

PAUL KERSEY



**THE
TRAGIC
CITY**

BIRMINGHAM 1963-2013

The Tragic City.

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Birmingham 1963-2013

By Paul Kersey

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Dedicated to the memory of Quenette Shehane – the federal government and state of Alabama education system doesn't consider her the "right kind" of civil right's martyr.

There's a huge fence surrounding (and protecting the students of) Birmingham Southern College from the inhabitants of the city of Birmingham -- because of Shehane's fate.

She was raped and murdered, her naked body found days later in a car. All three of her assailants were black.

She was white.

The year was 1976.

Also by Paul Kersey

* * * * *

*Escape From Detroit: The Collapse of
America's Black Metropolis*

*Black Mecca Down: Atlanta -- The Fall of
the City to Busy too Hate*

**Breakdown of the Black Population in Birmingham, Alabama
1870-2010**

Year	Total Population	Black Population	% Black
1870	NA	NA	NA
1880	3086	NA	NA
1890	26178	11269	43
1900	38145	16565	43.4
1910	132685	52305	39.4
1920	178806	70230	39.3
1930	259678	99059	38.1
1940	267583	108914	40.7
1950	326037	130035	39.6
1960	340887	135113	39.6
1970	300910	126310	42
1980	284413	158200	55.6
1990	265968	168277	63.3
2000	242840	178372	73.46
2010	212237	155791	73.4

Figure 1 - This data is from "America's Johannesburg" (p. 108) and CensusViewer.com

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Reverse Colonialism

While reading *There's Hope for the World: The Memoir of Birmingham, Alabama's First African American Mayor* by Richard Arrington and Jimmie Lewis Franklin's hagiography of the same, *Back To Birmingham: Richard Arrington, Jr. and His Times* one thing became stunningly obvious: any history after the victories of the Civil Rights movement cannot be debated or discussed, the merit of the rewarding of full legal protection to Black people (and the creation of Black-Run America) far outweigh any of the negative ramifications of ceding whole cities to Black control.

It is in *There's Hope for the World* that Arrington writes these prophetic words:

"In the chamber of the Birmingham City Council, on one of its walls, is the following slogan: "Cities Are What People Make Them."[\[1\]](#)

Recall that 76 percent Black Birmingham's City Council recently passed an ordinance banning the building of new payday or Title Loan stores. Cities truly are what people make them.

In 2007, *The Birmingham News* published a ground-breaking series that, for all intents and purposes, was a penetrating look at the legacy of the city since the Civil Rights victory and the consequences of Black-rule for Birmingham [Which Way Forward?, by Jeff Hansen, 3-11-2007]:

In the 80 years from 1890 to 1970, the city of Birmingham had a mix of people that was about 40 percent black and 60 percent white, with most black residents segregated into areas with poorer housing close to industrial sites.

Beginning about 1970, the mix began to change as whites left the city. By 2005, Birmingham's population had flipped — 76 percent black and 22 percent white. Some of Birmingham's aging neighborhoods have become islands of the poor.

A recent Brookings Institution study found that 28.9 percent of residents within the city limits live in poverty — the eighth highest percentage among America's 100 largest cities.[\[2\]](#)

What can we call this? White people abandoned Birmingham to Black majority rule, so perhaps we can call this "reverse colonialism".

It is this article from the "Which Way Forward?" series that showcases the frightening consequences (especially the financial consequences) of what the deeming of "Restrictive Covenants" as unconstitutional meant for the long-term viability of neighborhoods that go majority black [Blight: "It was a real nice neighborhood", Birmingham News, Thomas Spencer, 3-11-2007]:

In 1965, Virgia Wallace's parents paid \$10,000 for their piece of the American dream, a two-story, fourbedroom house in then-predominantly white Fountain Heights. Perched on the hill just north of downtown, the Wallace home had a view of the city skyline and beyond to Red Mountain. Wallace remembers her father walking to work at Loveman's department store. "It was a real nice neighborhood," Wallace said.

"Quiet."

But the retail jobs left downtown, nearby industries shut down and the drain left holes in the community.

As years passed, Wallace, now 66 and an English teacher at Huffman High, watched families move away. Between 1980 and 2000, the census tract that includes her home lost 39 percent of its population. Paint peeled on the abandoned houses. Windows were broken. Porches slumped. The house across the street burned and wasn't rebuilt, leaving a vacant lot of scraggly privet and tall winter-brown grass littered with wind blown paper and plastic bags.

An apartment complex up the street began renting to “a different kind of people,” Wallace said. They weren't invested in the community. They sold drugs. The neighborhood became plagued with burglaries and violence.

The older generation that stayed kept their houses neat, their yards trimmed, beds planted with flowers. But they also ornamented their windows and doors with burglar bars. In the early 1990s, Wallace fled the crime and blight that became the standard in neighborhoods across the inner city. She bought a house in Roebuck. After she left, the old home was broken into several times. Windows were broken, replaced with plywood. There didn't seem any sense trying to sell it. “There wasn't anyone interested in buying it,” she said.

Today, Wallace still owns the home. It has an assessed value of \$11,300, just \$1,300 above the price her parents paid 42 years ago.
[\[3\]](#)

Retail jobs left downtown Birmingham because the capital, white people, left the city.

Since the remaining Black population had no purchasing power - or credit (thus the need and reliance for payday and Title Loan stores now instead of banks) - the commercial viability of the new, shiny, post-civil rights Black-run Birmingham was incapable of zilch.

Most shocking though is this: the author didn't take into account inflation. Since the majority-white Fountain Heights went all-Black, we are told the house only appreciated in value by \$1,300. Because most journalist have no financial acumen, they can be forgiven for this transgression against the monetary literate among us.

According to ["The Inflation Calculator"](#):

What cost \$10000 in 1965 would cost \$65085.24 in 2007.

Also, if you were to buy exactly the same products in 2007 and 1965, they would cost you \$10000 and \$1553.07 respectively.

That same house would cost \$65,000 today. You are looking at an 83 percent drop in value from the days when Birmingham was still under white control, as compared to the value of the home post-civil rights era and the institution of Black-control in *The Magic City*.

Factor that out across the whole neighborhood, and you begin to realize the enormity of the financial impact that Black people have had on property value. Now, think of areas of the city that once maintained high property values (when whites resided in the subdivisions) and that were capable of both appreciating on a yearly basis and generating tax-revenue for the city to grow.

Do you now understand the concept of "reverse colonialism?"

The true costs of the turning of Birmingham over to Black-rule are... demoralizing. [Can these neighborhoods be saved/The blight in our midst, *Birmingham News*, by Thomas Spencer, 8-19-2007]:

79 percent of the 20,997 homes in Jefferson County that are considered less than 50 percent good by the county Board of Equalization. Sixty percent of them lie within the city of Birmingham, where 1 in 5 homes is in poor condition. 79 percent of the 8,595 properties in Jefferson County that have been in the hands of the state — many of them essentially abandoned by owners with property taxes unpaid — since at least 2005. Sixty-eight percent are in Birmingham.

The exodus created a broken real estate market in depressed neighborhoods where sellers outnumber buyers — and a city where thousands of houses and apartments were left to decay. What's more, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham predicts urban blight will continue to swell.

The commission projects that by 2030 the number of households will decrease by 17 percent in East Lake and Woodlawn, 22 percent in the neighborhoods around the airport, 27 percent in North Birmingham, 13 percent in Pratt City and Ensley, and 17 percent in West End. Since 1990, the city of Birmingham has demolished 7,948 single-family houses.

This year, the city plans to spend \$750,000 tearing down 423 more. Even at that pace, a backlog of more than 200 homes will remain. And the list keeps growing. [\[4\]](#)

Wealth has evaporated in Birmingham faster than a spilled glass of water in the hot Southern summer sun since the take-over of the city Black-political control. This is the legacy of what the civil right movements has done to one American city.

This is "reverse colonialism."

Factor that 83 percent depreciation in property value from the home highlighted in the story above across the whole city (Blight caused by the new Black majority) and you realize the importance of restrictive covenants in maintaining not just the financial integrity of a community, but actually maintaining a community with any social capital as well.

Cities, after all, are what people make of them...

Why Do Blacks Vote as a Monolith for the Democratic Party?

One quote from Ze'ev Chafets book [Devil's Night: And Other True Tales of Detroit](#) pretty much sums up why black people support the Democratic Party (p.178):

But most black Detroiters do not measure their lives, or their city, by the yardsticks of the American middle class. [Mayor Coleman Young -- the first black mayor of Detroit; elected in 1973] Young may not have provided them with the safest streets or most efficient services; nor has he been able to raise their standard of living. But he has given his constituents something even more valuable: a feeling of empowerment and personal worth. Detroit is one of the few places in the country where blacks can live in a sympathetic, black-oriented milieu.

"Detroit is an environment where you can forget about being black," said Cassandra Smith-Gray, who heads the city's welfare department.

"Empowerment." What happens when you "empower" black people (never forget that Coleman Young famously said he was "Black first, Democrat second.") is documented in [the collapse of Detroit](#): regardless of the perilous nature of a city like Detroit, Atlanta, Gary (Indiana), or Newark under black-political control, the point is simply that *blacks still control the city*.

Black elected officials look out for black interests, knowing that the good for the collective is greater than the combined good of the individual. Once, when America was, well, America, white elected officials didn't need to campaign on protecting "white interests": all policies were looked at on how they benefited and built a better life (and future) for "Americans"... white people.

But this institution of "a feeling of empowerment and personal worth" to black people isn't indigenous to Detroit; it's located in plentiful amounts wherever black-control of a city has transpired (curiously, so our those unsafe streets, inefficient streets, and lower standard of living that plagues 90% black Detroit).

Richard Arrington (a Democrat) was the first black mayor of Birmingham. Elected in 1979, his memoir [There's Hope for the World: The Memoir of Birmingham, Alabama's First African American Mayor](#) basically insinuates that before a black man was elected mayor of Birmingham, the world was doomed; "hope" finally being unleashed from Pandora's Box at just the precise moment when people went to the polls to cast their votes for Arrington.

He writes of the glories of working to create a monochromatic public labor force:

The success of the city in increasing the number of blacks in its labor force was outstanding over the next two decades. By the end of my tenure, black city employees made up 50 percent of the total labor force. By 1995, 60 percent of the city's black employees had some supervisory responsibility. The number of black department heads during my tenure as mayor increased from one to twelve out of twenty-four department heads.

The hiring and promotion of women also increased significantly. By 1999 the City of Birmingham had the most diverse labor force, both in terms of gender and race, of any government in the State of Alabama. [\[5\]](#)

"Empowerment." Augmenting "personal worth" in the City of Birmingham, for 'his' constituents.

Of course, as Birmingham (and the world) prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the events of 1963 - "But for Birmingham," Fred Shuttleworth recalled President John F. Kennedy saying in June 1963 when he invited black leaders to meet with him, "we would not be here today" - there is no room for discussion of what happened to Birmingham since ~~Democrat~~ Black-political control became enshrined as uncontested state-power in the city.

Though blacks living in Birmingham have fared poorly since black-political control of the city emerged in 1979, blacks are still in political control.

We live in a nation where all non-whites are encouraged to play the game of "racial democracy," so that they may feel 'empowered' and a greater sense of 'personal worth' -- regardless of the consequences of their actions.

Now you know why blacks vote as a monolith for Democrats.

Fifty Years Forward? -- "Birmingham accountant slaps city with federal lawsuit claiming pattern of racial discrimination toward whites"

Take a walk in Kelly Ingram Park in Birmingham and be reminded of the racism of the past, kept alive today to perpetually guilt whites with images of their ancestor's insidious ways. [\[6\]](#)

Take a walk into Birmingham City Hall today, and be reminded of the racism alive today, only allowed to perpetuate because of the white guilt manufactured by those images in Kelly Ingram Park [Birmingham accountant slaps city with federal lawsuit claiming pattern of racial discrimination toward whites, Birmingham News, 1-11-13]:

The Birmingham city accountant fired twice on allegations of racism and incompetence today slapped the city with a federal lawsuit saying it was Mayor William Bell's administration that was the true perpetrator of racial discrimination.

Virginia Spidle's federal lawsuit alleges that the city has a pattern of discrimination and retaliation against white employees.

Much of the 49-page lawsuit recounts the testimony heard in days of hearings at the Jefferson County Personnel Board, where Spidle was ultimately cleared of her initial firing charge.

"We are celebrating 50 years of progress in civil rights. In the year we are celebrating that, good people of Birmingham would not approve of mistreating a person because of their race," [Spidle's lawyer, Gayle Gear](#) told al.com/The Birmingham News in an interview. "The foot soldiers - those who have worked diligently on behalf of race relations for this city - what happened in 2010, 2011 and 2012 is not a step forward in race relations. It is a step backwards. And that is why the lawsuit had to be filed."

[The city's protracted legal fight with Spidle](#) began in July 2010, when the 24-year employee was fired after accusations of racial discrimination against black subordinates. Spidle is white.

She returned to work after the Jefferson County Personnel Board, after days of hearings, cleared her of those charges and ordered her reinstated with back pay. But Spidle's return was short-lived when the city fired her again in January 2012 -- after one week back on the job -- on new charges of incompetence.

In a separate proceeding in Jefferson County Circuit Court, [a three-judge panel also ordered Spidle back to work](#), clearing her of the original charges and ordering that she receive back pay from the time of her first termination.

The city last month sent a letter telling her to return to work, just before the beginning of another hearing before the Jefferson County Personnel Board was set to begin. Spidle is back at City Hall, but in a different department.

Spidle's newly filed lawsuit claims her firings were retaliation for her participation in an earlier complaint filed by a white employee who complained of mistreatment based on her race.

"The city also ignored the Personnel Board's factual findings that exonerated plaintiff of all charges including the scurrilous charge of racism instigated by (Jarvis) Patton weeks after his appointment as Chief of Operations," the lawsuit states.

"The actions of the city were the result of intentional race discrimination and retaliation..."

"Despite protestations by plaintiff and other Caucasian employees, a racially charged hostile work environment was instigated, encouraged and condoned by top city officials, specifically Mayor Bell and Chief of Operations, Jarvis Patton," the lawsuit states.

Spidle claims the entire process that resulted in her termination was biased and part of a culture of hostility toward a white minority in her department at City Hall.

"During the period that plaintiff was being subjected to race-based discrimination, other supervisors, who are Caucasian, were reporting similar discriminatory treatment altering the terms and conditions of their employment."

The lawsuit lists several examples of alleged mistreatment of white employees in the finance department. [\[7\]](#)

Birmingham is set to celebrate 50 years of Civil Rights "progress" (just don't look at the actual economic and moral state of the city under black-political; just celebrate that black people now occupy positions of power in the city), which equates to nothing more than a continual celebration of 'payback' for the laws that were once the books to protect white peoples property value, the integrity of the school system, and - most importantly - from unleashing black people on one another with their political emancipation.

Birmingham in 2013 - a city where the City Council continues to pass moratoriums against the issuing of permits for Title Loan or Payday Stores[8] (the only part of the city's economy that is growing) - is a testament to all those evil 'racists' who warned us about what would happen if... what would if western civilization caved to barbarism.

Yes, barbarism is the only word to describe the level of civilization found in a city dominated by blacks (look to Detroit in 2013 for more evidence of this); worse, for those few remaining whites, you must live as second-class citizens in a rapidly disintegrating city, where a legal system protects the will of the majority.

Birmingham's only growth industry in 2013 is the desperate clinging to of the past Civil Rights movement (and the many shrines around the city to this great victory) that looks more hollow every day.

In Carolyn Maull McKinstry's book "While the World Watched: A Birmingham Bombing Survivor Comes of Age During the Civil Rights Movement," this quote stings falls on deaf ears today:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "I like to believe that the negative extremes of Birmingham's past will resolve into the positive and utopian extreme of her future; that the sins of a dark yesterday will be redeemed in the achievements of a bright tomorrow." [9]

What happened at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on September 15, 1963 was an atrocity. But the cache from this incident has allowed a greater atrocity to prevail: not just the complete destruction of Birmingham as a viable city, but the collapse of scores of other neighborhoods, communities, cities, and counties into... into blackness.

To even speak out against the black dysfunction found in the Birmingham City Council, all elected and appointed officials in City Hall, and the citizens of Birmingham who are actively competing with the black citizens of Detroit to see which metropolitan area will have the lowest property value makes you the moral equivalent of those men who bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church so long ago.

That's the power of Black-Run America (BRA).

So while aged Civil Rights activists will be paraded out to speak about their victory in Birmingham this year, no one will have the audacity to ask, "What exactly did you win, when the city of Birmingham is nothing more than a crippled mess? A crippled mess courtesy of the black dysfunction the Civil Rights victory unleashed?"

This story of racism by the black government in Birmingham isn't new, by the way [Supreme Court Roundup; Supreme Court Lets Stand a Decision That Found an Affirmative-Action Plan Unfair, New York Times, April 18, 1995]:

The Supreme Court ended one chapter in the long-running legal battle over the integration of the Birmingham, Ala., Fire Department today, when it refused to review a lower-court ruling that race-based promotions were unfair to 14 white firefighters.

Without comment, the Justices turned down appeals filed by Birmingham officials and by a group of black firefighters from a Federal lower court's decision invalidating the promotion plan, part of a 1981 consent decree that promoted white and black firefighters to the rank of lieutenant on a 1-to-1 basis until the number of black lieutenants equaled the 28 percent of the surrounding county's work force that was black.

That target was reached in 1989, leaving the white firefighters with claims to back pay for their delayed promotions but depriving the case of much continuing practical importance. Other important aspects of the Birmingham plan, including the validity of promotional exams, have not yet been resolved in the lower courts.

These circumstances may explain the Court's decision to pass on the case, despite the Justices' manifest interest in the issue of affirmative action. The Court already has one affirmative-action case awaiting decision, a challenge to a Federal Government contracting program, and others in the pipeline. A refusal by the Court to accept an appeal is not a judgment on the merits of the case.

The Birmingham Fire Department case began in 1974, when the city had only a handful of black firefighters and none in supervisory positions. The convolutions in the case since then have often mirrored the shifting public debate over affirmative action.

The Federal Government during the Administration of President Gerald R. Ford was the original plaintiff in the case, suing Birmingham in 1975 on the ground that the city and the county personnel board engaged in extensive and systematic discrimination.

During the Administration of President Ronald Reagan, the Government switched sides and supported a challenge by white firefighters who had not been parties to the original lawsuit or the subsequent negotiations. A 1989 Supreme Court decision permitted the white firefighters to intervene in the case to challenge the settlement.

The white officers lost in Federal District Court in Birmingham but won an appeal last year before the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, in Atlanta, which denounced the promotional plan as "outright racial balancing."

Despite the fact that the plan's numerical goals have long since been reached and most aspects of the consent decree are no longer operational, the case was closely watched as it made its way back to the Supreme Court, both for its symbolic significance and because the appeals court used such strong language in denouncing the plan as "the perpetuation of discrimination by government."[\[10\]](#)

The "perpetuation of discrimination by government" has continued in 75% black Birmingham, but to dare stand against it and speak out places that brave individual in the same position as those who plotted the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.

At least in the eyes of Disingenuous White Liberals (DWLs) and Organized Blackness.

In the epilogue of Diane McWhorter's love-letter to the very movement that helped bring about the city's demise, "Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama - The Climatic Battle of the Civil Rights Movement," we are treated to this passage in the epilogue:[\[11\]](#)

For many years, the Chamber of Commerce quaked every time a civil rights anniversary brought the national press back to Birmingham, but finally the white leaders decided to stop denying what had taken place and, if not quite embrace it, put it under glass in a museum.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute opened across the street from the 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park in 1992, with dubious bronze likenesses of Martin Luther King and Fred Shuttlesworth welcoming sightseers to the battleground where African-Americans waged a nonviolent civil war and threw off the chains of segregation.

Birmingham was America's city in a valley, but out of the depths rose a city upon a hill. Beauty from destruction. There is magic in that. (p 586-587)

The only investments corporations make in 74 percent black Birmingham today are for events that honor those civil rights anniversaries and the good publicity such tax write-offs will provide.

Is there magic in that?

"50 years forward," we are told with a smile.[\[12\]](#)

What if - and this is just a hypothetical - but what if, the very city celebrated as the most important victory for 'civil rights' becomes the battleground for its very undoing?

What if those statues in Kelly Ingram Park, erected to remind white people of their evil past and continually beat them into submitting before BRA, in the not-too-distant future serve as a bold reminder of the necessary measures that must be taken to preserve civilization?

For all around them now, civilization has fallen into decay.

Tim Burton's 1989 "Batman" vs. 2013 Birmingham: Where Fact and Fiction Merge

Remember Tim Burton's 1989 'Batman' film? There's a great scene earlier in the movie that establishes two important components to the film's plot: 1. Gotham City is bankrupt, and 2. Crime keeps decent people away from the city. Here's the line from the movie:

EXT: CITY HALL: DAY

A "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" banner hangs over City Hall. Mayor Borg, Police Commissioner Gordon and District Attorney Harvey Dent exit from the building.

"I don't care how deeply in debt this festival is, I want a parade. I want hot dogs, balloons, the whole shebang.

We are going to celebrate this 200 year anniversary, proudly and publicly," says the Mayor.

"We may be celebrating this anniversary in bankruptcy court. This festival is already \$250,000 in debt and we haven't seen one balloon," replies Dent.

"You fill this square with people, the businesses will come back here," says the Mayor.

"A lot of people might stay away. They are scared," answers Police Commissioner Gordon.

"They won't be scared when you get Grissom in that Court House, I promise you that," says Mayor Borg.

[This establishes that the community is terrorized by Grissom and his crime syndicate. They are so afraid that they won't even come out for a parade. Grissom's activities are the cause for businesses leaving the city, and thereby destroying the economy. The tax base is so small that the city government cannot even afford to hold a parade. The scene is designed to turn the audience against the criminals.)[\[13\]](#)

A quarter of million dollars doesn't sound like an insurmountable amount of money to appropriated from a budget, but what if a city in the real-world – our world – just allocated the exact same amount of money that the fictional town of Gotham City was in debt in 'Batman'?[\[14\]](#)

What if this same city has a “criminal problem” just like Gotham City, though no syndicate or mafia is behind the epidemic of crime keeping businesses and ‘decent people’ away?

Unlike in Gotham City, it is merely this city's residents who keep away businesses and ensure the tax-base will be insufficient in providing the proper revenues necessary to run a city.

And though people get murdered, mugged, and fall victim to wanton criminality everyday in this city, unlike in Gotham City, no hero rises to the occasion to battle the evil-doers. Instead, a culture of ‘no-snitching’ protects the criminals.

Only in pages of comic books and on the big-screen does a hero rise up to protect a city; for in 2013 Birmingham, Alabama (a 75% black city), it has been a hilarious run of elected black officials attempting to protect not the city, but the cherished legacy of 1963 that serves as a reminder that the villain some times is victorious.

2013 Birmingham is a city with conditions far worse then that depicted in the dystopian urban environment of Tim Burton's 1989 “Batman” film; after all, a guy dressed up as a bat was able to turn the city's fortunes around by standing up to organized crime.

To save 2013 Birmingham, you'd have to stand up to the greatest criminal racket in the history of mankind – Organized Blackness, which can shakedown any city, business, or government to do its bidding, least they want to experience a riot or boycott.

More to the point, the conditions found in 2013 Birmingham that deter outside investment and keep “decent people” from moving into the city are beyond dispute, all because of the moral authority granted to the city by the events of 1963. We'll call it the equivalent of “diplomatic immunity”... What were those events?

Well, a horrible event 50 years ago that serves as a shield deflecting any of the incompetence found in modern Birmingham [Birmingham mayor lobbies for Congressional Gold Medal for 'Four Little Girls', Birmingham News, 1-21-13]:

Birmingham Mayor William Bell this morning is urging federal officials to award a Congressional Gold Medal honoring the four girls killed in the 1963 bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Outrage over the church's bombing and deaths of the girls who were attending Sunday school created national outrage and contributed to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights of 1965. [This year is the 50th anniversary of the bombing and other seminal civil rights events of 1963.](#)

Congress has issued gold medals since the American Revolution that are awarded to honor distinguished achievements and contributions.

Each medal honors a particular individual, institution, or event, [according to the House of Representatives official website.](#) Congress broadened the scope of the medals to include a variety of categories including: actors, authors, entertainers, lifesavers, notables in science and medicine, humanitarians and public servants. [15]

Why not? Give them the Congressional Gold Medal. In fact, give every black person alive today a Congressional Gold Medal. Rename the city of Birmingham this: “Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Alabama.”

Continually use the past as a to brush away any criticism for how the city turned out under black-rule, by pointing out the event that directly led to undermining of white rule in not just Birmingham, but everywhere.

But the past is never dead in Birmingham, it just serves as a nice diversion from the conditions black people created in the city they now politically rule but economically devastate [50th anniversary of 1963: Alabama draws attention to events that brought shame, change, Birmingham News, 1-24-13]

The state of Alabama this year is working to draw attention to events that cast it in a shameful light a half-century ago, events that led to sweeping gains in civil rights across the country.

The Alabama Tourism Department and the Alabama Department of Archives and History are helping promote the 50th anniversary of those events and explain their significance.

[In Birmingham and across the state in 1963](#), racial intolerance and resistance to integration clashed with the fierce determination of those fighting for equality.

Brutality in defense of the segregationist status quo --- the Birmingham church bombing that killed four girls, the use of police dogs and fire hoses on children and peaceful demonstrators, the mass arrests --- helped change minds and build support for landmark civil rights legislation.

State officials say this year it's important to revisit that history.[\[16\]](#)

What do you mean by politically rule but economically devastate? Remember, Birmingham is a city whose city council (seven of nine members are black, all who wish to be featured in an advertising for a Who's Who in Black Alabama book)[\[17\]](#) has continued to extend on moratorium on new payday loan and title pawn/loans stores being built in the city. Just like in 1989's "Batman" film, few legitimate businesses can successfully thrive in 75 percent black Birmingham. It's instructive to go to the beginning of this crusade to drive away any new business in the city [Birmingham's payday lending moratorium set for vote, public hearing, Birmingham News, 11-13-11]:

The future growth of payday loan, title pawn and check-cashing businesses in Birmingham will be decided Tuesday when the Birmingham City Council votes on a proposed year-long moratorium.

The ordinance proposed by Councilwoman Lashunda Scales would ban any new title loan or payday loan businesses from opening for one year or until the city's comprehensive plan is complete.

Representatives of the payday lending industry say the proposed restrictions are unneeded.

But Scales, who is chairwoman of the council's Economic Development Committee, said Birmingham has been inundated with the businesses. "The law department has come up with an ordinance that will protect the citizens of Birmingham," she said of the proposal, which has been revised since she first presented it two months ago.

"With the law department's official input, it answers all of the questions that council members had."

The businesses' negative impact is twofold, Scales said.

She said businesses offering short-term loans have high interest rates that keep financially strained customers trapped in a cycle of making interest-only payments.

Secondly, she said, the presence of too many of these businesses repel other commercial development.

"Our citizens deserve first-class businesses at an affordable price," she said. "However, if you have a string of these kind of predatory lending agencies in those same communities, then the likelihood of those (other) businesses locating in that area is nonexistent."

A citizenry only deserves the type of economic their combined individuals are capable of producing; 75 percent black Birmingham doesn't have a citizenry capable of providing a climate conducive to economic growth or where "decent people" want to invest.

But it does a lot of cool "Civil Rights" sites to check out, as long as you go away soaked in the waters of white guilt!

Fortunately, Gotham City had a billionaire who decided to dress like a bat and fight crime; in Birmingham, the only idea on how to combat crime was issuing a DVD to black people.

Seriously.

A DVD.

[Mayor Langford: DVD could stop 'self genocide', Alabama 13 (NBC), 6-5-13]:

[Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford](#) hopes a graphic DVD about "black on black crime" can help reduce the city's crime.

He showed the 18 minute film called, "[A War for Your Soul](#)", at Tuesday's [City Council](#) meeting.

It uses graphic language, images and video to suggest crimes committed by African Americans on each other in some way fulfills the goals of the racist forces of the past. [Langford](#) hopes to distribute as many as 500 copies to churches and civic groups.

U.[A.B. sociology professor Dr. Gail Wallace](#) feels the film can make an impact on Birmingham's inner city youth, but needs to be coupled with proper role models and community programs that give teens activities to participate in to stay out of trouble.[\[18\]](#)

Langford is currently in prison for corruption.

Birmingham in 2013 will not see businesses or people come back by using the past as a crutch, attempting to divert any legitimate criticism by frantically pointing to pictures of dogs, water hoses, or that 16 Street Church.

Indeed, when the Birmingham City Council made Trayvon Martin an honorary citizen of the city in 2012, a “baggage mix-up” forced the cancellation of a planned visit to the church.[\[19\]](#)

But it didn't stop this from happening [Birmingham makes Trayvon Martin honorary citizen, Alabama 13, 3-28-12]:

Leaders in Alabama's largest city have voted to make Florida teenager Trayvon Martin an honorary citizen.

The Birmingham City Council voted Tuesday to declare the 17-year-old an honorary citizen and voiced its displeasure over the way his shooting death has been handled in Sanford, Fla.

Black male members of the Birmingham council wore hoodies during their meeting to show solidarity with Martin. The youth was also wearing a hoodie when he was fatally wounded by a neighborhood watch captain last month.

Council President Roderick Royal says the main purpose of the display is to show that minority males often are invisible to people in positions of power.[\[20\]](#)

In Birmingham, “minority” males monopolize positions of authority – though we aren’t supposed to notice that under their stewardship the city has all but collapsed.

Just applaud that they are in positions of authority, instead of evil white people.

Birmingham is a city where the city council rushed to pass a “minority inclusion ordinance” that ‘that makes minority inclusion a necessary part of every municipal request for proposals and all city-awarded contracts’, even though they hadn’t seen the final report documenting the disparate impact study in which the ordinances enforcement legally rested.

This was in 2007 and it cost the city \$500,000:

City Councilor Steven Hoyt, who has made minority inclusion his political platform, amended the proposed ordinance on Tuesday’s agenda to remove language “encouraging a minimum of 27 percent minority business participation.”

That percentage would have invited lawsuits that, in the past decade, have successfully overturned so-called minority set-asides; high courts have generally ruled them unconstitutional.

Instead, Hoyt advanced amended language that states in part, “As a matter of public policy, the City of Birmingham agrees to make opportunities available to the maximum extent possible, to actively include Historically Underutilized Business Enterprises (HUBE’s) such as architectural firms, engineering firms, investment banking firms, other professional consultant services providers, and construction contractors as part of business, economic and community revitalization programs.”[\[21\]](#)

The only capital the 75 percent black citizens of Birmingham can create is sitting in Title Pawn and Payday Loan stores. Hilariously, even in 2009, the “disparate impact” report so eagerly cited as a reason for the 2007 vote was yet to see:

Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford issued his first veto today, rejecting a City Council resolution asking him to implement the results of the disparity study designed to prove a need for minority business initiatives. ~~TTTTT~~ Today, Langford will [read his veto message](#) to the council.

The disparity study was commissioned by former Mayor Bernard Kincaid and drafted by former Denver city attorney Dan Muse, an authority in legal diversity policy. Muse has said a study proving disparity is needed before governments legally establish percentage goals on contracts given to minorities and women.

Following the report, another company, the Freeman Group, was paid \$20,000 by the council to draft recommendations on implementing the disparity study.

Langford rejected the council's request, saying his office has not received Freeman's report after numerous attempts.

"The result is vague and ambiguous because it is unclear what Disparity Study results I am being asked to implement," Langford wrote in his veto message.

"In fact, investigation by my staff has revealed the members of the Disparity Task Force do not have copies of "final report" performed by Freeman and cannot identify any specific recommendations made Freeman on behalf of the committee...If they do not know what I am being asked to implement, I cannot, in good conscience implement it." [\[22\]](#)

The impediment to progress in Birmingham isn't the high crime rates produced by the 75 percent black citizenry; it's the officials elected to administrate the city.

Hilariously, when a business – be that a white owned business – dares try and open its doors in Birmingham, the black-politically dominated immediately puts up a fight[Birmingham Council spars with city attorney who warns of possible discrimination lawsuits, Al.com, 11-12-12]:

What began as a routine business request for city incentives morphed into a debate over minority business inclusion and an admonition from the Birmingham city attorney that City Council statements put the city at risk for a racial discrimination lawsuit.

In the end, the council today approved \$80,000 in sales tax abatements for [new World of Beer stores including one already underway in Five Points South](#).

But it was that request that sparked a heated discussion over support for minority businesses and the city's commitment to disadvantaged businesses -- issues that have been brewing for more than a week. The issue first arose last week when Councilman Steven Hoyt, at a Budget and Finance Committee meeting grilled representatives of World of Beer about the company's ownership and construction contractors.

World of Beer officials said they used some minority companies in construction, which, after Hoyt pressed the group on specifics, turned out to be white women-owned companies. That committee meeting then resulted in a legal memo delivered to each council member Friday by Chief of Operations Jarvis Patton, warning that the council puts the city in legal jeopardy with questioning such as Hoyt's.

"It's my sincere hope and belief that no councilor is seeking to unilaterally impose a personal policy in violation of the U.S. Constitution and also other federal, state and local law," City Attorney Thomas Bentley wrote in the memo. "In that spirit I am urging the council, while undertaking official business as councilors and in all their public and private pronouncements on the subject of the city's participation policy, not to make statements indicating illegal preference."[\[23\]](#)

This is a city noted as being as “food desert” – which is why the story of an attempted opening of a grocery store[24] (in a city where 80,000 people live too far away from one[25] – because black people can’t create conditions necessary for a business owner to feel safe in investing capital in their community) in Birmingham is so... typical Birmingham [Fireworks at Birmingham City Council meeting, WBRC Fox Birmingham, 4-17-12]:

It's been a while since we've seen a major blow-up at Birmingham's City Council meetings, but today the council and Mayor Bell appeared to be making up for lost time.

It all started when Greg Calhoun, the owner of Montgomery-based grocery store chain Calhoun Foods, got up to give an update on negotiations between him and the mayor's office to try and bring a grocery store to so-called food deserts like downtown or Pratt City.

Calhoun said he wasn't getting much help from the mayor's office, and that's when city council members began to accuse the mayor of not wanting to help African-American-owned businesses.

"Unless there's a real reason, I don't see why we can't do business with this company, unless there's a real reason," said Council President Roderick Royal. "We practically give the kitchen sink to folk in this city."

"There seems to be a disdain for African-American businesses in this city, and there's something strangely wrong with that when the leadership looks the way it does," said Council President Pro Tem Steven Hoyt. "I'm not against white wealth, but I believe there should be some African-American wealth to go along with it."

Those comments got Bell's attention but he didn't speak up until Hoyt said Bell didn't call him after some members of his family were the victims of a crime.

"I do not play with people's families, that's what I'm trying to say," Bell said, raising his voice. "If I had known your daughter was involved, I would've been the first one down there on site. I didn't know your daughter had been attacked until you told me."

From there, Bell became enraged at the accusation his administration isn't helping minority-owned businesses, drawing the owner of Calhoun foods into the fight at one point.

"When you look at the hotel that's being built," Bell shouted, and at one point pounded his hand on the desk. "The majority of the people working on that project are African American businesses. And to say I disdain black businesses in this community? That is a flat-out lie.

And this man up here knows that it's a lie, and this man is just throwing fuel on stuff that is not true, and I'm not gonna stand for it. And I'm not gonna stand for you to come down here and imply that my staff, a black woman who's been trying to help more black-owned businesses than anybody else in this city ever has, and you're gonna try to impugn her character and that of this administration? I'm not gonna have it."

Bell then pounded his desk again as he said, "I'm just not gonna have it."

Shortly after that, Calhoun walked out of the meeting saying he's throwing in the towel on this project. But outside of city hall later he said he's still hopeful he and the city will reach a deal.

The mayor's office took the unusual step today of releasing a timeline detailing all of their interactions on the Calhoun project. Bell says Calhoun has canceled four meetings, Calhoun says he never had a meeting scheduled.

In the meantime, the future of a grocery store in any of these food deserts appears to be very much up in the air.[\[26\]](#)

Remember Tim Burton's 1989 'Batman' film? There's a great scene earlier in the movie that establishes two important components to the film's plot: 1. Gotham City is bankrupt, and 2. Crime keeps decent people away from the city.

Now, consider the plot of this film to the world found in 2013 Birmingham.

Are the conditions there, in the 75 percent black city of Birmingham, considered a comedy or a tragedy?

But at least Trayvon Martin[27] is an honorary citizen of Birmingham[28]... a city without hope, save for the continued spotlight to forever shine on 1963, serving as a guiding star away from the misery of 2013.

A Pledge, to Birmingham

Have you ever heard of The Birmingham Pledge?

No?

Crafted in 1997, The Birmingham Pledge states:

- I believe that every person has worth as an individual.
- I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.
- I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.
- Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.
- I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.
- I will treat all people with dignity and respect; and I will strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.[\[29\]](#)

All people aren't worthy of dignity or respect, and this goes far beyond race, color, or creed. And, no, all people do not possess worth as an individual. Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to remind people why racial prejudice once existed in not just their private thoughts - as they do now - but in their daily actions. I will encourage people to tell the truth of why Birmingham in 2012, with a population that is [74 percent black](#), has a city council which continues to [extend the ban on new payday lending and title pawn shops from opening in the city](#). [Birmingham City Council extends ban on new payday lending, title pawn shops, Birmingham News, 10-16-2012]:

Councilwoman Lashunda Scales [proposed the original halt](#), saying the city is inundated with the businesses that stifle more positive commercial development.

"We're trying to come up with law that would allow the number of payday lending and title lending institutions in the city," Scales said after the meeting. "We're looking for a permanent solution." [\[30\]](#)

And though 2013 will be filled with a perpetual, ubiquitous celebration of the downfall of the Birmingham prior to 1963, I pledge to remind people of just what occurred after the dogs stopped barking and fire-hoses were turned off.

The "About" section at the home page for the Birmingham Pledge [reminds us](#):

Birmingham, Alabama ignited a fire that illuminated social injustice throughout the South and nation as a whole. Today, the city once known for police dogs and bombings is at the center of efforts to remedy America's history of pervasive racial inequality through alliances once thought impossible. The Birmingham Pledge is one of the key components of that movement.

The state of Birmingham in 2012 (soon-to-be 2013), a city that has been under black-political control since 1979, is a powerful reminder of the reality of what ignoring racial inequalities results in producing.

We are constantly told that "diversity" is our source of civic strength, even civic virtue, but the condition of the government in Birmingham circa 2011 would portend to showcase otherwise [Race-tinged debate over 'Who's Who' book, divides Birmingham City Council, Birmingham News, April 26, 2011]:

Members of the Birmingham City Council were divided by race Monday during an emotional debate about participation in a book highlighting black Alabama residents. The discussion centered on which council members would -- and would not -- be featured in the upcoming "Who's Who in Black Alabama" book.

The Budget and Finance Committee discussed the request for \$5,000 for an advertisement in the book.

Council members Valerie Abbott and Kim Rafferty, the only white members, objected to the city's participation.

