting up."

When the AmNews arrived on the scene, the woman was on her side with neighborhood residents observing the ordeal. They said that the woman was lying in the street for the best part of an hour. Nelson went up to her apartment and brought her a sheet, which cops eventually used to cover her. After the AmNews had been there for 30 minutes, EMS arrived. But the sergeant tasered the woman again. Neither Mayor Michael Bloomberg nor 32nd Precinct Deputy Inspector Kevin T. Catalina responded to an AmNews request for comment.

### Another One Bites The Dust.....

(July 1, 2009) - *Vibe* magazine, one of the best-known urban magazines targeting to the hip-hop and R&B generation, is ceasing publication immediately after 16 years, Steve Aaron, Vibe Media Group's chief executive officer, announced Tuesday. The magazine, founded by Quincy Jones and Time Warner Group in 1993, has had many successes over the years

In 2002, *Vibe* earned the National Magazine Award for General Excellence, a rarity for a magazine geared toward a multicultural audiences. The magazine also published books geared toward the hip-hop community.

(June 27, 2009) - The shocking death of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, has left legal minds to ponder the fate of his three young children, his estate and the career-revitalizing tour he planned to launch this summer. Jackson, who evolved from being a shy teenage heartthrob to mega superstar to legend, died at age 50 on Thursday. His death has been attributed to cardiac arrest. In the hours immediately after his death, it had been assumed his mother, Katherine, would take custody of the children, Prince Michael Jr., 12; Paris, 11 and Prince Michael Jackson II, 7, also known as "Blanket." During his 2003 interview with Martin Bashir, Jackson claimed that his sperm cells were used in the conception of each of the three children. "I used a surrogate mother [for Blanket] and my own sperm cells," he said at the time. "I had my own sperm cells in my other two children. They are all my children." However Debbie Rowe, the dermatology nurse Jackson married in 1996, is the mother of the two oldest children and has expressed interest in raising them. Although she attempted in 2005 to give up custody of the children, having described Jackson as a wonderful father, a judge ruled later that Rowe hadn't completely terminated her parental rights. The third child was conceived with a surrogate mother, whose name has yet to be released. Another possibility is that all three children might continue in the care of the moon-walking star's longtime employee and confidante, Grace Rwamba, 42. According to Stacey Brown, a family friend and co-author of "Michael Jackson Behind the Mask," Jackson wanted

Rwamba to take over. "Michael always said he wants Grace, the nanny, to have them if something happened to him," Brown said in a statement Friday. In the event Rowe gains custody, she would be eligible for a huge chunk of child support from Jackson's estate. But determination of that estate's value could take months or even years and it remains unclear if, despite a career that spanned 40 years, Jackson had any money to leave to any of his beneficiaries. According to reports, Jackson spent money lavishly, but never quite recouped that spending. Some reports estimate he was spending about \$20 million a year more than he was bringing in. Other estimates hold that his estate could be worth a billion dollars, but that his debts could easily reach \$500 million. One of his shrewdest deals came at the height of his fame in 1985 with the \$47.5 million acquisition of ATV Music, which owned the copyright to songs written by the Beatles' John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The catalog was estimated to be worth between \$500 million to \$1 billion and provided Jackson a steady stream of income and the ability to afford his over-the-top lifestyle. But during the last few years of his life Jackson had relied on benefactors to assist him financially. Last year, Jackson lost his 2,500-acre Neverland ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif., to foreclosure. A financier pal purchased the property and is making extensive repairs after the property was allowed to fall into disarray. Jackson purchased the ranch in 1988 for \$14.6 million and at the time of his death, was living at a rented multimillion dollar home in Bel Air, Calif. Citing sources familiar with his finances, The Journal in Los Angeles reported

### Pay By The Pound

From CNN:

"A growing number of airlines are forcing bigger passengers to pay more as they cope with the costly and uncomfortable quandary that arises when obese passengers cannot squeeze into a single coach seat. With airlines trimming flight schedules — meaning fuller passenger loads this summer — the issue is bound to spur some awkward encounters. Chart: Compare some of the common airline fees." "It's a growing problem, no pun intended," said George Hobica, president of AirfareWatchdog.com, a site that is part of Smarter Travel Media LLC, which provides airfare deals and advice. "Everyone suffers. The obese people suffer and the people who are skinny and get spilled over on suffer as well."

### New Report Says Race Relations Are Still The Same

From CNN:

The poll was conducted May 16-18, in telephone interviews with 505 African-Americans and 501 whites. Blacks and whites had differing opinions of Obama's performance: More than 60 percent of blacks felt that Obama met their expectations, while 46 percent of whites did. Thirty percent of blacks said Obama exceeded their expectations, compared with 16 percent of whites. Six percent of blacks said Obama did not meet expectations, compared with 35 percent of whites. Both

blacks and whites gave similar answers to a survey question about whether race relations will always be a problem in the United States. Forty-five percent of blacks answered yes, while 42 percent of whites said yes. Fifty percent of blacks said no, while 56 percent of whites said no. The poll had a sampling error on these questions of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. Have race relations improved? Better yet, can race relations have a chance to improve if we constantly try to put forth a "post-racial" agenda?