"I'm 100 percent in favor of Who's Who in Black Alabama," Abbott said. "I'm just not in favor of taxpayer money paying for it."

Under the proposal, scheduled for a vote this morning, the council would allocate \$5,000 and receive an ad with a group photo of the entire council. The seven black council members would also receive separate biographies with head shots, while Abbott and Rafferty would not.

The committee forwarded the item to the agenda without any recommendation.

Rafferty called the publisher's policy hurtful and discriminatory, noting that her district is diverse and that she represents all of her constituents.

"I am fully supportive of what their agenda is, but when I worked so hard to be at this table, to be told that I'm unequal and I cannot be in the publication, I don't understand that.

It really bothers me," she said.

Rafferty walked out of the meeting before the group forwarded the item. "This isn't petty, and some people try to make it petty," she said later. Councilman Steven Hoyt, chairman of the committee, defended the book and its mission.

"I'm really not understanding why this is so controversial. That seems to be my middle name, so I'm comfortable with it," he said. "This is a business, and you're telling we can't support minority business?" Hoyt said the city regularly spends money to support mostly white-owned businesses, and the city has supported white institutions for most of its history.

"We spent the first 75 years celebrating the white majority in the city of Birmingham, and now that we've got a little mixture and we can't be celebrated?" he said. "I can spend all my minutes tomorrow talking about the inequities in this city."[\[31\]](#)

The power of Black-Run America (BRA) is the ability to constantly transport white people back to those insidious, evil days when a city like Birmingham was under white political control (and actually had a future), and make white people feel sorry both the civilization they built and the extraordinary measures it took to keep civilization from falling to pieces -- namely, legal measures to keep black people out of power.

Something as innocuous as a debate on appropriate city funds to support an ad in the "Who's Who in Black America" book is grounds for participating in the type of hysterical histrionics Pulitzer Prize winning editorial writer Joey Kennedy displayed to me when we debated the collapse of Birmingham under black-political (and black demographic) control.

That the only economy capable of thriving in a city with a population that is 74 percent black is one based on payday lending and title loan shops speaks volumes about the ability of the types of civilizations black people are able to produce.

The best part about the Birmingham Pledge, is the Web site doesn't even have a picture of the city from whose name the pledge originates: It's a sketch of the skyline of Atlanta, the City too Busy to Hate.

In *Black Politics: The New Road to Freedom* (August 1984 issue of *Ebony*), we are greeted to profiles of black mayors. Wilson Goode, Harold Washington, and Coleman Young are profiled, as is Richard Arrington of Birmingham. These words accompany the write-up of Arrington:

Birmingham, a city which is remembered for church bombings and the use of firehoses and police dogs the bloody racial strife of the '50s and '60s, changed greatly when Dr. Richard Arrington became the city's first Black mayor in 1979. The mayor, who was re-elected last year, was also quick to implement programs to revitalize the downtown area, reduce crime and upgrade the Black business district. He adopted a citywide hiring policy that increased the Black representation on both the fire and police departments. And he was, he says, the first elected official in that city to fight for affirmative action programs.

And many of the downtown White business leaders (many of whom opposed Arrington in 1979) say he has been directly responsible for spurring downtown development in a city that has had some serious difficulty luring business for 20 years. [\[32\]](#)

Flash-forward to 2013, thirty years after Arrington implemented radical affirmative action policies in the city (doesn't that violate the Birmingham Pledge... oh, never mind), a hilarious book has been published which is a reminder that the white business leaders decided to leave Birmingham once the majority population there could only sustain an economy of liquor, payday loan, and title pawn stores. Charles Buchanan's [Fading Ads of Birmingham](#) offers a pictorial trek through the city, showcasing the ghosts of a once vibrant (white) past. Through mere pictures of fading advertisements in the abandoned black-controlled city of Birmingham, we are provided with the reality of racial inequality. Just read the hilarious back cover of the book, which inadvertently wallows in racism:

The fading advertisements on the walls of Birmingham paint an illuminating picture of the men and women who built an industrial boomtown in the first half of the twentieth century. Experience the disappearing art and see what these commercial creations looked like with fresh paint. Discover the stories behind the wares they hawked, the buildings they adorned and the streets they overlooked. Which soft drink helped you "get wise"? Where could you store a piano in the 1920s, and what gum should you chew for indigestion? Advertising expert, artist and writer Charles Buchanan unravels the mysteries behind Birmingham's ghost signs to reveal glimpses of the past now hidden in plain sight.

So, I make a pledge to Birmingham that I will work to extinguish the flames of social justice in 2013, which were ignited in the Magic City in 1963 and swept across the entire western world. Detroit has been consumed; Gary, Indiana too; as have South Africa and Rhodesia.

Though much is lost, much remains worth defending This, I pledge.

Will you make "A Pledge, to Birmingham?"

Which Way Forward, Birmingham? A look at the History of the City Through the Career of Paul "Bear" Bryant

College football in Alabama is a religious experience, one with rituals, a liturgy, and a deity in a hound's-tooth hat. "The definition of an atheist in Alabama," longtime University of Georgia coach Wally Butts once said, "is someone who doesn't believe in Bear Bryant."

(The Pride of the Lions: The Biography of Joe Paterno, by Frank Fitzpatrick, p.1)

By not just winning but dominated the national football scene through the 1960s with a monochromatic team, Bryant was (intentionally or not) fueling the segregationist cause. In [U.W. Clemon – a Black lawyer who was chosen to defend a lawsuit filed by the University of Alabama's Afro-American Association against the school for its failure to recruit Black athletes for the sports team] Clemon's words: "he proved that Alabama could have a nationally ranked team- a series of them – without any blacks on them. And so in a way, he kind of proved the legitimacy of segregation, that you didn't need racially diverse teams in order to have a national stature."

[Turning of the Tide: How One Game Changed the South, by Don Yeager with Sam Cunningham and John Papadakis, p.66]

The 1966 Alabama Crimson Tide was not just outvoted. It was robbed, the victim of the greatest injustice in the history of the national championship selection process. In the history of college football, no other team has ever won back-to-back national championships, finished undefeated and untied in the third year, and been denied the title.

Believing the racial situation cost him the title, Bryant took the offensive and announced the Crimson Tide was trying to schedule regular season games against integrate, non-Southern programs – a small step, but one loaded with symbolism and significance.

[*The Missing Ring: How Bear Bryant and the 1966 Alabama Crimson Tide Were Denied College Football's Most Elusive Prize*, by Keith Dunnavant, p. 250]

The following is a column written by Jim Murray of the *Los Angeles Times* after the infamous 42-21 victory for an integrated Southern California over an all-white Alabama on September 12, 1970. The following year, when Alabama beat heavily-favored USC 17-10 in Los Angeles, they had an integrated team: the two Black players were John Mitchell and Wilbur Jackson; the rest of the squad were white boys, who led the Crimson Tide to an 11-1 record that year an almost captured another national title.

“OK, you can put another star in the Flag.

“On a warm and sultry night when you could hear train whistles hooting through the piney woods half a county away, the state of Alabama joined the Union. They ratified the Constitution, signed the Bill of Rights. They [have struck the Star and Bars](#). They now hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal in the eyes of the creator.

“Our newest state took the field against a mixed bag of hostile black and white American citizens without [police dogs, tear gas rubber hoses or fire hoses](#). They struggled without the aid of their formidable ally, [Jim Crow](#).

“Bigotry wasn’t suited up for a change. Prejudice got cut from the squad. Will you all please stand and welcome the [sovereign state](#) of Alabama to the United States of America?”

Cut the crud about supremacy. There ain’t no Santa Claus, either. Get out of our way. We’re trying to build a country, to form a democracy.

But why cavil? It was less a defeat for Alabama than a victory for America. Birmingham will never be the same. And brother, it’s a good thing.[Turning of the Tide: How One Game Changed the South, by Don Yeager with Sam Cunningham and John Papadakis, p. 151-152]

Bama’s success in the 1970s was not a result simply of integration, of course. Other changes included Bryant’s gutsy decision to “sink or swim” with the wishbone offense; the shift from one-platoon to two-platoon football (which occurred in the mid-1960s but had a gradual effect on the game into the early 1970s); the corresponding liberalization of substitution rules, which allowed him to develop a system in which he played three and sometimes four complete units, which accentuated his strengths; and the abandonment of his “quick little boys” strategy in favor of using behemoths to take advantage of new blocking rules.

[*Coach: The Life of Paul “Bear” Bryant*, by Keith Dunnavant, p. 262-263]

The trouble seems to occur when you have blacks who aren’t playing, because they’ll have fifty thousand people telling them they’re better than the white boy who’s ahead of hem. You’re not going to be right all the time. I’ll tell you how it goes. I had a white boy in St. Louis, a hot prospect I got, tell me that he heard from one of my players that I favored blacks over whites, that if it was close the blacks would get it. Well, I won’t dignify that kind of remark.

[*Bear*, by Bear Bryant with John Underwood,p.305]

There was another factor we blacks on the Auburn team were aware of. Although Auburn had been the first to sign a black athlete in the state, Alabama had jumped way out front in the number of blacks athletes on their campus. Alabama had three times the number of blacks on their football team than we did. They probably had ten times as many black students. Black athletes filled the skill positions on Alabama's roster. On both offense and defense, their players were much faster than their counterparts on our team.

[*Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University*, p. 188: 1973 Iron Bowl won by Alabama 35-0, largely a revenge game for the Tide after being shocked by Auburn 17-16 in 1972]

The game would be a "three black game." We would need all the speed we could get. The trouble was our speed was on offense. We had good athletes on defense, but could we stop the fast Alabama halfbacks from getting around the corner on us? Since James' signing in 1969, Alabama had raced past Auburn in the quest to sign black athletes. There were at least a dozen black football players on the Alabama squad.

[*Walk-On: My Reluctant Journey to Integration at Auburn University*, p. 230. Auburn played three black players on offense and started an all-white defense in the 1974 Iron Bowl against Alabama. The Tide would win a hard-fought 17-13 victory.

The city had long possessed a reputation as one of the most rigidly segregated cities in the South, and the obdurate resistance and violence that Birmingham's whites directed at any manifestation of black demands for equality had led some to label the city as "Bombingham." Birmingham police commissioner Eugene T. "Bull" Connor's vow to "keep the niggers in their place," and his nationally televised implementation of that vow by the use of police dogs, fire hoses, and cattle prods against the Martin Luther King Jr.-led demonstrations against the segregation in the city, had been a major factor in prompting President Kennedy to propose in 1963 the legislation that would become the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Indeed, in a meeting with civil rights leaders following his proposal of civil rights legislation, Kennedy had joke, "I don't think you should all be totally harsh on Bull Connor. After all he has done more for civil rights than almost anyone else."

Another civil rights leader reported the president as saying, “But for Birmingham, we would not be here today.”

(Civil Rights and Public Accommodations: the Heart of Atlanta Motel and McClung Cases, by Richard Cortner, p. 63)

As recently as the 1950s, Atlanta and Birmingham grappled for the title of economic and cultural “capital” of the Southeast. They had almost identical populations of about 350,000. They also shared something else in common- a dislike for each other.

Atlanta and its leaders, notably Mayor William B. Hartsfield, pushed for economic expansion in the 1950s – and grudgingly tolerated social change in the 1960s.

By contrast, Birmingham was symbolized by “stand patism” economically and by Eugene (Bull) Connor, the city’s police commissioner, on the front lines against desegregation. It was Connor who brought worldwide attention to Birmingham in 1963 by unleashing police dogs and fire hoses against demonstrating blacks. Ultimately, Alabama’s largest city had to be dragged, kicking and screaming, into the late 20th Century.

(The List, By Chet Dettlinger with Jeff Prugh, p. 15) Fitting that Atlanta is a city on the verge of being the battle-ground for the opening salvos of a 21st Century "secession" movement, entirely predicated by a desire to create white enclaves and keep tax-revenues out of the hands of a Black-run city for racial-charged redistribution.

The Birmingham News produced a groundbreaking series in 2007 – entitled [“Birmingham at a Crossroads: Which Way Forward?”](#) - pointing out that, indeed, Birmingham has died since Black people had taken control of the city. Since being “dragged, kicking and screaming, into the 20th Century,” Birmingham has done its best to replicate Detroit’s descent into becoming America’s version of Mogadishu. It’s truly the Johannesburg of the South.

A population that was 60 percent white/40 percent Black in the 1960s is now 74 percent Black and 22 percent white. There was a reason Bull Connor made his stand; Birmingham's condition in 2012 - though no one dares care what happened after the cameras left, the dogs stopped barking, and the hoses emitted their last blasts of water – stands testament to why the stand was made.

Jim Murray, one of individuals who was responsible for the launching of Sports Illustrated, was correct when he wrote that “Birmingham will never be the same” back in 1970. A vibrant city during segregation, Mr. Murray was right: the city is now dead.

“It is certainly illuminative of his nature that The Bear took no lead whatsoever in the matter of integration. His defenders will claim that [Wallace](#) kept his hands tied, that The Bear wasn't even allowed to schedule teams with black players, much less dress any of them in crimson, and there may be a measure of truth in that. But given The Bear's surpassing popularity, he had it within his power to assume a burden of leadership. Yet he held back on race and let other—and less entrenched—Southern coaches stick their necks out first. Only after Southern Cal and Sam (Bam) Cunningham ran all over the skinny little white boys in a 1970 game, only when it was evident that the Tide couldn't win any longer lily-white, only then did The Bear learn his civics.

[[I Do Love Football](#), Sports Illustrated, by Frank Deford, November 23, 1981]

Yes, Bear Bryant did learn his civics. Birmingham got a taste of civics courtesy of Black-Run America (BRA). That is the lasting legacy of civil rights in Birmingham: a dead-city.

The condition of Birmingham in 2012 is Bear Byrant's great legacy. Fitting then that his favorite memories were those of an all-white team from 1954. When he took over the head coaching at Texas A&M and took 115 players out to Junction, Texas for a grueling eight-day practice session in the summer heat, and returned with only 29 players. The team would go 1-9, but 25 years later:

On May 18, Bryant boarded a private jet and headed for one of the most desolate parts of Texas to revisit his past. The Junction Boys, the A&M players he had put through the brutal 1954 trial, were staging a 25th anniversary reunion.

At the Junction reunion, Bryant was presented with a commemorative ring. He wore it till he died.

[*The Last Coach: A Life of Paul “Bear” Bryant*, by Allen Barra, p. 450]

Of those who showed up to the reunion in 1979, we learn:

Boys who had survived dehydration, heatstroke, broken bones, bruises, and searing heat were now men in their midforties. They wore brightly colored shirts and happy faces. Some had grown bald, and others had grown thicker about the waist. They were doctors, engineers, lawyers, bankers, coaches, entrepreneurs, educators, architects, oilmen, ranchers, farmers, fast-food deal makers (including one of the founders of Church’s Chicken), and CEOs. Many were millionaires. Some were recognized globally for their feats in high commerce.

[*The Junction Boys: How Ten Days in Hell with Bear Bryant Forged a Championship Team*, by Jim Dement, p. 278]

It’s important to note that Paul “Bear” Bryant died, he was wearing that ring. Though he outlasted some of the top Southern football head coaches (John Vaught at Ole Miss and Bobby Dodd at Georgia Tech both retired before their respective schools integrated; Shug Jordan at Auburn would retire in the mid-70s, but would only recruit a handful of Black players while Bryant recruited five times as many for the Tide), it wasn’t any of his Tide national title teams whose jewelry he wore when he died.

It was a ring from an all-white Texas A&M team, [commemorating the Junction Boys](#) – 29 men who went to college and happened to play football while at the school; now, college football is a sport where the majority of the participants are only in school to play football.

It's doubtful the Tide has any players on the 2012 roster who are capable of replicating the feats of the Junction Boys after they stop playing football; well, maybe some of the white boys.

Birmingham got democracy. Birmingham was welcomed into the 20th Century. Birmingham was subjected to freedom; and judging by a glance at the *Birmingham News* special, "Birmingham at a Crossroads: Which Way Forward?: Freedom Failed."[\[33\]](#)

Wrote Jim Murray before the historic 1970 game against USC was even played:

"The point of the game will not be the score, the Bear, the Trojans; the point of the game will be Reason, Democracy, Hope. The real winner will be the South."[\[34\]](#)

Reason? Democracy? Yes, Birmingham post-September 12, 1970 received a powerful dose of Disingenuous White Liberal (DWL) reason, and what can only be described as "lethal" doses of Democracy.

Hope?

Birmingham has none.

Perhaps this is why Bear Bryant, during his last years on earth, looked backwards for inspiration-- to a group of men who wouldn't quit on him.

For the day will come when people no longer believe in Bear Bryant; when they no longer derive their identity from a university (be it Alabama or Auburn) - that they live vicariously through – and their emotional health from how "their team" performs on the football field.

When Alabama is full of atheists, then there is actually hope – hope that BRA will forever be stamped out, with never the opportunity to return.

Then, Birmingham can finally move forward.

The Death of Legion Field in Birmingham: Paul "Bear" Bryant's True Legacy

In 2012, the only industry that 74 percent Black Birmingham can produce - [outside of payday loan stores](#) - is to live off the legacy of "Civil Rights" (Birmingham Civil Rights District named Attraction of the Year, *Birmingham News*, August 30, 2012)[\[35\]](#); the sorry condition of the city being the ultimate legacy of "Civil Rights."

Though the University of Alabama had already started recruiting Black athletes in the late 1960s to play on the famed Crimson Tide football team, coach by Paul "Bear" Bryant, the 1970 season would mark the final year an all-white team would be fielded.

And it was on September 12 of that year in a game played at legendary Legion Field in Birmingham that an undersized Crimson Tide team (coming off of the two worst seasons since Bryant took over the team in 1958 -- largely due to changes in the rules that ended the era of "two-way" players and created the modern-era of specialized offensive and defensive units) would be soundly defeated by an integrated [University of Southern California team](#):

On Sept. 12, 1970, a freshman basketball player named Wendell Hudson rode a bus packed with athletes to Birmingham, taking his seat at Legion Field. He watched as Sam Cunningham, the black USC fullback, torched the all-white Crimson Tide defense for 135 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-21 Trojans win. Hudson didn't like seeing his school embarrassed, but there was something sweet about a black player showing the holdovers from the Jim Crow South what they were missing. It was a loss for the Crimson Tide, but it represented something different, Hudson says, to the black community.

"I don't think there's any question," he says. "It was a win."

Later, it was suspected that Bryant brought the Trojans to Birmingham to show locals that it was time to desegregate his team. Was this all it took to be a contender again, five years after Alabama's most recent national title?

Bryant's actions, whether they were premeditated or not, prevented the Tide from falling behind -- despite resistance from boosters and even in the statehouse. Some say that game at Legion Field was the turning point; others say the story has been overblown, its significance mythologized.

Hudson says that, if nothing else, that fall Saturday helped to open minds and to ease the stress directed toward young black players. "If Coach Bryant thought it was OK," Hudson says, "the state of Alabama thought it was OK."[\[36\]](#)

Alabama was coming off of an 8-3 and 6-5 season (1969 and 1970) and though the Tide would field only two Black players in 1971 (a virtually all-white team exacting revenge and beating heavily favored USC 17-10 en route to an 11-1 season - after going 6-5-1 in 1970 - thanks to the institution of the wishbone offensive attack), the idea that Black players were the key to winning national titles was set in the eyes of Bryant and his faithful -- the Crimson Tide Nation.

Starting the 2012 season, the University of Alabama football program is more than 70 percent Black: at a school whose enrollment is less than five percent Black male.[\[37\]](#)

And yes, Alabama has won two of the last three national titles; yes, Alabama won national title in 1992; and yes, Bryant would win 1973, 1978, and 1979 (teams that were overwhelmingly white), but the question of at what cost is never, ever asked.

The answer rests in the sorrowful state of what was once the south's greatest city, Birmingham, a veritable Black hole full of decaying memories of a storied past.

The saddest building still standing that reminds those who look upon it of an era long dead is Legion Field, the 85-year old football stadium that played host to many of the Bear's most famous wins: (Alabama Forced to Abandon Unsafe Legion Field, NBC News, August 19, 2004):

So much for “The football capital of the South.”

Once proud to proclaim itself as the gridiron hub of an entire region, the city of Birmingham’s 77-year-old Legion Field is in such disrepair it’s no longer safe to use the 9,000-seat upper deck, which has structural problems. Its metal supports are dappled with peeling gray paint and rust.

With renovation or repair unlikely, the city and the University of Alabama on Thursday said they were ending their contract, meaning the Crimson Tide would no longer play any home games at the 81,000-seat stadium.

The announcement marked the end of a long association between one of the South’s most storied football programs and the old field on Graymont Avenue.

“The Crimson Tide has played some of its greatest football at Legion Field, and Alabama fans will forever enjoy fond memories of those wonderful games,” athletic director Mal Moore said in a statement.

But none of those hold a candle to images of the stadium’s past: coach Paul “Bear” Bryant leaning on a goalpost during pregame warmups or Alabama vs. Tennessee on the third Saturday in October. [\[38\]](#)

Legion Field was allowed to decay because the white tax-base fled Birmingham after the post-Civil Rights world made it untenable for white people to live safely and peacefully in the Magic City.

Once Black people took control of City Hall, the precious little tax-revenue collected had to pay for basic services; maintaining a stadium that was but a symbol of the old "Jim Crow" was luxury that Black people couldn't afford.

In 1992, the inaugural Southeastern Conference Championship (SEC) game would be played at Legion Field. After one more game in 1993, it was announced that the game would be moving from Birmingham to Atlanta, largely because the Georgia Dome was a more adequate facility for hosting the game.

Also, because the city hadn't gone as Black as Birmingham, Atlanta offered more attractions and safer streets for the alumni and fans who would attend the game. [\[39\]](#)

In 1998, the last Iron Bowl - the Auburn University/Alabama football game - would be played at Legion Field, depriving the city of one of the last big revenue generating events ([The House That Bear Built](#) Birmingham's Legion Field is, sadly, no longer a football Mecca, Sports Illustrated, by Jack McCallum, November 29, 1999):

Nothing captures the fall from grace of the self-proclaimed Football capital of the South better than this: As 85,214 fans were preparing last Saturday to go to [Auburn's Jordan-Hare Stadium](#), where [Alabama](#) would defeat [Auburn](#) 28-17, only about 5,000 people, many of them mommies and daddies, were gathered at 83,000-seat [Legion Field](#) in [Birmingham](#) to watch 12 of the city's youth football teams play six games in the 32nd annual Shug-Bear Bowl.

For much of the 20th century it was the games played at [Legion Field](#) that allowed [Birmingham](#) to adopt the aforementioned billing, which stretches in large, painted letters across the facade of sections 33 through 37 of the 72-year-old stadium.

The slogan was particularly true on those Saturdays when the Crimson Tide and the Tigers engaged in the blood rivalry that brought all other activity in the state to a halt.

But when [Alabama](#) made it official in February that beginning in 2000, as part of a new contract, it would host its renewals of the season-ending civil war on campus rather than at Legion—a change [Auburn](#) had made 10 years ago—big-time football at the House That Bear Built effectively came to an end.

Ah, but it breathed once. It was at Legion in 1970, after [Sam Cunningham](#) led Southern Cal to a 42-21 rout of the Crimson Tide, that [Bear Bryant](#) finally became convinced that 'Bama needed a new kind of player—one with a black face.

No doubt you've heard the line that emerged from that game: [Sam Cunningham](#) did more for integration in [Alabama](#) in three hours than [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) did in a decade.

It was at Legion in '81 that [Bryant](#) passed [Amos Alonzo Stagg's](#) career victory mark of 314 with a 28-17 win over [Auburn](#).

So whither [Legion Field](#)? Around [Birmingham](#) there seems to be little of the warm and fuzzy feeling attached to Legion that there is to Rickwood Field, the city's historic minor league baseball park, which is being lovingly restored.

Art Clarkson, a Birminghamite who once owned the minor league Barons, has a plan for Legion: "Let's get 30,000 people lined up around the stadium, sing a few songs, make a few speeches and—wham!—blow the thing up."[\[40\]](#)

Perhaps it was the sad story of losing the Alabama High School championship games to the campuses of Auburn University and the University of Alabama that illustrate the sad ability for those Black people in control of modern-day Birmingham for allocating money to keep the buildings and infrastructure they inherited from white flight in working conditions:

The Super 6, Alabama's annual high school football championship series, is leaving Birmingham and will be played in Auburn and Tuscaloosa for the next six years.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association on Wednesday approved a six-year agreement to move the state football championship games from 83-year-old Legion Field. The series will alternate between stadiums at Auburn University and the University of Alabama.

Birmingham's Legion Field had hosted the football championships every year since 1996. The championship games for the state's biggest high schools have been at Legion Field for four decades. Jefferson County Commissioner Sheila Smoot said she was stunned by the decision.

"For me, it's a loss of sales tax once again in this county that we just can't afford. We're going to have to figure a way to replace not only this event but the money it generates," Smoot said.

Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford said the city's bid included doubling financial support for both events. The mayor's office said it had budgeted \$50,000 in financial support for the basketball game playoffs and doubled its pledge to \$100,000.

"I had sweated what the results would be," Langford said. "All and all, I'm delighted because, to be perfectly candid, we raised the offer so high because we knew what we were faced with -- inadequate facilities."

Langford said the city continues to risk losing events unless new venues are built. Both the BJCC and Legion Field are outdated and inadequate, he said.

"Had we moved on that domed stadium or just shown the intent, the football games would never have gone to Tuscaloosa," he said. "No matter how much paint we put on Legion Field, it is a stadium that has served the state well, but is outdated." [\[41\]](#)

Jordan-Hare Stadium in Auburn and Bryant-Denny Stadium in Tuscaloosa are both old stadiums as well, but the alumni of each school are able to engage in capital campaigns that bring revenue and donations in to the schools for improvements to both the stadium and to the campus. The 71 percent Black residents of modern-day Birmingham... lack that financial acumen and planning ability for ensuring the structural integrity of the buildings they inherited from white flight and long-term initiatives for building capital to pay for renovations.

In 2007, the *Birmingham News* published a special report called [Birmingham at a Crossroads](#): the reality is the city of Birmingham crossed the Rubicon on September 12, 1970.

It is a dead city as long as Black people are in control of the city's destiny, and a recent story about the inhabitants of the neighborhood that surrounds Legion Field illustrates this point powerfully (Neighbors around Birmingham's Legion Field languishing with blight, Birmingham News, December 4, 2011):

Boarded-up houses, darkened storefronts and a gutted hotel line the path thousands took recently on their annual caravan to Legion Field, where vendors and spectators indulged in a weekend of entertainment, celebrity and football.

Long after the echoes of music and roaring crowds of the Magic City Classic drifted past her house and faded until next fall, Iris Billups remains in Legion Field's shadow, where blight and neglect are her closest neighbors.

"After a period of time, I guess nobody cared," said Billups, a retired New York schoolteacher who returned four years ago to her family home off Graymont Avenue, one of only a few occupied houses on her block. "People moved away, and the people who owned houses died.

"Their children didn't move back and it just deteriorated."

Residents, planners and development experts say that's a problem not just for residents of Birmingham's Smithfield community, but for anybody who wants to keep Legion Field viable and attract more events to the 84-year-old stadium. Its future is linked to the struggling neighborhood in which it sits, they say.

With longtime plans for a domed stadium in the city shelved and a proposed UAB on-campus stadium axed by University of Alabama trustees, Legion Field remains the sole venue for major football games in Birmingham. Mayor William Bell has said he's working on bringing more games to the stadium and has announced upgrades to be completed in time for next month's BBVA Compass Bowl.

But some say revitalizing the surrounding community is just as crucial a need as improvements to the stadium itself.

Redevelopment plans have been pitched over the years, most recently in 2003, with little action. But with work under way on the city's first all-new comprehensive plan in 50 years and Bell proposing a \$75 million bond referendum for yet-to-be-named projects across the city, hopes have been rekindled for improvements to the area around the stadium.

"What do you have to offer the people to come into the neighborhood?" Billups said, citing the scarcity of retail, restaurant and other development in the area for both visitors and residents. "The city has to think in terms like that. Why would we want to lose Legion Field? That's the only thing we have going." The marketability of facilities such as Legion Field depends on visitors' experiences both inside and outside, said David Fleming, president of Operation New Birmingham.

"In general, it is clear from the trends of stadiums and sports facility development that people think about developing those facilities in context and not in isolation," he said.

Improving the condition of the area around the stadium is critical to the venue's marketability, said Arthur Allaway, a University of Alabama marketing professor.

"Some of it is just cleaning the streets and painting, because empty buildings that look good aren't dangerous-looking, while burned-out buildings don't look too attractive," Allaway said. "It will take private money in the long run, but in the short term, a commitment to the area from the city would go a long way."

Allaway said cosmetic improvements, along with incentives for redevelopment, should be the city's first steps.

City Councilwoman Maxine Parker, chairwoman of the Parks and Recreation Board that oversees Legion Field, agreed that Smithfield redevelopment should be tied to any effort to promote the stadium.

Birmingham is at a disadvantage in part because other cities have what is absent here, she said.

"When people go to other cities for games, when the game is over they want additional activities," she said. "Every time I went to a game I wanted to find the next place to have dinner and the next place to shop. You don't have it now, but if you make it a top priority you could have it soon."

City Councilman Johnathan Austin, whose district contains the neighborhood, agreed the city must shift more attention to the area.

"It's as if everybody has forgotten that there is a neighborhood around Legion Field that once was a thriving neighborhood," he said.

Change can occur gradually with city support, he said. Austin cites the recent vote to allow a Family Dollar store off Graymont. While that rezoning created a dispute between residents who backed it and members of a nearby church who opposed it, Austin said the store is an example of fledgling commercial interest in the area that must be championed.

"That may seem like something small, but in the large scheme of things, when is the last time we've had a new building built in Smithfield?" he said. "We don't have to go in and build huge grocery stores, but we can build neighborhood markets. We have an opportunity for neighborhood revitalization that we can mimic and replicate throughout the city." [\[42\]](#)

Urban Blight? Declining property value? Virtually no legitimate economic activity? Crime and poverty? All hallmarks of a community that is all-Black. And not once in Joseph Bryant's article for the *Birmingham News* do you learn that the area around Legion Field has been all-Black for decades.

Once, the driveways of Black homeowners around Legion Field served as parking spots (and big-time money generators) for Alabama alumni and fans when they would attend games where the beloved Coach Bear Bryant would lead the Crimson Tide to victory. This all ended when Black political power took over Birmingham and completely neglected the infrastructure and public buildings they inherited from white flight, Legion Field included.

Now, the neighborhoods around Legion Field no longer accommodate University of Alabama alumni, students, and fans tailgating before a big game; they instead accommodate the camera crews of A&E's *The First 48*, with 74 percent Black Birmingham serving as one of the main cities for this show about murder and the police response to these heinous crimes.

Richard Arrington, the first Black mayor of Birmingham, had this to say about the demise of Legion Field:

I should not fail to mention the role of racial bias in the decline of Legion Field. After all, “the black Bull Connor,” as some called me, should not fail to blame race for all that goes wrong. Legion Field has always been located in a so-called inner-city environment. Just across the street from the stadium to the southwest is a large public housing project that in the days of “separate but equal” had all-white residents.

Since the mid-1950s the project residents have been overwhelmingly black. In fact, black residents surround Legion Field. So how does racial bias fit into the decline of the facility? Some university officials were concerned about crime in the area.

That fear escalated after a white citizen leaving a night game of the Birmingham Stallions – one of several of Birmingham’s professional football teams – was stabbed by a black man within a block of the stadium and right in the midst of hundreds of other fans walking to their parked vehicles. I was told in no uncertain terms at my next monthly breakfast meeting with city corporate leaders about how unsafe Legion Field was. Several made it clear that they never let their wives or daughters attend any event Legion Field because it is located in an unsafe community.[\[43\]](#)

Legion Field needs to be demolished, like all of Birmingham; bulldozed, razed and ultimately, rebuilt again. But it won't: it will sit, decaying (with echoes of a glorious past haunting all who enter the stadium; if you close your eyes you can even see the shadows of the 1971 Iron Bowl participants, as undefeated Auburn and Alabama battled in the last true game between the schools -- when both schools only had two Black players each, who were recruited for both academics and their athleticism), with the "blight" created and sustained by the Black residents of the neighborhood surrounding the stadium a reminder of the type of community they can create.

This is the true legacy of that September 12, 1970 game; the destruction of an entire state, though people are still too busy yelling "Roll Tide" or "War Eagle" to notice.

Alabama's Iron Bowl And Integration —Was Football Victory Worth It?

This Saturday, November 26, those watching the 76th Iron Bowl between Auburn and Alabama on CBS will see a bizarre situation: two overwhelmingly white schools represented on the field by two overwhelmingly black teams, most of whose athletes call “home” those cities and counties that white Alabamians now avoid like the plague—for very good, but currently unmentionable, reasons.

It's been 41 years since celebrated LOS ANGELES TIMES columnist Jim Murray wrote these gloating words following the 42-21 defeat of the all-white Alabama Crimson Tide football team by an integrated University of Southern California Trojans at historic Legion Field in Birmingham AL:

“OK, YOU CAN PUT ANOTHER STAR IN THE FLAG.

“ON A WARM AND SULTRY NIGHT WHEN YOU COULD HEAR TRAIN WHISTLES HOOTING THROUGH THE PINEY WOODS HALF A COUNTY AWAY, THE STATE OF ALABAMA JOINED THE UNION. THEY RATIFIED THE CONSTITUTION, SIGNED THE BILL OF RIGHTS. THEY [HAVE STRUCK THE STAR AND BARS](#). THEY NOW HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE CREATOR.

“OUR NEWEST STATE TOOK THE FIELD AGAINST A MIXED BAG OF HOSTILE BLACK AND WHITE AMERICAN CITIZENS WITHOUT [POLICE DOGS, TEAR GAS RUBBER HOSES OR FIRE HOSES](#). THEY STRUGGLED WITHOUT THE AID OF THEIR FORMIDABLE ALLY, [JIM CROW](#).

“BIGOTRY WASN'T SUITED UP FOR A CHANGE. PREJUDICE GOT CUT FROM THE SQUAD. WILL YOU ALL

PLEASE STAND AND WELCOME THE [SOVEREIGN STATE OF ALABAMA TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?](#)”

[[HATRED SHUT OUT AS ALABAMA FINALLY JOINS THE UNION](#)], September 13, 1970. Note: QUOTES HAVE VDARE.COM-ADDED LINKS THROUGHOUT][44]

It was of this game—and the performance of [USC's](#) black fullback Sam Cunningham —that one of legendary Alabama coach Bear Bryant’s assistants famously remarked: “Sam Cunningham did more to integrate Alabama in 60 minutes than [Martin Luther King](#) did in 20 years.”

According to the legend, the shock of seeing the pride of the lily-white Southeastern Conference (SEC) go down to USC supposedly convinced conservative Southerners still hesitant to accept forced Federal integration that they would need black players [on their beloved university football teams](#) to compete.

(No fewer than three books have celebrated this legend: [Turning of the Tide: How One Game Changed the South](#); [One Night, Two Teams: Alabama vs. USC and the Game That Changed a Nation](#); and [Career in Crisis: Paul “Bear” Bryant and the 1971 Season of Change](#).)

Somewhat inconveniently for the legend, in the following year, 1971, an Alabama team with only two black players beat USC in Los Angeles 17-10.

But maybe there’s some truth in it too. 1971 was also the year of the first integrated [Iron Bowl](#) matchup between Auburn University and Alabama—so named because Birmingham was once the ironworks capital of the south.

This intra-Alabama rivalry is perhaps the most storied in all of sports. It was the subject of a recent ESPN documentary, [ROLL TIDE/WAR EAGLE](#).

And 1971 was the last time these two schools—both with alumni and [student body populations](#) that are overwhelmingly white—would be represented by actual student-athletes who reflected the character of each institution.

The players on the field for that historic game between two undefeated teams 40 years ago would have a small chance of being recruited by either Auburn or Alabama today. The past five recruiting classes for both schools have been under five percent white. White athletes at both schools are forced to [walk-on](#) if they want to play football—as [the Green Bay Packers Jordy Nelson](#) was at Kansas State.

In the forty years since that historic first integrated Iron Bowl, a lot in America has changed.

In California, columnist Jim Murray's Los Angeles [is no longer an American city](#). (He [died in 1998](#)). A LOS ANGELES TIMES columnist now praises the fact that the US national soccer team was [booed in favor of the Mexican at the LA Coliseum](#). [[AGAIN, IT'S RED, WHITE AND BOO](#), By Bill Plaschke, June 26, 2011]

In Alabama, whites have fled the city of Birmingham, creating some of the most prosperous suburbs in the country—[Whitopias](#) like Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Hoover. Same in Montgomery, where the business with the most impressive balance sheet[\[45\]](#) is now one that [polices for “hate”](#). And Huntsville, the former home of Werner Von Braun and NASA's rocket center, has seen the [mission of aiming for the stars](#) diverted to [Muslim outreach](#).

Oh, and Jefferson County—[home to now-72 percent black Birmingham](#) - has recently declared the [largest municipal bankruptcy](#) in American history.

The last Iron Bowl at Birmingham's Legion Field was played in 1998. Legion Field is now in the [heart](#) of one of the [worst ghettos in America](#)—so bad that Birmingham Southern College had to [build a fence around its entire campus](#) after a [black-on-white rape](#) occurred in the 1970s.

Birmingham was once home to six Fortune 500 companies[\[46\]](#); now it has only [Regions Bank](#). The cost of doing business in a city run by a continuous string of ~~Democratic~~ black Mayors and an overwhelmingly black city council is directly responsible.[\[47\]](#)

Not coincidentally, a [stunning 88 percent](#) of Alabama whites voted for John McCain (!) in 2008.

But hey, Auburn and Alabama's integrated football programs keep producing national championship teams—albeit with socially marginal

black players who consistently fail to graduate, and worse, bring disgrace to the schools.

The embarrassingly liberal NEW YORK TIMES reporter [Warren St. John](#), an Alabama grad, wrote a book, [Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer](#), about his [adventures](#) purchasing an RV and following the 1999 Alabama football team. St. John reports an incident at a tailgate he attended, where a news story came on ESPN that black player Shamari Buchanan was [embroiled in a ticket-fixing scandal](#) and MIGHT GET KICKED OFF THE TEAM AND FORFEIT GAMES AS A RESULT (p. [149](#)):

“IT’S THE STUPID Nigger’ A WOMAN SNARLS.

“*What?*

“‘STUPID N----- ARE ALWAYS GETTING US INTO TROUBLE.’

“SILENCE, THEN:

“‘SHE’S GOT A POINT,’ A MAN AT HER SIDE SAYS. “THEM N----- ALWAYS DOIN’ SUMPIN’ STUPID.”

“NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT FEELS AS THOUGH SOMEONE HAS YANKED THE EMERGENCY BRAKE OF LIFE.”

The desire to win football games—and the belief that only problematic black players can make this happen—got the Crimson Tide on crippling probation in 1995.[\[48\]](#) ‘Bama went on probation again in the mid-2000s, thanks to payoffs to black Memphis recruit Albert Means to the tune of \$100,000.[\[49\]](#) It only fully recovered after hiring coach Nick Saban in 2007—but not before a number of the [black players got](#) in serious trouble with the law. Saban finally led Alabama to a BCS Title win in 2009.[\[50\]](#)

Like ‘Bama , Auburn was put on probation by the NCAA back in 1992 for a pay-for-play scheme involving Eric Ramsey, a marginally talented black player who accused Auburn head coach Pat Dye of running a racist program (Dye wrote a whole book, [In the Arena](#), defending himself from those charges and stating over and over again that blacks were better

athletes). Ramsey [secretly taped conversations with coaches](#) that dealt with the pay-for-play scheme and [60 MINUTES](#) did a special on his charges. One coach even told Ramsey that if he “wasn’t playing football, he’d be just another n----- to Auburn people.”[\[51\]](#)

In Michael Weinreb’s [Bigger Than The Game](#), we learn why any indiscretion by black athletes at either Auburn or ‘Bama will seemingly be tolerated (p.[42](#)):

“IN 1982, DURING [Bo Jackson](#)’S FRESHMEN YEAR AT AUBURN, THERE WERE 18,401 STUDENTS ENROLLED AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY; 446 OF THOSE STUDENTS OR 2 PERCENT, WERE BLACK. ON JULY 11 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE [UNITED STATES OF AMERICA](#) BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND MOST OF ITS FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES, [QUESTIONING WHETHER](#) THE STATE WITH A BLACK POPULATION OF 25.6 PERCENT ‘OPERATED A RACIALLY DUAL SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND IF SO WHETHER THE VESTIGES OF THE DUAL SYSTEM HAVE NOW BEEN ELIMINATED.’”

Bo Jackson would go on to win the Heisman Trophy; Auburn would lower standards for marginal black students in a bid to increase black enrollment and avoid Federal litigation (though it’s still under five percent). Same with ‘Bama.

Inevitably, the [day will come](#) when one of these grateful black students tries to get Auburn to take the line “War Eagle, win for Auburn, power of Dixieland!” out of its fight song—because the [term "Dixieland" is offensive to black people](#).

But the [Opiate of America](#) (and the two schools where the drug is the strongest) is unquestionably part of the reason no-one in a position of power in the state of Alabama willing to say “enough”.

So whatever happened to the sons and grandsons of the white Auburn and Alabama players (and fellow white southerners) who played on those all-white SEC teams before integration?

Well, for one thing, Tom Lemming, the founding father of recruiting guides, [told](#) Michael Lewis in the book [The Blind Side](#) that white high school

athletes were discriminated against by college scouts and coaches because they couldn't possibly be as fast as black athletes. He said the same thing to THE CHICAGO SUN TIMES [WHAT COLLEGE COACHES DON'T TALK ABOUT, By Taylor Bell, October 1, 2009][52]; he said the same thing to the SOUTH BEND TRIBUNE. [GROOMED TO BE GROUNDED, By Eric Hansen, December 30, 2005][53]

Auburn University is one of the only SEC schools to start two white running backs in the past 12 years. Tre Smith rushed for more than 120 yards in helping the Tigers beat 'Bama in 2002. Smith was a star prospect, but only Auburn offered Smith the chance to play running back.

Three years prior, [Heath Evans](#) had started running back for Auburn. But in [Hard Fighting Soldier](#) by Auburn University team chaplain Chette Williams, we learn the great struggle Evans had in convincing head coach Tommy Tuberville that a white guy could play a position dominated by blacks:

“COACH TUBERVILLE INSTALLED A ONE-BACK OFFENSE –TAILBACK, NOT FULLBACK. AT OLE MISS A YEAR EARLIER, HIS ONE BACK HAD BEEN DEUCE MCALLISTER, THE BEST RUNNING BACK IN SCHOOL HISTORY, AND HEATH, THE COACHES BELIEVED, DID NOT FIT THAT MOLD. ‘YOU LOOK AT A BIG, WHITE RUNNING BACK, YOU’RE NOT GOING TO THINK TAILBACK,’ HEATH TOLD A Birmingham News REPORTER. SO HE BEGAN TO SIT THROUGH HIS SOPHOMORE SEASON WITH LITERALLY NO HOPE OF SIGNIFICANT PLAYING TIME. EVER.”

We learn a few pages later that Evans didn't get significant carries until Week Eight against Arkansas, when he rushed for 68 yards and a touchdown.

Evans would go on to start tailback the rest of the year, and be a big contributor in the 2000 season primarily playing fullback and blocking for an eventual NFL running back, Rudi Johnson. Wanting to come back for his senior year, he asked Tuberville if he'd at least make him the starting tailback going into spring practice and that it would be his position to lose.

Tuberville said “no.”

Heath declared for the draft and spent 10 years in the NFL.

Bottom line: there are plenty of talented white Southerners who never get the chance to play college football in the South. When they did, white Southerners actually dared defend their unique crypto-nation.

Judging by the immigration bill recently passed in the state, they still desire to defend it. [\[54\]](#)

Perhaps inadvertently, Michael Oriard let slip a crucial point in his book [*Bowled Over: Big-Time College Football from the Sixties to the BCS Era*](#) in regards to all that was lost in the South on that Saturday afternoon 41 years ago in Legion Field. On page 61, he writes:

“THE INTEGRATION OF SEC FOOTBALL WAS MORE MOMENTOUS FOR WHITE SOUTHERNERS THAN FOR BLACK, RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF A BASTION OF WHITE SOUTHERN MASCULINITY BUT BRINGING A COMPENSATING BENEFIT IN THE NATIONAL STATURE OF CONFERENCE TEAMS THROUGH THE PROWESS OF BLACK ATHLETES. “

Like the Afrikaners in [South Africa who](#) get to play their international rugby with the [downfall of Apartheid](#), at least white people have their Auburn and Alabama football to cheer for.

Fitting that we should recall the words of LA TIMES columnist Jim Murray by noting that Los Angeles is no longer part of the Union. We aren't that far off from the moment that [Peter Brimelow](#) wanted to [fictionalize](#) in [ALIEN NATION](#): when the last white a.k.a. American family tries to flee LA.

But there will be no escape for Alabamians. The [people fundamentally responsible for the bankruptcy of Jefferson County are beginning a mass exodus](#) from Birmingham to those suburban Whitopias There's no such thing as [restrictive covenants](#) anymore, so the problems that white Birmingham citizens face—profiled [here at AL.com's THE KILLING YEARS](#)—will now be [exported there](#).

I believe it's this simple: were it not for the (significantly exaggerated) belief that only black athletes can win football games, the citizens of [Alabama](#) and [other Southern states](#) (joined by many others around the

country) might find the will to stand up to a Federal government bent on [electing a new people](#)—and destroying the [historic American nation](#).

The downfall of great cities like Birmingham could only happen because white people a.k.a. Americans lacked the courage to confront the problems that are present wherever they are blessed with “[diversity](#)”.

War Eagle or Roll Tide? What does it matter when you can no longer venture safely into the major cities of Alabama—but base your [entire identity](#) upon a college football team comprised of the very people who make those cities uninhabitable?

A New Year, a New War

Happy New Year!

As you are no doubt aware, 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the events in Birmingham back in 1963. The current mayor of Birmingham, William Bell, has compared the events that happened in The Magic City to a revolution.

And he is right.

It was a revolution that swept over the whole world.

But what type of revolution was it? [2013 in Birmingham opens year of commemoration of 1963 civil rights events, 1-1-13, Birmingham News]:

That year, the city received worldwide attention for its racial intolerance. And now, in 2013, Birmingham will observe the 50th anniversary of that pivotal year in the civil rights movement and commemorate the struggle that served as a catalyst to change Birmingham, the United States and the globe.

"The trauma of 1963 was a prerequisite for the change that came later because the sources of resistance were so numerous and so entrenched that there had to be a profound disruption in order to bring about significant change," said LaMonte, who also served as the former director of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Center for Urban Affairs, and as a senior staff member in the administration of Richard Arrington, Birmingham's first black mayor.

The impact of the Birmingham movement was global, said Lawrence Pijaux, president and CEO of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He recalled a 2002 visit by South African leaders Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former President F.W. deKlerk, both Nobel Peace Prize winners.

"On that occasion, Tutu shared in a luncheon speech that, 'The courage of civil rights protesters who helped end segregation in Alabama inspired opponents who overthrew apartheid in South Africa,'" Pijaux recalled.

Birmingham Mayor William Bell has compared the events of 1963 to a revolution. "In 2013, the passing of time allows us to see Birmingham 1963 for what it truly was," he said. "Historical scholars have called the modern Civil Rights Movement 'the Second American Revolution.' And Birmingham 1963 was a key battleground in that revolution." [\[55\]](#)

The impact of the events in Birmingham were global, that's for sure. South Africa, as *The Economist* noted, is dying. Though no one will point out the obvious, it was the events in Birmingham in 1963 that helped destroy the apartheid system - that protected the lives of whites in that nation - of South Africa.

With black people in control of the South African government, a process of radical redistribution of wealth and payback for white racial injustice in the past became the norm ([Black Economic Empowerment](#), anyone?).

Much like life in 2013 Birmingham (a city that is [74 percent black and completely dominated by black political power](#)), South Africa is dying [Cry, the beloved country: South Africa is sliding downhill while much of the rest of the continent is clawing its way up, *The Economist*, 10-20-12]:

NOT so long ago, South Africa was by far the most serious and economically successful country in Africa. At the turn of the millennium it accounted for 40% of the total GDP of the 48 countries south of the Sahara, whereas Nigeria, three times more populous, lurched along in second place with around 14%. The remainder, in raw economic terms, barely seemed to count. Despite South Africa's loathsome apartheid heritage, solid institutions underpinned its transition to democracy in 1994: a proper Parliament and electoral system, a good new constitution, independent courts, a vibrant press and a first-world stockmarket. Nelson Mandela, whose extraordinary magnanimity helped avert a racial bloodbath, heralded a rainbow nation that would be a beacon for the rest of Africa.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) is not entirely to blame. South Africa has performed worse than its African neighbours in recent years partly because its mature economy is linked more tightly to the rich world, and thus to the rich world's problems. And the ANC has notched up some genuine achievements—including housing and some welfare services often denied to the poor black majority under apartheid. But the party's incompetence and outright corruption are the main causes of South Africa's sad decline.

Since Mr Mandela retired in 1999, the country has been woefully led. For nine years it endured Thabo Mbeki's race-tinted prickliness, so different from Mr Mandela's big-hearted inclusiveness. Mr Mbeki's denial of the link between HIV and AIDS cost millions of lives. After he was deposed by his party in 2008, there was a brief stand-in, Kgalema Motlanthe, before Jacob Zuma took over the presidency in 2009.

Mr Zuma arrived with a mixed reputation. He had had a string of close shaves with the law for both grand corruption and squalid sexual behaviour; in his favour were his charm, homespun intelligence and canny ability to mediate between people and the many factions that make up the ANC. But stuck between the impatient masses stirred up by racial populists such as Julius Malema on the one hand, and anxious capitalists and greedy party bigwigs on the other, he has drifted and dithered, offering neither vision nor firm government.

Worse, Mr Zuma has failed to tackle the scourge of corruption. The ANC under his aegis has sought to undermine the independence of the courts, the police, the prosecuting authorities and the press. It has conflated the interests of party and state, dishing out contracts for public works as rewards for loyalty—hence the bitter jest that the government is in hock to “tenderpreneurs”. This has reduced economic competitiveness and bolstered a fabulously rich black elite. As a result, too little wealth trickles down.

Nearly two decades after apartheid ended, South Africa is becoming a de facto one-party state. The liberal opposition—the Democratic Alliance (DA), led by a doughty white woman and former anti-apartheid journalist, Helen Zille—has the right ideas, calling above all for the ANC to respect the constitution. The DA has made electoral gains, climbing to 17% of the vote in the last general election in 2009 and 24% in local elections last year. It runs Cape Town and the encompassing Western Cape province better than the ANC runs most of the rest of the country. But most blacks see the DA as too white, and still have a deep-seated loyalty to the ANC—whatever its failings—as the party of Mr Mandela and liberation. That still gives the ANC over 60% of the vote. For the foreseeable future the DA has no earthly chance of national power.

Is there a connection between the economic and moral climate of South Africa and Birmingham in 2013 and the events that occurred in that hallowed year of 1963?

White people in the United States, Europe, and South Africa exist in a paradigm where the ruling - governing - philosophy dictates that white people are to blame for every misfortune the black people in their midst encounter; black people are never, ever to be blamed for the conditions they create for themselves, when the twin evils of white racism and privilege can be quickly applied.

In "The Most Segregated City in America: City Planning and Civil Rights in Birmingham, 1920-1980" by Charles E. Connerly, we learn what life is like in Birmingham post-1963:

Overall, 91.5 percent of the population in the city's thirteen ghetto poverty tracts was black... For residents who lived in these neighborhoods, poverty in the 1990s was commonplace; unemployment was three times greater than the metropolitan area average; and the majority of families were headed by a single female. Birmingham was no unique in having such concentrated poverty... Nevertheless, Birmingham stood out in 1990 among large cities as having one of the ten most impoverished populations in the nation. While the basic housing and infrastructure problems in the city's black neighborhoods had been largely addressed, poverty had increasingly become the most apparent problem in these areas. [\[56\]](#)

Birmingham elected its first black mayor, Richard Arrington, in 1979. Black people were no longer discriminated against by the city government - indeed, it was white people who would be discriminated against through Mayor Arrington's affirmative action programs [Affirmative Action: One City's Experience; Fighting Bias With Bias and Leaving a Rift, New York Times, 8-21-1995] - which Connerly pointed out on p. 283:

When Bull Connor treated all blacks with contempt, it was easier for blacks from different backgrounds to come together. But a black mayor and, after 1985, a majority black city council meant that city government's actions that hurt black neighborhoods could no longer be construed as racist and therefore were more difficult for a broad group of black citizens to unite against. [\[57\]](#)

The black citizens of Birmingham, with the absence of white people and their white racism, are incapable of creating new businesses to replace those that left with white flight -- well, save title loan and payday shops.

Just like in South Africa, the new black government in Birmingham is incapable of keeping prosperity alive or maintaining any level of economic activity near what the former white government and the white citizens (now living peacefully in the suburbs) could create.

Instead, black residents of Birmingham gathered to ring in the New Year in Kelly Ingram Park, not with champagne and party favors, but with candles[Vigil honors those lost to violence in Birmingham area in 2012, offers prayers for peaceful 2013, Birmingham News, 12-31-12]:

Nearly six minutes passed from the time three community activists read aloud the name of Jefferson County's first homicide victim of 2012 until they reached the end of the list of all those who died in violence here this year.

Gathered around them [tonight in Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park](#) were a few dozen family members of victims, [holding candles](#) and many of them holding photos of their lost loved ones.

One of the organizers of tonight's vigil, Carolyn Johnson of the Parents Against Violence Foundation, noted that most of Birmingham's homicide victims are young black males, just like her own son, Rodreckus DeAndrew Johnson, who was shot and killed in 2003.

"It's an embarrassment. It's a sick epidemic in our community," Johnson said. "It's going to take all of us standing together, banding together to take back our community."

Yolanda Ross was there in honor of her nephew, [Duntrell Goins, 17, who was shot eight times](#) as he walked to the Fairfield Preparatory High School graduation in May. Ross said her son would have been a senior there this upcoming school year.[\[58\]](#)

The Birmingham News doesn't see fit to print that those individuals participating in the homicides in Birmingham are black males too.

2013 must be the year to strike back -- the condition of Birmingham in 2013, much like that found in South Africa, is directly correlated to the displacement of white people and the electing of a new people to the halls of government power.

Black people.

A revolution was won in Birmingham in 1963. We all live under the ramifications of this victory in 2013.

This is *OUR* year.

Birmingham 2010: "The Killing Years" vs. "The Wonder Years" of Days Past

Early in March of 2010 [Nelson Mandela's](#) former bride, Winnie, spoke to a crowd of well-wishers in Birmingham, Alabama. Spewing the normal platitudes about the Civil Rights movement, the former Mrs. Mandela stated:

"Birmingham has always been an extension of our struggle," Mandela said. "I was stunned by the similarities of the methods of oppression . . . The apartheid regime must have come here to take notes."[\[59\]](#)

[Birmingham, Alabama](#) is a favorite city of SBPDL. Once the jewel of the South, it is now one of the first major cities on the verge of bankruptcy and insolvency in the United States. All of this – like [South Africa now](#) – is thanks to the glories and sound leadership of Black people.

[Jefferson County, Alabama](#) was once (like South Africa) a city comprised of visionaries, men and women who worked hard together to build a community and municipality that the entire world envied.

However, white flight – coupled with Fortune 500 companies fleeing – turned Birmingham into a city with far more similarities between what South Africa has become now than what it once was so long ago.[\[60\]](#)

Sadly, South Africa never became the beacon of Democracy so many thought it would when the Black majority was handed power from the white minority who created the nation. In fact South Africa got Democracy good and hard, showcasing how this form of government offers no inspiration when it is implemented, but an ongoing tragedy that is uniformly ignored by the nations of the world.

Birmingham is much the same way. Once, a [magnificent train station](#) was in the center of the city acting as a foundation for commerce, business and personal travel: a signifier that the city was a thriving metropolis. The station – Terminal Station - has since been torn down, as it was a horrifying reminder of past discrimination to those Black people in power now that were denied entry into the building when it stood. [\[61\]](#)

Like South Africa, the city of Birmingham is plagued with the pernicious element of Black criminality and this infection strikes politician and commoner alike. [\[62\]](#) Indeed, the governmental buildings in Birmingham have installed a revolving door directly to the state penitentiary where mayors, city councilmen and women and other officials routinely venture during or after their stay in office. [\[63\]](#)

Most notably, [ex-Mayor Larry Langford](#) was sentenced to jail for bribery, among other charges. Jail has become a long-running traditional post-mayoral residence for Black mayors in Birmingham. The blame for the [sewer crisis that threatens the solvency of the city](#) rests squarely on the shoulders of the Black leadership that turned the so-called “Magic City” into the “Mundane City”.

The Birmingham News has compiled a study entitled “The Killing Years” which helps articulate what Birmingham has become since the advantageous creation of Black Run America signaled the need for white flight from the city:

When people are murdered in Jefferson County, chances are the killer was a male under 25 using a gun.

More than half of the accused killers in the county were 24 or younger, according to a Birmingham News analysis of homicides from 2006 through 2009.

Nine times out of 10, the victims were shot to death.

The percentage of homicides with defendants under age 25 who used guns in Jefferson County substantially exceeds the national average, statistics show.

In Birmingham, where nearly three-quarters of the county's murders occurred, the disparity was even worse from 2006-2009.

Ages 16 through 24 are the killing years here.

The toll was especially harsh on black families. A substantial number of young black men in the city and county wound up [in prison or a coffin](#).

Statistics show:

>> *Black males were 80 percent of the homicide defendants in majority-white Jefferson County and 89 percent in majority-black Birmingham. The national average was 57 percent.*

>> More than 70 percent of the victims in Birmingham were black males, versus 43 percent nationwide in 2007, the only year a comparison was possible.

>> Guns were used in 86 percent of Birmingham homicides, and 83 percent in the county as a whole, versus 68 percent nationwide. Birmingham's rate is higher among defendants ages 16 through 24.

Some families suffered both ways in Birmingham and Jefferson County. Otis Towns, 18, was gunned down in 2006. In March his brother, [Cortez Towns](#), went to prison for a murder committed when he was 17.

Murder rates are dropping nationally and locally, including a 39 percent decrease in Birmingham 2006 through 2009.

Homicides by white offenders also dropped substantially in Alabama and the nation from 2000 through 2007, according to a study by [Northeastern University](#) professors James Allen Fox and Marc L. Swatt.

But the rate of homicides involving both black male offenders and victims under age 25 rose in the nation and state in that period, the study showed.[\[64\]](#)

[“The Killing Years”](#) – perhaps the finest piece of journalism published in *The Birmingham News*, ever, depicts the morbid world of Black criminality with utter finality.

When crime is committed in Birmingham, you don't even need to turn on the [local nightly news](#) to know the offender was a Black male.

Strangely, the rate of violence perpetrated by white offenders is dropping everywhere, but Black crime is rising with the rapidity of the oil spill that endangers the gulf area.

[The Los Angeles Times](#) also put out a study similar to the one *The Birmingham News* compiled and the results are similar. Is it wrong to publish the truth when it comes to [crime and race](#)?

One study on Chicago crime and media coverage stated that the constant images of Black criminality on TV creates a false reality between white criminals and Black criminals:

Chicago's television news programs feed racial anxiety and antagonism by giving dramatically different treatment to African-American and white criminal suspects. While white suspects usually appear on the news as individuals, black suspects often appear as the incarnation of a threatening and anonymous underclass, according to a new study by a Northwestern University researcher.

The Chicago Reporter obtained an advance copy of "The Images of Blacks on Chicago's Local TV News Programs," a study by Northwestern University Associate Professor Robert Entman that was commissioned by the Human Relations Foundation of the Chicago Community Trust.

Entman, who specializes in communications and political science, found racial bias in local television's treatment of criminal suspects; his report suggests that TV stations encourage what researchers have called "modern racism" – the continued, though muted, antagonism between races. In their attempts to overcome "traditional racism," stations actually sustain racial hostilities, the study concluded. [\[65\]](#)

However, the white crime rate is plummeting (indeed, looking at the photos *The Birmingham News* published has 11 white people out of a sea of [Black faces and these white faces appear to be shielding brains with obvious mental retardations](#)) and Black crime is rising.

Indeed, Black youth have three potential outcomes when they grow up, and two of these are incredibly tragic: jail or dead. The other, thankfully, is a [scholarship to play college football or basketball at a Predominately White Institution](#) (PWI).

We at SBPDL think it is time to institute the [Michael Oher Act](#) now, before this generation of Black youth makes Birmingham and many other major cities unlivable. Plus, like Michael Oher, major colleges need [Black players to sustain their prestige and power in college football](#). [White players aren't as talented as Black athletes](#) and even though they might not be able to produce sufficient grades to warrant enrollment, Black players sure can run the football with gusto.

After all, without sports, where would Black people be?

This must be stated... Black people have [“The Killing Years”](#) and white people have [“The Wonder Years”](#). Pre-Obama America is gone. Welcome to the new America.

Freedom Failed: Birmingham's Edge 12 Movie Theater Closes Early on Christmas Because 400 Black People Riot

There is a reason that [Dr. King's children couldn't go to Funland](#). It's the exact same reason why malls such as [Union Station \(formerly Shannon Mall\)](#) just outside Atlanta are boarded up; it's the same reason why the Mall of America in Minneapolis was locked-down; it's the same reason why Birmingham's Edge 12 movie theater was forced to close early on Christmas:

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- A crowd of young people -- possibly drawn through social media -- interrupted the movies at [The Edge 12 Movie Theater](#) and were disruptive outside in the parking lot of Festival Shopping Center on Crestwood Boulevard Sunday night.

About 400 people were involved, with 200 of them really disruptive, Birmingham Police East Precinct commander Capt. Allen Hatcher said Tuesday, based on reports he got from the off-duty Birmingham police officer who worked security at the theater that night.

Movie-goer Shannon Webster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church downtown, said he counted 18 police cars when he and his family were told to leave the theater, part-way through seeing "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows."

"I was surprised," he said. "I did not expect to see that on Christmas night, going out to the movies."

Hatcher said that a large group of youths had showed up in the theater and the parking lot Sunday and started to cause problems and disruptions. When theater management confronted them, they grew more disruptive and management shut all the movies down.

Hatcher said some youths out in the parking lot banged on windows of nearby businesses, pushed some shopping carts into the parking lot, and went inside a Chinese restaurant. The off-duty officer put out a call, and police responded with a large contingent.

No one, to his knowledge, Hatcher said, was hurt or arrested, but a window was damaged at the Radio Shack store. The off-duty officer said that youths had heard on Facebook there was going to be a fight.

Hatcher said he recalled Trussville having a similar social media mob at a movie theater more than a year ago. "There were hundreds of kids in the lobby," he said.

Webster saw security guards handcuffing several. He thought the crowd of youths ranged in age from 13 to their early 20s.

The outside scene seemed tense, said Webster, who has done church work in places such as the Gaza Strip, Northern Ireland, Cuba, Guatemala, and Communist Eastern Europe.

"Usually there is nothing going on there on Sunday afternoon," Hatcher said of the shopping center. "I believe social media made it a big event." "I don't want it to keep me from going back to the theater, because I think it's important for the neighborhood and for East Birmingham," said Webster, who lives in Crestwood. "We need them there, so I will continue to go there. [\[66\]](#)

Why can't the writer of this story just state that these were Black "youths?" Birmingham, located in Jefferson County, the home of one of the south's first big Mahogany Mob attacks. This is freedom. This is why freedom failed. Don't forget that Jefferson County (Birmingham is 72 percent Black) [recently declared the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history.](#)

Detroit's (or Wayne County) will be even bigger.

Not once does the article have the temerity to call 'youths' by the proper term: Black people. The owner of Edge 12 stated in an interview earlier this year that the goal was to turn it into a family establishment:

Owner Marty Felts and general manager Rob DeLeo are seeking to bring new life into the old digs, and hope to reinvigorate the Festival Center in the process. Safety concerns from the past have been dealt with, and the theater features heightened security and an interior ticket office so that moviegoers can buy their tickets inside rather than standing outside at a box office.

"We want this to be a family-friendly place, with a committed staff and great employees," said spokesperson Newton, assistant manager of the Edge, who added that there has been no trouble whatsoever in the area thus far.[\[67\]](#)

Well, having "youths" force the premature closing of Edge 12 on Christmas night isn't a great way to keep business going. Perhaps that's what happened to Edge 14 in Macon, which Felts owned.

It was closed in September. Odds are people avoided the theater because the well-known Black Undertow in Macon couldn't be quiet during the movies. Don't try and be an entrepreneur to the Black Undertow unless you are in the chicken business (like the Tulsa Chicken Hut), or selling crack.[\[68\]](#)

It is Black people – 400 +!!! – who forced the early closing of the Edge 12 movie theater, depriving that business of revenue through ticket and concession sales. Then again, [crime in Birmingham is nearly monochromatic](#).

Worse, Al.com had the audacity to post a story today that discussed the ~~Flash Mob~~ [Mahogany Mob phenomenon](#) wrecking havoc across the nation, that was accompanied with pictures and video of white kids dancing for the Salvation Army kettle campaign at the Brookwood Mall in Birmingham.

These white kids were participating in a true Flash Mob, ostensibly trying to raise money through philanthropy that will probably go towards clothing and feeding the very Black kids who forced the closing of Edge 12 on Christmas.

Here's what the second Al.com article stated:

Flash mobs are in the news again, with reports of a rowdy [Mall of America "smash and grab" crowd](#) on Monday and, closer to home, movie goers being sent home early from the [Edge 12 Movie Theater in Birmingham](#) on Christmas Day when security and management grew anxious over a group of rowdy young people believed to have been drawn by a Facebook mention of a possible fight.

Some cities have wrestled with trying to find a way to address the chaos such social media-driven events can cause. In Cleveland, the [city council passed ordinances earlier this month](#) aimed at curbing them.

The City Council there banned "inciting to riot" and added computers and cellphones to a list of items that can be considered criminal tools when used illegally. Violators may be sentenced to up to six months in jail and fined \$1,000.

Critics had blasted a previous effort by the Cleveland panel to outlaw the use of Facebook and Twitter to rally mobs as unconstitutional, unnecessary and difficult to enforce. The ordinances passed this month became law [without the signature of Mayor Frank Jackson](#), who said he didn't think they will make a difference.

For years, social media has been used to fuel gatherings that turn out to be beneficial or sinister, entertaining or even philanthropic, such as the [November kickoff for the Salvation Army kettle drive in Birmingham](#), which was billed as a "flash mob" event but might not have met the letter of the [definition](#) of the term. [69]

All of the stories cited in this story involve (GULP!!!) Black people. It is the Black Undertow that is responsible for the mess in Birmingham, and it is the children of the Black Undertow that forced the early closing of Edge 12.

[Birmingham was abandoned to the Black Undertow](#) through massive white flight that created some of the top cities in America like Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Hoover, where white people rebuilt the town they had just fled.

Black people, who inherited the infrastructure that white people had created, built, and sustained in Birmingham, have turned it into a permanent filming location for the real-life crime/murder show *The First 48*.

Telling that Al.com published this story:

Crumbling infrastructure in many of the nation's larger cities such as Birmingham are placing an unsustainable financial burden on [populations unable pay](#) for the rebuilding of key systems such as sewer and water, says a [new research study](#) from [Michigan State University](#).

The infrastructure of the nation's central cities has reached and passed replacement age just as many core areas now contain populations of largely lower-income minorities already [paying more for services](#) than rural and small-city residents.

Along with metro Birmingham, other cities mentioned include Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. [\[70\]](#)

Is there even need to discuss the implications of what *Climate Change* means to this story? Pittsburgh is one of the nicest places live in America, but money that should be going to public works is diverted to paying for a the permanent underclass that is the Black Undertow.

Cleveland, St. Louis, Birmingham, and Detroit have one thing in common: Black people inherited an existing infrastructure when white people fled the Black Undertow, and they couldn't sustain it.

In summation, those journalists in America whose job is to inform law-abiding citizens of potential risks to their person, business, and private property have failed us miserably. They aren't 'youths'; they are Black people.

The early closing of Edge 12 movie theater in Birmingham on Christmas 2011 was entirely due to Black people (400 + mind you) who engaged in similar actions to [Black people around the nation rioting over Air Jordan's](#).

Or, the exact same behavior that was on display at the Mall of America.

Yes, Dr. King, your children can go to Funtown now. But because they now can, malls are closing nationwide. So is Edge 12 in Birmingham.

Freedom has failed. It has bankrupted Birmingham; it has made seeing a movie with the family an unpleasant experience at Edge 12; it is simply the tyranny we call Black-Run America (BRA).

Let it be known that the theory stating that only so-called Blue States (those with laws against conceal carry) would be the host of Mahogany Mobs is now dead. Alabama, that reddest of red (well, white) states has now seen a 400 + Black person riot. Another business (like many of the dead malls/strip malls/restaurants/etc.) has its very existence threatened by Black people putting it in the red.

Have we started a fire? No, but the fire rises anyway.

Birmingham, Charlotte, and St. Petersburg: All Cities Plagued with Black Crime (just call them 'bad areas')

[Perfidious White Journalists](#) (PWJs) have free reign to publish stories filled with grotesque lies that paint a false picture of our nations cities and one article from *The Birmingham News* outdoes them all. [Published on July 2](#), the story discusses curfews, crimes and flash mobs in Birmingham while having a picture of white teenagers hanging out in a parking lot to accompany the article:

In Trussville, police responded earlier this summer to a possible flash mob -- a group that rapidly gathers in a planned location usually with the help of text messaging or social media. About 60 to 80 teenagers converged on the city's Walmart, said police chief Don Sivley.

"They were getting out of hand, there were some food fights, things like that," Sivley said. "The store called us to back them up while they tried to get them out of the store. We think it might have been a flash mob, but we don't know for sure."

In Bessemer, numerous fights among juveniles temporarily cleared Alabama Adventure on June 6, as law enforcement agencies restored order. Officials said a marketing promotion for \$10 tickets that day had brought in juveniles who were not being supervised by a parent or other adult. The theme park discontinued that promotion.

In Fairfield, police have noticed that parents drop off children at the malls and movie theaters, said Beverly Hardy, deputy chief. She said she has seen children as young as 10 and 11 at Western Hills Mall.

"They drop them off and leave them with no supervision," she said. "When the mall is getting ready to close, half the time you can't find the parents."

Many cities have turned to youth curfews and other ordinances to help control potential trouble. Fultondale passed an ordinance prohibiting loitering in the city's largest shopping complex. Birmingham, under the direction of former Mayor Larry Langford, adopted a strict youth curfew that holds parents responsible with penalties and possible jail time.

That curfew caught Birmingham's Ariel Jones, 20, off guard a few weeks ago when she was out with her 17-year-old sister. The family recently moved from Indiana and was unaware of the youth curfew.

"She went to juvenile (detention) for a night," Jones said of her younger sister. "It was late, around 12 or 1. But she was just out walking and she was with me. We were going to a party."

Jones questions the need for such a strict curfew, but Brandon Knight, 19, her co-worker at the YMCA's Youth Center, said he does not.

Knight, a Samford University student, grew up in Birmingham under the curfew.

"Have you watched The First 48?" he asked, referencing an A&E television show that followed Birmingham homicide detectives. "I completely understand why there is a curfew."

Knight said it would be nice if each case could be handled differently, based on the maturity of the child, but that is impossible with Birmingham's crime situation. [\[71\]](#)

[Birmingham's crime situation is entirely a Black problem](#) and Lisa Osburn - the writer of this story - has the audacity to juxtapose white kids hanging out with stories of Alabama Adventure being shutdown due to Black violence.

This story serves as a reminder why major newspapers across the nation are dying and losing subscriptions. [The First 48](#) is a television show [that has been called 'racist' because](#), invariably, almost every criminal that police and detectives go after are Black. [In Birmingham](#), this is obvious with crime being a monochromatic problem[72] that no attempt to connect white suburban kids with Bama Bangs to these problems can change.

Curfews are only needed because Black parents rarely care about the whereabouts of their children (Black fathers 72 percent of the time have no time to care about their offspring) and these kids rarely care about abiding by the law.

Such is life in Black-Run America (BRA) and having PWJs write stories that try and connect law-abiding white kids with the criminal actions of Black people is despicable.

Not to be outdone but Charlotte is another city where Black violence is making life difficult for the law-abiding, with massive security needed to ensure the Fourth of July celebration - with many being canceled across the nation - goes off without a repeat of the Black-ruined Speed Street event:

Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx and police Chief Rodney Monroe say they will increase security and police presence in the uptown area for an Independence Day celebration that could bring 100,000 people into the Center City.

Noting an uptown disturbance that left one person dead in a shooting and dozens arrested during the Food Lion Speed Street event on Memorial Day weekend, Foxx said, "This time, we have an opportunity to show we can do this safely."

Foxx said a group of civilians also will be stationed in uptown and elsewhere in the city Monday evening, to help police in an observer role.

But he declined to go into detail, saying more information will be released later today.

During the morning news conference, Monroe said police presence in uptown will be increased considerably, although he would not go into specifics on the number of additional officers on patrol.

"The overwhelming percentage of our officers will be working," the chief said. "But that's not unusual for us on the Fourth of July."

In response to questions about what people can expect to see in the Center City area Monday night, Foxx and other officials said:

Police in large numbers at areas that typically draw crowds -- the Transit Center, the Trade-College street intersection, and the route from Memorial Stadium to the square. [\[73\]](#)

The Black violence in Charlotte is getting so bad that Mayor Foxx is considering raising the age for curfew. [\[74\]](#)

Just like the [Indianapolis Black Expo](#) that required an additional 500 police officers and 400 volunteers to keep the peace, untold resources must be allocated to keep Black people from going crazy in Charlotte and potentially [ruining yet another July 4th event in a major city](#).

That cities are unsafe and require massive police presence (curfews as well) to maintain order is entirely due to Black peoples penchant for breaking the law.

Recall that 2007, the Fourth of July celebration in Charlotte was plagued with Black violence that the then white mayor of the city dared to criticize, prompting the NAACP to demand an apology:

The NAACP wants Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory to apologize for remarks he made about African American youth after last week's arrests during Fourth of July festivities in uptown.

Ken White, president of the Charlotte Branch of the NAACP, on Wednesday called the mayor's comments "insensitive" and said he's concerned they painted "African American youth with a broad swath that cuts deep in many of our communities."

McCrory's comments came July 5 in a letter to the city manager congratulating police on their efforts the night before, when 169 people were arrested in uptown.

McCrory also wrote that "too many of our youth, primarily African American, are imitating and/or participating in a gangster type of dress, attitude, behavior and action."

McCrory has said he did not mean that only African American youth were imitating gangs. But he said he specified them because that's who he saw as he walked uptown streets during the celebration.

On Wednesday, he cited statistics showing more than 60 percent of Charlotte's gang members are African American. And, he said, the victims of gang violence also tend to be black.

"One thing we agree on is that it is a horrible stereotype," McCrory said, "but it's being perpetuated by those who continue to dress like, behave like and act like gang members. It's not productive to our community, our neighborhoods, our schools, or to those individuals who are doing it."[\[75\]](#)

The USA Today reports that [Black people are moving back to the south in record numbers](#), as they have failed to make a living in northern cities, the only impact and contributions they have made is the complete decimation of Detroit, Buffalo, Philadelphia economy.

The hopes of making southern cities like Birmingham, Charlotte, Nashville, Memphis, Columbia, etc. safer rest in attracting white people to these metropolitan areas, not more Black people to perpetuate the continued decline of these towns.

Just remember this: You can't cancel a Black event, unless you are willing to have your city attacked and called racist. The Las Vegas Taste & Sound of Soul has been canceled and Black people are up in arms that such an event with negligible economic impact to the city - and huge costs to provide police protection there - would not be welcome. [76]

Charlotte and Birmingham are dangerous cities, [because of the Black population found there](#). Just as Thad 'Stu' Crisco said of the dangerous area in St. Petersburg, it isn't kids with Bama Bangs that threaten the lives of law-abiding citizens:

A police officer is under investigation for telling the truth - after he warned a father not to let his daughter hang around a rough part of town.

Officer Thad 'Stu' Crisco, who has an exemplary record, is under fire for allegedly making 'disparaging comments' against St Petersburg, Florida, where he is a veteran with the police department.

The probe was launched after Officer Crisco reportedly warned local resident Bob Esposito about letting his 16-year-old daughter hang around the Northshore Pool in St Petersburg late at night.

Mr Esposito's daughter was one of a group of teens robbed at gunpoint in that area recently.

After the incident, Mr Esposito told Channel 10 news that the officer was only trying to look out for him and his family on the night of the robbery.

'I wouldn't come down here at night. And I was told by one of the police officers not to come down here, either.'

He said the officer warned him about the city's violent crime statistics, which are the worst in the state. [\[77\]](#)

Crisco's best friend, [Officer David Crawford](#), was gunned down by a Black person, a crime that no member of the NAACP will ever apologize for. Now Crisco is in trouble for telling the truth to law-abiding citizens, that an area with a high density of Black people is unsafe, a fact that everyone in the nation knows to be true.

The Birmingham News would have you believe that white kids are making Birmingham unsafe[\[78\]](#); Charlotte's civil rights organization would make the then white mayor apologize for speaking the truth about Black criminality; and St. Petersburg would rather jeopardize the lives of law-abiding citizens then tell the truth that Black areas unsafe.

When you understand how evil Black-Run America is, you will understand why we write that it must end. Be safe this Fourth of July.