### Iran's President Blast President Obama

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Thursday called the U.S. president inexperienced, compared him unfavorably to President George W. Bush and suggested he apologize for "interfering in Iran's affairs." "Do you think that this kind of behavior is going to solve any of your problems? It will only make people think you are someone like Bush," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted Ahmadinejad as saying.

### Supreme Court Slams Equal Employment Opportunity

(June 29, 2009) - Leaders of civil rights organizations said they were disappointed that the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case of *Ricci v. DeStefano*, in a 5-4 decision, the Court sided with White firefighters who sued the city of New Haven, Conn., because of alleged reverse discrimination in promotions in the city's Fire Department. The White firefighters scored better than their Black and Latino colleagues on a written exam but were denied the promotions by the city because none of the African American and a few of the Latinos passed the test.



# Community News



Beatrice Maye

Letter to the Editor :

Sunday June 21st was Father's Day. Here is Proverbs 31 paraphrased. Who can find a man of integrity? For such a one is of priceless value that increases perpetually.

He walks in the fear of the Lord and observes all of his statutes. He embraces wisdom wholeheartedly and continues in the way of sound discipline.

He maintains discretion and does not depart from the path of righteousness, for he understands words of insight.

He treats his wife as he treats his own body, seeking her protection and well-being at all times. The heart of his wife rests beneath his covering and flourishes in all fruitfulness under the outpouring of his love. He is faithful, drinking from his own well, and is unceasingly satisfied by the wife of his youth, always loving her as a lover who loves still.

He will do her good and not evil all the days of his life. Though he waxes strong, he exercises humility.

He diligently works to answer and supply the needs of his family and household. His wife has no fear of the times to come, for he prudently considers the future and prepares for it. He is kind to the needy, and his name is synonymous with a good report. His reputation precedes him; others seek his counsel and follow his example as well as instruction. His mouth is a foundation of life to his household and to all who seek refreshing.

He walks in confidence and sound judgement, administering wise instruction to his wife and children.

He sets his house in God-ordained order. He redeems his household covers its inhabitants with prayer.

He considers the words of his wife, celebrates her wisdom, and crowns her as a helpmeet for him. He grants her a double portion, blesses her gifts, and

boasts of her achievements. He is clothed in love and faithfulness. He trusts and rests secure in the help of his Redeemer.

Many men appear to be desirable at first glance, but the man who fears the Lord is to be praised, for his witness endures the test of time and scrutiny. Give him the honor he has earned and let the work of his hands prosper and be spread abroad.

Happy Father's Day !

The Editor :

Reach for the, 2009 graduates, no matter what your critics say ! Remember you will always have haters trying to stop you. How easy it is to get discouraged when someone criticizes something about you. Not everyone is going to like you or your work. More than likely people who are displeased are much more likely to voice their opinion.

Apply the 3 P's for success: preparation, perseverance and pride. Also, apply the 3 D's - discipline, dedication and determination. Lastly, Norman Vincent Peale said "Believe in yourself and have faith in your abilities!"

With humble and reasonable confidence in your own power, you can be successful or happy. Congratulations class of 2009!

Would I be Called  
A Christian

Would I be called a Christian if everybody knew My secret thoughts and feelings and everything I do ?

Would they see the likeness of Christ in me each day? Oh, would they hear Him speak in everything I say?

Would I be called a Christian if all could know That I am found in places Christ would never go?

Oh, Could they tell the difference in the songs I sing ? In my eating, drinking, dressing -in everything ?

Would I be called a Christian if judged by what I read ? by my recreation, and every thought and deed? Would I be counted Christ-like in my work and play, unselfish, kind, forgiving of others every day ?

Author Unknown

## Small Southern Town Disrespects Dr. King Holiday

Ayden North Carolina and Zoning Board chairman, Terry C. Payne dishonored Martin Luther King's Holiday by unlocking the courthouse doors, presided over the meeting and marked the members who refused to attend absent. Mr. Payne admitted to having adequate knowledge if the holiday but insisted on meeting with the all white board in the absence of the two Black members who informed him not to meet on the holiday. Stephen Tripp the town's mayor finally apologized three months later calling Payne's actions a mistake saying, "We as humans do make mistakes." The TRUTH is Mr. Payne's actions are more consistent with a PROTEST. On May 11, 2009 the mayor was respectfully asked at a town board of commissioners meeting to remove Mr. Payne from office in the presence of a courtroom of African-Americans but as of today has not complied. In addition, the Mayor stated that the town's November 19993 holiday ordinance for Dr. King only applied to its board of commissioners. For more details go to the dnc@embarqmail.com. The African Americans in this town are shaken when it comes to fairness from such underhanded authority. We therefore as for your intervention in this matter to help bring justice for the Dr. King Holiday to this small southern town.