To the Victor Goes the Spoils: The Story of Judge Carnella Greene Norman

A long time ago, in a country, far, far away, a man named Bull Connor gave a speech in Selma, Alabama. He was discussing the fight to break the resistance to desegregation, and, as Bobby Wilson relates in his book "Race and Place in Birmingham: The Civil Rights and the Neighborhood Movements" said:

...unless the South united to "fight this plague," black would dominate. Using a metaphor that seemed appropriate for Birmingham, once considered the football capital of the South, he went on to state, "We are on the one-yard line. Our backs are to the Wall. Do we let them go over for a touchdown, or do we raise the Confederate Flag as did our forefathers and tell them... 'you shall not pass'?" (p.33)

Flash forward to January 8, 2013 and the footprint squarely on the face of white America is still just as fresh as when it was made so long ago.

And it is Birmingham where that footprint was made, with the winning score being blared across the world; the ramifications of this victory still reverberating around the halls of government and academia today.

But it is in the halls of City Hall in Birmingham that the smell of victory still lingers [Birmingham City Council staffers flee strong industrial odor at City Hall offices, Birmingham News, 10-18-12]:

Several Birmingham City Council staff members remained at home Thursday following complaints of a mysterious industrial odor from an adjoining conference room as renovation occurs in the office. Some workers complained the smell emitting from the closed-off conference room just feet away was making them sick -- literally.

Employees were absent Thursday and are expected to remain away from the City Hall again Friday as work continues in the conference room. [\[79\]](#)

The smell of victory in Birmingham doesn't smell like napalm, but it does come in industrial strength. What was going on in that City Hall conference room you ask? Why, a huge mural being painted commemorating victory over Bull Connor and the society he dared to represent and defend [With fumes gone, Birmingham City Hall conference room now a shrine to 1963 civil rights history, Birmingham News, 10-31-12]:

Construction of a civil rights-themed conference room on the third floor of City Hall is now complete, but not before sickening some city employees, and sending at least one woman to the hospital complaining about strong fumes.

The renovation of the small conference room near the City Council offices [was blamed for emitting industrial odors so intense that office workers were sent home for several days.](#)

At least one council employee went to the hospital and other complaints about the fumes compelled Council President Roderick Royal to send workers home until the alleged hazardous condition had ended.

The renovated room is now finished and features a wallpaper collage of familiar black and white 1960's civil rights images, a glossy, freshly painted black floor and an accent wall with quotations in red from both Mayor William Bell and President Barack Obama paying homage to hard-won civil rights gains of the past.

The office also has a new gray glass tinted door and repainted conference table.

The work was ordered by Bell's staff and the door was closed and locked until now.

"The first time I was made aware of the repainting of the conference room was when the council administrator notified me that employees had to leave because of fumes from the paint," Royal said.

The room which had been shared by both the Council and the mayor's staff, and was renovated as part of the city's [upcoming 50th anniversary of 1963 civil rights activities](#), said Bell's chief of staff Chuck Faush.[\[80\]](#)

Victory hasn't smelled so sweet (or so toxic, but isn't that irony?) then the delectable aroma of cocooning a City Hall meeting room in Birmingham with images of 1963.

But what does true victory smell like in 2013 Birmingham? What happens when black people come to dominate the city, the very city, that once served as the source of resistance to the nationwide implementation of Black-Run America (BRA)?

Her name is Carnella Greene Norman [Carnella Greene Norman wins Jefferson County District Court Judge Place 3 race, Birmingham News, 11-6-12]:

Carnella Greene Norman, who had resigned her job as a Birmingham municipal court judge a decade ago as part of a settlement in a racial discrimination lawsuit, won the race for [Jefferson County District Court Judge Place 3](#) in today's general election.

Norman, a Democrat, defeated W. Davis Lawley, a former Birmingham drug court judge.

With nearly 98 percent of the votes counted, Norman had 143,531 votes or 52.5 percent, and Lawley had 129,977 votes, or 47.5 percent.

Norman was a Birmingham Municipal Court judge from 1991 to 2002, but resigned as part of a legal settlement in a racial discrimination lawsuit brought against her by a white employee.

[\[81\]](#)

And you wonder why black people keep flocking to theaters to see "Django Unchained"? You wonder why Victor Hill won re-election as sheriff of Clayton County (Ga.), the same man who once fired all white officers and had black police point sniper rifles at them as they were led from the station in 2006, despite being under indictment....

The power of "racial democracy" was on display on November 6, 2012 in Jefferson County (Alabama), home to 75 percent black Birmingham [After vote, Alabama needs serious soul searching, 10-6-12, Birmingham News]:

But while Republican soul-searching might be wise in light of what happened Tuesday, the bluing of Jefferson County is not as simple as race.

Blacks make up 42 percent of the county's population, according to the U.S. Census. Victories Tuesday night were far higher than that.

Six of every 10 voters - 174,498 people in Jefferson County - simply pulled a straight ticket ballot. Some 35 percent of all ballots cast were Democratic straight tickets, while 24 percent of all ballots were straight Republican tickets.

Carnella Greene-Norman, who was forced out of her Birmingham Municipal Court job years ago as part of a settlement in a lawsuit that outlined a pattern of racial discrimination in her court, will now decide real issues for real people in a decimated family court. [\[82\]](#)

So wait.. why was Judge Greene-Norman forced out to begin with? [Black Judge Sued For Reverse Discrimination, Birmingham News, 1-10-2002]:

Birmingham Municipal Judge Carnella Norman accused of ignoring a legal settlement requiring her to quit, has stepped down, according to a letter from her attorney included in federal court records. "Judge Norman has now retired and she is in compliance." Birmingham lawyer Howard M. Miles wrote to plaintiff lawyer Susan Reeves in a letter dated Tuesday.

"As of January 7, 2002, Judge Norman's employment with the City of Birmingham ceased, effective December 28, 2001," Miles wrote.

Efforts to reach Miles for an explanation of the chronology were unsuccessful.

Ms. Reeves, who represents Joyce Franklin, a former senior legal secretary who sued the judge and the city, took issue with Miles in a Tuesday response letter:

"Retirement is not what is called for by the terms of the mediated settlement."

Ms. Reeves wrote that the judge has not resigned but simply submitted a request for early retirement in an "outrageous grab for additional benefits to which she is not entitled for any reason."

Efforts to reach Ms. Reeves for comment were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Judge Norman was accused in federal court filings of not complying with a confidential settlement she reached with the city and Ms. Franklin. Ms. Franklin claimed the judge, who is black, discriminated against her because she is white.

The settlement reached last February in private mediation called for the judge to resign by Dec. 28 according to court findings. The settlement also required the city to pay Ms. Franklin \$250,000, according to former city council members.

Court filings also say that Judge Norman has accused the city of not complying with the settlement. She is seeking reimbursement for legal fees and sanctions against the city, according to the filings.

In a court hearing last week, Judge Norman said she had been reporting to work every day but there were no cases on the docket until Monday, and a city lawyer said she remained on the payroll. A special judge has been appointed by the city to hear cases in the courtroom where Judge Norman normally sits.

U.S. District Judge H. Dean Buttram Jr. last week set a Friday hearing to consider a request by lawyers from the city and Ms. Franklin to enforce the settlement. It is unclear whether Judge Norman's retirement would satisfy the guidelines of the original settlement, which has never been released even though the City Council had to approve it.

And now, Judge Norman is back as a Jefferson County Court Judge.

Victory has never smelled sweeter, right?

An article appearing in the Birmingham Post-Herald back in 2000 by Elaine Witt detailed the racism Judge Norman exercised against whitey in her courtroom [Council ignores claims against judge]:

And some people in the Birmingham legal trade will tell you that unprofessionalism is the order of the day in the courtroom of Birmingham Municipal Judge Carnella Greene Norman.

For weeks now, listeners to a local talk radio show have been hearing allegations that this judge hardly ever shows up for her \$103,000 job. But citizens concerned about the efficient administration of justice might be just as worried about what happens when this judge does come to court.

I went to see Judge Norman on the bench on Thursday. She wasn't there. A bailiff, who once was fired by the judge but was reinstated by the Jefferson County Personnel Board, told me the judge hadn't shown up regularly since August. Another court employee countered that the judge did come in two or three weeks ago to handle a handful of cases.

Judge Norman's dockets, I was told, are slim to non-existent most days, meaning that the court's two other downtown judges, David Barnes and Raymond Chambliss, may have to handle hundreds of traffic and misdemeanor cases per day. Defendants thus have to wait even longer than usual to see a judge. And if you've ever been to city court, you know the wait never has been short.

But documents filed in a pending race discrimination lawsuit against the judge, who is one of three black judges at the downtown court, tell a more chilling story.

In a sworn statement, one black court employee, the bailiff mentioned above, said Judge Norman made it clear to him that she did not like white people and did not want white employees working near her. He said he feared to be friendly toward white employees in Norman's presence, for fear of turning the judge against him.

A white lawyer stated under oath that she knows other white lawyers who charge their clients extra if they have to appear before Judge Norman, "because of her abusiveness."

An attorney who in 1981 helped establish a mediation program in municipal court stated under oath that the program disintegrated after Norman became presiding judge, because the mediators and their clients would show up at the appointed time but could no longer get access to their case files.

One black employee stated under oath that when she went to work for Norman, she was required to style the judge's hair before each court session.

The bias complaint has dragged on since 1996, mainly at city expense. Presumably, it will be resolved in court.

But Norman's judicial career is in the hands of the Birmingham City Council, which already has cast its vote. A majority on the council recently named Norman to another four years as a municipal judge. And after Mayor Bernard Kincaid took the title of presiding judge away from Norman and gave it to Judge Barnes, the council passed a resolution praising Norman for "ensuring the dignity of the administration of justice."

Judge Norman is the face of victory that Bull Connor warned about; while the Birmingham City Council celebrates the events of 1963 (hilariously painting a mural that emitted toxic fumes in a City Hall conference room that necessitated an evacuation of the building), the now 3/4 black city of Birmingham is on the verge of complete collapse.

But don't worry --- Judge Norman is back.

Fifty Years Forward... Are you sure about that, Birmingham?

An article from the February 1980 issue of Ebony, celebrating the election of Richard Arrington - the first black mayor in Birmingham – offers this important quote [[A Big Change for Birmingham: City of protests, police dogs, and bombs elects Black Mayor](#), Ebony, by Alex Poinsett]:

The mayor remembers that it was not too long ago when a Birmingham black could not try on a pair of shoes in a department store, or park in certain public lots, or work behind a sales counter, or appear on stage with whites. His brother remembers: “Our parents were afraid for us to be out too late at night. We had to go through a white neighborhood in order to get to the one segregated movie theater. So we had to come home early.”

Unfortunately, in now 74 percent black Birmingham, few department stores exist – a reflection of the economic climate created by the black majority. Black people have the ability to work behind sales counters, but these are primarily at title loan or payday shops that the 77 percent black Birmingham City Council has [passed a moratorium on the issuing of new permits](#), hoping to regulate the only economic growth found in the city. It’s a reflection of the economic climate black people create for themselves, and word has it that patrons of payday shops in Birmingham are no longer allowed to try on shoes.

Being one of America's most violent cities -- courtesy of its 74 percent black population -- black people in Birmingham no longer have to fear walking through white neighborhoods (there aren't any -- whites fled the city and created thriving new cities/communities in Hoover, Vestavia Hills, and Mountain Brook); they must fear walking through almost exclusively black neighborhoods, where frequent black-on-black crime is a grim reminder of why Birmingham once had laws in place to protect the interests of its white population.

Once they were overturned, the economic lifeblood of the city -- white people -- fled to the safety of new, all-white communities, leaving Birmingham in perpetual need of both monetary infusions to make up for its dwindling tax base (and still pay for city services) and blood transfusions for the hospitals, to help keep alive black victims of black crime. [\[83\]](#)

Birmingham is located in Alabama's 7th Congressional District. Courtesy of the United States Department of Agriculture, we are afforded a window into understanding [the racial reliance on the EBT card throughout the nation](#).

In 2010, 16 percent of the households in this district required Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/EBT), with black people making up 87.8% of the households receiving SNAP/EBT. The 7th District is 61% percent black and 35% white. [\[84\]](#)

Birmingham will try and celebrate all that has occurred between 1963 and 2013 as some form of "progress," with Mayor William Bell unveiling a Web site and a slogan for the year-long celebration coming up this year -- "[Forward](#)."

What is "Fifty Years Forward" celebrating?:

THEY SAY IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE THE DAWN. And this has never been more true than in 1963, the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The events of that year revealed the best and worst humanity had to offer, as some of Birmingham's most courageous citizens fought to release their city from the terrible grip of hatred and discrimination.

Now, 50 Years Forward, we're coming together to commemorate "The Movement That Changed The World." And to celebrate those who sacrificed so much to make it happen, armed with nothing more than hope in their hearts, a prayer on their lips, and the winds of freedom at their backs. [\[85\]](#)

What have the winds of freedom brought to the black citizens of Birmingham? [The killing years, Part One: Accused killers in the Birmingham area, and victims, often under age 25, May 30, 2010, Birmingham News]:

When people are murdered in Jefferson County, chances are the killer was a male under 25 using a gun.

More than half of the accused killers in the county were 24 or younger, according to a Birmingham News analysis of homicides from 2006 through 2009.

Nine times out of 10, the victims were shot to death.

The percentage of homicides with defendants under age 25 who used guns in Jefferson County substantially exceeds the national average, statistics show.

In Birmingham, where nearly three-quarters of the county's murders occurred, the disparity was even worse from 2006-2009.

- Black males were 80 percent of the homicide defendants in majority-white Jefferson County and 89 percent in majority-black Birmingham. The national average was 57 percent.
- More than 70 percent of the victims in Birmingham were black males, versus 43 percent nationwide in 2007, the only year a comparison was possible.
- Guns were used in 86 percent of Birmingham homicides, and 83 percent in the county as a whole, versus 68 percent nationwide. Birmingham's rate is higher among defendants ages 16 through 24.

[\[86\]](#)

Do you begin to understand why such laws were once in place in Birmingham and throughout America to protect not just the lives of the white population, but also the private property and integrity of the businesses they ran?

Here's a little more from that February 1980 issue of *Ebony*:

Arrington inspired a record 76 percent black voter turnout, edging out "law-and-order" challenger Frank Parsons by 2,000 votes. About 12 percent of white voters and 98 percent of the blacks had picked Richard Arrington as their mayor.

In a far less euphoric mood, the new mayor pledges to implement programs that will refine management and accountability in city hall, revitalize Birmingham's downtown, improve neighborhood revitalization and stability and reduce citizen's fear of crime by beefing up police manpower.

"We have broken the barriers of public facilities," comments State Sen. J. Richmond Pearson, "but there is a great disparity economically now between the poor black and the whites. We need to be integrated into the economic system." If that, finally, is the ultimate goal of most black civil righters, Mayor Arrington approaches it with confidence. "A lot of whites who didn't vote for me nevertheless don't want to see their black mayor fail, because the world is watching Birmingham."

Black people can't be integrated into the economic system that white people created in not just Birmingham, but basically any city or community across the nation (black individuals can, but you don't base social policy on individuals).

When a city that is 74 percent black has to pass a ban on the issuing of permits to new title loan or payday stores, you get a good idea of the general creditworthiness of its population – with traditional banks and lines of credit out of the question for the majority of the black population, title loan and payday stores fill the void.

Everything from borrowing money to a purchasing a candy bar at one of the gas stations or convenience stores in 2012 Birmingham costs more since doing business with black people is always quite risky.

Whether it's high interest rates to cover high default rates (that no bank would dare lend anymore) or Plexiglass protection at convenience, gas station and liquor stores to protect employees from bullets and muggings, trying to earn a dollar from the 74 percent black population in Birmingham involves a business approach normally reserved for post-apocalyptic war zones.

Some evil men bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church on September 15, 1963, taking the lives of four little black girls. This one event, however, can no longer be used to guilt white people from seeing the utter devastation of Birmingham wrought by a majority black population.

Curiously, the murder of Birmingham Southern College white coed [Quinette Shehane](#) by three black males never became the sensation of interracial violence like the events of 1963 did.

But it did convince administrators to fortify the school, since it was surrounded by entirely black neighborhoods where criminality flourished:

A female Birmingham-Southern student, Quinette Shehane, was kidnapped on Dec. 20, 1976, when she left campus to buy salad dressing at a Graymont Avenue convenience store. She was brutally killed and three men were convicted of her murder.

The murder reinforced fears that the neighborhood surrounding the campus was dangerous. Security was heightened, and a fence was built around campus. Three years of unsuccessful negotiations to sell the campus to Miles College had already been going on before Neal Berte became president on Feb. 1, 1976. The school had been considering moving to Shelby County. [\[87\]](#)

Because of the high rates of black crime in areas around Birmingham Southern, administrators plotted to move to a peaceful, majority white county. Without a huge endowment like the University of Chicago or University of Pennsylvania to provide lavish funding for a private army to keep students safe, a wall was erected around the campus -- a fitting exclamation point to Bull Conner's battle in 1963.

All the promises Richard Arrington made to the voters of Birmingham, which *Ebony* magazine championed back in 1980, never materialized.

The downtown is dead, save for minor levels of white gentrification beginning to occur; the neighborhoods are all but dead, with property levels rivaling 92 percent black Detroit (“why hasn’t property value been declared ‘racist’ yet?,” you might ask – simple: the left needs to keep rates of taxation high on productive, responsible, law-abiding citizens so they can transfer the wealth to unproductive citizens); and the city resembles a warzone in terms of crime.

But that’s what the City of Birmingham represents in 2012. Preparing to celebrate “50 Years Forward” is... laughable.

Bull Conner’s mistake was in even acknowledging the peaceful demonstrations in Birmingham back in 1963; Our mistake today would be in not acknowledging the sorrowful conditions that black people have created in Birmingham and concluding that similar conditions found in majority black cities and communities throughout the nation are not caused by racism or white privilege --- but by the combined efforts of the black individuals found in these communities.

Life After the Cameras Left: 74 percent Black Birmingham Bans New Payday Loan and Title Pawn Stores

What happened when the cameras and press left Birmingham, Alabama? What happened when the damage of showing pictures and video of snarling dogs attacking pitiful protestors on a nightly loop ended "white supremacy" in Birmingham and ushered in the unprecedented era of "Black supremacy" in the a city that was once the most powerful in the south?

This is a topic no one dares broach, for the reality of Birmingham in 2012 is that freedom failed. Big time. The great Civil Rights crusade didn't usher in an age of prosperity, economic or academic equality, but instead unleashed, no, liberated nature to provide a lesson in reality that few dare notice.

You see, Birmingham is now 71 percent Black, and the structures of political power in the city are completely dominated by Black people. This, as also happened in Detroit, didn't translate into economic power; nor did this demographic change result in the attracting of outside investment to the city or relocation of business to Birmingham that could ensure aggressive growth and a flourishing middle class.

On the contrary, an August 19th article in the *Birmingham News* (Group wants Birmingham to add restrictions on payday loan stores) discussed the only type of industry that is thriving in 74 percent Black Birmingham:

A crowd of 60 people chanted "At least a mile!" with raised fists at Harvest Community Church Sunday night, calling on the City of Birmingham to restrict the number of payday loan stores in the area.

The demonstration at the church was sponsored by Birmingham Faith in Action, an interfaith group calling for the city to adopt a zoning policy which would mandate that new payday loan stores cannot operate within a mile of an existing one. The group contends that payday loan stores charge exorbitant interest rates and disproportionately affect the poor and minorities.

To illustrate the point, Quinn Rallins, director of Birmingham Faith in Action, showed the crowd a photo showing dozens of sharks swimming alongside each other.

"We have to pick between living in two oceans. Sharks live in this ocean because it's acceptable that they can feed on the weak," he said, pointing to the photo, before showing another with only one shark. "Which ocean do you want to live in? This is where we're headed if we don't do something about predatory lending."

Rallins said Faith in Action is making a push because the city's ban on new payday loan stores ends in September.

He contends that before the ban, Birmingham had the highest concentration of payday loan stores in the nation. He said the group would like the city to adopt a new zoning ordinance which would also mandate distance requirements for payday loan stores from welfare offices.

He told the crowd how a member of his family had struggled against high-interest debt which resulted in her losing her car.

"Three out of four payday loans are used to try to pay off other payday loans," Rallins said. "There's a difference between businesses making a living, and making a killing." [\[88\]](#)

Payday loan stores are primarily found in minority (Black) areas, because these are the primary customers of payday loan stores.

Payday loans stores charge exorbitant interest rates only because their customers (primarily Black people) never pay the loan back, thus the need to charge higher rates to deter those who might be a financial risk from doing business with them.

If the white people who live in Mountain Brook, Vestavia Hills, and Hoover are capable of making sound financial decisions and living within their means, then payday loans store operators aren't going to make a profit by opening shop in those communities.

Conversely, if the Black people in Birmingham present a lucrative cash cow for these businesses, well, it's wise to going fishing where the fish are copious in number.

Back in December of 2011, CBS 42 in Birmingham reported on the extraordinary steps the city council was taking to combat the plague of payday loans tormenting the citizens of The Magic City (Payday Loan Moratorium in Place, December 6, 2011):

Birmingham City Council members adopted a resolution to ban new Payday Loan businesses within the city.

The resolution was originally introduced by Councilwoman LaShunda Scales in September. But even as the ordinance came up for a final vote council members still had not reached a consensus on the language.

At one point during the discussion Councilwoman Kim Rafferty declared that the Council as a whole looked like a bunch of fools.

Council President Roderick Royal swiftly found Rafferty out of order.

The debate stemmed from two amendments issued by Councilor Carole Smitherman.

The Amendments were to clarify language in the ordinance to ensure that banks and existing payday loan businesses would not be impacted.

Council members say they need the time to establish better establish rules as to where a Payday Loan business may open to avoid clustering.

Councilor Scales says that with 93 Payday Loan businesses operating within the city limits, these businesses are the number one product the city offers to its citizens.

Scales and Smitherman say that they are opposed to the locations of the businesses and the high interest rates charged.[\[89\]](#)

Yes, the [Birmingham city council](#) passed a six-month moratorium on the opening of new payday and title loan stores in the city.

One of the primary forms of economic activity in 74 percent Birmingham - the purest example of what an enterprise zone would consist of in a majority Black area - was regulated by the city council in a bid to offset the lethargy of entrepreneurship.

Here's a hilarious article from the leftist local newspaper the *Weld* by some hopeless Disingenuous White Liberal Madison Underwood (City Council approves six-month moratorium on payday loan shops, December 6, 2011):

After more than an hour of debate, the Birmingham City Council approved a six-month moratorium on payday and title loan shops in the city. The moratorium, which was approved by all but two councilors at the council's regular Tuesday meeting, will allow existing payday loan businesses to continue operating and to change locations, but bars new facilities.

Payday loan shops offer customers cash advances until their next payday for a fee some say is expensive or predatory. In Alabama, such stores can charge fees up to \$17.50 per 14-day, \$100 loan, which is an annual percentage rate of 456.25 percent, according to the Consumer Federation of America, a non-profit consumer advocacy group.

The moratorium is meant to allow the city time to research the impact of payday loan shops and develop zoning measures to deal with the facilities.

According to Councilor Lashunda Scales, who spearheaded the drive for the moratorium, there are 93 payday loan facilities in Birmingham—more than any other city in Alabama. “It is the leading product, at this point, that we have,” Scales said. “It supersedes any grocery stores, any main retailers that our citizens are asking for, and that’s in every single district.

An earlier version of the proposed ordinance called for the moratorium to end after a year or whenever the Birmingham Comprehensive Plan — which is currently being developed — is completed. But that language was amended over the hour-long process.

Councilor Carole Smitherman suggested that, during the six-month moratorium, Operation New Birmingham, or ONB, be asked to help develop a permanent policy solution to the proliferation of payday and title-loan facilities in Birmingham. ONB is a non-profit public-private partnership that works to promote economic development in Birmingham. [\[90\]](#)

Yes, 93 payday loan facilities in 74 percent Black Birmingham; in the words of City Councilwoman Scales, "it is the leading product... that we have."

This is the end result of freedom. This is the end result of a revolution that was waged to shame white people into signing over their futures so they could be shackled to the utopian goals of a concept we've labeled Black-Run America (BRA).

It was in Birmingham where events were captured on film and in still photos, which would forever alter the course of American history. Perhaps when those cameras and video equipment return to capture the reality of Actual-Black Run America (ABRA) Birmingham, the course of American history can be altered again.

At the very least, if you're ever in the need for a payday loan --- you know where to go.[\[91\]](#)

The only solution in the future is for a city like Birmingham to be quarantined, for it is the current inhabitants of the city whose financial (an extension of personal) dysfunction is the primary cause for the proliferation of payday and title loan stores. A population that largely subsists off of EBT/food stamps cards, free lunches at school, TANF/Welfare, must be allowed to sink or swim on their own.

Anytime you hear someone say we should celebrate some great "Civil Rights Victory" just smile, and remind them of the moratorium on new payday and title loan stores in Birmingham the city council passed.

That's the legacy of "Civil Rights"-- Freedom Failed.

The Land that Time Forgot



 **Joey Kennedy** @joeykennedy 3 Nov
Twitter haiku: Republican fete: Hoover Tactical Firearms. Shoot early, often #twitterhaiku
📍 from Birmingham, AL ← Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite

 **Paul Kersey** @sbpdl 3 Nov
@joeykennedy Twitter Haiku: Black people Ruin Birmingham for all Black people Ruin #tcot #teaparty #1963 #whiteguiltlover
Expand

 **Joey Kennedy** @joeykennedy 3 Nov
@sbpdl Well, besides being racist, it's not a haiku. It's 5-7-5 syllables. Better luck next time.
📍 from Birmingham, AL

 **Paul Kersey** @sbpdl 3 Nov
@joeykennedy You uncultured bloated white man. Haiku can be 3-5-3 as well. Blacks have ruined #birmingham. Just a factual statement. #tcot
Expand

 **Joey Kennedy** @joeykennedy 3 Nov
@sbpdl Also, Birmingham was pretty ruined by racist white people bombing churches and attacking peaceful marchers in the streets.
📍 from Birmingham, AL

 **Paul Kersey** @sbpdl 3 Nov
@joeykennedy Bombing happened in 1963... what happened Quenette Shehane? Does her death not matter?
stuffblackpeopledontlike.blogspot.com/2011/01/martyr... #tcot
🔴 Hide conversation ← Reply 🗑 Delete ★ Favorite

A Pulitzer Prize winning writer resorts to the "Birmingham 1963" defense

It was in his famous *'Letter from a Birmingham Jail'* that Martin Luther King Jr. stated, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly..."

Those words were penned nearly 50 years ago in the tumultuous year of 1963; the same year of the infamous church bombing in Birmingham that killed four black girls and emboldened an already carnivorous national press to launch a full-out assault on all things white and southern.

In many ways, the specter of 1963 Birmingham that still haunts the narrative of race relations in America; dominating the anti-white animus which is pervasive in every aspect of contemporary 21st century American life.

"If we go back to the old days, then it will be just like 1963 Birmingham all over again," is what Disingenuous White Liberals (DWL) whine and moan, knowing that time has completely forgotten the current status of Birmingham, Alabama

Birmingham to most people will always be stuck in a perpetual state of 1963, with a never-ending and revolving cast of white bigots ready to guilt any young white person who dares question even the slightest pretense of greatness, glory, and divinity of diversity or multiculturalism.

But Birmingham is the land that time forgot; or at least the current condition of majority-black (nearly 74 percent of the citizens of the Magic City are black) is forever to be the fault of... Birmingham in 1963. That year is inescapable when it comes to determining all that is wrong with the city; never, and I mean never, can the current dilapidated and apparent "bombed" out condition of many parts of the city be blamed on the current majority population occupying Birmingham.

Instead, read Christopher Paul Curtis' mass-market paperback fictional story *'The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963'* - a story for children about a black family visiting Birmingham when their grandmother's church is blown up by evil white bigots - and be instantly transported to the nefarious events

of... Birmingham 1963.

Never mind the ruin the *'Letter from a Birmingham Jail'* helped to bring to, not just Birmingham, but to the entire western world; that's beyond debate, for the mantra of Black-Run America (BRA) is simply "give me equality, or give me death."

And never mind the casualties in pursuit of equality -- even if they happen to be our major cities.

So what is life like in Birmingham in the waning months of 2012, just before we endure a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of Birmingham 1963? [Gunfire common in west Birmingham neighborhood where 1 killed, 1 injured in shooting, residents said, *Birmingham News*, 11-30-12]:

When Nellie Pledger moved into her house at the corner of 48th Street Ensley and Terrace Q in 1995, crime was rampant in the area, she said.

For a while it seemed things were getting better, but now gunfire rings out nightly sending Pledger dropping to the floor, fearing she might be an unintended victim. "Bullets don't have names," Pledger said.

Outside Pledger's home, decorated with Christmas lights and with her small dog, Midnight, yapping in the yard, Birmingham homicide detectives this evening worked to solve a shooting that left one person dead and another injured this afternoon. Ben Ward, a 23 year resident of the community, was feeding his dogs when he heard three shots at about 4 p.m.

"It's not as bad as it used to be, but it seems like it's getting worse," Ward said. A short distance from the crime scene, groups of teenagers laughed and tossed a football back and forth in Central Park less than two hours after the shooting. It wasn't clear how badly the surviving shooting victim was injured, said Birmingham Homicide Lt. Scott Praytor.

Detectives are interviewing witnesses at police headquarters and have not, as of this evening, spoken with the surviving victim, Praytor said. We're trying to get all the pieces so we can put them together," Praytor said.

A preliminary investigation indicated the surviving victim went to Terrace Q to score some drugs but was robbed at gunpoint. Pulling a gun of his own, the two shot each other and both were hit in the chest, said Detective Jonathon Ross.

The robber died at UAB Hospital. The surviving victim began driving up Third Avenue West, presumably trying to get to the hospital, Ross said. Birmingham police officers alerted to the shooting were waiting when the victim drove through the 15th Street West intersection, about two miles from the scene of the shooting, Ross said.[\[92\]](#)

The pathetic economy, climate and culture of Birmingham in 2012, almost entirely created by it's majority black population ([where the almost entirely black city council just banned giving out business licenses to Title Loan and Payday Stores](#)) ... is not for debate, because it's such an obvious improvement over Birmingham 1963.

What were those white bigots trying to stop anyway? Blacks from taking power and... oh. Creating the climate and culture found in Birmingham today.

In a recent Twitter.com engagement with Joey Kennedy - whose Twitter profile states: Pulitzer Prize winning editorial writer; community engagement specialist for The Birmingham News and Alabama Media Group. UAB teacher. Has been called 'baller.' – Mr. Kennedy immediately pulled out the unbeatable "Birmingham 1963 trump card:

When prompted that Birmingham's current condition might be the fault - or inability - of its majority black population to maintain the infrastructure they inherited from the white people they drove to the suburbs, Mr. Kennedy responded as only one could in 140 characters or less -- @sbpdl Also, Birmingham was pretty ruined by racist white people bombing churches and attacking peaceful marchers in the streets.

No one can dare counter the "Birmingham 1963" defense, with all debate on any subject instantly ending due to the moral superiority of those righteous black people who dared stand in defiance of law and order, which kept the thin line of civilization - the color line - intact.

But what happened to "the dream" of the same man who wrote '*Letter from a Birmingham Jail*'? While we act that 1963 Birmingham still is the only frame of reference one can work with when talking about the city, black political control of Birmingham proved ruinous to any hope of a prosperous future.

Where once white families with young children dreamed of a future like that in the cartoon *The Jetsons*, white flight quickly turned Birmingham's future into that of *The Flintstones*: instead of lovable Cro-Magnon individuals like Barney and Fred, you got a city that devolved into an orgy of black crime and depressed property values [CAN THESE NEIGHBORHOODS BE SAVED?, Birmingham News, 8-19-2007]:

The core of metro Birmingham suffers slow-motion destruction. When heavy industry faded, neighborhoods followed. Across the Jones valley, businesses boarded up, people moved to the suburbs, thousands of homes were left to decay. It leaves everyone with a complex problem: How can we fight urban blight?

The exodus created a broken real estate market in depressed neighborhoods where sellers outnumber buyers — and a city where thousands of houses and apartments were left to decay. What's more, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham predicts urban blight will continue to swell.

The commission projects that by 2030 the number of households will decrease by 17 percent in East Lake and Woodlawn, 22 percent in the neighborhoods around the airport, 27 percent in North Birmingham, 13 percent in Pratt City and Ensley, and 17 percent in West End. Since 1990, the city of Birmingham has demolished 7,948 single-family houses. This year, the city plans to spend \$750,000 tearing down 423 more. Even at that pace, a backlog of more than 200 homes will remain.

And the list keeps growing. Inspectors investigate 1,200 new complaints a year. The inspections initiate a protracted process that often ends with the property being boarded up, decaying to a point of danger and, eventually, getting demolished. Even when they're gone, they're a drain: The city spends \$2 million a year cutting vacant lots. Meanwhile, decaying houses and overgrown lots cost residents who stay.

A study in Philadelphia found that a single abandoned property bleeds \$7,627 out of the value of neighboring homes. Josephine Hardie, 67, sees that in her three-bedroom, one-bath home on Tennessee Avenue. The retired Hayes High algebra teacher has lived there since she was 6, when her father, a cook on the Silver Comet passenger train, bought it. Years ago, she wanted to move to Roebuck, but stayed to care for her mother. Today, she doubts she could sell the home for its assessed value of \$54,000. With the condition of her neighborhood, she said, "It's not worth that."

The vacancy chain

For Mark LaGory, a sociologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Woodlawn offers a case study in the deterioration of inner-city communities. People who've left Birmingham, LaGory said, often drive through their childhood neighborhoods and shake their heads.

“They say, ‘Isn’t it a shame what happened to the neighborhood?’” LaGory said. “Well, it is inevitable what happened to the neighborhood. That is the way our system works.” The government effectively subsidizes new home construction by giving federal backing to the mortgage industry and giving a tax deduction for mortgage interest, he said. That leads to new and better housing, but puts pressure on older, less valuable homes.

“For every house built, another house below it tends to go vacant. That creates a vacancy chain.” Those who can’t afford to move, LaGory said, stay and watch the neighborhood depopulate. The downward spiral discourages people from maintaining their housing. “Particularly since most of them don’t have a lot, why would they invest in something they know doesn’t appreciate?” LaGory said.

The Visible Black Hand of Economics in post-Birmingham 1963. But we can't talk about that, can we Mr. Kennedy?

Martyrs, Civil Rights and Quenette Shehane: The Tale of Birmingham

Martin Luther King Jr. Day approaches and with it the usual pronouncements and the glorification (deification?) of the Civil Rights struggle, though this righteous struggle is far from over. The continued battle for Black equality that transpires on a daily basis will be showcased on ESPN with the discussion of the Image of the Black Athlete, attempting to gloss over the thuggish personalities that comprise the bulk of the NBA and NFL rosters.

It is sports that provide -simultaneously - the best and worst examples of Black people for the inhabitants of Black Run America (BRA) to digest. For the past forty years, hearty helpings of the former have been all that those who watch sports decided to feast upon, though the spectacular talents of Black athletes is without question the only positive example one can find from the Black community.

The state of Mississippi hopes to introduce a required Civil Rights course for every grade level, K-12, in the next year. Nothing is more virtuous than learning about where 21st Century man has evolved from, the antiquated racism of the past replaced with a tolerant understanding for all races. [\[93\]](#)

We once joked about the movie *[Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure](#)* and the lack of any historical Black figures that the two members of Wyld Stallions went back in time to retrieve. If this movie were made today, it would only be Civil Rights figures that these two figures went back in time to see and bring to the future so they could pass history.

Kids today learn only of fictional Black heroes in school, the rest of history littered with the exploits of oppressive white males who dared retard the inevitable creation of Black Run America (BRA). Every Black person who faced adversity in this long march to joyous extra-equality has become a martyr in some capacity, with a number of them enjoying virtual sainthood.

On Monday we celebrate the ultimate hero for BRA, Martin Luther King Jr. Those who fail to sufficiently grovel before this deity dare to incur the wrath of BRA's most vigilante enforces of civility. [\[94\]](#)

Civil Rights ushered in a new era for the United States, the most vivid

representation of this being the complete abandonment of major United States cities to Black people. The [train stations](#) that once deemed Black people second class citizens were the first to go, white flight sealing their fate to demolition.

We could discuss for hours the decline of a variety of cities across the nation, but today we focus on one that represented a South Africa for Black people. Nelson Mandela's ex-wife even compared this city to South Africa and the fate of both nations under Black rule are inextricably linked. [\[95\]](#)

In a sane society, Birmingham would be a thriving metropolis. In the world governed by BRA, it is a crumbling city whose sky scrapers stand resolute as monuments to a people who once lived, died and thrived there. [\[96\]](#)

You will hear a lot about martyrs of the Civil Rights movement, of those who died to make this country a better place. But the people you will never, ever hear about are those whites who were the victims of this extra-equal class that Disingenuous White Liberals (DWLs) strenuously protect today.

[Birmingham is a city that once had a thriving business sector](#), though almost all Fortune 500 companies have moved their company headquarters out of the town. The city school system, nearly 100 percent Black, [faces a \\$30 million budget shortfall](#). [\[97\]](#)

Like DeKalb County in Georgia, [the city will be forced to close many schools](#). Those Black people capable of fleeing the dying city are forcing the lily-white suburbs of Birmingham to move even farther out, though the poor credit scores keep many of these families from affording homes in these thriving cities. [\[98\]](#)

Perhaps no better building or structure in the country serves as a metaphor for all that is wrong with BRA then the once magnificent Legion Field. Situated in an area of Birmingham that the Marines who battled in Mogadishu would be fearful of, the stadium was once the home of legendary Iron Bowl between the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

Both schools have since stopped playing the annual game there, with the stadium antiquated and falling into disrepair. But once, it resembled those edifices built at the *World of Tomorrow* fairs, heralding a new era of unimaginable prosperity.

The Civil Rights victory signaled the abandonment of Birmingham to the victors. The spoils were short lived.

Legion Field has become a deadly joke, with one writer at *The Birmingham News* wondering if the city deserved a college football bowl game.[\[99\]](#) Comments from those who attended the game failed to mention the Black aspect of the situation:

The city did a good job of moving the traffic to the stadium but once you get there you have to deal with the people that live around the stadium screaming at you and almost jumping in front of your car to get you to park in their yard. After I parked, I stopped and talked to 4-5 kentucky fans that were still outside the stadium sitting in chairs in the same yard I was parked in. Two were staying with the cars because they did not expect the game to be in this type of area.

Like I said, I support the bowl each year but it is getting harder and harder to do so." -- bamamac2112

• "John: "Brusque and unapologetic" describes most service-type workers in Birmingham. Go to any food establishment and you can see it.[\[100\]](#)

Having attended an event at Legion Field, we at SBPDL can tell you the area around Legion Field is all-Black, save for the gated campus of Birmingham Southern. A veritable fortress, Birmingham Southern once had a libertarian attitude to the Black people who encircled the campus in their domiciles. This was until the rape and murder of a white coed there named Quenttee Shehane:

On a cold evening in Birmingham 30 years ago, a recent college graduate volunteered to go buy salad dressing for a party on campus. Leaving the nearby convenience store, she was abducted.

Her nude, frozen, bullet-riddled body was found the next evening.

The trip to the store on Dec. 20, 1976, ended with the murder of Quenette Shehane, but it would mark the start of the victims' rights movement in Alabama, a crusade led by her mother, Miriam Shehane of Clio.

Easing the pain

Victims of Crime and Leniency, or VOCAL, was organized in 1982 after Miriam Shehane had begun to find that the overwhelming pain of her daughter's killing was compounded by her experience as the three men charged in her abduction, rape and murder were tried in court — twice each for two of the men, three times for the third.

During the five years after the murder, she had to relieve the agonizing testimony in seven trials. She didn't want others to endure the same and began tirelessly lobbying for laws aimed at helping the families of victims of crimes.

Despite all her success in easing the pain of others, three decades have not lessened her loss.

"It's not worth it," she told The Dothan Eagle in a recent interview. "I'd rather have my daughter back."

Quenette Shehane, 21, had graduated from Birmingham-Southern College with a degree in elementary education. She had visited her family in Clio and was back on campus for a party with friends. She would soon be enrolling in graduate school at Auburn University and looked forward to a career teaching.

Justice served?

But around 5 p.m., with darkness falling, she was abducted in the parking lot of the convenience store, her car loaded with Christmas presents was stolen, and her life was taken.

After the seven trials, the man believed to have pulled the trigger, Wallace Norell Thomas, was sentenced to death and executed in 1990. Eddie Bernard Neal was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Jerry Lee Jones, convicted three times, had his death sentence commuted and is eligible for parole again in 2008. [\[101\]](#) [All three men](#) mentioned above are Black. The only memory of Quenette Shehane is her mothers continue crusade on her behalf, and the fence erected around Birmingham Southern to keep out the population.

No school system discusses her death in text books, no college devotes hours of lecture time discussing what her death represents. Only a silent fence surrounding Birmingham Southern is a reminder to those that she once lived.

Thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of other people like Quenette Shehane have had their stories censored, because it doesn't conform with the world view as advanced by DWLs, Crusading White Pedagogues and the adherents of BRA.

Birmingham is [now the killing fields](#), where Black-on-Black crime is an every day occurrence. Worse, it operates a school where only 52 percent graduate high school [\[102\]](#) and [few dare discipline students](#).

Birmingham is a Black city. Its problems are based on that Black population. A fence around Birmingham Southern is because of the actions of three Black people who preyed upon a white girl whose name is scarcely remembered today.

She played for the losing team in the struggle in the Civil Rights struggle, only because she was seen as collateral damage.

During the media bombardment of Civil Rights talk, we at *Stuff Black People Don't Like* remember Quenette Shehane. Like countless others, she has no voice to represent her in BRA. She is just another uncounted statistic.

Birmingham is another statistic, lost in the struggle as BRA was created. Legion Field, the home to memories still fresh in many peoples mind, will be torn down one day since it is obsolete and in an area of Birmingham few dare travel into with armed guard.

The dead have no voice, unless they were killed by venomous white racists. Then and only then do they become an asset to the continued propaganda used to maintain BRA's hegemony. Everything else is liability.

On Martin Luther King Day we honor the memory of Quenette Shehane. We remember those that BRA deems collateral damage.

We Marched for This?

The Civil Rights movement, we are told, represents the watershed moment in world history where good triumphed over evil (read [*In Birmingham, They Love the Governor*](#)).

Really, all the Civil Rights era represents the weaponization of equality (we'll just call it weaponized equality) -- meaning, every failure by Black people after the evil world of segregation was firmly supplanted can only be placed on the lingering vestiges of inequality, requiring the allocation of billions of federal tax dollars to remedy the problem.

That, and a radicalized Department of Justice and EEOC stalking the land for any sign - real, imaginary it doesn't matter - that Jim Crow might be trying to make a comeback.

Well, down in Birmingham, the only thing "coming back" is a vicious reminder of why Jim Crow was necessary to begin with, especially the allocating of law enforcement the ability to make examples of the criminal in very public manners as a way to deter crime.

Please remember that Birmingham is now 74 percent Black and Birmingham Public Schools have a student body population that is 98 percent (virtually every student receives a free/discounted lunch) Black, and enjoy this article from the dying *Birmingham News* - white people no longer read this paper, save for the Sports section, for it is a running tally of the Black crime and Black dysfunction they left behind for the safe suburbs of Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Hoover - illustrates why men like Bull Conner and George Wallace will one day be recognized as prophets, men who dared warn of what weaponized equality would produce (Birmingham area teens' violent crimes alarming to law enforcement, July 29, 2012, Carol Robinson):

Artavius Underwood and Reginald Mims sit in the Jefferson County Jail charged with capital murder as adults along with their 17-year-old friend, Rashad Stoves.

Investigators say the three teens brutally murdered five people in an Ensley house in January, but they are not the only local youngsters locked up and awaiting trial for violent crimes most often linked to more seasoned suspects.

The number of teens charged with violent crimes is alarming, local law enforcement officials say. Forty-four teenagers -- kids between the ages of 13 and 17 -- were arrested in the first half of 2012 in Birmingham and unincorporated Jefferson County for the crime of robbery.

The acts and ages of the perpetrators are disturbing, says Jefferson County Chief Deputy Randy Christian.

"Combine a gun with lack of maturity, a devil-may-care attitude, lack of respect for life, and tragedy is what you get," Christian said. "We have to find a way to interrupt the cycle."

In the first six months of this year, Birmingham police arrested 39 teens ages 13 to 17 for robbery. Of those, 37 were robberies of people, and two of businesses.

Six teens were arrested for murder, one for attempted murder, 17 for felony assault and 11 for rape.

In May, three teens ages 14 and 15 were arrested in a violent holdup at a west Birmingham store. The teens, wearing masks and brandishing a gun, burst into Frank's Wireless on Bessemer Road and one of them almost immediately opened fire. No one was injured.

In June, two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old were charged in the deadly drive-by shooting of 16-year-old Brandon Dozier. Also in June, a Birmingham man was shot dead in the street. The 16-year-old who fired the shots was cleared when the district attorney said the shooting was clearly in self-defense.

"We are extremely concerned with what we have seen as a community regarding serious juvenile crime," said Birmingham Police Chief A.C. Roper. "We've researched it, but interestingly enough, most experts cannot pin the cause on any single factor."

[\[103\]](#)

The white citizens of Birmingham once stood firmly opposed to Black-Run America (BRA), knowing that handing power over to Black people would unleash forces so indescribably destructive that the Black political class would refuse to try and stop wave after wave of Black crime and instead place the blame on whites who left (obviously so they could safely raise their children in suburbs with no ~~Black people~~ crime and ~~no Black classmates~~ good schools). By white people leaving Birmingham, they took the jobs away too (why Black people can't start business and maintain thriving economies is not up for debate); and the good schools; and the safe streets; and the working government; and the tax-base.

But wait: reading the piece above, you wouldn't know it was a Black crime problem that plagues Birmingham (unless you had taken a crash-course in unfortunate Black first names). Unless you watched *The First 48*, that A&E TV show seemingly shooting exclusively in The Magic City.

To quantify the Black crime problem in Birmingham, you'd have to read Ed Velasco's May 2010 story in [The Birmingham News](#) (The killing years, Part One: Accused killers in the Birmingham area, and victims, often under age 25):

When people are murdered in Jefferson County, chances are the killer was a male under 25 using a gun.

More than half of the accused killers in the county were 24 or younger, according to a Birmingham News analysis of homicides from 2006 through 2009.

Nine times out of 10, the victims were shot to death.

The percentage of homicides with defendants under age 25 who used guns in Jefferson County substantially exceeds the national average, statistics show.

In Birmingham, where nearly three-quarters of the county's murders occurred, the disparity was even worse from 2006-2009.

Ages 16 through 24 are the killing years here.

That age group comprised 56 percent of the accused killers in Birmingham and 54 percent across the county those four years.

"My wife's brother also was murdered in Birmingham," he said. "I don't know many cities where the chief and the chief's wife have both lost siblings to murder in that city."

The toll was especially harsh on black families. A substantial number of young black men in the city and county wound up [in prison or a coffin](#).

Statistics show:

- Black males were 80 percent of the homicide defendants in majority-white Jefferson County and 89 percent in majority-black Birmingham. The national average was 57 percent.
- More than 70 percent of the victims in Birmingham were black males, versus 43 percent nationwide in 2007, the only year a comparison was possible.
- Guns were used in 86 percent of Birmingham homicides, and 83 percent in the county as a whole, versus 68 percent nationwide. Birmingham's rate is higher among defendants ages 16 through 24. [\[104\]](#)

What happened after the cameras left Birmingham, and the media packed its bags, heading back north after the photos and video damning the white southerners had been broadcast to the rest of the nation and the world, strategically showcasing snarling dogs and hoses?

Birmingham in 2012 represents the great victory of Civil Rights and weaponized equality; we get to see a great city fall completely apart with 100 percent Black political control and not one person may publicly state the problems in The Magic City are the results of that Black control (or, in the case of high crimes, lack of Black self-control).

It's all the same, only the names will change

*It's all the same, only the names will change
Everyday it seems we're wasting away
Another place where the faces are so cold
I'd drive all night just to get back home.
- Bon Jovi*

Almost exclusively Black Clayton County (Georgia) loses its accreditation in 2009.

The Atlanta Public School (APS) scandal of 2011, perhaps the biggest academic scandal in American history -- 83 percent of those enrolled in the APS system are Black. [The Atlanta Journal Constitution investigates other school systems](#) - almost all majority-Black - and finds massive cheating going on across the nation.

The city leaders in almost exclusively Black Memphis voted to dissolve Memphis City Schools ([an insolvent system](#)), and merge with the county:

About 85% of students in the city are African-American, and about 87% are considered "low-income," according to court records. By contrast, many schools in the mostly suburban county have a majority of white, middle-class students.

The county had resisted the merger and had filed a federal lawsuit, worried about the added responsibility of funding the city schools in a weak economy. Under the judge's ruling, Shelby County officials will now be responsible for funding both systems. [\[105\]](#)

Kansas City School District (another majority Black district) lost its accreditation [in late 2011](#).

[Detroit Public Schools](#) (home to the lowest scoring students in America) was taken over by the state of Michigan in 2010. [\[106\]](#) At 88 percent Black, every student eats a free lunch courtesy of you, the taxpayer. Plans for this takeover were started in 1999. [\[107\]](#)

Philadelphia and Washington D.C. are under intense scrutiny for "miracle" test gains that stretch the credulity of those who privately know the findings of The Bell Curve to be true, but publicly know that giving credence to this racist screed would be career suicide.

But it is in Birmingham City Schools (located in [Jefferson County, Alabama, which recently declared the biggest municipal bankruptcy in American history](#)) that a new low has been reached. Birmingham City Schools are 98 percent Black - yes, you read that correctly: 98 percent of students are Black! - and routinely battle with Detroit Public Schools for the worst test scores in America. In 2010, The Birmingham News reported:

Fifty-one schools in the Birmingham metro area -- including 31 Birmingham city schools -- are chronic failures, according to a list created by the state under new federal guidelines.

Alabama has 264 "persistently low-achieving" schools, defined by a formula that factored in standardized reading and math test scores, graduation rates and other data from the past three years.

All of the schools on the list serve poor populations and either receive federal Title I funds or are eligible for them. Title I funds are given to schools that have a high poverty level, where at least 35 percent of students participate in the free and reduced-price lunch program.

The list includes 31 schools in Birmingham, six in Jefferson County, all four Tarrant schools, all three Midfield schools, three in Fairfield, two in Bessemer, one in Leeds and one in Shelby County. Birmingham has more failing schools than any other district in the state, including Mobile, which has more than twice as many students and 10 schools on the list.

"We have more Title I schools than any other school system, so of course we have more schools on that list," said Claudia Williams, chief academic officer for Birmingham City Schools.[\[108\]](#)

On April 14, 2012, Tommy Bice - Alabama superintendent of education - assumed control of Birmingham City Schools[\[109\]](#) from one of the most corrupt organs in all of America, the incredibly Black Birmingham Board of Education.[\[110\]](#)

It was this black board of education that lost sovereignty over the schools of Birmingham when the state stepped in to stop the madness of black rule. Black rule, which required security guards to stop board members from attacking one another:

Alabama is near the bottom of the country's academic rankings. The state has problems with test scores, school improvement ratings and dropouts. But the district in Birmingham has a different kind of issue. The state recently took over the school board because of infighting on the board. The move has triggered cries of racism.

MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

You're listening to ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from NPR News.

Now, to Birmingham, Alabama, where the state has effectively taken over the local school board. It's not because of academic issues, but because the board is widely seen as too inept to function.

As Dan Carsen of member station WBHM reports, the intervention has triggered cries of racism in a city with a long history of racial tension.

DAN CARSEN, BYLINE: Do an Internet search on Birmingham school board and dysfunction, and you'll find more reading material than you know what to do with. Board members have assaulted each other, police have gotten involved, and now armed security guards are fixtures at meetings - not just to protect board members from the public, but from each other. There are allegations of secret gatherings. And even in public meetings, the infighting is intense.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: I move that we take the motion to extend the (unintelligible) in this contract...

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2: Mr. President, you have...

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: ...(unintelligible)...

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2: Mr. President, (unintelligible).

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: We're discussing (unintelligible) contract. Mr. (unintelligible), you're out of order. Just simmer down.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #2: (Unintelligible).

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #1: Let me check with our counsel. Tom, am I out of order?

CARSEN: This latest squabble was over Birmingham's superintendent, Craig Witherspoon, who's black but has support from blacks and whites. He took over the troubled system two years ago and has made some improvements. But five of the nine board members want to fire him because they say he doesn't communicate well. The board hastily called an evening meeting on Good Friday to discuss his contract. But Witherspoon's supporters held a boisterous rally on his behalf.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #3: If they continue to do that, we're going to continue to support him.

(SOUNDBITE OF APPLAUSE)

CARSEN: The board cancelled the surprise meeting after the protest. But the issue came up again at a regular meeting. Two motions to fire him fell on procedural grounds. This ongoing battle was the tipping point for state intervention. Here's Alabama superintendent Tommy Bice, who saw the infighting firsthand.

DR. TOMMY BICE: Anytime you have a group of individuals that are elected to work together around a common goal, it's disheartening to see the personal and divisiveness between the group.

CARSEN: Several Birmingham school board members, including Brian Giattina, welcome the state assistance.

BRIAN GIATTINA: Dr. Bice, we need help. We cannot function freely.

(SOUNDBITE OF APPLAUSE)

GIATTINA: This is unacceptable at every level.

CARSEN: Bice has launched an investigation. He's ordered the local board to save all records and correspondence going back five years and not to undertake any non-routine action, including firing Witherspoon without permission. The issue of the superintendent is now being overshadowed by the question of who's really in charge of this 95 percent black school district, one of the largest in Alabama. Mary Moore is a state representative who fought to change the appointed board to an elected one a decade ago.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY MOORE: We cannot tolerate and will not tolerate one state superintendent coming in and just...

UNIDENTIFIED MAN #4: Right. Right. Right.

MOORE: ...stepping on our rights as if we as black citizens, the majority of this city, do not matter.

CARSEN: William Muhammad, head of the Committee to Develop Birmingham, also takes issue with State Superintendent Bice and the interference with local board members.

WILLIAM MUHAMMAD: He didn't put him in place. We put him in place. And he is disrespecting us. He is being patronizing and racist.

CARSEN: There are other serious allegations against the board, including improper awarding of contracts and violations of open meetings laws. Board member and army veteran Tyrone Belcher doesn't deny the infighting has been bitter, but he thinks the state is overstepping its bounds.

TYRONE BELCHER: I've been in two wars, but I ain't never seen anything like this down here.

CARSEN: No charges or lawsuits have been filed by either side, but that could change soon. For NPR News, I'm Dan Carzen in Birmingham, Alabama. [\[111\]](#)

Hilariously, this is a school board that D.W. Griffith would have found hard to lampoon, with his 1915 movie, "Birth of a Nation" having no scenes captured forever in celluloid that life in cotemporary, 73.4% black (and almost entirely black-ruled) Birmingham can't supplant:

A fight that broke out between several Birmingham school board members last week [in a closed-door meeting](#) led to two police reports being filed against board member Tyrone Belcher.

The reports, released this morning by Birmingham police, were filed by board members W.J. Maye and Brian Giattina on Jan. 27 -- two days after the board meeting in which the incident occurred.

According to the incident report filed by Maye, Belcher was arguing with school board President Phyllis Wyne in a closed-door meeting at the Jan. 25 board meeting. During the argument, Maye intervened, fearing the argument would become physical, the report states.

Maye told Belcher to "sit down because you are out of order."

Belcher then turned toward Maye, saying "You don't tell me what to do," and began to move toward Maye, the report states.

Giattina got up and tried to calm the situation, but Belcher turned toward Giattina and pushed him in the chest.

In Giattina's misdemeanor harassment report, he said he placed his hand on Belcher's arm to try to keep the peace. Belcher then threw his arms back, striking Giattina in the arm and causing him to fall into his chair.

Belcher was subdued by several other people in the meeting, and taken into another room.

Because the incident took place in a closed meeting, it was not made public until the police reports were released today. [\[112\]](#)

Remember, 98 percent of the students in [Birmingham City Schools](#) are Black. 85 percent of these students receive a free lunch at school. [\[113\]](#)

John Archibald, a columnist at the dying Birmingham News (now only delivered on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday), had this to say about the Birmingham School Board – politely refusing to mention the racial angle:

Folks at the Birmingham School Board believe they are roughed up too much. They would have us believe they are baby harp seals sunning on a beach.

And that makes me the thug with the bloody club.

Don't make ...

me have ...

to hit you again.

Shoot. It would be a public disservice not to swing away. The Birmingham School Board is not helpless or harmless or cute. That board is hopeless and hapless, and more dangerous to this community than any outside enemy.

Its sorry schools are like a "Beware of Dog" sign at Birmingham's gate. If the anchor city in this metro area cannot educate its children, it is all but uninhabitable for people of childbearing age and inclination.

And every time the school board fails to show even basic competence -- like not approving goals to measure the performance of its superintendent, as it has done twice -- it reinforces the notion that the system is hardly worth saving. [\[114\]](#)

It's not worth saving.

The dysfunction of those in charge of the systems (all of these mentioned above were run by Black people before adults stepped in to takeover) that have come under intense scrutiny is mirrored in the poor academic performance of their Black children. [\[115\]](#)

This is a snapshot of America in 2012. If one of these schools systems was failing, blaming Black people wouldn't be prudent. But because Detroit is not an anomaly; because Birmingham, Memphis, Atlanta, Kansas City, Houston, D.C., Philadelphia, and many other districts are faltering... well, it's all the same.

Only the names will change.

The world is preparing for a post-American order; we're still busy trying to find a way to close the racial gap in learning, without understanding that nature isn't inclined to lend a helping hand to see this delusional goal come to fruition.

No matter what Teach for America hopes to accomplish, nature will always come crashing back to bust up the education party.

Jefferson County Declares Bankruptcy: What Happens when the Black Undertow takes over

What happens when a county, home to one of the former great cities in the world, turned over to the auspices of the Black Undertow through white flight, can no longer raise enough tax revenue to pay infrastructure bills? Answer: [the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history](#).

We aren't talking about Wayne County in Michigan, home to Detroit. We are talking about Jefferson County in Alabama, home to Birmingham. Once one the top cities in [America, Birmingham](#) is now regularly featured on A&E's *The First 48*, one of the true signs that you live in a horrible town (when the citizens provide excellent programming for a show that details homicide detectives difficulties at solving a real murder) that is headed nowhere but down.

Now with the [largest municipal bankruptcy in American history](#), Jefferson County offers frightening proof of the overwhelming power of Black-Run America (BRA) and what happens when the Black Undertow takes control of a city's destiny.

Here's some background on the case:

Jefferson County's debt escalated in the mid-2000s when bond issuance deals to upgrade its sewer system soured amid widespread corruption, bribery and fraud charges that led to some 22 convictions.

Costs ballooned as interest rates rose, and the county had teetered on the edge of insolvency since its debt was downgraded in 2008. With more than \$5 billion in total indebtedness, the Chapter 9 filing on Wednesday surpassed that filed by Orange County California, in 1994.

Jefferson County, with a population of about 660,000, contains some of the richest neighborhoods in the country as well as pockets of urban poverty and blight.

Birmingham was the scene of one of the fiercest confrontations of the U.S. civil rights movement in 1963 when city leaders and police violently resisted a campaign for desegregation by demonstrators led by Martin Luther King Jr. (PK note: why even bring this up? It's Black people that have made Birmingham unlivable now, not bogeyman from the Civil Rights Era)

Larry Langford, a Democrat and former mayor of Birmingham, was sentenced to 15 years in prison last year for his role in corrupt business deals that fueled the multibillion-dollar sewer debt.

Langford presided over the county commission during the height of the bond swaps that led to the run-up of the massive debt. [\[116\]](#)

Yes, Jefferson County is home to some of the best cities in America, namely the pleasant cities of Vestiva Hills, Mountain Brook, Hoover, Homewood, Trussville, and Gardendale. These are Whitopias, cities that white refugees from the Black Undertow in Birmingham created and that now thrive economically.

Though [Jefferson County is 53 percent white and 42 percent Black](#), the Larry Langford's of the world (a Black dude) run Birmingham just like Black people run Detroit: into the proverbial ground. With tax revenue dropping off, a plan was made to finance the sewage through bonds and debt. Sadly, this couldn't be paid back either when creditors came calling.

Birmingham is [73 percent Black](#), home to some of the scariest neighborhoods in America. After a horrible Black-on-white rape incident back in the 1970s, [Birmingham Southern College](#) had to erect a fence around the school to keep out unwanted elements of the Black Undertow. Worse, Birmingham lost the Iron Bowl college football game between Auburn and Alabama, because Legion Field is located (like many big cities stadiums) in an area of town where Black crime is as ubiquitous as college recruiters looking for the next Tiger or Crimson Tide receiver or running back.

Let's not forget that Birmingham was once home to six Fortune 500 companies (as late as 1999), but [now only is home to one](#):

There was a time when Birmingham - at least by one measure of corporate muscle - ranked up there with Los Angeles and Boston.

That was in April 1999, just 10 years ago, when Birmingham was home to six companies in the Fortune 500, the list of the largest corporations in the country, ranked by revenue.

Now, the Magic City has just one member, Regions Financial Corp., which is hanging on to its 280th spot after a rough year that included a \$6.2 billion fourth-quarter loss. Los Angeles has added a member since 1999, while Boston's tally has remained level.

Meanwhile, another landmark Birmingham business - Bruno's Supermarkets LLC, a member of the elite Fortune roster in the mid-1990s - is in the process of disappearing after the 75-year-old chain's assets were auctioned in U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Most experts say it's good to have large companies based in a city. They tend to pay higher salaries and search nationwide for ambitious people willing to move and take big risks in return for the big rewards. That keeps the local talent pool fresh. Big companies also tend to attract other big companies, as suppliers and partners. They also tend to be the most vocal about education and transportation, and give the most to charities.

"You always want the high rollers," said Keivan Deravi, an economics professor at Auburn University Montgomery. "It creates an economic ripple, a chain effect."[\[117\]](#)

The costs of doing business in Birmingham are too great for Fortune 500 companies to risk investing in the city any further: the overall safety of their employees can't be guaranteed and the corruption, courtesy of the Black Undertow government in control of Birmingham, is worse than Atlanta. Regions Bank, the last Fortune 500 company left, must be considering a move to Charlotte by now.[\[118\]](#)

Worse, the Black Undertow is now fleeing the Black Undertow of Birmingham and moving into the [prosperous white suburbs](#) (yes, they are some of the richest in America, with some of the best test scores on the SAT as well) guaranteeing that real Climate Change will soon befall Vestavia Hills and Mountain Brook. Translation: the schools will soon suck and property value will drop after businesses begin to shutter.

The Birmingham News publishes ridiculous stories of the Black and white communities in Birmingham coming together in a moment of racial harmony with a straight face, never getting the joke in the process. [\[119\]](#)

Birmingham serves a symbol for the rest of America (and the Western World): never capitulate to the [Black Undertow or you will ultimately be overwhelmed](#). You can build shiny new suburbs that are the envy of the former city you abandoned, but in a few generations they to will be overwhelmed.

[The reality of Jefferson County](#) is one of the most powerful SBPDL's imaginable. It's a reality that Detroit knows all too well. And Cleveland. Well, and Baltimore. And Milwaukee. And St. Louis. And... the list goes on and on.

In Birmingham, They Love the Governor

In the book "Gray Lady Down: What the Decline and Fall of the New York Times Means for America," an important quote is attributed to Howell Raines, the editorial page director of paper.

On. p. 29, we learn:

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Raines had sat on the sidelines during the mid-sixties civil rights demonstrations there, leaving him with a lifelong sense of Southern guilt and a determination never again to shrink from declaring his beliefs and opinions. Embracing a simplistic, perhaps even Manichean political vision, he once declared that “Every Southerner must choose between two psychic roads, the road of racism or the road of brotherhood.”

The road of racism or the road of brotherhood. The road less taken, or something like. Right Frost?

Birmingham was once the capital of the South, but then the combined forces of ABC/CBS/NBC and the *New York Times* worked to showcase the city as one on the verge of racial Armageddon, where police dogs and water hoses kept Black people in their place.

Now, in a city that is [71 percent Black and completely dominated by Black elected officials](#), Black people have put Black people back in their place:

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama -- The Alabama Department of Education will [take over the Birmingham school system](#) on Wednesday after the Birmingham Board of Education tonight declined to pass [a cost-cutting plan](#). After months of stalling and delaying a state financial plan that included mass layoffs, the Birmingham Board of Education officially rejected it tonight.

State Superintendent Tommy Bice said during a telephone interview tonight -- after a more than three-hour Birmingham school board meeting -- that he will formally intervene in the district's operations Wednesday morning. The intervention will include the appointment of a chief executive officer and chief financial officer who will run the day-to-day operations of the district.

"Because of the resolution that was passed by the state Board of Education, we will begin full intervention tomorrow," Bice said.

The state school board authorized Bice nearly two weeks ago to intervene in Birmingham's operations if it failed to pass a financial plan at tonight's board meeting. [\[120\]](#)

It should be noted that the enrollment of Birmingham City School System is 98 percent Black; outside of a smattering of Teach for America overly-energetic white faces, an over-whelming tide of Blackness performs the task of educating, administrating, managing, and leading the system. [\[121\]](#)

The fault of Birmingham's fall-from-grace rests solely in its Black character (whose content we can not judge):

Superintendent of the Birmingham School System? [Craig Witherspoon](#).

African American.

Mayor of Birmingham? [William A Bell](#). From the picture, unless Mayor Bell is an alpaca, he's an African American.

Chief of Police? [Chief A. L. Roper](#). Native son of Birmingham who made good. African American.

[City Council](#)? Seven of nine are African-American.

[School Board](#)? Seven of nine are African American.

[County Commissioners](#)? Half of *them* are African-American. [\[122\]](#)

The road of racism attempted to keep Black people from assuming political control in Birmingham; now with Jefferson County (home to 71 percent Black Birmingham) [declaring the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history](#), one wonders what the road of brotherhood that was begrudgingly forced on the city actually achieved.

When compared to Atlanta, a city that purportedly walked hand in hand together down the path of brotherhood (though for those paying attention to SBPDL, the inverse of this is actually true), Birmingham seems stuck in 1st gear. When discussing why Charlotte was beginning to usurp Atlanta as the top city in the South, Atlanta's Black Mayor Kasim Reed said:

Reed compared the situation to the early 1960s when Birmingham was the southern leader in commerce, but lost that title to Atlanta because of its attitude on civil rights. See: Alabama Gov. George Wallace and Birmingham police Chief Eugene "Bull" Connor. Atlanta, the mayor noted, was more progressive. "Birmingham has never caught up since," Reed said. [\[123\]](#)

Atlanta went down the road of brotherhood for as long as the road would take them; as we have repeatedly shown, that road was paved with good intentions, masked as a racial truce called "[The Atlanta Way](#)."

Always remember: the road to hell is paved with good intentions.

Now, with Metro Atlanta drowning in sea of underwater mortgages (courtesy of the Black Gold Rush to The Black Mecca), the AJC publishes this dire story the same day Birmingham School System – 98 percent Black, mind you – gets taken over by the state of Alabama:

Atlanta is in crisis. That's not the message you'd expect to hear from the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the pro-business group that usually puts a cheerful face on the region's future. But it's at the heart of a plan the group unveiled Monday to jump-start the region's economy. The stark description is a focus of the "Forward Atlanta" initiative, a plan developed for the chamber to help the region regain its mojo. It puts more of an emphasis on fostering startups and developing businesses already here rather than luring companies to relocate.

"Part of the problem is because we grew so fast for so long that even when we settled down, it doesn't feel normal," said Roger Tutterow, a Mercer University economics professor who said "crisis" is an exaggeration. "Once you go from being toward the top of the heap toward more middle of the pack it feels like unfamiliar territory."

Sam Williams, the chamber's president, said, "It's very simple: This is the worst economic downturn in our lifetime and Atlanta is lagging in the recovery. If you're in a crisis, the first thing you've got to do is admit you have a crisis. And that's what we're doing. If you don't have a big and bold plan to get out of it, then our economy won't recover until 2020 or beyond."

The business leaders come armed with daunting figures. Metro Atlanta is only expected to recover about 19 percent of the jobs it lost during the recession by the year's end, the chamber said, far behind many of its regional and national rivals. And the region has lost almost as many jobs as it created since 2000, growing only about 50,000 jobs during the decade. It's a far cry from the booming 1990s, when Atlanta added 70,000 jobs to 80,000 jobs a year. ([Business boosters admit Atlanta in 'crisis' amid effort to boost city's economy](#), [Greg Bluestein](#), June 25, 2012)[[124](#)]

Metro Atlanta was once home to white flight communities, which fueled economic growth in the suburbs of The City too Busy to Hate that became the envy of the nation; now, [it is increasingly home to Black refugees](#), descendants of those who partook in the Great Migration of Southern Blacks out of the South, who now return back South because they have helped destroy the economic vitality of cities like Detroit, Buffalo, St. Louis, Cleveland, and parts of Chicago.

With Black people flocking to Atlanta, [the Visible Hand of Blackness descends upon a metro area](#), threatening to make each area that goes majority Black just another reminder of why The Bluff is a shining example of “progressive” thinking (Blight of the Living Dead, Jim Goad, TakiMag):

If you're visiting Atlanta and aren't looking to be shot in the face, swarmed by smack dealers, stopped by cops merely for being white, or set ablaze by an HIV-positive crackhead squatter, stay away from the area known as "[The Bluff](#)." There are several more wholesome attractions only a few blocks southwest in downtown: At tourist traps such as the [World of Coca-Cola](#), the [CNN Studio](#), and the [Georgia Aquarium](#), the thrills are more benign than being [slit in the throat](#) with a box-cutter.

"The Bluff" covers two Atlanta neighborhoods officially known as English Avenue and Vine City. Part of Vine City was designated in 2010 as America's [fifth-most-dangerous](#) area. Some say The Bluff got its name because its narrow, hilly, one-way streets give it a fortress-like sense of isolation, but locals now boast that BLUFF means Better Leave U Fucking Fool. It is bounded on the east by Northside Drive and on its three other sides by roads named after black Georgia civil-rights leaders: Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway, Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard, and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. It is therefore a testament to the, er, accomplishments of black Georgia civil-rights leaders. [\[125\]](#)

"Every Southerner must choose between two psychic roads, the road of racism or the road of brotherhood."

So said Howell Raines.

The road of brotherhood in Atlanta birthed the Black Hole; based on the fact that Birmingham is now a majority Black city, strangely resembling 90% Black Detroit in its decrepit state, one can realize that not just Southerners, but every American needs another road to go down.

Left to their own devices, Black people become an economic burden to productive people (primarily, white tax payers), who must forever work and see their wealth redistributed as punishment for their white guilt.

This system won't last forever.

There is another way.

Birminghamworld

We aren't supposed to think about what happened after black political rule became the norm in cities like Atlanta or Detroit. To be progressive, we must never question that daring to think about "white interests" is automatically synonymous with 1933 Germany; we are only to celebrate how far we have come in allowing a racial democracy (that's what occurs when blacks became the majority of a city) to prosper, never mind what happens to property value in the city or how black on black crime makes the city inhospitable to outside capital and drives away potential investments. [\[126\]](#)

We must always celebrate how we have "overcome" a dark and insidious past, allowing the entire earth to be remade in the image of *Birminghamworld*.

As the polar ice caps melted from global warming creating Kevin Costner's *Waterworld*, the melting away of a society that believed in protecting the interests of its founding population created *Birminghamworld*.

The city of Birmingham was the key to ushering in what we have dubbed Black-Run America (BRA) and it is fitting that in 2013 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of that pivotal year, 1963. Since 1979, Birmingham has had a black mayor, with the city government remade in a black image.

Remember that 98 percent of the students enrolled in Birmingham Public Schools (BPS) are black [\[127\]](#) - 74 percent of the city is black today - and property value has dropped to the point that a proposed tax increase to help pay for city school initiatives was a non-starter. [\[128\]](#)

With high rates of black crime making Birmingham one of America's most dangerous cities, new residents to the city are hard to find. Property values will continue to plummet, the few legitimate businesses will leave (with it, precious sales tax goes too), and all the while, we will continue to watch documentary after documentary that tells us of the evils of segregation and how far Birmingham has come.

Well, buried in one of the stories of Mayor William Bell's proposed 3-mill

property tax increase is this juicy tidbit [Birmingham officials seek public OK for taxes, bonds, Birmingham News, 4-2-2012]:

Former Mayor Richard Arrington expressed passionate support for the property tax increase. "The additional millage is an investment in helping to break the poverty cycle for our children," he said. Arrington called Birmingham's education system a major impediment to the city's positive image and progress.

"One of the major weaknesses of majority black cities controlled by black political majorities is the widespread and often correct perception that the overall school system is weak and inferior; providing poor education for those who need it most," said the city's first black mayor.

Arrington said poor education is at the heart of many of the problems affecting youth, particularly black youth.

"To build a strong, competent community under black political control demands good schools," he said. [\[129\]](#)

Well, well. The BPS system is 98 percent black, with a school board that is also under complete black control. Lost in Mayor Arrington's logic is this simple reality; the major weakness of majority black cities controlled by black political majorities is that eventually, white people will leave.

With them, go the legitimate businesses. As we have shown, the only commercial growth in black-run Birmingham are payday loan stores and title pawn stores. With white flight goes property value, and the ability to generate enough tax revenue to... to... to actually run a government and provide services/improvements to your citizens quality of life. Thus, black control of a city negates any ability to attract new citizens.

This was made in clear in a article that detailed how the proposed 3-mill property tax increase was axed from ballot consideration [Birmingham Board of Education property tax hike won't be on Oct. 9 ballot, Birmingham News, 9-24-2012]:

Despite being in proration, or across-the-board state budget cuts, for several years and having declining enrollment that means a loss in state funding, Birmingham has increased the number of pre-k classrooms by "six or seven" in the last three years, he said.

Board member Emanuel Ford said he is tired of the school district getting blamed for loss of enrollment year after year.

"We can build schools all day long; that's not the problem," he said.

"If you don't take care of the neighborhoods, why would anyone want to live there? If the city doesn't step up to the plate and do something with those neighborhoods, we're going to keep losing families and the district is going to keep losing students."[\[130\]](#)

It is up to the population of a city to create a sustainable community, free of crime and boasting good schools that will attract outside businesses, and compel potential home buyers to consider purchasing property there. Those neighborhoods Ford mentions, full of blight* (of course, the polite way of saying "blacks inherited depressed property after white flight and remade it in their image"), are a reflection of the type of community black people build.

The state of Birmingham, on the verge of 2013, is a materialization of all the fears those evil white men had who dared stand in the way civil rights and the creation of the heroic age we know as Black-Run America (BRA).

Birminghamworld.

Freedom Failed.

Eaters of the Dead

The following story could be plucked from the nightly newscast or metropolitan paper of a growing number of major (and increasingly minor) American cities, but you shouldn't be surprised that Birmingham - the unofficial hometown of A&E *The First 48* - provides yet another lesson in why patterns of residential segregation remain so prominent throughout the nation [More than 100 people gather for vigil for slain Birmingham teen, Birmingham News, by Jeremy Gray, 9-24-2012]:

They held candles over their heads, shared memories and shrieked in grief over the death of Devondae Jones, the 18-year-old man gunned down Sept. 19.

About 100 of Jones' friends and family members gathered for a vigil tonight in the Bush Middle School parking lot, a short distance from where Jones was shot.

Jones had trouble in his young life, including spending years in foster care, but stayed positive, his grandmother Ora Ranking said. Ranking said Jones had only come into her life a few years earlier. The family doesn't have the money for a funeral and desperately wants to know who killed Jones and why.

"No one knows. If they do know, they ain't talking," Ranking said. Jones' stepfather, Calvin Jones, said the young man was respectful. "He gave me the chance to be a father," he said. "He didn't do anything bad enough for someone to take him from us." As young men spoke of Jones, one hinted at wanting retaliation.

"We lost one and we ain't going to be satisfied until we get one," he said. Wanda Erskine, an anti-violence activist, denounced the comment. Her son, George Powell, was shot to death in 2006. That case was never solved.

"We are here for peace, not more violence," Erskine said. "Something has got to change. Our babies are going to the cemetery way too soon."[\[131\]](#)

The quotes from this story have littered the papers throughout the nation; similar vigils have been held where incredulous news reporters ask the same questions of why violence plagues these monolithic communities, a reminder of *The Detroit Corollary* to Robert Putnam's theory of homogeneity, diversity and social capital/trust; and the exact same reticence by the community at-large to refrain from snitching on the people who make their community unsafe, because of a deep-seated loyalty to protecting ones-own.

Birmingham? Gary? Atlanta? Memphis? Newark? Philadelphia? Camden? Kansas City? St. Louis? Washington D.C.? Baltimore? Chicago? Dallas? New Orleans? Houston?

Shed the attribution to the *Birmingham News* and this story could effortlessly appear in the papers of the aforementioned cities, a naked admission of why Negro Fatigue is growing rapidly in America.

Though it should be stated that with a name like "Devondae" only three possible outcomes for his life path were: highly-sought after recruit for basketball or football; jail; or dead before 25.

An article that appeared in the [Birmingham News](#) back in 2007 reads like a peek into the life of your average resident of 2012 Chicago. The southside of Chicago, which has been described as a war zone.

Well... worse than a war zone. Here's that article [Life in West End-Bullets mark epicenter of city's violent crime, by Carol Robinson, 8-5-2007]:

The playground for Stevin Gardner's children lies between a burgundy Chrysler and a red Toyota, a patch of ragged asphalt about 15 to 20 feet square. It holds a bright yellow toy car, a Fisher Price seesaw and a plastic slide that slopes down to a backed-up sewer grate that spawns mosquitoes and flies.

But that's not the worst part. That comes when gunfire interrupts child's play. "They know to run," Gardner said of his kids, ages 9 and 5.

“They know to stay close to the wall because, around here, you’re running for your life.” Like many at his apartment complex in the 1200 block of Tuscaloosa Avenue in Birmingham’s West End, Gardner said the echo of gunshots and the threat of violence are commonplace.