Thank you  
Ivory Mewborn

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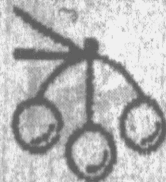
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## A Black History Moment.....The Ugly Truth About The African Slave Trade

The slave trade was people living, lying, stealing, murdering and dying. The slave trade was a Black man who stepped out of his hut for a breath of fresh air and ended up, ten months later, in Georgia with bruises on his back and a brand on his chest. The slave trade was a Black mother suffocating her newborn baby because she didn't want him to grow up a slave. The slave trade was a kind captain forcing his suicide-minded passengers to eat by breaking their teeth. The slave trade was a bishop sitting on an ivory chair on a wharf in the Congo and extending his fat hand in wholesale baptism of slaves who were rowed beneath him, going in chains to the slave ships. The slave trade was a greedy king raiding his own villages to get slaves to buy brandy. The slave trade was a pious captain holding prayer services twice a day on his slave ship and writing later the famous hymn, 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds.' The slave trade was deserted villages, bleached bones on slave trails and people with no last names. The slave trade was Caesar Negro, Angelo Negro and Negro Mary.

- Lerone Bennett

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## Reports Confirms Black Male Employment is lacking by James Wright

June 20, 2009) - African-American men are finding it harder to get a job during this recession and their prospects may not get better anytime soon. That's the conclusion of a report, "Weathering the Storm: Black Male Employment in the Recession," released by the Center for American Progress, a Washington, D.C.-based think-tank, on Friday. "The recession is taking its toll on most Americans and has resulted in job losses not seen in almost 25 years, but Black men have felt its effects particularly hard," the report's author, Alexandra Cawthorne, said. "Black men have long faced limited employment prospects and disproportionately high rates of unemployment. The current degree of job loss among Black men is particularly alarming." Among the report's findings: \*Black men lead the unemployment surge, with an unemployment rate of 15.4 percent \*Over a third of young Black men aged 16 to 19 in the labor market are unemployed \*Eight percent of Black men have lost their jobs since November 2007 \*Black men without criminal records tend to have a tougher time finding employment than White men who have been convicted by the criminal justice system. Those figures stand out further when compared to job prospects for White men. While the unemployment rate for Black males is 15.4 percent, it is only 5.5 percent for White males. Whites males age 16 to 19 also do significantly better in the recession compared to their Black counterparts, with 17 percent unemployed and with median earnings of \$55,000, compared to \$35,000 for Black males. "It is a fact that a Black man earn 70 cents to every dollar of a White man," said Cawthorne. Algon Austin, Director of the Race, Ethnicity and Economy Program at Washington's Economic Policy Institute, said that Black men's troubles in the labor market have had a negative impact on the economic viability of Black America. He said that Cawthorne's report has confirmed what he has known for some time. "Black communities suffer under a permanent recession," said Austin. "It comes from a number of factors but Black men have problems finding jobs because of racial discrimination, issues with the criminal justice system and inadequate education, mainly a large number of high school dropouts." Black men face other hurdles as they seek employment, such as dealing with cultural discrimination in the application process and having to deal with the credit industry. "A recent study examined the effect of a 'Black-sounding' name like Jamal Jones or Tyrone Washington on receiving a positive response from employers," said Austin. "Researchers sent out similar resumes with 'Black-sounding' and 'White-sounding' names to employers in Chicago and Boston. Resumes with 'White-sounding' names received 50 percent more callbacks for interviews." Barbara Arnwine, executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, said that the use of credit reports to determine employment has become a problem for Black men. "A story in {USA Today} said that 43 percent of employers check credit history for entry-level positions," said Arnwine. "These are not positions for middle and upper management or even for jobs handling money: these are for entry-level jobs." Arnwine said that 48 percent of Blacks have a negative credit history as opposed to 24 percent of Whites. She attributes the high negative credit ratings among Blacks to lack of financial education and poor employment prospects. "It is a dilemma for Black men," she said. "They are not able to get a job to pay their creditors." The report recommends certain steps that policymakers should make to help Black men in the labor market: \*Combat racial discrimination by employers; \*Modernize the unemployment insurance system; \*Support the Employee Free Choice Act, which allows workers the right to unionize much easier; \*Improve education and early links to the labor market; \*Support the creation of "green jobs" in low-income communities; and \*Develop comprehensive re-entry services for ex-offenders. Arnwine said a bill that will be introduced in the U.S. Congress shortly, the Equal Employment for All Act of 2009, will level the employment field for people who cannot find work because of negative credit histories. Cawthorne said that solving the Black male unemployment problem will help the nation as a whole. "Racial equality and equal opportunity must be at the forefront of policies that will advance economic recovery and create jobs," she said. "Policymakers should not only access the actual and anticipated effects of policies and budgets on disadvantaged communities like low-skilled Black men, but also identify ways to maximize equity and inclusion-especially in the context of the economic recovery."

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