“It’s war, baby. It’s Iraq. It’s Beirut,” Gardner said. “There ain’t no fear; that’s life.” Gardner’s mother, 59-year-old Deborah Gardner, perhaps says it best: “You just get used to it, like living next to train tracks.”

Though violence is down in Birmingham, it’s far from gone. Despite across-the-board decreases in crime last year, the city remained among the roughest cities in America — ranked fourth in the nation in murders, and 22nd in violent crimes, according to the FBI.

So far this year, 48 people have been murdered. Through May, 548 people were assaulted; 96 women reported being raped; and at least 9,362 others were victimized through robberies and thefts. And those are just the actual victims. The fallout from crime stretches beyond those named on police incident reports, coroner’s logs and stat sheets. [\[132\]](#)

West End is virtually an all-Black hamlet in Birmingham [\[133\]](#), about as close to being an anti-Shire as possible (with apologies to Tolkien). Each vigil held in Birmingham; each vigil held in Chicago; each vigil held across America where the Black community bemoans the "senseless violence" plaguing their communities, while members of that community remain silent on who the culprit is out of respect to the "no snitching" policy governing life there; every member of the Black community who demands "change" to ward off the ~~Black dysfunction~~-violence that represents the sole reason white flight happens; all of this is just another reminder of why Negro Fatigue spreads.

Fire-fighter Tests and Affirmative Action

You can have standards that one must aspire to achieve or you can have diversity. You can have a nation where merit matters or you can have diversity.

You can have communities, companies and associations built upon trust and with a unified vision or you can have diversity, which is anathema to the concept of team-building.

Black-Run America (BRA) infects every level of society, but one test that Black people fail all across the country at numbers greater than whites, Asians or Hispanics - and the reaction to this continued failure rate - enables those neophytes to the concept of BRA to get a glimpse of its awesome power.

It doesn't matter if the city is Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Dayton (Ohio), Baltimore, Washington DC, San Francisco, Atlanta or Nashville; Black people who aspire to be firefighters consistently fail the examination portion of test that disqualifies them before they even have to opportunity to fight a fire. [Why is that?](#)

Take a look at this story from Birmingham in 1995, courtesy of *The New York Times*:

The firefighters are color-blind in the smoke. The black and white faces are hidden behind oxygen masks, and any resentment they carry inside a burning building is melted away by the heat.

"Fire doesn't discriminate," said Lieut. Sandy Hatton, a 19-year veteran of the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Unit, who is white. Never, he said, would a firefighter hesitate to come to the aid of another because of color.

"I will not allow myself to entertain a situation where I'd go into a burning building and they wouldn't bring me out," said Lieut. Carl Cook, 48, who is black. "I can't even fathom anything like that."

But the bond cemented by the danger is brittle and temporary. When a fire is out and the danger is over, when tired firefighters flop down to rest or joke, the old resentments bubble up.

Then, the firefighters often split off into groups by color.

It is not unusual for there to be a white table and a black table for morning coffee, or for blacks to take breaks outside while whites take them inside.

Birmingham is still shorthand for some of the most violent memories from the civil rights era. But the split in the fire department is not some lingering hatred from the 1960's; it is a byproduct of one of the remedies of Jim Crow rule: affirmative action.

In the current nationwide debate, Birmingham is an example of how affirmative action can foster resentments and prejudices that are reverse of those they were intended to overcome.

In 1981, to atone for the past sins of city leaders who once excluded blacks from the fire department, the city began passing over whites for hiring and promotions in favor of blacks who were, on paper at least, less qualified. And for as long as this rigid quota system has been in place, white firefighters have challenged it in Federal court.

Last year, in an opinion that traced the evolution of the law in its application to affirmative action and set a new legal precedent for reverse discrimination, the United States Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit ruled in favor of the white firefighters. In April the Supreme Court allowed that decision to stand. The lower courts now must figure out how to compensate them.

Now, the main legal battle is over, said Lieutenant Hatton, one of the plaintiffs, "but I'm not sure anything's been won."

A Remedy Becomes A New Problem

Birmingham was successful in promoting blacks at all levels of the fire department. It changed the face of a department, once synonymous with fire hoses and police dogs of the bloody civil rights clashes in the 1960's, into one that more closely resembled the surrounding community.

But it did so in a way that built walls instead of bridges, the appeals court found.

"We've segregated ourselves, informally" said Capt. Charles A. Brush, who heads the white firefighter's union, the Birmingham Firefighters Association. Black firefighters have their own union, the Birmingham Brothers Association.

The affirmative-action program began when Richard Arrington, Birmingham's first black mayor, signed into law a consent decree that began an unbending one-to-one hiring and promotion schedule for blacks and whites.

Developed by the city and the United States Justice Department as an answer to a discrimination suit by black firefighters, the program was heralded at the time as a blow against the racist politics of the past. But it went too far, white firefighters said. Black candidates, however, complained that a part of the program that gave whites seniority points was still unfair because the whites, as a group, had much more time in the department.

Under the program, which reserved slots for blacks, white firefighters who scored consistently in the top 10 on examinations for promotion to lieutenant were routinely passed over to get to black candidates who ranked as low as 87.

For example, in 1983, 95 whites and 18 blacks took a lieutenant's examination, and 89 whites and 9 blacks passed. Two whites and three blacks were promoted to lieutenant.

The city picked the whites who ranked first and second then passed over 76 other whites to promote the three highest-scoring black candidates.

"It became purely race, not merit," said Lieutenant Hatton, who was passed over again and again for promotion even though he scored in the 90's on the 100-point test. Meanwhile, blacks who had scored as low as 48 on the same test were promoted. "It killed our enthusiasm," he said.

The appeals court agreed, and ruled that the system violated the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the due-process clause of the Constitution. The court found that the program used race as "an overbroad remedy" in the 500-member department, which is now about 30 percent black.

"We can imagine nothing less conducive to eliminating the vestiges of past discrimination than a government separating its employees into two categories, black and non-black, and allocating a rigid, inflexible number of promotions to each group, year in and year out," the court wrote. [\[134\]](#)

So back in 1983, half of the Blacks who took the test passed and yet 78 of the 89 whites who passed the test scored higher than all nine of those Blacks. Seventy-six white were passed over for promotion so that three Blacks could be promoted. Fire doesn't discriminate, but BRA mandates a much more sadistic eventuality.

John Bennett discussed post-civil rights Birmingham and the affirmative action to get more black fire fighters in a provocative piece at The American Thinker (Civil Rights and the Collapse of Birmingham, Ala.), where noted:

Racial parity in Birmingham government jobs was reached -- in part -- by means of racial preferences and hiring quotas in some departments. The Birmingham fire department's [racial quota system](#) was one example. One black firefighter was asked what he thought about white firefighters who were disadvantaged by affirmative action. He [responded](#):

So whites are saying, 'Yeah, they did 'em wrong, there's no doubt about that, but we don't want to do anything to help correct it. It wasn't our fault. I wasn't here.' Well, okay, if it wasn't your fault, and if you weren't the recipient of what your forefathers did, or whatever, then, why... when we [blacks] take a test, [do] you [whites] always come out number one?

Some, in the birthplace of the civil rights movement, evidently see equal test scores as an entitlement. A similar mentality might lie at the root of Birmingham's problems, including an

ongoing discrimination lawsuit against the city.
[\[135\]](#)

Black failure in BRA can only be the result of discrimination. No other reason can be conjured to explain Black failure save for systematic and continued discrimination on the parts of white people who devise tests that whites, Asians and Hispanics can pass, but have the ability to mentally incapacitate otherwise erudite Black test-takers:

San Francisco Fire Department Battalion Chief [Kevin Taylor](#) is a commanding figure at more than 6 feet tall, with a firefighter's all-muscle build. But he speaks in soft, measured words, even when making explosive allegations against his employer.

Taylor claims that last summer, a senior SFFD officer helped white colleagues cheat on an advancement exam. By the fall, when the exams had been completed, the city's two black assistant fire chiefs scored somewhat poorly and retired rather than face demotion. Lower-ranking firefighters, meanwhile, placed at the top of a list of officers eligible to be promoted. "And they're all white males," Taylor says.

For Taylor, this was an unfair purge. The accusation is ironic, given that [Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White](#) was recruited in the wake of a 1987 court decree demanding an end to sexism and racism in the department (she declined to comment for this column). And there's evidence she supports diversity: In July, she appointed African-American firefighter [Monica Fields](#) as deputy chief.

But the city will now take Taylor's allegations seriously. In a special meeting, civil service commissioners will soon review documents from a Department of Human Resources investigation into the cheating allegations that concluded Taylor's claims were unfounded.

Despite these efforts, I think the inquiry could be more effective — either in exonerating accused cheaters, or confirming Taylor's claims — if it weren't hampered by a conflict of interest where the person in charge of creating and administering the test was also assigned to determine whether cheating nullified its results.

Promotions resulting from this test may involve pay hikes worth millions of dollars over the years, and cheating allegations warrant an independent inquiry.[\[136\]](#)

Black firefighters in Washington DC alleged the same biases that are found in San Francisco.[\[137\]](#) But a month ago courts ruled in Houston that Black failure on tests hampered the aspirations of Black firefighters to attain a promotion. The tests used to qualify who is ready for a promotion have been deemed irrelevant because of the repeated failures by Black people and simultaneous successes of white test takers:

Seven black city firefighters passed over for promotion because they did not score high enough on a written exam will rise to captains' ranks and get cash payments if the Houston City Council approves a lawsuit settlement Wednesday.

Lawyers for the city have negotiated a settlement that offers \$301,165.12 in attorneys fees and back pay to Dwight Bazile, Johnny Garrett, Thomas Ward, Mundo Olford, George Runnels, Trevin Hines and Dwight Allen.

Garrett, Ward and Runnell have retired since the lawsuit was filed.

The seven passed exams for captain or senior captain in 2006, but many white firefighters scored higher. Because promotions were awarded to candidates with the highest scores, the seven did not make the cut.

They sued in 2008, arguing the city discriminated against them by using a racially biased test. The lawsuit states that the promotional exams "have an adverse impact upon African-Americans."

Whites who passed the exam were promoted at more than twice the rate of blacks who passed, according to the suit. It also claims that studies and research in organizational psychology demonstrate that written job knowledge exams have little value in predicting who will perform better in the positions at stake.

'Changes needed'

The settlement is not an acknowledgment of any wrongdoing, City Attorney David Feldman said.

"There clearly were concerns with respect to the exam and the impact of the exam," he said. "As we looked at it, and as the court looked at it, we recognized that changes needed to be made to the exam so that it could properly validated for (equal opportunity) purposes."

Feldman said the Fire Department will begin using a new exam this year that has been validated by a testing firm to assure that it does not produce results related to the race or ethnicity of the test takers.

The plan headed to council does not settle how to test going forward. Wednesday's settlement would only dispose of the claims of the seven firefighters. Changes to the promotional system should be negotiated with the representatives of the entire firefighting corps, not just seven of them, said Jeff Caynon, president of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association.[\[138\]](#)

In Philadelphia, [some sort of dispute between the African American Firefighter Union](#) and the city has finally been settled. Black firefighters alleged... something, and claimed they were the recipients of bias or... something. People in power listened because BRA mandates that any complaint of racism be vigorously pursued and stamped out, even if such a complaint has no merit.

Remember Dayton, Ohio? Knowing that Black people - for some reason - [are more than likely going to be victims of fire deaths](#), the city of Dayton has done everything possible to get more Black firefighters:

The 80-year-old woman gasps for air as she drags her oxygen line along the floor of her east Dayton apartment, past firefighter Mike Spencer.

The broad-shouldered, black firefighter towers over the elderly white woman with emphysema who is barely 5-feet tall and 100 pounds.

Spencer, 41, helps her downstairs to a waiting ambulance like he was taking his own mother to the hospital.

His tender touch is not unusual for firefighters at Dayton Fire Department Company 18, housed in the fire station at 207 S. Smithville Road. What is unusual is Spencer is one of just six black firefighters, including Chief Herbert Redden, out of about 300 firefighters in the entire department.

DFD's diversity has continued to worsen during the last 20 years as blacks who felt empowered to serve their community during the civil rights movement of the 1960s have retired, but have been ineffective in passing the torch.

A U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit filed in 2008 also found the city's hiring practices, such as job experience requirements, discriminated against minorities.

Nearly two years later, the diversity of both the fire and police departments has continued to decline as the city has been unable to hire candidates while spending nearly \$600,000 to overhaul its testing, recruiting and hiring practices.

Of the more than 650 police and firefighters employed by the city, less than 40 are black, despite Dayton's black population estimated at about 62,000.

Spencer said race doesn't usually matter to people in need of emergency help, like his elderly patient in need of oxygen.

She made no mention of it and even thanked him through her oxygen mask. But Spencer and his fellow white firefighters at Company 18 said his presence at some tense scenes that involve black residents have helped defuse situations.

It's hard for Spencer and others to pinpoint why more blacks aren't firefighters. [\[139\]](#)

Luckily the Justice Department sued Dayton and coerced them to hire more Black people. Dayton also instituted this plan to get more Black firefighters:

Hundreds of cities across the country have struggled to diversify their fire departments.

Columbus has 175 black firefighters out of a staff of 1,549. Akron has 57 blacks out of 344. In Cincinnati, which settled a diversity lawsuit with the U.S. Department of Justice, 250 of 850 firefighters in 2009 were black.

But it's hard to find any major city with fewer black firefighters than Dayton. In a city with an estimated 62,000 black residents, just six of 300 firefighters are black, and one of those is Chief Herbert Redden.

This lack of diversity, which has worsened during the last 20 years, is one of the reasons the Justice Department forced the city to overhaul its recruitment, testing and hiring process.

The city will soon learn how effective that overhaul will be.

Monday is the deadline to apply to be a Dayton firefighter, marking an important step in the city's ability to answer terms of the DOJ settlement.

Two significant changes should make diversifying the staff a little easier. As a result of the DOJ lawsuit, the city has abandoned its requirement that all applicants be certified firefighters. Also, the city no longer has a residency rule, which should greatly increase the pool of available black candidates. [\[140\]](#)

Are we leaving out any cities? Oh, [New York City](#) and Chicago! That's right. *The Village Voice* has an article on [Black failures in](#) New York City and Chicago's story shall be told courtesy of *The New York Times*:

The City of Chicago must hire 111 black firefighter applicants who were passed over for jobs years ago and pay tens of millions of dollars in damages to about 6,000 other black candidates under a ruling issued on Friday by a federal appeals court.

The [decision](#) from the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit is only the latest in a legal battle that began with a written employment test for firefighters more than a decade ago, wound its way to the United States Supreme Court by last year and remains a matter of division and concern among the city's firefighters.

“For some of the people involved, this is a very emotional moment,” said Joshua Karsh, a lawyer who represented black applicants who accused the city of employment discrimination.

“The city could have cleared this up a long time ago.”

In 1995, 26,000 people took an employment test to become firefighters.

The city said anyone who had scored above 65 was considered “qualified,” but chose its initial hires from random sets among candidates who scored 89 or better, a group it deemed “highly qualified,” court documents say.

Still uncertain on Friday was precisely how the court's decision would be carried out. Among the 6,000 black candidates who sought jobs, 111 of them — it is unclear for the moment which ones — will be given jobs after receiving physical tests and training. Those who do not seek the jobs will split back pay that would have gone to the 111 had they been hired years ago.

Jennifer Hoyle of the Chicago Department of Law estimated that cost to be \$30 million.

Gregory Boggs, president of the African-American Firefighters and Paramedics League of Chicago, said that Friday's decision was a victory, but that black firefighters still made up about only 18 percent of the force.

“All we're asking for is to level out the playing field,” he said. “We waited 15 years on this, and we're still not there.” [\[141\]](#)

Disingenuous White Liberals (DWLs) will [cling to the notion that firefighters exams are racially biased](#)... in every city they are administered. That's quite the conspiracy to keep Black people from fighting fires. In Black-Run America (BRA), Black failure can only be blamed on institutional racism. No other reason is tolerated.

Stuff Black People Don't Like includes firefighter exams, the bane of every would-be Black firefighters existence. All across the country Black people aspiring to battle fires fail these tests (perhaps it time to blame the No. 2 pencil?) and sue the city so that merit is replaced with Black empowerment.

You can have standards that one must aspire to achieve or you can have diversity. You can have a nation where merit matters or you can have diversity.

You can have communities; companies and associations built upon trust and with a unified vision or you can have diversity, which is anathema to the concept of team-building.

So Much Potential... Gone With the Wind

[Birmingham, Alabama](#)... the home of [one of the highest crime rates in America](#). Dubbed "[The Killing Years](#)" a whole generation of Black people have been eradicated by other Black people in a war that is [not limited to this municipality](#).

Another life can be added to the [ever-expanding list of Black people killed at the hands of fellow Black people](#). Snuffed out in the prime of their lives, these individuals leave behind grieving families and unfulfilled potential:

Just days ago, Tyrone Davis and his mother talked about his plans for the future and the kind of life he wanted to live.

"He had problems in the past but he said the only thing he wanted to do was raise his children," Mary Davis said.

Those plans ended Thursday night when Tyrone Davis, 35, was [shot to death in Wylam](#).

The shooting happened about 5:40 p.m. in the 700 block of Albany Street.

Birmingham police Sgt. Sam Noblitt said witnesses heard the shots, and saw Davis on the ground struggling to get up.

They helped him up and drove him to Princeton Baptist Medical Center. Davis died while being transferred to UAB Hospital.

Investigators on Friday were working on several leads, but had not made any arrests in the slaying, the city's 22nd homicide this year.

His mother said she knew little about what led to her son's death. The father of four was living in Ohio, but was in and out of Birmingham and planning on moving back here permanently.

He was visiting relatives when the shooting happened.

"They were all talking to me, telling me what happened, but I wasn't listening," she said. "The only thing I thought about was praying."

Mary Davis said she heard there was a confrontation before the shooting, but doesn't know what led to the dispute.

"It's devastating," she said. "It's hard. Really, hard."

She described her son as hardworking and intelligent.

"I will miss that smile," she said, "and that he always showed me that he loved me." [\[142\]](#)

This story reminds SBPDL of the melancholy demise of one Larmondo "Flair" Allen, a 25-year-old Black entrepreneur and father of nine who - like Tyrone Davis - was killed in his prime. [\[143\]](#)

In Black Run America (BRA), any [negative act by a white person](#) is attributable to all white people. Conversely, any negative act by a Black person is attributable to white racism. This fact is beyond contestation.

Take the story of one Charles Coger, a 26-year-old Floridian who raped a woman one night and then returned to the scene of the crime the following night:

A woman helped capture the man suspected of raping her after police say he returned to the victim's home the night after the assault.

St. Petersburg Police say 26-year-old Charles Coger entered the woman's home on Friday at 2 a.m., through an unlocked back door and then went into her bedroom.

That triggered an alarm, waking the victim, according to Coger's arrest affidavit. She told him to leave, but he grabbed the back of her neck and rolled her onto her stomach, the report states.

He told her he would hurt her if she didn't comply with his sexual demands, according to the affidavit. Fearing for her safety, and for that of a child in the home, she complied, the affidavits say.

Police say Coger returned to the woman's home the following night. However this time the woman and a friend held onto him until police arrived, according to Coger's arrest report.

[\[144\]](#)

What drove Mr. Coger to act in such a manner? The better question might be [what drives so many Black individuals to repeat this same behavior in a near collective manner?](#)

Have you seen the film *Serenity*, based on the television show *Firefly*? Not ruining the plot, the government in this futuristic story has inadvertently unleashed upon the galaxy an evil known as [Reavers](#).

In an effort to make the perfect world, they created [Reavers](#).

[Disingenuous White Liberals](#) have created the world we live in today, [unleashing a never-ending tale of woe that few wish to acknowledge](#), in the process.

For the memory of Mr. Davis, late of Birmingham, and the long departed Mr. Allen ([a budding entrepreneur](#)) it is [past time to show the world the true face of the Reavers who threaten to destabilize every major city in the United States](#).

White House Urban Economic Forum works for Minorities only: Social Engineering a City (or nation) leads to its Ruin

It takes a solid foundation to erect a building. First you need a vision. And then you need sound architectural plans. Next come good contractors – electricians, plumbers, masons –with a strong work ethic and using the right building materials, be it bricks and mortar, steel, wood.

And that's just one building. Now consider what you'd need to build an entire city.

Civilization isn't easy. It doesn't just magically appear built for you like some *Sim City* simulation might. It takes decades upon decades to build a thriving metropolis where families can establish roots and a sense of community, where ultimately character can be created as well.

Jefferson County, Alabama – [home to Birmingham](#) – recently declared the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history. Like Detroit (89 percent Black), Birmingham is a majority Black city (72 percent Black) that once was considered one of the most advanced metropolises in the world.

Now it's a permanent home to the cameras of *The First 48* television show.

It's also one of the many cities where the delusion that a metropolis can be socially engineered is on full display. Courtesy of the Obama Administration, the US Small Business Administration (SBA)[\[145\]](#) is hosting Urban Economic Forums across America in the hopes of bolstering minority entrepreneurship in cities where Black privilege has incapacitated economic creativity:

Birmingham Mayor William Bell plans to unveil plans for how to spend \$75 million from a new bond issue with a program that aims to boost entrepreneurship and the number of black and minority-owned firms involved in building infrastructure and city-led construction projects.

"We intend to create a program that lends support to businesses who qualify, in turn growing our tax base," Bell told The Birmingham News. "The proposed bond referendum addressing our recent comprehensive plan allows us to invest both in projects and people. Those qualified could start new businesses and others expanded."

Bell will unveil the plan in conjunction with the White House Urban Economic Forum, which chose Birmingham as a host city in part because of the amount of construction projects under way in the city and the high use of minority firms with those projects. Bell said the city was also chosen, in part, because of the entrepreneurship exhibited at UAB and Innovation Depot.

"Certainly, we are pleased about the White House choosing Birmingham as host city for the Urban Economic Forum, connecting urban entrepreneurs and business owners to the local and national resources they need providing connections to grow their businesses taking them to the next level," Bell said. [\[146\]](#)

There's more:

The White House Urban Economic Forum held in downtown Birmingham on Monday received high marks for bringing small entrepreneurs and community leaders together with local and federal agencies sharing tools to help their businesses grow.

The White House Business Council and the U.S. Small Business Administration co-hosted the forum, which included a day-long series of seminars and workshops at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. Attendees also networked with officials from the city of Birmingham, the SBA and other federal agencies, and got one-on-one mentoring.

The White House is hosting a series of the urban forums across the country as part of an effort to connect urban entrepreneurs and business owners with local and national resources that can help them grow and prosper. The first forum was held in New York City last month, and others will be held this year in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Columbus, Detroit, Jacksonville, Kansas City, and Phoenix.

Bell said as mayor he is committed to giving minority businesses the assistance they need to thrive. During the forum, he announced the creation of The Build Birmingham Bonds, a program that will spend \$75 million from a new bond issue to boost entrepreneurship and increase the number of minority firms involved in building infrastructure and city-led construction projects.

"We are determined to move Birmingham forward," the mayor said. "This is the beginning of making Birmingham the great city we know it can be."

Chuck Faush, Bell's chief of staff, said the Build Birmingham campaign will be a catalyst for giving minority entrepreneurs the capital and business capacity they need to be successful. Besides partnering with Seedco, a New York-based nonprofit secondary lender, he said the city program wants to work with big banks and other small secondary lenders.

Minority contractors that get work with the city often can't produce the desired results due to lack of cash or manpower, Faush said.

"This program will enable minority businesses to be able to do what they say and be successful, which stimulates job growth," he said.

[\[147\]](#)

We aren't talking about Jack Kemp approved "Enterprise Zones" here. We're talking about money being appropriated that will directly go to funding the *American Dream* for everyone except white people.

Few roads are more treacherous than the ones paved with good intentions. Contracts with government agencies (or airports, like Atlanta's Hartsfield International) represent the new *American Dream*, where it is mandated that a certain percentage of minority contractors or minority-majority firms will have guaranteed work for a certain percentage of the construction or that guarantee such firms early bidding rights...

But this is no way to successfully build a building; it's not the way you should build a new hospital, highway, or tunnel. It's the blueprints for collapse.

The future of America under majority-minority status is so bright, courtesy of the Urban Economic Forum providing the necessary tools for the Black citizens of Detroit, Birmingham, Kansas City, Jacksonville, Phoenix, and Columbus that the need for success as an entrepreneur if you are minority is henceforth certified by the government.

It's a wonder that all of these cities were ever built in the first place! How was that possible without the aid of an assisting arm like the Urban Economic Forum? Why is it that white people succeeded in building America and never needed "enterprise zones" to stimulate economic activity?

Isn't this plan for Birmingham reminiscent of the "Africa Town" plan for Detroit? Because new immigrants to the city were establishing somewhat thriving neighborhoods in a city where they instantly spoke better English than the Black people living there, the Black community decided it was time for "Chinatown" to have some government sponsored ethnic competition:

The Detroit City Council, in defiance of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, likely will move forward with plans to create an "African Town" in the tradition of Chinatowns and Little Italys nationwide, even though the issue has turned into a racially divisive economic-development proposal.

In July, the council resolved to build up a section of the city devoted to African and black American literature, cuisine and art, which Mr. Kilpatrick endorsed. He vetoed the resolution, however, when it became clear that the council's plan would allow only black businessmen and investors to use the \$38 million earmarked for the project.

Mr. Kilpatrick argued that the resolution is both racist and unconstitutional.

"It's not the African Town proposal. We like the idea," said Howard Hughey, spokesman for Mr. Kilpatrick. "But what they are proposing is to create a publicly funded private entity and give one man \$40 million to use and distribute to investors, and it is unconstitutional to do that based on race and [the resolution] says very clearly that it would be."

The nine-member council — which has two white members — voted 7-2 to override Mr. Kilpatrick's veto and passed the resolution. In addition, they resolved that Detroit is a "majority-minority" city that is underserved.

Typically, Chinatowns, Little Italys and other locales, such as Spanish Harlem in New York, were created by immigrants in a time when they were not accepted in other areas of the city and forced to build their own businesses and communities centered on their respective cultures.

Recently, several cities, including the District, mayors and developers have used the ethnic tag to promote economic development, but never to this extent and never in favor of one ethnic group over another.

The council paid Claude Anderson, a radio talk-show host and author of "Powernomics," a book on the strength of black spending power, \$112,000 for a feasibility study last year, Mrs. Everett said.

She said she was “extremely taken aback” that the study Mr. Anderson delivered appeared to be “a cut-and-paste” from his book and included no information on costs, construction and investment possibilities. [\[148\]](#)

That wonderful [Rainbow Coalition of non-whites](#) falls apart pretty quickly when Black people try and pass toothless legislation aimed at creating an African Town

Can't we already call the condition of Birmingham and Detroit a wonderful replication of real-life "Africa Towns"? Without outside – foreign – aid, both cities would be devastated overnight.

Odds are that the Urban Economic Forum and the plans to issue bonds in Birmingham for the express desire of creating "minority entrepreneurs" will not even see the start up of a lemonade stand.

So the White House of Mein Obama is now actively becoming venture capitalists in heavily-Black urban areas . . .

The question must be asked: Why is it that white people, forced to flee heavily Black areas because of inordinately high crime rates, are capable of rebuilding the city they abandoned without government assistance?

Oh. That's right. It takes a solid foundation to build a building, just as it takes a solid foundation of people to build a nation.

It only takes social engineering to destroy a building, a city, or a nation.

What do most of the 30 Brokest Cities in America have in Common?

Remember that town in Alabama that couldn't pay retired city employees their pensions anymore?[\[149\]](#) We do. It was Prichard, Alabama, a [once thriving white community that was overwhelmed by the Black Undertow](#).

As Black people became the majority of the town's population, businesses shuttered and the tax base dried up; thus, no new revenue to pay the pension of retired white city employees who worked their entire lives to help build a city, only to see the Black Undertow Effect undermine it all.

The phenomenon of the Black Undertow Effect is readily observable in the ruins of Detroit and Birmingham, two formerly world-class cities now both teetering on the verge of complete financial ruin. Odd that the suburbs of both dying metropolises (Detroit's suburbs are 82 percent white, compared to the core of the city being only 8 percent white) are some of the most desirable in all the country.

CNBC did a hilarious story on *20 Cities You Don't Want to Live in... Yet*, [\[150\]](#) which included both Detroit and Birmingham. Presumably when the Black Undertow is forcibly moved into the white suburbs via Section 8 Housing and removed from prime real estate in the core of these cities, then and only then will *you want to live in these cities*. [\[151\]](#)

All across the country, Black people - who have been a significant population of failing major cities - [are moving to the white suburbs](#). White people [are moving into the cities](#).

The dream of owning your own home - and the relaxed lending standards introduced to help facilitate this for primarily non-white buyers [\[152\]](#) - has ravaged formerly prosperous counties, especially in the Metro Atlanta area. [Clayton County](#), once one of the top places to live in Atlanta - almost all of the founder of Chick-fil-A's entire family still lives there - is now the prime example of what happens when the Black Undertow takes over.

Though [Atlanta has the highest income inequality in the nation](#) (yes, this is largely a Black-white issue), it does not rank as one of *America's 30 Top Brokest Cities*. According to [The Daily Beast](#), four other Georgia cities rank in that dubious list:

To find the most struggling cities in the country, we used three data points weighted equally: the most recently available unemployment rate (August 2011), median household income, and average debt. Data is from a recent report by [Experian](#) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The average credit score for each city is included in the gallery, though not taken into account to determine the final ranking. If this data is any indication, the cities struggling the most right now—the ones that may take the longest to recover—are clustered in the South and along the Pacific Coast. [\[153\]](#)

And only here at SBPDL, will you learn that those four cities (and the majority of the 30 Brokeest Cities) are overwhelmed in the Black Undertow, with many boasting some of the largest percentages of overall Black population in the nation.

Savannah, Macon, Augusta, and, the No. 1 brokeest city in America, Columbus, Georgia comprise four spots on that illustrious list. And with Georgia adding the most Black people to its overall population then any other state over the past 10 years, how long until Atlanta nudges onto that list?:

The state added 1.5 million people over the past decade for a total of 9,687,653, according to new Census data. Georgia's black population growth — 579,335 — was greater than either the Hispanic (418,462) or white (285,259) population growth, says William Frey, demographer at the [Brookings Institution](#). "Georgia is just a major magnet for African Americans, both high-skilled and low-skilled," he says. "For cultural reasons and for economic reasons, the black migration to the state is significant." [\[154\]](#)

[Let's see](#): Savannah is 55 percent Black; Augusta 54 percent Black; [Macon 62 percent Black](#); and Columbus is 44 percent Black. Gosh, what do each of these have in common?

What about the other 26 brokeest cities in America? It reads like a who's who of the cities with the greatest percentage of Black people in America:

Beaumont is 45 percent Black; Greenville, NC is 32 percent Black; Mobile is 50 percent Black; Tampa is 26 percent Black; Toledo is 24 percent Black; Waco is 23 percent Black; Greensboro is 40 percent Black; Wilmington is 26 percent Black; Detroit is 83 percent Black; Montgomery is 56 percent Black; Tyler is 25 percent Black; Charleston is 26 percent Black; Birmingham is 73 percent Black; Fort Myers is 34 percent Black; Flint is 57 percent Black; Jacksonville is 30 percent Black; Miami is 19 percent Black; and Orlando is 28 percent Black. [\[155\]](#)

These cities also have extreme levels of segregation, with predominately Black areas completely distressed and reliant on federal funds (welfare, EBT/SNAP, free lunches at school, Section 8/Public Housing) to subsist. Just like Silicon Valley, there aren't many Black entrepreneurs in these cities either. Businesses can't stay open in the majority Black portions of these cities, because your Black person has no purchasing power.

Know this: Savannah, Miami, Augusta, Orlando and the other cities listed have very nice areas where people can live, work, and play. But they also have incredibly scary areas, with one common denominator that you'll soon learn the answer.

Notice that a good portion of the brokest cities are in the south, where 54 percent of Black people in America reside; other cities include those dying Rust Belt cities (Detroit, Flint, Toledo) where Black people went to escape the "discrimination" of the the Jim Crow South, only to leave these towns in horrible condition, with low property values, crumbling infrastructure, high crime rates and low Trick-or-Treating rates.

That is the lasting Black footprint on America (the same goes for Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, New Orleans, Jackson, Memphis, Philadelphia, Hartford, Harrisburg, Kansas City, Newark, Camden, etc.) and one that must be addressed moving forward.

Consult this list of the whitest big cities (Portland, Seattle Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Boston, etc.)[\[156\]](#) and realize that the old "Republican vs. Democrat" debate has no merit in what makes a great city. It isn't liberal politics; it isn't conservative politics. It has everything to do with the type of community - the kind Robert Putnam discussed - that can be created.

Those brokest cities? No social trust, because white families are constantly having to move from one suburb to the next to avoid the encroaching Black Undertow. And as we have learned, the Blacker the city, the lower the social trust and the greater the inability for complete community breakdown.

Just look at Detroit and Birmingham.

And such is life in the dying days of Black-Run America (BRA), when two Black men are seriously being considered to represent the Republican and Democrat parties in a bid for the POTUS in 2012.

So what do most of the *30 Brokest Cities in America* have in common? If your answer was the Black Undertow makes owning and operating a business (plus remains a huge burden on tax revenue, with a small percentage collected from Black people and a much greater percentage going to policing and protecting citizens from them), then you are today's winner.

Moving forward, remember this: anytime you see a list that purports to delineate the worst cities in America for (crime, property value, standard of living, schools, raising a family, living, staying in shape) instinctively know it will be a run-down of those places hit hardest by the Black Undertow.

The worst cities in America might be dominated by Democrats (because Black people vote that way), but some of the best cities in America are as well. What's the difference?

Hoover, Martini's and the Black Undertow: White America Needs Clarence the Angel

The Black Undertow Effect; no community, no city, and no county can
escape from this phenomenon.

You've probably seen *It's a Wonderful Life* -- recall when George Bailey gets to see a version of Bedford Falls sans his influence (where he had never been born). A city he had worked hard to hold together became Pottersville in absence; where families, commerce, and community flourished before, now only vice was found as Bailey traversed the city streets of a town his life never touched.

A powerful scene during Bailey's momentary existence in Pottersville is when he goes to the bar Nick's Place, a seedy establishment that replaced the beloved watering-hole Martini's which he had helped grow through offering loans from the Bailey Brother's Building and Loan.

It's a reminder of the powerful contributions of one person -- for better or worse.

Let the name "Martini's" stick in your mind as we talk [\[157\]](#) about Hoover, Alabama -- a once thriving, all-white suburb of Birmingham (indeed, it was basically white people rebuilding the city they vacated and left to black rule), Hoover was 95 percent white in 1990 [\[158\]](#); 87 percent white in 2000; and 72 percent white in 2010. [\[159\]](#) The black population has grown from 3% to 6% to 15 % of the population in that time period.

Previously, murder and crime was only known to the white residents of Hoover by reading the reading pages of The Birmingham News or watching to Fox, NBC, ABC, or CBS affiliates in Birmingham; today, the Black Undertow has brought with them the same type of black dysfunction that the white Hooverites tried to escape [Hoover Police identify victims in Martini's shooting, Birmingham News, 12-22-12]:

HOOVER, Alabama--Police have released the names of the victims Friday night [shooting inside of Martini's Ultra Lounge](#) that left two people dead.

Monterio Alonzo Peebles-Kellogg, 19, and 20-year-old Lakenya Chanise Moton were killed after a shooter entered the club located at 2132 Lorna Ridge Lane, according to Cpt. Jim Coker of the Hoover Police Department. Both victims were Birmingham residents.

Police received a call at midnight, said Coker.

A second female, 20, was also injured and treated at UAB Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

A suspect was taken into custody around sunrise by U.S. Marshals and there is no threat to the general public, according to Coker.

Police have not released a motive, but the suspect may have known the victims, he said.

"This was no random act," Coker said.

The fate of the nightclub would have to be discussed by the chief of police and elected officials, Coker said.

"It's been about two-and-a-half years since we've had a homicide in Hoover that wasn't traffic related," he said.

The investigation into the shooting is ongoing. [\[160\]](#)

Phillip Terral Player, a black male, gunning down Monterio and Lakenya in Hoover, Alabama [\[161\]](#); Birmingham is now in the midst of a city that was created out of the vast wilderness surrounding the metropolitan area so as to [insulate whites from the mayhem of every day black life](#) in the Magic City.

The Black Undertow Effect in action.

And to think: The Birmingham News recently cheered the changing racial demographics in Hoover and other once all-white suburbs of Birmingham [Birmingham changes as blacks move to the suburbs, Birmingham News, 3-27-2011]:

A demographic fault line divides the two-county core of metro Birmingham.

A Birmingham News analysis of 2010 Census numbers reveals two major patterns of city change on either side.

To the north are the shrinking cities. They form a strip of towns from Birmingham to Bessemer that lost population, both white and black, in the past decade. Those nine cities lost 20 percent of their white population and 12 percent of their black population from 2000 to 2010, a total loss of nearly 40,000 residents.

To the south are the growing cities -- a blanket of towns stretching from the top of Red Mountain in Jefferson County to the far reaches of Shelby County.

Those 17 cities all had growing black populations in the decade, and growing or stable white populations.

"Those are dramatic differences in a relatively small area," said Eric Fournier, a professor of geography at Samford University. "We're talking about two places maybe 10 or 15 miles apart with huge differences.

"One place may be focusing on how to handle huge booms in population and traffic," he said. "The other is dealing with emptying cities, overbuilt infrastructure, declining budgets."

Those dramatic differences make regional cooperation much more complex. "The mayor of Fairfield doesn't have much to say to the mayor of Alabaster, because they have such different challenges," Fournier said.

Rosie O'Beirne, an anthropologist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said metro Birmingham's pattern matches the national trend of increasing diversity in the suburbs.

"It's really middle-class flight, not black flight or white flight," O'Beirne said. "Historically blacks and whites have been segregated in Birmingham, and a lot of that had to do with racism. We're in an era where racial ideology doesn't have the same effect as it once did. You have a rising middle-class population."

Latarsha Clark is one of those who has left Birmingham to make a new home in the Rocky Ridge area near Hoover and Vestavia Hills. On a recent Friday, while shopping in Alabaster, she said she couldn't be happier with the change.

"We love the area and the schools," she said.

Clark's 9-year-old son, Cordarius Anderson, is thriving at Gresham Elementary School, where, Clark said, the teachers work one-on-one with the children. "I love it," she said.[\[162\]](#)

Latarsha Clark loves the area of Hoover because white people have created an environment where community and commerce thrive; where Latarsha fled from is just another city where black people have created an environment where community and commerce represent just another form of "white privilege" that black people are incapable of creating or sustaining.

Once enough black people have moved to Hoover and re-created the very conditions of 2012 Birmingham in this once lily-white (and crime-free city), Latarsha Clark will be looking for another community to migrate to.

The schools will once again resemble the 98 percent black Birmingham Public School (BPS) system; payday loan and Title Pawn stores will replace all the shuttered businesses forced to close in the absence of white people, replaced with a population dependent on WIC/EBT and TANF/Welfare; and, of course, the property value of private homes will collapse, regressing to the mean created by black home buyers -- a reflection of the type of community they create.

In Barnett Wright's book *1963: How the Birmingham Civil Rights Movement Changed America and the World*, he writes:

On January 1, 1964, The Birmingham news published a nearly 6,000 word front-page editorial reflecting on the "Trials and Blessings of 1963," in which the newspaper asked future generations:

“Did the older folks make the tough but right decisions in 1963 – did they carry them out in year after year that followed? Did we serve you youngsters – our children – by putting you ahead of our personal wishes or prejudices or desire? Did we pay the price for your future?

Fifty year later, the verdict is in.

Since 1963, Birmingham has elected four black mayors, appointed three black police chiefs, and installed seven black school superintendents. Still, much work remains to be in the city according to Edward Shannon LaMonte – retired Birmingham Southern College professor – and others.

“Prejudice and social injustice still exist in this city, and they play a role in terms of the opportunities people enjoy today,” said Jefferson County Circuit Judge Helen Shores Lee.

“Jim Crow laws may not exist anymore, but the spirit of Jim Crow is alive and well, primarily due to institutional racism, which often make it difficult for us [sic] recognize it and root it out. [\[163\]](#)

Birmingham today is 74 percent black; the Birmingham City Council, when they weren’t banning Title Loan or Payday Stores from opening in the city [\[164\]](#), was entertaining Trayvon Martin’s parents and making him an honorary citizen. [\[165\]](#)

It was in 2010 that Winnie Mandela, longtime bride to known Communist Nelson Mandela, compared the struggle in Birmingham to the struggle against Apartheid rule in South Africa. [\[166\]](#)

Birmingham today is a glimpse of Hoover tomorrow.

Phillip Terral Player, a black male, gunning down Monterio and Lakenya at Martini's in Hoover is a reminder of the Black Undertow Effect.

This must end; this will end.

George Bailey was going to commit suicide when Clarence (an angel) intervened, allowing Bailey the chance to see a version of Bedford Falls without his influence. It is this line that cuts to the heart of the film:

Clarence: You see George, you've really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to just throw it away?

It is this line that white people in not just Hoover, but throughout America and throughout the entire Western World must contemplate on Christmas Eve, 2012; those who came before enabled us to have a wonderful life -- don't you see what a mistake it would be to just throw it away?

Embrace "white privilege" and pass it on to your children; for it's the privilege of having the ability to live in a community; a city; a civilization - - as opposed to watching a city like Birmingham fall into the darkness from which the light of civilization is extinguished.

The "Psychological Torture" of Emmett Till: What the Life and Death of Kyser Miree Teaches Us

In a year from now, the name [Kyser Miree](#) will only be remembered by family and close friends. The way he lived his life, his hopes, dreams, and aspirations; well, those will all be recalled when family members gather for holiday events and gaze upon images of Miree captured years before, in moments that make them wish they didn't know now, what they didn't know then.

The post-Civil Rights world we all live in demands that we ignore Black-on-white crime and those murder victims of events that will never, ever be catalogued in some museum documenting Black racial animosity (the inverse is true in our world, where aging white leftists routinely send in checks to subsidize an organization that teaches tolerance to a nation already drowning in it); so Kyser's life and his execution will never, ever grace the pages of a text book designed to make pliable young Black school children feel guilty for existing, nor will public broadcasting put together a 22-minute documentary on his life and death designed to constantly scare white kids of an impending attack by Blacks (the way documentaries on the evil Klan - the anonymous member adorned in the ominous white sheet of doom - and its impending return are used to scare Black kids and plant the seed of guilt into the young white kids mind).

No -- in the world of Black-Run America (BRA), only *Those Who Can See* will dare state that Kyser Miree's life is worth remembering - besides his parents and friends - and that in his cruel murder, a lesson should reside a tale worth more than being buried under six of dirt.

Four Black males barged into Miree's home in 2010 and held him at gunpoint, demanding money.

One of those Black males, Michael Lee, would pull the trigger and end Miree's life. Here's how *The Mobile Press-Register* is reporting death penalty hearings for Lee:

The last moments of Kyser Miree's life -- as he sat on the floor with three intruders pointing guns at him -- amounted to "psychological torture," a prosecutor told the jury in Michael Lee's capital murder trial this afternoon.

"He was 100 percent aware of what was going to happen," said Assistant District Attorney Jill Phillips. "He knew he was going to die, and he begged and pleaded for his life."

That circumstance, along with others surrounding the slaying of Miree, warrant imposing the death penalty on Lee, Miree's convicted killer, the prosecutor argued.

Miree was shot and killed on April 16, 2010 after Lee and three accomplices barged inside his home and demanded money.

A jury is now deliberating whether Lee should die by lethal injection or spend the rest of his life in state prison.

The defense told the jury that Lee's difficult childhood and his diagnosed depression and impulse control disorder should count as evidence that Lee needs to be sentenced to life in prison without parole.

"It's not an excuse for him," said defense lawyer Glenn Davidson. "It's who he is. He has those problems, and they are real."

Davidson asked the jury to consider mercy for Lee. "He acted on impulse," Davidson said. "This was not a premeditated act on his part."

Assistant District Attorney Jo Beth Murphree, though, said that Lee made clear choices in deciding to rob someone that night, arming himself with a powerful .380 handgun and loading it with bullets designed to kill.

"What kind of mercy did the defendant show Kyser as he was begging for his life?" said Murphree as she showed a photograph of Miree lying in a pool of his own blood.[\[167\]](#)

"Psychological torture." With three guns pointed on him, Miree knew he was going to die. Did those visions from grade school of men in white hoods and that white guilt he was taught to believe in more fiercely than God himself (images of white men operating water hoses, concentrating powerful blasts of H₂O upon Blacks in Birmingham and black and white images of nooses around the necks of Black people in some small town) flood his mind in those moments?

Did he think of the heroic heights that the Tuskegee Airmen soared to in the later stages of World War II, or did he recall the speeches of Martin Luther King and plea from Rodney King of "why can't we all just get along?"

Or did he look into the eyes of his killers and realize that the real "psychological torture" was the years of being told to ignore Black dysfunction in America, except when he was 24/7/365 indoctrinated that it was all his fault -- and the fault of every white person born before him?

Every white child in BRA undergoes "psychological torture" via academia (starting in grade school) and through constant bombardment by media/entertainment which serves to reinforce the belief that only a white racist - while dressed in white sheets - prepared to lynch Blacks would dare think negatively about The Blacks. Even when those negative thoughts come courtesy of facts, logic, and empirical evidence. Your blue, green, hazel, gold or brown eyes are lying to you about racial differences in intelligence, behavior, impulse control, and maturation; so close them, or else, dictates BRA.

So we are left to wonder what images went through Miree's head as those precious final seconds of his life ticked away, aware that each breath he took was bringing him one-step closer to a brutal death. In those final moments on earth, did Miree finally understand why those hoses and dogs were used in Birmingham?

What we do know is what Miree was like in life, courtesy of friends and family who testified to the jury who will now decide if Lee should get the death sentence:

Kyser Miree was a natural and humble leader, a smart engineer who always needed a project, and a loving, empathetic man who easily made friends with others, according to testimony this morning. "People couldn't help but want to be around him all the time," said Pete Dale, Miree's fraternity brother and best friend at Vanderbilt University.

Friends and family of Miree, who was 23 when he was shot and killed by Michael Lee, tearfully described to a jury their experiences with Miree over the years.

The jury is now hearing testimony in the punishment phase of the trial. The prosecution is seeking the death penalty for Lee.

Jurors will recommend death or life in prison without the possibility of parole. Circuit Judge John Lockett will have the final sentencing decision.

Dale said in college, he and Miree enjoyed hunting and fishing together. They would tie canoes to the top of Miree's beat-up truck. In addition to working hard in school, Dale said, Miree worked on side projects -- teaching himself to play guitar one summer, buying a truck to learn how to fix engines and even buying a video of learning how to dunk a basketball in 90 days.

"It didn't work for Kyser," Dale said, drawing laughter from the courtroom. [\[168\]](#)

This is but a glimpse of a life that was extinguished by one of four Black males who went to rob Miree, only to deprive the world of an engineer; a son; a friend; and ultimately, a white individual whose only real responsibility in BRA is to pay taxes to ensure the proliferation of people like Lee continues unabated.

In a year from now, the name [Kyser Miree](#) will only be remembered by family and close friends. But your children; your grandchildren; your brother; your sister; your spouse; your cousin; your deracinated fellow citizen will be told to remember the name Emmett Till.

James Byrd.

Trayvon Martin.

Rodney King.

There will come a day when white America realizes that it owes Black America nothing. On that day, many Black people will shriek about the change of heart; many more will simply say, "What took you so long."

The "psychological torture" that white people are forced to endure from cradle to grave in BRA is powerful; enduring an experience that opens your eyes to the reality of BRA is stronger; understanding that their have been tens of thousands of people whose lives were tragically cut down in a similar fashion to Kyser Miree's and that no documentary will ever be made to memorialize them (simultaneously providing a guilt-trip to Black people) -- well, that's the moment you begin to understand why hoses emitting powerful blasts of water were once used... so that the [Birmingham of 2012 would never exist](#).

Our society is built on lies so fragile, that it requires the continuous "psychological torture" of whites to survive. It has is foundation that will fall.

Death Sentence for Kyser Miree in Mobile: The Story You'll Only Find Here

Death Sentence is a 2008 Kevin Bacon film that deals with the [ritualistic murder of his son by a multi-racial gang preparing to initiate a new recruit](#). This type of event happens all the time in real-life, but these [gangs have much less passion and enthusiasm for diversity](#) as movies and television hint.

Why in Chicago today, 9 random people were shot at a bus stop:

Nine people were shot at a bus station in the south side of Chicago Monday, police said. All but one of them suffered non-life threatening injuries. The ninth person was seriously hurt, police said. The shooting took place in the 7900 block of South Western Avenue and appears to be gang-related, officials said.

Police were interviewing witnesses and put out a call for any videos that may have captured the shooting. [\[169\]](#)

A death sentence is ostensibly what recent college graduate Kyser Miree had when he moved to Mobile, Alabama to take an engineering position:

Four suspects charged with capital murder in the death of Christopher Kyser Miree are scheduled to be in court today for bail hearings.

Jamal Breon Lang, 20; Michael Jerome Lee, 19; Bo Taylor, 18; and Earnest Teryl Wiggins, 19 will appear before Mobile County District Judge George Hardesty.

Miree, 23, was found shot in the head April 16 at 4 Macy Place, the residence he shared with a co-worker.

"We are going to request the court give them no bonds in light of the seriousness of the charge and the crime," Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson Jr. said Monday. Since juvenile records are sealed, Tyson said he could not discuss whether any of the suspects had been convicted of prior offenses in juvenile court.

The four were "riding around looking for people to rob" that night, Mobile Police Chief Micheal T. Williams said at a news conference Monday. "And Kyser Miree was one of the victims of their revelry."

Lang and Lee were arrested by police early Sunday, while Taylor turned himself in Sunday night. Wiggins surrendered to police Monday morning.

All four suspects remained in Mobile County Metro Jail. A capital murder charge carries a possible death sentence. [\[170\]](#)

A graduate of Vanderbilt University, Miree was an engineer who worked for the Chevron Corp. refinery in Pascagoula.

Williams refused to say what type of weapon was used in the killing, what was taken from Miree or his home or whether his killing could be related the death of Zoa White.

The body of the 69-year-old White was found June 28 inside her Spring Hill Avenue home. White died of "blunt force trauma to the head," according to police.

Her house was about a mile from the Macy Place home where Miree was killed. No one has been charged in that case.

Tyson said he does not believe the death of White and Miree are connected.

Williams said police are still working to evaluate whether anyone will get the reward that was offered in the Miree case. Authorities received an anonymous tip that led to the arrests, Tyson said Sunday.

The victim's family offered \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for his death. Tyson said he talked with Williams on Monday about the reward money.

"We'll have to look at those terms and evaluate whether one or more persons are entitled to it," Tyson said.

The Miree case "caused a lot of problems with people being uneasy in their homes," the chief said Monday.

Williams praised his police officers for diligently pursuing the case and doing "a lot of good police work."

The chief added: "These guys were out there every day, running down tips."[\[171\]](#)

Ask yourself why [true vigilante movies can't be made in Hollywood](#), and the name Kyser Miree supplies ample evidence as to why these films are incapable of being produced. Perhaps the [Black residents of Mobile got tired of looking for the elusive Leprechaun](#) and decided to go looking for money from the next best source instead of an imaginary one.

It took months to solve this case, ostensibly because no one would [snitch](#). [\[172\]](#) Instead, these criminals [roamed Mobile freely](#).

For every [James Byrd story](#) - which serves as the ultimate fodder to foster white guilt among those who hear about or read this woeful tale - hundreds of stories such as Miree's murder go [unreported on the national scale](#), never having the opportunity to create the same Black guilt amongst those who had nothing to do with the heinous murders. [\[173\]](#)

Only [white people must embrace the burden of one crime](#) by a member of their race, a stigma that the entire racial group must carry as evidence of their alleged and continual racism.

In 2010, to continually incubate and instill white guilt, the media hypes stories of decades [old murderers finally coming to justice](#). No, the killers of

today no longer wear hoods but in fact [come from the hood](#).

What's worse, most people know this and flee to Whitopia's in a vain attempt to escape reality - [even if only temporarily](#). For the truth is, there is no [escaping reality anymore](#).

It is after all, a [Black World Now](#). [Christopher Kernich](#) learned this the same way Miree did. [TBW](#) has come to Mobile.

[Where will it strike next?](#)

"They Were Just Bored"

Some subjects are just too depressing to write about, and the epidemic of Black-on-white attacks/murder/rape/crime represents the no. 1 topic I'm no longer interested in discussing. It's just -- so pervasive and the sheer number of incidents from across the nation should represent a clarion call for an actual dialogue.

No matter how egregious the Black-on-white attack, no matter how flagrant the racial targeting, the reality of Lawrence Auster's First Law of Minority-Majority Relations can never, ever be violated in Black-Run America (BRA).

Not in the case of Kyser Miree, who was was gunned down by Michael Lee, 21, in Mobile, Alabama, while three of his other Black friends held guns to Miree's head. Miree is dead because four Black people broke into his home to commit a robbery and then proceeded to execute him. The person who tipped police off to the killers, Benietta Saners, is now planning to leave Mobile because of intimidation from the Black community for daring to "snitch."[\[174\]](#)

Recall that in St. Louis the fiercely loyal Black Undertow members refused to break from the tradition of "no-snitching" in the horrible 'Knockout King' assault on Matt Quain ('Knockout game' case shocked St. Louis, then fell apart; St. Louis Post-Dispatch; May 4, 2012):

On Oct. 21, Matt Quain, 52, a dishwasher, was severely beaten in a knockout assault on South Grand Boulevard.

The mayor helped rescue him. Seven middle schoolers, some as young as 12, were arrested. Then, at a juvenile court hearing in January, the main witness, a 13-year-old classmate of the defendants, failed to show up. The case was tossed out.

The kids celebrated. Others howled.

"People all over the city of St. Louis are outraged over this," Mayor Francis Slay said.

The case seemed to captivate the city with a series of difficult questions: Why was this happening? How would it stop? Was witness intimidation a factor?

The trial was set for 9 a.m. on Jan. 9, in the courtroom of Judge Edwards. There are no juries in juvenile court. The judge makes the call.

The seven defendants were eager to get out. They had missed Thanksgiving and Christmas at home. Two of the teens celebrated birthdays in jail.

Early that morning, Smith headed out for one final errand for the case. He drove to north St. Louis to pick up the 13-year-old witness and her mother. They were not home. But family members assured him the pair would get to court on time. Smith alerted staff attorney Margaret Gangle, who was prosecuting the case. Her key witness was missing. Gangle could have asked for a continuance. But she pressed on.

The courtroom was crowded with the families of the seven defendants. Detective Josh Wenstrom, who had interviewed the young witness, sat nearby in a small room reviewing his notes, preparing to testify. About the same time, far from the scene, the Knockout King posted on Facebook: "FREE ALL MY TKO GUYS."

At 9 a.m. the hearing began.

Minutes later it was over. The 13-year-old witness never showed.

Wenstrom heard a roar in the hallway. It sounded like cheering. "I was almost sick to my stomach," he says.

For Tina Vence, a defendant's mother, it was the right outcome. She was certain her child was innocent. So was Sonia Womack, another defendant's mother. "My heart goes out to him," she said of the victim, "but they need to get the right people that did it."

Edwards dismissed the case. He had no choice.

Because the hearing had started, legal jeopardy had attached. The charges could never be brought again.

The defendants flocked to Facebook to announce their freedom.

"Yeaaa immm home somebody call mee," one wrote.

"We out here ... who mad," wrote another.

The answer, it turned out, was just about everyone. [\[175\]](#)

You see, in the citizens who we call "the Black Undertow" actively defend the criminals within their class/caste, and threaten those who would dare rat other members out with violence. Such was the case in the Black Pack Attack on Quain.

Now comes the story that brings the two prior stories together, helping paint a horrifying mosaic that portends chaos for all of America unless we have the ability to come together and act as grownups in discussing the racial animosity in this nation. And guess what? The bulk of it comes from "The Blacks" --- which is causing Negro Fatigue to proliferate nationwide.

Cincinnati.com reports (Six teens attacked man because 'they were just bored,' police say; August 15, 2012) of another Black Pack Attack on a white guy, with each of the Black people who participated in the mauling suspiciously looking like the son that President Barack Obama never had:

Pat Mahaney was walking home Saturday with a six-pack of beer, looking forward to a quiet evening watching sports, when something hit him in the back of the head.

"The next thing I knew I woke up on my neighbor's front step and the life squad was there," said the 45-year-old North College Hill resident.

Six teenagers, who according to a police report "were just bored and were looking for something to do," ambushed Mahaney from behind as he turned off Simpson Avenue onto Dallas Avenue. He was immediately knocked unconscious.

"I don't remember anything," Mahaney, 45, said as he recovered this morning at his mother's home. "I was walking home from the store - and bam."

It was probably a blessing he was knocked out during the worst of the brutal attack -- one of the teens even grabbed a can of beer and hurled it at his head.

The boys, ages 13 and 14, face felony charges of aggravated riot and felonious assault.

The sixth and final suspect was arrested Tuesday. All but one have been released from Hamilton County's juvenile detention center and are on house arrest at their parents' residences, court officials said today.

The teens are scheduled to go on trial Aug. 24.

Two of the suspects are 13-year-old twins. Their mother, Latasha Alford, 32, said that while not excusing her sons' actions, they did feel peer pressure to go along with the other boys.

"They are deeply sorry for what happened," she said. "They do feel bad. They do realize what they did was wrong."

When police rounded most of the teens up, took them back to the police station and questioned them, they admitted Mahaney had done nothing to provoke being kicked and punched repeatedly in the face while he was helpless on the ground.

The boys told police they only stopped assaulting Mahaney when a neighbor began yelling at them and said he was calling police.

An officer who happened to be in the area responding to a call about dogs fighting was nearby and spotted a crowd of people gathered at the corner of Dallas and Simpson. Several witnesses told the officer Mahaney, who was covered in blood, "was jumped by six children," the incident report states.

Mahaney was taken to Mercy Mt. Airy Hospital, where he was treated for four days before being released Tuesday. He suffered so many internal injuries that doctors had to insert a tube down his throat to remove all the blood from his stomach.

A tube remains in his right nostril as blood continues to seep out of his head, and his left eye is heavily blackened.

The attack couldn't come at a worse time. He has no health insurance and has been unemployed for "years," he said.

He is looking for factory work but with the economy slow, jobs are almost impossible to come by, he said. Now, his job search is delayed while he recovers.

He was not surprised he was attacked but said he is taken aback at the age of his assailants.

"I didn't think kids could do something like this," he said. "They should be punished."

Neighbors and police remain shocked at the brutality of the crime.

"It was a heinous crime but it was not a hate crime," said North College Hill Police Chief Gary Foust of the teens, who are all black.

He said several residents have called police inquiring if Mahaney was specifically targeted because he is white. He was not, the chief stressed.

Police were more struck at how cocky the boys were for being so young.

"They were pretty arrogant in the interview with us," Foust said.

"It's appalling. I think it's despicable. This appears to be premeditated and there was no remorse on behalf of any of the assailants. Thirteen-year-olds ought to be playing basketball, not running the streets looking for ways to entertain themselves at the expense of somebody."[\[176\]](#)

There will be no Freedom Rides for Miree, Quain, Mahaney; there will be no media endlessly parading their faces and their story on national television; there will be no full-color spreads in *Life* or *Time* that dare expose the culture of bigotry and hate that permeates the Black Undertow -- all of this was done long ago during the great Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s that codified Black-Run America (BRA) and effectively ended freedom of association, equality (for whites), and engaged all three branches of government at the federal, state, and local level into a never-ending war with the majority population.

"They were just bored." In the execution of Miree by four Black thugs and the Black Pack Attacks in Cincinnati and St. Louis on Mahaney and Quain... all of the Black people who engaged in these targeted attacks on white people were "just bored."

Right?

Whites are being targeted nationwide by Black people for assaults/rapes/murder/theft -- and the silence from virtually every corner of respectable society is deafening.

"Cities are What People Make Them" -- A Slogan in the chamber of the Birmingham City Council

When Birmingham's first black mayor, Richard Arrington, ran for re-election in 1983 there were rumblings that the white business community would try and find another candidate to split the black vote.

Thus, giving a white candidate a chance to take the city back. Jimmie Lewis Franklin's "Back to Birmingham: Richard Arrington, Jr., and His Times," is nothing more than hagiography, but it includes this one telling quote about collective black political power and why universal suffrage is universal suffering:

He had, of course, won 1979 by a margin of only 2,000 ballots and had received only some 10 percent of the white votes. In 1983, blacks constituted an even larger number of the registered voters, thus increasing Arrington's essential power base. If he could increase his white votes, he could win reelection without the kind of tragic event that had provided the political catalyst that united blacks in 1979 [the police shooting of Bonita Carter].

Rumors prevailed in the black community that white political aspirants would try to entice other blacks to run against Arrington.

A local radio announcer accurately gauged the temper of the community when he denounced anyone who would betray his people as a "judas goat." Another irate citizen called into a talk show to exclaim that a black person who would take money to compete against the mayor should be "tarred and feathered and run of town."

A noted clergyman at one of Birmingham's largest churches could not resist comment on the alleged efforts to split the black community by having other blacks in the mayor's race.

Arrington, he said, would receive 99-1/2 percent of the votes in the black community. The other one-half of 1 percent need, "a good psychiatrist."[\[177\]](#)

Arrington would win easily and rule over the city for 16 more years, and thanks to the monolithic black vote. What's sad is that the "one-half of 1 percent vote" becomes the figurehead for Conservatism Inc. to promote that "individual" black person who is the voice of sanity and immediately must be promoted to a position of power within Fox News, National Review, Weekly Standard, etc.

Meanwhile, black people consolidate all power within the municipality they control via monolithic voting; that "insane" black individual garners the adulation and respect of Conservatism Inc., appearing as guest lecture on the GOP speaking circuit.

That black clergyman back in 1983 nailed it... though the "one-half of 1 percent" black individual who didn't vote for Arrington doesn't need a psychiatrist; it's the white conservatives who believe "content of character" is morally superior to attaining power by judging by "color of skin" that needs a good psychological evaluation.

Why bring this up today? While reading [There's Hope for the World: The Memoir of Birmingham, Alabama's First African American Mayor](#) by Richard Arrington one thing became stunningly obvious: any and all history that happened after the victories of the Civil Rights movement established in the mid-60s cannot be debated or discussed, the true legacy of the rewarding full legal protection to black people. What happened in a city like Birmingham post-1963 can't be discussed.

It's in *There's Hope for the World* that Arrington writes these words:

"Like cities worldwide, Birmingham continues to face serious challenges, and just as progress in those cities ebbs and flows, so will the same happen in Birmingham. But Birmingham has turned the corner and its future as one of America's progressive medium-sized cities is assured. In the chamber of the Birmingham City Council, on one of its walls, is the following slogan: "Cities Are What People Make Them."

The slogan reminds me of Shakespeare's words from Coriolanus, Act III: "What is the city but the people?" [\[178\]](#)

Recall that 75 percent black city of Birmingham recently saw its 77 percent black city council pass an ordinance [banning the building of new payday or Title Loan stores](#). Cities truly are what people make them.

But this is what the black citizens of Birmingham continue to vote for; the city of Birmingham continues to lose population, see its tax-base dwindle, and watch businesses flee for municipalities with both a built -in customer-base and where a talent pool for potential employees are abundant.

An innovative and entrepreneurial people are not found in Birmingham today, but that doesn't matter -- black people are still in charge. That's all that matters, with a quote from Robin Kelley's book "Race Rebels: Culture, Politics, and the Black Working Class" supplying the rationale:

"the black poor generally believe that a black administration was a marked improvement over the past century of white, largely racist city governments. (p. 99)

Life in 75 percent black Birmingham, where the slogan in the chamber of the Birmingham City Council is correct: "Cities are What People Make Them."

Just don't notice or comment on the fact that life in 2013 Birmingham is directly correlated to the 34 years black people have dominated the city government there.

Or the Birmingham Public School system, perhaps the worst in all of America. At least the almost entirely black student body is learning the correct view of history, which fuels that 99-1/2 percent desire by the black electorate to keep blacks in power [Birmingham teacher gives R-rated 'Django' assignment to students; parents question exercise, Al.com, 1-22-13]:

A Huffman High School English teacher is being questioned for instructing her ninth graders - as part of a Black History Month exercise - to see the R-rated Quentin Tarantino movie "Django Unchained."

The assignment is part of a scavenger hunt, and one of the items requires students to see the violent slave pic "Django Unchained," a "Roots"-goes-"Pulp Fiction" shoot-em-up about slavery and revenge.

As one parent - who asked that her name not be used for fear of retaliation against her child - put it, "I hardly see what my child can get from this movie other than how horrible white people were."

Hope English, who teaches the ninth-grade English class, declined comment today. Larry Contri, director of high school instruction, said Birmingham city schools "does not endorse students attending any R-rated movie as part of a class assignment."

Contri said he is having the requirement to attend the movie as part of the scavenger hunt removed from the list. Parents will be notified of the change, he said.

In the assignment, English says it is being given "in an effort to develop your understanding of the black history that surrounds you daily."

Other items on the assignment, which requires students compile their findings in a Power Point presentation or display board, include visiting the Civil Rights Museum, the 16th Street Baptist Church and Kelly Ingram Park.

The first item on the hunt? "Go see Django Unchained." The assignment required students bring proof that they saw the movie - a ticket stub and summary of the movie, including what "disturbing things" they learned about black history from the movie.

"I just want to know if this is in any way an appropriate assignment for students that aren't even old enough to see the movie?" said the parent. "This is not Red Tails, a movie based on factual events of the Tuskegee airmen. This is Quentin Tarantino's version of exploiting slavery's ugly history for entertainment purposes."

The assignment, which Contri said is optional, is due Feb. 15 and is worth 300 points toward students' grades. The requirement that students see "Django Unchained" was removed, he said, and a revised scavenger hunt list was sent home today. [\[179\]](#)

"Django Unchained" is the perfect film to show the 98 percent black students who makeup the dwindling enrollment of Birmingham Public Schools, a system rivaling Detroit Public Schools for most ineffective (courtesy of the students who comprise the enrollment) in the nation, for it showcases the type of ideology that fueled the civil rights movement.

But how do you teach the 1963 Civil Rights movement in a city and a school system that has all but collapsed? [How to teach 1963: Educators across metro Birmingham take different approaches, Al.com, 1-25-13]:

Minor Elementary School teacher Allison Sanders knows the importance of teaching her fourth-graders about the civil rights movement. And she knows the challenge of teaching those students in a world where legal segregation is a thing of the past, but almost all of her students are of one race.

So she divides them, as segregation laws did a half century ago. She labels half the class as the pink group, and the other half as green. The green group gets all the best stuff. The pink group settles for less.

But throughout this experiment, the groups eat only with those of their color. They play in groups, live at school in groups, congregate in groups. And they never mingle.

"The first two days were hard - the kids were angry," Sanders said. "But they're learning vocabulary, like integration and segregation and unjust and prejudice ... And they need to understand how they can go to the places they go today. They need to know what kinds of sacrifices were made for them."

It is a creative approach to teaching a subject that is often hard to teach and, many times, neglected. Throughout metro Birmingham, the teaching of the [landmark year in civil rights history of 1963](#) varies as widely as the communities in it that make up the area.

In Birmingham, teachers have embraced this teaching moment. In the suburbs, some students say, instruction and commemoration has been spotty at best.

"I don't think it's taught enough in our school system," said Steven Craig, a junior at Homewood High School. Craig learned the usual during black history month growing up - about Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

But it wasn't until he took it upon himself -- after it came recommended to him by a cousin at Midfield High School - to enroll in the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Youth Leadership Academy, that he even learned who the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth was. That was during the summer before his sophomore year in high school.

"It's just not taught that much in over-the-mountain schools," Craig said. "I have a friend who went through the academy with me also from an over-the-mountain school system who had to correct a teacher on one of the dates she was teaching from the civil rights movement.

"We're in a city where we don't have to sit in a classroom and learn from a book," he said. "This isn't World War II we're talking about - we're not thousands of miles away from the sites. Take them to the Civil Rights Museum; take them to the 16th Street Baptist Church. Take them to Kelly Ingram Park."

The problem, says Sam Pugh, outreach coordinator for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, has little to do with urban vs. suburban school systems.

"It's a generational issue," he said. Young teachers who know little about the movement themselves, coupled with students who are far removed from it, means many students just don't learn much about it, he said.

"It's a harsh moment of history and some don't want to remember that, so they don't pass it down to the next generation," Pugh said.

Pugh visited Minor Elementary School on a recent day. He taught them about the 1963 Children's March - a nonviolent march by hundreds of Birmingham school students with the goal of ending segregation in the city.

He taught them about Shuttlesworth's role in the fight against segregation. He told them about the four little girls not much older than them who died on a sunny Sunday morning in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

And he told them how all of these events eventually led to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark piece of legislation that ultimately ended segregation.

And then he let them play tug-of-war. But even that had a lesson, as he lined each side of the rope with an uneven number of students. One side was the "establishment" - those who wanted segregation. On the other side of the rope was "equality," those who wanted to end segregation. While a few more students were pulling for the side that wanted equality, it was clearly still a struggle on both sides of the rope.

The point of the exercise? To show students what a struggle the movement was, but that with determination, the battle could be won. [\[180\]](#)

A "rope of equality?"

"Django Unchained?"

These educational tools will improve math scores and graduation rates in the BPS system and convince start-up tech companies to invest in Birmingham's cheap downtown real estate, knowing potential employees harbor such sought-after technical skills as knowing how to "untie the rope of equality."

The battle was won; the condition of the city of Birmingham in 2013 is a fitting tribute to this glorious victory, where the city rots while the [civil rights monuments are continually polished and peddled out](#) to the general public to distract them from the conditions in a completely black-dominated city.

Remember the slogan in the chamber of the Birmingham City Council:
"Cities are What People Make Them."

"What Happened to the America Dream?" It Came True in Birmingham

Laughter.

Without the ability to just... laugh now and then, where would we be as a people?

When you sit back and realize that the United States of America, over the past 80 years, has been nothing more than a glorified Petri Dish for a fanatical social/science experiment that continually yields horrifying results... well, it's worth a laugh or two, because you know that despite this tragic results, no one will ever learn nothing.

That's why the tragedy of Birmingham, Alabama reflects so devastatingly hilarious on the Disingenuous White Liberals (DWLs) and managerial-elite types in charge of Black-Run America, for the city in 2013 resembles the type of comedy a white supremacist script writer might have pitched had the Southern states had the equivalent of a Hollywood in the 1950s.

The script would have detailed what happens to a hypothetical city when black people take charge of running the government, fixing the roads and maintaining the infrastructure, attracting new business through economic development departments, and - most importantly - funding the government through the taxing of their labor.

It would have served as a warning of the type of civilization black people were able to maintain, but alas, in 2013 Birmingham, we need no outlandish script to watch sad players strut and fret their hour upon the political and economic stage -- to paraphrase the great Shakespeare -- "signifying everything."

A city of 212,000 people - 73.4 percent of them black - is also home to the highest sales tax in all of America [Birmingham's 10 cents on the dollar sales tax to remain another five years, Birmingham News, 2-5-13]:

Birmingham's 10 cents on the dollar sales tax rate will continue for at least another five years following the City Council's vote to renew the 2007 one-cent hike.

The council without discussion today reauthorized the penny increase that was initially [proposed and approved during former Mayor Larry Langford's administration](#).

The increase was part of [Langford's plan to fund improvements](#) in police, fire, street and sidewalks and fund a new scholarship programs.

The tax was set to expire in December. The extra cent tax brings in about \$33 million to the city. Tom Barnett, the city's finance director, had stressed the importance of extending the tax for both the city's budget and its standing with bond rating agencies.

Both one-cent tax increase and the accompanying doubling of city license fees were used to prop up the city's budget during the economic downturn, officials have said. [\[181\]](#)

Having a population that is 73.4 percent black - white people abandoned the city their ancestors built and maintained after the downfall of their civilization in 1963 - requires extraordinary accounting methods to fund the Birmingham city government budget. When one of the only contributions of the almost entirely black city council has been the extension of a moratorium of allowing new payday loan, title pawn, or cash-checking business to open in the city every six months since November 2011, you realize the financially devastating impact a majority black population has an economy. [\[182\]](#)

But then you consider the reason for Birmingham having the highest sales tax in all of America, and it's worth an even bigger chuckle [Birmingham City Council approves sales tax, business license fee increases, Birmingham News, 12-4-2007]:

The Birmingham City Council voted today to increase the city sales tax by one cent and double business license fees to pay for a domed stadium, transit improvements and other projects.

Both increases will take effect Jan. 1.

The vote is a big early victory for Mayor Larry Langford, who took office Nov. 13 vowing to move quickly toward making big changes in Birmingham. Shortly after noon, the council took separate votes on Langford's sales tax and license fee initiatives, which the mayor says will generate \$72 million a year for various projects.

"Dome, done. Scholarships, done. Transit, done. It's a good day," Langford said. [\[183\]](#)

Wait... so the sales tax fee is bringing less than 50 percent of what was promised in 2007 when it went into effect? Does Birmingham have a dome? Better transit?

No. The sales tax only serves to help pay for the cities budget.

And what ever happened to that Mayor Langford fellow? That's right, he's in jail for accepting bribes in a sewage deal that would ultimately help ensure that Jefferson County (home to Birmingham) would have to declare the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history:

Everyone knows that the ultimate target is Larry Langford, the controversial but as yet unindicted mayor of Birmingham. Langford, who served as president of the Jefferson County Commission when most of the riskiest refinancing was completed, has been accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission of accepting more than \$156,000 in cash and benefits from brokers who had business with the county.

To have the city's mayor end up in jail would be embarrassing, sure. But it would be nothing compared to the lasting damage to job creation and economic growth that Birmingham's civic leaders - still fighting the legacy of the city's civil rights battles in the 1960s - fear from a Chapter 9 bankruptcy. [\[184\]](#)

Again, you just have to laugh.

Were a bigoted script writer pitching a show in 1950s America of what black political rule would mean for a city, would the condition of Birmingham in 2013 be different from the outcome projected by this fictional writer?

Remember, Birmingham's is a city whose residents have made such poor financial choices that traditional banks can no longer offer their services because of legitimate fears of losing shareholder money by high rates of default.

This is why payday loan, title pawn and cash-checking business flourish in 73 percent black Birmingham, because they offer a product/service no traditional bank would dare - or can legally- match. The ban on new stores was extended on May 16, 2012^[185]; it was extended again on October 16, 2012 for another six months.^[186]

Recall the reason for the moratorium in the first place -- with 93 Payday Loan businesses operating within the city limits of the 73.4 percent black city of Birmingham, this was the number one product/service offered to the citizens of the city:

Birmingham City Council members adopted a resolution to ban new Payday Loan businesses within the city.

The resolution was originally introduced by Councilwoman LaShunda Scales in September. But even as the ordinance came up for a final vote council members still had not reached a consensus on the language.

At one point during the discussion Councilwoman Kim Rafferty declared that the Council as a whole looked like a bunch of fools.

Council President Roderick Royal swiftly found Rafferty out of order.

The debate stemmed from two amendments issued by Councilor Carole Smitherman.

The Amendments were to clarify language in the ordinance to ensure that banks and existing payday loan businesses would not be impacted.

Council members say they need the time to establish better establish rules as to where a Payday Loan business may open to avoid clustering.

Councilor Scales says that with 93 Payday Loan businesses operating within the city limits, these businesses are the number one product the city offers to its citizens. [\[187\]](#)

Remember, payday loan stores operate via granting higher interests rates to consumers traditional banks understand are too great a risk too lend to; after all, banks are trying to make a profit, while black-run governments know the federal government might bail them out.

Councilwoman Lashunda Scales, who proposed the ban, is also the chairwoman of the Birmingham City Council's Economic Development Committee. She is in favor of forcing legitimate banking institutions to become "more flexible" in their lending practices when it comes to handing out loans to the citizens of 73.4 percent black Birmingham currently under-serviced by banks and over-serviced by payday loans, title pawn, and check-cashing stores:

Councilwoman Kim Rafferty later called a meeting to form Bank on Birmingham, a clearinghouse of available institutions willing to provide services and insight to those now using high-interest and high-fee payday lending and check cashing businesses.

"As a local government it would be wise for us to continue to work with the federal government and the state Legislature to protect our citizens from predatory lending while forcing banking institutions to become more flexible in their lending practices," Scales said.

[\[188\]](#)

"Forcing."

Or is it "Fleecing," since most of the loans would only go into foreclosure...

Comrade Lashunda Scales rationale and reasoning for passing the ban is equally hilarious, for the logic behind why so many of these stores operate in 73.4 percent black Birmingham is the reason legitimate businesses and commercial development can't operate in 73.4 percent black Birmingham:

She said businesses offering short-term loans have high interest rates that keep financially strained customers trapped in a cycle of making interest-only payments.

Secondly, she said, the presence of too many of these businesses repel other commercial development.

"Our citizens deserve first-class businesses at an affordable price," she said. "However, if you have a string of these kind of predatory lending agencies in those same communities, then the likelihood of those (other) businesses locating in that area is nonexistent."[\[189\]](#)

Predatory lending agencies are exactly the kind of fifth-rate businesses the 73.4 percent black citizens of Birmingham deserve, because it's the only type of industry that can flourish in this type of demographic situation:

According to Councilor Lashunda Scales, who spearheaded the drive for the moratorium, there are 93 payday loan facilities in Birmingham—more than any other city in Alabama. "It is the leading product, at this point, that we have," Scales said. "It supersedes any grocery stores, any main retailers that our citizens are asking for, and that's in every single district."[\[190\]](#)

Birmingham is an unattractive investment for grocery stores, major retailers, and other businesses considering investing capital with the city limits for the very reason it is such an attractive location for payday loan stores.

Of course, Birmingham is also a city that had to set restrictions limiting where methadone clinics can be opened... [Birmingham City Council sets restrictions on methadone clinics, Birmingham News, 11-8-11]:

The Birmingham City Council today approved new rules limiting where methadone clinics are allowed to open.

The new zoning rules prohibit the clinics from operating within a thousand feet of churches, schools, parks, historic districts or revitalization districts.

Councilwoman Valerie Abbott, who sponsored the new restrictions, said they were the result of complaints from residents in South Avondale, where a clinic is operating. Abbott said the clinics increase traffic and are frequent scenes of loitering. "We had no means currently of dealing with these type of facilities," said Abbott, chairwoman of the Planning and Zoning Committee.

"We've had numerous complaints from people living around these type of facilities about what was going on there." The ordinance was approved on a 4-2 vote, with Abbott, Council President Roderick Royal, Jay Roberson and Johnathan Austin voting yes and Maxine Parker and Steven Hoyt voting no.

Council members Lashunda Scales, Kim Rafferty and Carole Smitherman were absent. The rules will not affect existing clinics. Hoyt called the rules too restrictive and unfair to people needing treatment.

"I'm not in favor of it in this form," Hoyt said. "Given the writing of this ordinance, I'd believe you'd have to build it on Mars." Hoyt said the clinics provide essential services that the city is limiting.

If we don't treat these folks they're going to break into our houses, they're going to shoot and kill folks because of lack of treatment," he said. [\[191\]](#)

Laughter.

Without the ability to just... laugh now and then, where would we be as a people?

Great Moments in Black History -
- Birmingham Mayor Richard
Arrington's 1992 March in Chains

Imagine you're the first black mayor of perhaps the most important city - symbolically - in the world, whose recent history literally represents the destruction of one civilization and the creation of another.

What do you do when you are tasked by a Federal District judge to turn over appointment records to a Federal grand jury investigating you over charges of corruption at the City Hall you are tasked to run?

Cry racism, of course, while draping chains around you and walking - with 700 supporters - from one of the holiest of holy "Civil Rights" sites in America to turn yourself in to those same Federal authorities.

Birmingham, Alabama is that city and in span of twenty years (1963-1983), the formerly "Magic City" has completely flipped from being 60 percent white/40 percent black to the exact opposite.

By 1979, the demographics had switched to ensure - with almost monolithic black support - a black man was elected mayor of the city.

That black man was Richard Arrington. And, yes, he wrapped himself in chains and marched from the 16th Street Baptist Church - bombed in 1963 - to conjure up sympathetic images in the minds of the nation, and arouse suspicion of just another racist government witch-hunt against an angelic, innocent black man [Mayor of Birmingham Is Sent to Prison : Courts: The city's first black chief executive will serve time on weekends for contempt. He claims the citation is racially motivated, Los Angeles Times, 1-24-1992]:

Richard Arrington, the first black mayor of this city that became a symbol of the civil rights battles of the 1960s, went to prison for contempt of court Thursday amid emotional charges that he was railroaded because of his race.

The contempt citation stems from Arrington's refusal to obey a federal grand jury subpoena for his appointment records, which are being sought as part of an investigation into allegations that he took \$5,000 in kickbacks involving city contract work--a charge Arrington denies.

With about 45 minutes to spare before a 5 p.m. deadline, the 50-year-old mayor, surrounded by hundreds of supporters--some wearing symbolic chains--marched under leaden skies from a rally and turned himself in to federal authorities, who were to take him to a federal prison in Montgomery, Ala.

He is scheduled to serve time from 5 p.m. each Thursday until 8 a.m. the following Monday, leaving him most of the week to run the city. Also, he is being fined \$1,000 a day for each day he ignores the subpoena. Attorneys say the sentence will last until May, when the grand jury session ends.

The rally was held at the 16th Street Baptist Church, where in the 1960s, a racist bombing killed four black girls and where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. organized powerful protests. Several speakers praised Arrington and assailed the judicial system that was about to lock him up because of its "klan mentality."

"We're tired of white folks acting like black folks don't have no sense," thundered the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a noted civil rights activist.

A message urging the U.S. Justice Department to "intervene in the Birmingham controversy" because it has "severely polarized" the city was sent by John E. Jacob, president of the National Urban League.

A white downtown office worker, who asked not to be named, worried that the controversy will set the city back racially.

"Things have improved over the years," he said. "I feel like he's using the racial thing the same way white officials did back in the '60s."

In choosing confinement instead of complying with the subpoena, Arrington hopes to gain attention for his contention that black officials nationwide have been victims of racist investigations.

He told the church rally: "We have a history of taking adversity and turning it into advantage. That is what we hope to do here."

However, some political commentators questioned the effectiveness of playing the race card, pointing out that it reminds people that former Washington Mayor Marion Barry was convicted of cocaine use despite asserting that the charges against him were racist.

"This tactic is not as potent as it once was," said William Boone, chairman of the political science department at Clark Atlanta University. "There is a strong strand of people who are beginning to say: 'Look, you can't use the race issue.' They say: 'The question is not whether you were targeted, but did you do it?'"

Thursday's events were the latest skirmish in a seven-year war between Arrington and U.S. Atty. Frank Donaldson. Donaldson has launched about a dozen investigations of Arrington but has not succeeded in getting him indicted.

Tarlee Brown, an Atlanta architect and former partner of Arrington, has accused Arrington of accepting \$5,000 in bribes on two occasions. Additionally, according to Brown, the mayor was to receive 25% of whatever Brown's city contracts were worth. [\[192\]](#)

The Los Angeles Times story doesn't quite do the march justice in the same manner as *The Old Grey Lady* does -- *The New York Times* goes right to the heart of the symbolic march in chains from the start, employing the old inverted pyramid strategy to illustrate the most important news at the top of the story

[With 700 Supporters Rallying Round, Birmingham Mayor Goes to Prison, *New York Times*, 1-24-1992]:

After leading hundreds of his supporters, some of them draped in chains, from the 16th Street Baptist Church to the Federal courthouse in a scene evocative of the civil rights marches of the 1960's, Mayor Richard Arrington Jr. surrendered to United States marshals today under a contempt of court citation.

Mr. Arrington, the first black Mayor of this city, submitted himself to the order of a Federal court after an emotional send-off by more than 700 of his supporters that started at the church. It was where a bomb exploded on Sept. 15, 1963, taking the lives of four black children attending Sunday school.

Some of the Mayor's supporters draped themselves in chains to symbolize what marchers said were the chains of oppression that still bind black Americans.

Rejects Court Order

The rally at the church and the march to the courthouse, three blocks away, seemed calculated to arouse memories of the civil rights movement in Birmingham when similar marches set out from the church to protest racial segregation. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and hundreds of other demonstrators were arrested during protests in the spring of 1963, and supporters of Mayor Arrington say he is following in Dr. King's footsteps by going to jail on a matter of principle.

Mayor Arrington, before he began the walk to the Federal courthouse and the 90-mile drive with marshals to the Federal prison in Montgomery, said, "We have a history of taking adversity and turning it into triumph." He arrived at the prison this evening without speaking to reporters, The Associated Press quoted a prison spokesman as saying.

At the rally, the Rev. Abraham Woods, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, made a defiant reference to Birmingham's past. He said, "We didn't let the dogs turn us around, the hoses, the jails, the Ku Klux Klan. We wouldn't let Eugene Bull Connor turn us around!" And he led the crowd in the singing of protest songs from the 1960's, when Mr. Connor headed the city's police force.

The Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, a central figure in the civil rights movement in Birmingham in that period, said: "We're tired of white folks acting like black folks don't have any sense. We're going put an end to this harassment. Hallelujah!"[\[193\]](#)

Draping oneself in chains, marching with 700 of your closest friends (a dramatic showcase of the power of Organized Blackness), and using the sympathetic media to broadcast your story to a nationwide audience - all with the backdrop of the great "civil rights" victories and monuments in the background of the story - is exactly what the first black mayor of Birmingham did in 1992 when tasked by a Federal District judge to turn over appointment records to a Federal grand jury.

This has been another great moment in black history.

Great Moments in Black History: Richard Scrushy, HealthSouth, and Black Birmingham

Few moments in black history are as important – and telling - as the story of [HealthSouth founder Richard Scrushy](#).

A white man born in Selma, Scrushy was once known as the ultimate villain of American capitalism – a real life manifestation of the Monopoly man. Once one of the highest paid CEOs in America, Scrushy and HealthSouth would come under intense fire from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for accounting fraud in the early part of this past decade.

Money laundering, extortion, obstruction of justice, racketeering, and bribery – you name it, Scrushy as the head of HealthSouth was indicted of doing.

This story predates the collapse of 2008 – when your Bernie Madoff's, Lehman Brothers, American International Group (AIG), and Bear Stearns captured all the headlines – and didn't transpire in a sexy news locale like New York City.

No – the story of HealthSouth and Scrushy comes to you live from Birmingham, Alabama. And it involves a white man trying to cozy up to potential jurors from a city that was (and is) nearly 75 percent black.

You see, Scrusy understood the dynamics of Black-Run America (BRA) and he attempted to bestow black people and black churches with buckets of cash – all in the hopes of beating the SEC and the 30 indictments against him. He even paid to be a Christian talk show on a television program that caters to a black audience [Will the Real Richard Scrusy Please Step Forward, New York Times, 2-17-2005]:

The members of Guiding Light Church welcome Richard M. Scrusy, the ousted founder of the HealthSouth Corporation, with open arms each week to services, where he and his wife are among the handful of whites in a mostly African-American congregation.

"I've seen him in services so often with members of his family," Pat Lowe, the wife of the Guiding Light pastor, said of Mr. Scrusy, who is married for a third time and has nine children. "I believe he is a man of integrity."

Mr. Scrusy, 52, began attending Guiding Light not long before his indictment in 2003 on charges of overseeing a \$2.7 billion conspiracy to defraud shareholders of HealthSouth, a chain of rehabilitation hospitals he started two decades ago. A spokesman for Mr. Scrusy said Mr. Scrusy had given money to Guiding Light, but he declined to specify how much. "He has always supported the churches he attends," the spokesman, Charlie Russell, said.

It is not uncommon, of course, for someone in the public eye who has fallen from grace to migrate to a house of prayer. But Mr. Scrusy's new emphasis on his ties to Birmingham's large black population and his churchgoing ways have many people in this city asking, is it all part of his defense strategy? About 70 percent of Birmingham is African-American, and of the 18 jurors and alternates at his trial, 11 are African-American.

The danger is that Mr. Scrushy's very public moves could backfire, especially considering that inside the courtroom his lawyers are following a different, and decidedly uncharitable, strategy. His legal team has been aggressively seeking to tarnish the reputations of Mr. Scrushy's former employees who are testifying against him. In fact, in late January, one lawyer, Jim Parkman, of Dothan, Ala., accused a former HealthSouth executive of being a heavy-drinking philanderer.

In the months before the start of his trial on Jan. 25, Mr. Scrushy seems not to have missed an opportunity to portray himself as a friend of Birmingham's black community. His personal Web site describes his humble origins in Selma, Ala., "a town known as the birthplace of the civil rights movement," where he says he apprenticed with a brick mason and washed cars at a filling station. He also hired prominent black lawyers to help guide his legal strategy, including Donald Watkins, a lawyer and financier who successfully defended Birmingham's first black mayor, Richard Arrington Jr., in a government investigation into corruption allegations.

These actions have astounded some former associates of Mr. Scrushy, who was known around Birmingham for the conspicuous display of his wealth before his problems with the law. According to a list of assets drawn up by federal prosecutors, Mr. Scrushy owns two Cessna jets; a Lamborghini Murcielago and a Rolls Royce Corniche; three Miros, two Chagalls and a Picasso; and several multimillion-dollar homes.

"In all my visits to the executive suite at HealthSouth, I never saw a black person there, not among the executives, the doctors or the secretaries," said Paul Finebaum, a radio talk-show host and former business associate of Mr. Scrushy. "The first time I heard religion and Richard Scrushy mentioned in the same sentence was when I read about him going to Guiding Light Church. I think he must be running out of options." [\[194\]](#)

Enron, Arthur Anderson, Worldcom... they have nothing on Mr. Scrushy. Nor did they dare consider playing the 'black card' --- the ultimate card to play in the judicial system in America. Cynthia Tucker of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* summed up the Scrushy Defense in a hilarious column:

Let's say you're a rich white guy who — according to the feds — has cooked the books at his company to get even richer, inflating earnings to the tune of \$2.7 billion. What do you do when the law comes after you?

... Well, if you're Richard Scrushy — founder and former CEO of Birmingham-based HealthSouth, a rehabilitation services company — you try to pass yourself off as a black man who is the victim of government persecution.

USA Today's profile of Scrushy was even better [Former HealthSouth CEO Scrushy turns televangelist, 10-25-2004]:

When Martha Stewart was indicted, she turned to Barbara Walters for a sympathetic broadcast interview. When Ken Lay was indicted, he turned to Larry King. But former HealthSouth ([HLSH](#)) CEO Richard Scrushy, whose trial on charges stemming from a \$2.7 billion accounting fraud is scheduled to begin in January, is reaching out to a higher power: Jesus.

Since March, Scrushy and his wife, Leslie, have been hosting a half-hour talk show every weekday morning on a local independent TV station here. Although *Viewpoint* occasionally tackles subjects such as media bias and self-improvement, Scrushy's bread-and-butter topic is the Bible and the importance of following the word of God.

To that end, Scrushy books a steady stream of local ministers and pastors as guests. Scrushy, 52, used to attend church services in Vestavia Hills, the affluent suburb where he lives. But last year, around the time of his indictment, he began attending the Guiding Light Church, a ministry across town that caters primarily to African-Americans.

Early this year, Guiding Light purchased 12 months' worth of airtime for the show. Scott Campbell, general manager of WTTO Channel 21, would not disclose how much Scrusby's church paid, but he says about 5,000 Birmingham households tune in each morning. "This is a paid program, just like the Ginsu knife commercials," Campbell says.

Critics of Scrusby's show see it as a cynical attempt to generate goodwill among potential jurors in the Birmingham area, which is about 70% African-American. "I've never seen the show because I don't watch infomercials," says Doug Jones, the Birmingham attorney leading a shareholder lawsuit against Scrusby. "It's clear that it's a jury selection strategy, and I guess it will remain to be seen how effective it might be."[\[195\]](#)

Never mind the doubters – Scrusby's legal strategy of placating the black community worked: he was acquitted of all charges by a jury trial in nearly 75 percent black Birmingham.

CNN Money would profile Donald Watkins, Scrusby's black lead-attorney, who crafted the black defense for a man whose indictments looked like a long prison sentence [THE MAN WHO SAVED RICHARD SCRUSHY, 7-25-2005]:

RICHARD SCRUSHY'S \$2.7 BILLION accounting-fraud trial looked like a slam-dunk for the prosecution. All five CFOs who had ever reported to the former HealthSouth CEO copped guilty pleas and agreed to testify against him. Ten lesser company officials also pleaded guilty and agreed to testify. Yet the prosecutors threw up 36 airballs, failing to score with a Birmingham, Ala., jury on any of the three dozen counts.

What happened? Scrushy's lead attorney, Donald Watkins, would be glad to explain--and to continue the hoops metaphor. "They never expected a hard, full-court press throughout the trial, and that's what they got. It was unrelenting," says Watkins, who put together an unlikely defense team and unleashed it on what he calls the "overconfident" feds. Art Leach was the Designated Objector, contesting prosecutors' questions frequently and knocking them off stride. Jim Parkman was the cross-examiner whose down-home demeanor won over the jury even as he destroyed witnesses' credibility.

Watkins, of course, was the coach--and, it turns out, the perfect person for the role. His worldview was shaped by his youth in civil-rights-era Montgomery. Though the son of a university president, he knew the indignities of drinking from separate water fountains and the stresses of integration. Now 56, he was one of the first blacks to attend the University of Alabama law school in the 1960s. Even decades later, the emotions and fissures of that era's upheaval profoundly influence Alabama's dynamics--and, as necessary, Watkins's tactics.

And so he deployed a brilliant, if controversial, racial strategy in a city where blacks and whites still, according to Watkins, view certain things very differently. "Black people are more open to receiving their information in the courtroom," he says. "Whites will buy into the media hype put out by the U.S. Attorney and Justice Department for two years...." Watkins tried to maximize the number of black jurors--seven of 12 would be African American. He seemed to be speaking directly to those jurors in his closing argument, comparing the legal travails of Richard Scrushy (who--need it be noted?--is a wealthy white man) to the struggles of blacks in the 1950s and 1960s. Outside the court, the black community was wooed by Scrushy himself, who joined a black church, and preached or donated to other black congregations. Some of them sat behind the defense table at trial in what became known as his "amen corner." Critics saw that as an effort to influence jurors; Watkins asserts it was an unbidden show of support. [\[196\]](#)

Though he would be convicted for later charges brought up against him, Scrushy beat the system the first time around. And all by playing the black defense: The Birmingham News off all papers questioned this strategy when it was first being reported in 2003 [Scrushy's charitable donations continue as trial approaches, 11-18-03]:

Scrushy and his wife recently switched churches, joining Guiding Light Church, a predominantly black congregation of 3,800 people that wants to build a new worship center, school and day-care center on 215 acres near Irondale.

This year, the Scrushy foundation has also given money to Miles College Law School, part of the historically black university in Fairfield, and the Holy Family Foundation, which helps support St. Mary's Catholic Church, which is also predominantly black.

"He's not acting inconsistently," said Watkins. "He has a long record of giving to a variety of organizations based on their need, not their racial make-up."

Any appearance of attempting to curry favor as he faces legal trouble might backfire, said former Securities and Exchange Commission lawyer Chris Bebel, who is now with the Houston law firm Shepherd Smith & Bebel.

"It could cause members of the African-American community to be resentful and to feel that Scrushy is attempting to manipulate them," Bebel said.

Watkins said Scrushy doesn't need to create a favorable impression among blacks, who remember him for supporting former Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington during the politician's battles last decade with federal prosecutors who unsuccessfully tried to charge him with corruption.

"He has enjoyed a favorable impression with the black community since he stood beside Richard Arrington at the height of that man's troubles and said, `This is my friend,'" Watkins said. "So his giving isn't part of any litigation strategy. I would hope that jurors in any trial would discharge their responsibilities based on the facts."[\[197\]](#)

So, a quick piece of advice to the next CEO of a major Fortune 100 corporation accused by the SEC of accounting fraud – paint yourself as a poor black man, merely persecuted by the man. The white man. Donate vast sums of money to black churches and poorly run black colleges. And by all means, go on TV as a televangelist.

This has been another great moment in black history

Great Moments in Black History: 98 percent Black Birmingham City Schools Get Laptops Designed for "Developing Countries -- Program Fails Miserably

There's not much else to say about life in Birmingham that hasn't been said already here at SBPDL. Black-run Birmingham has been a monumental, a testament to why men once took a stand against such eventualities back in 1963.

But they lost -- and in so doing, the entire Western World from Chicago to Johannesburg; to Paris and Sydney.

Considering that the conditions in 2013 Birmingham (73.4 percent black) are akin to a third-world - remember, "[Cities are what people make of them](#)" -- it should be of no great shock the city was the first to adopt a laptop program designed for 'developing nations' for its nearly 98 percent black K-12 public school population [Birmingham City Schools will be first in nation to get \$200 XO laptops, Birmingham News, December 4, 2007]:

Birmingham city schools will be the first in the nation to receive laptop computers designed for children in third-world countries under an agreement completed over the weekend, Mayor Larry Langford announced Monday.

Langford signed a purchase agreement for 15,000 laptops from One Laptop Per Child, a nonprofit foundation whose goal is to provide every child in the world with access to technology.

"We live in a digital age, so it is important that all our children have equal access to technology and are able to integrate it into all aspects of their lives," Langford said. "We are proud that Birmingham is on its way to eliminating the so-called 'digital divide' and to ensuring that our children have state-of-the-art tools for education."

Under the agreement, the city will buy 15,000 laptops for \$200 each, Langford said. The \$3 million deal will allow every child in grades one through eight in Birmingham city schools to receive a laptop, he said.

"Our students will have access to global thinking now," said Birmingham schools Superintendent Stan Mims. "It becomes a tipping point in the digital divide."

Langford has asked the City Council to approve \$7 million for the laptops and a scholarship program that would give Birmingham students with a C average or above a scholarship to college or tech school of their choice. The City Council has not yet approved the funding.

The rugged, waterproof computers will be distributed to students on April 15, Langford said, and children will be allowed to take them home. If a computer is lost, the school system can disable it, rendering it useless, Langford said. Students will turn in their computers at the end of their eighth-grade year. [\[198\]](#)

As Fox News put it perfectly:

If \$200 laptop computers are good for kids in Peru and Mongolia, why not Alabama?

Birmingham's City Council has approved a \$3.5 million plan to provide schoolchildren with 15,000 computers produced by the nonprofit One Laptop Per Child Foundation, which aims to spread laptops to poor children in developing countries.

The foundation says the deal marks the first time a U.S. city has agreed to buy the machines, which also are headed to such countries as Rwanda, Thailand, Brazil and Mexico in addition to Peru and Mongolia.[\[199\]](#)

Indeed. If these XO laptops are good enough for Rwanda, Brazil, and Mexico public school students, those almost entirely black K-12 students of the liberated Birmingham City School system should have a step or two on those 'developing countries' -- right?

Almost immediately, the project ran into supply-management problems [Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford disappointed many students still lack laptops, Birmingham News, 11-6-08]:

More than two months after 14,000 XO laptop computers were delivered for students in Birmingham's elementary schools, most are still sitting in a warehouse waiting to be distributed.

Mayor Larry Langford said he is disappointed by the slow distribution of the computers in a project he initiated and hoped would be up and running by now.

"Those kids should have had those computers 30 days ago," Langford said. "A tool for learning sitting in a box, sitting in a warehouse. I'm just truly disappointed."

The city bought 15,000 XO laptops - originally designed for developing countries - earlier this year. Glen Iris Elementary School was the first to receive the computers for a pilot program in the spring. The pilot program worked so well that the Birmingham Board of Education agreed to distribute the remaining 14,000 laptop computers to the city's first- through fifth-graders.[\[200\]](#)

Then came the really bad news about the whole XO laptop program, normally reserved for "developing countries" though Birmingham was to be the first pilot-case in America: the almost-entirely black student population of Birmingham City Schools failed to even use them [Most Birmingham classrooms not using XO laptops much, but supporters urge not giving up on them, Birmingham News, 7-25-2010]:

Two years into the XO laptop initiative for Birmingham's elementary school students, a recent study shows only a fifth of the students who have the computers use them much in class.

More than \$4 million has been invested in the project, but the city recently eliminated XO funding, at least for now, as part of its budget cuts.

But the initiative's supporters say that with the right teacher training the laptops can be useful in class, and they hope city and school leaders won't give up on the project.

According to a study conducted by an associate professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, about 20 percent of students reported using the laptops "a lot" in class, about 60 percent reported using them only "a little" and about 20 percent reported never using them. Just 31 percent said they learn more in class with the computers.[\[201\]](#)

And just what did that study quoted from above reveal about the pilot-program for XO laptop program - normally reserved for third world, developing countries - in Birmingham, Alabama? [One Laptop per Child Birmingham: Case Study of a Radical Experiment, Warschauer, Cotten, and Ames, 2010]:

The One Laptop per Child (OLPC) program is one of the most ambitious educational reform initiatives the world has ever seen. The program has developed a radically new low-cost laptop computer and aggressively promoted its plans to put the computer in the hands of hundreds of millions of children around the world, focusing on those in the most impoverished nations. Though fewer than two million of the OLPC's XO computers have been distributed as of this writing, the initiative has caught the attention of world leaders, influenced developments in the global computer industry, and sparked controversy and debate about the best ways to improve the lives of the world's poor. In 2008, OLPC launched its first major implementation in the United States with the distribution of 15,000 XO computers to students in grades 1–5, teachers, and administrators in Birmingham, Alabama. Imposed on the local school district by the Birmingham City Council, the program was mired in controversy from the beginning.

The largest deployment of XO laptops in the United States to date occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, from 2008 to 2010. The former mayor of Birmingham, Larry Langford, a contentious figure in Alabama politics, contracted with OLPC to purchase 15,000 XO laptops for children in the first through eighth grades (later this became first through fifth grades) in Birmingham city schools. Over 95% of the students in Birmingham schools are African American, and poverty levels are very high, with 80% of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. The mayor stated that he wanted to eliminate the digital divide in Birmingham and to prepare children to be active participants in the information- and technology-based society that currently exists in the United States (Leech 2007).

Much of this controversy was A total of 80.3% of the Birmingham students surveyed indicated they either never use the XOs at school (20.4%) or use them a little (59.9%). Only 19.7% of students indicated they use them a lot at school. This stands in contrast to our surveys in other districts, where a majority of teachers and students indicated they use laptops for a substantial amount of the school day on a daily basis. For example, fourthgrade students in

Saugus reported using the netbooks a mean of two hours per day in school, while fifthgrade students in Littleton reported using the netbooks a mean of 1.8 hours per day in school. We suspect the classroom use figures reported by Birmingham students are actually overstated. Answers to other questions suggest that much of the reported school use occurs outside the classroom. For example, though only 20.4% of students indicated they never use the XO at school, 29.7% indicated on a separate question that they never use the XO in class. In Littleton and Saugus, students do not have access to the netbooks outside of class, so the reported numbers can refer only to school use in class. related to the mayor of Birmingham, a contentious figure in Alabama politics and the one who initiated the OLPC program in the city. The XOs were seldom used in class and broke down at a rapid rate. After the two people responsible for launching the program, the mayor and city council president, were imprisoned for unrelated corruption, the new city leadership faced financial deficits and cut off further funding for the OLPC program, leading to its demise.

In 2010, the Birmingham City Council cut off further funding for the XO program as part of a broader package of cuts made in response to budget deficits. Though XOs remained in the schools, the school superintendent moved the XO program “to a subordinate position” and began to emphasize other uses of technology (Birmingham News Editorial Board 2010). In spring 2011, Birmingham City Schools announced they were moving away from using XO laptops in the schools because of the continued lack of funding from the city council and problems with reliability of the XOs.

The Birmingham program stands in marked contrast to other one-to-one programs in the United States, which have shown broadly positive results. Laptops are widely used in these programs on a daily basis (see, e.g., Silvernail and Lane 2004; Warschauer 2006), and educational leaders are satisfied with their impact on teaching and learning processes (Greaves and Hayes 2008).

Though a small number of laptop programs have been discontinued either because of lack of funding or lack of impact on test score outcomes (Hu 2007), we know of no other large laptop program in the United States where the computers themselves are seldom used in the classroom. In the two other programs using netbooks and open source software investigated as part of Warschauer's (2011) broader study, both districts experienced teacher and student satisfaction, improved learning processes, and gains in student test scores.[\[202\]](#)

Birmingham, as a representative case-study in Actual Black-Run America (ABRA) shouldn't be considered in the same conversation as a Mexico or Rwanda, labeled a "developing country" worthy of XO computers for its K-12 student population; it's a failed state, whose elected officials should be jailed -- in the case of former Mayor Larry Langford, he is.

This has been another installment of "Great Moments in Black History."

Great Moments in Black History: Birmingham, Mayor Larry Langford, a Prayer, and a Burlap Sack

Living in Black-Run America (BRA) means that any failure by black people - especially on a large scale - will be swept under the rug; in place of criticism of black people, will come the proverbial statements of "how far we've come," or "Jim Crow," this, or perhaps, "some whining about 'lynching'".

Which brings to the city of Birmingham, Alabama. There's not much to say about the 73.4% black city of Birmingham that Mr. John Bennett didn't discuss in his provocative piece at *American Thinker* [Civil Rights and the Collapse of Birmingham, Ala, 2-25-13]. To the point, Mr. Bennett provided us a glimpse into the demographic breakdown of Birmingham's public employees:

From the top down, considering the racial breakdown of Birmingham city jobs, data indicate that blacks are fully empowered in the sphere of government. Whites are 22% of the city's population, and hold 27% of public jobs (1180 of a total of 4273). Blacks are 73.4% of the population and hold 71.3% of public jobs (3051).

On the surface, this is surprisingly close parity between population percentage and representation in government jobs. However, serious racial disparities remain within several city departments. For instance, the City Council has 35 black staff members, but only four whites; in the Mayor's office there are 75 black and 12 white employees; Municipal Court Department: 89 black and six white; Public Works: 827 black, 99 white; Parks and Recreation Department: 301 black, 43 white. [\[203\]](#)

This portrait of a black-run city would be incomplete without these demographic numbers, showing us just who is in charge of the day-to-day maintenance of Birmingham.

But the story of Birmingham would be incomplete without bringing to light the tale of former black Mayor Larry Langford, currently rotting in jail for 15 years [\[204\]](#) on [60 convictions for public corruption](#). Meanwhile, Birmingham has been rotting since 1963.

Prior to his convictions, Mayor Langford embarked on an ambitious public relations crusade in 2008, hoping to restore some luster to the "Magic City": he wanted to build a \$100 million pentagon-shaped police headquarters in the city to combat crime [\[205\]](#), smaller in scale than the Department of Defense headquarters in Washington D.C. [\[206\]](#); he pushed for the release of public funds to build a dome-stadium, believing a state-of-the-art sports venue would resurrect the once named "football capital of the south" [\[207\]](#); and he pushed for the 2020 Olympics to be held in his city [Mayor Pushes Skeptical Birmingham to Dream on an Olympic Scale, New York Times, 8-28-08]:

But those ideas were dwarfed by Mr. Langford's proclamation this month: He wants the Olympics.

“Why shouldn’t Birmingham host the Olympics in 2020?” Mr. Langford, 60, asked in an interview at City Hall, smiling coyly and puffing a menthol cigarette.

With 230,000 people, Birmingham is far smaller than most of the cities that have played host to the Summer Olympics. It lacks sufficient hotel space, transportation options and athletic facilities, as the mayor concedes. And Atlanta, the last American city to host the Summer Games, in 1996, is only 145 miles away.

No matter, Mr. Langford said. “Our city has allowed the world to tell us for too long that we’re ‘less than’ and ‘too small,’ and we’ve bought into it,” he said. “We need to start thinking big.”

The response has alternated between laughter and frustration. Roads are deteriorating in the city. The murder rate is rising. And the county that Birmingham is part of, Jefferson, where Mr. Langford was the president of the County Commission until 2007, is on the brink of what could be the largest municipal bankruptcy in American history.

“Birmingham has an incredible number of needs, and we never have sufficient money to fund even half of them,” said Valerie A. Abbott, a member of the City Council. “Why would we spend money on something where we have no hope of being selected? It does not take a very sharp person to see that we’re out of our league and don’t have any hope of getting into the league.”

But in a city forever toiling to escape Atlanta’s shadow and the shame of its racial history, Mr. Langford, who is black, envisions a lofty future. [\[208\]](#)

A "lofty future" for the almost 3/4ths black city of Birmingham?

Only in the wildest imaginations of white liberals does the black-run city of Birmingham have a chance of prospering.

But it's another decision by Mayor Langford that requires an in-depth discussion now, for it serves as one of the great moments in black history. And it involves, sack cloth and ashes.

Burlap sacks.

You see -- 73.4% black Birmingham was in the grip of a black crime wave. So the mayor went Old Testament on a city where Vulcan, the Pagan God of fire, lords over. [Birmingham mayor fights crime with Christian rally, Birmingham News, 4-25-2008]:

More than 1,000 people gathered at Boutwell Auditorium Friday night, wearing burlap sacks, their foreheads dabbed with ashes, to observe what was proclaimed by Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford as "a day of prayer in sackcloth and ashes."

The night featured collective prayers for forgiveness and fiery sermons calling for the city to repent in order to stop the violence plaguing the city.

"Let there be so misunderstanding: Satan is at work in this town," Langford said. "And It is time to pray." [\[209\]](#)

Oh, it gets better. [Birmingham mayor fights crime with Christian rally, Tuscaloosa News, 4-26-2008]:

Struggling to confront a worsening homicide rate, the mayor asked pastors and citizens Friday to don burlap sacks and ashes Friday in an Old Testament-style sign of biblical repentance.

Mayor Larry Langford said his "sackcloth and ashes" rally at Boutwell Auditorium was inspired by the Book of Jonah, where residents of the ancient city of Ninevah wore rough fabric and ashes as a sign of turning away from sin.

A pastor who helped organize the rally said Langford bought 2,000 burlap bags to be handed out at the event.

“We believe things begin to dramatically change when the mayor, or leader, calls for prayer. I don’t think there’s ever been a city called to sackcloth and ashes,” said the Rev. Steve Green.

Since he took office last year, Langford has held three prayer rallies as a way of addressing crime and violence. Bibles were handed out at one of the events.

“This city needs to humble itself,” said Langford, a professing Christian.[\[210\]](#)

The city of Birmingham was humbled, when in 1963 the cameras of the Eastern Establishment broadcast to the world images of a civilization trying to save itself -- trying to save itself from denigrating into the world of 2013 Birmingham and Detroit.

This wasn't the first time prayer was invoked to restore order to a city ravaged by black criminality [Birmingham Mayor Suggests Prayer, Wearing Sacks to Curb Spate of Homicides, Fox News, 4-28-08]:

Birmingham city officials have turned to prayer in the past to cope with the city's crime problems.

The former chief, Annetta Nunn, promoted the idea of turning people toward God to quell the violence in the city's neighborhoods, and she instituted a Bible-based plan of civic responsibility for cleaning up rundown neighborhoods.[\[211\]](#)

All the while the statue of Vulcan, the largest cast-iron statue in the world mind you, watches on -- overlooking the mess of present-day Birmingham.

Before Mayor Langford decided to hold sack-races in Birmingham, a most curious article appeared in the pages of the Birmingham News -- Mayor Langford realized that black people were responsible for the deteriorating circumstances of the city and he felt the need for blacks to be held accountable for their actions.

So he called for a rally of black men only to address this issue [Langford plan has sights set on crime Black men challenged to step up to the plate, Birmingham News, 2-4-08]:

The city of Birmingham is launching an initiative that in other major cities is credited with successfully helping bring down violent crime rates.

The solution to ending violence in Birmingham lies with black men, who must take responsibility for their communities, Mayor Larry Langford said. It's an issue Langford pledged to tackle with the same vigor as each of his other initiatives since taking office in November.

The mayor wants to fill the seats at Fair Park arena Friday with black men willing to change the plight of their communities where homicides, violence and apathy are most prevalent. "We need to become leaders in our community," Langford said. "We need to say enough is enough."

Langford late last week met with a small group of black professionals to discuss his plan and set the first mass meeting for Friday at 6 p.m. His call to mobilize black men is similar to programs in other major cities designed to curb crime and invigorate struggling communities.

Langford said he created his "Plan 10/30: Why am I dying? Do you care?" initiative after seeing cases of violence and homicides in the city, mostly committed by black men. The plan's title reflects the fact that crime statistics show a majority of crimes in the city are committed by black men aged 10 to 30.

Already 11 people have been killed this year in Birmingham. Most of the homicides involved black men as the victim, suspect or both.

"We can't blame folks for what's going up in our community now," Langford said.

Several speakers will give short presentations, discussing challenges and giving examples of how each man present can help.'

'I'm not asking anyone other than black men," Langford said. "If you're white, don't get offended, you didn't create this problem. We did."

Organizers said they want a cross section of black men to attend Friday's meeting. Every concerned black man is encouraged to come, Langford said. "The goal is to put the 'neighbor' back in the 'hood,'" said Frank Matthews, co-director of the mayor's office of citizen's assistance and a coordinator for the meeting.

"The mayor started his 23 in 23 neighborhood cleanup, now he wants to restore safe neighborhoods beginning with African-American male accountability through project 10/30."

Langford said his meeting is not about creating new government policies, but encouraging personal responsibility. After the first meetings, Langford said he would then invite the entire community to join. "It has to start with us and then we bring everyone else," Langford said. "I need the ones who look like me right now."

Practical approach

Langford's call for only black men will be seen as controversial, but his approach is practical, said David R. Forde, a professor of criminal justice at the University of Alabama. "The sad fact is for Birmingham your significant problem is in black neighborhoods," Forde said.

"You have to start somewhere. If Mr. Langford feels he has to talk with a small group initially, start there."

Forde said the program should be broadened later to get ideas from all concerned with solving the problem. "It's a problem not just for black people, it's a problem for everyone in Birmingham," Forde said.

Forde was an evaluator for Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative, a 10-city community based program to reduce crime in cities that included Memphis, Indianapolis and Atlanta.

His report on that program showed aggressive participation in the program and partnerships with the community, law enforcement and prosecutors reduced violent crime by half in some cities.

"There are no overnight solutions to this," Forde said.

"There is a significant problem in Birmingham, and the only way we're going to do something about it is not just relying on the mayor to do something. We all have to do something about it." [\[212\]](#)

Mayor Langford is correct -- the violence and criminality in Birmingham is the fault of black people; but so are the sorrowful conditions found in post-1963 Birmingham.

On February 7, 2008, roughly 2,500 black men answered the mayor's call to address black-on-black crime in the city of Birmingham [Birmingham mayor's anti-crime rally brings out about 2,500 black men, Birmingham News, 2-8-08[\[213\]](#)]; not long after, 3,500 black women would attend a summit on black violence called on by a man who still had dreams of hosting the 2020 Olympics in a city plagued by black crime [About 3,500 metro Birmingham black women attend summit called by Mayor Larry Langford, Birmingham News, 2-29-08]:

A crowd of black women left Fair Park Arena in Birmingham tonight saying they felt empowered, uplifted and encouraged by a stage full of speakers delivered energetic speeches, telling them they hold the key to improving the community, their lives and the schools.

"I was really proud of Birmingham women as a whole, coming together in such a forum," said Felicia Sanders, 37, of Center Point. "I was just impressed by all the speakers."

Sanders was among the nearly 3,500 black women to attend tonight's anti-crime summit called "Leap Up to the Challenge." The event was organized to address black issues in the community including black-on-black crime, relationships, parental responsibility and education.

Langford, Birmingham Police Chief A.C. Roper and the Rev. Tommy Lewis addressed the crowd, telling the women they have always been the backbone of the house and the community, but it is important for them not to lose focus of their goals with a man who is no good for them.[\[214\]](#)

On April 4 of 2008, black families would come together to watch videos of Birmingham in the 1960s, when the white people in charge of the city dared to fight a revolution that would birth a world capable of producing the very conditions the black citizens of Birmingham gathered together on April 4, 2008 to protest. [\[215\]](#)

They even sang "We Shall Overcome" for old-time sakes... in the vain hopes of overcoming the perilous conditions black people had created in their community, where black-on-black crime was an every day fact of life.

All the while, Vulcan looked on at a city whose leadership and the majority of its citizenry were far, far different then the one that had erected so many years earlier.

Burlap sacks and ash did nothing to stop black violence in the city of Birmingham; Mayor Langford, who was electing in 2007 promising change to the "Magic City" under the campaign of "Let's do something" is in jail -- his grandiose hopes for the city piled under those discarded 2,000 sacks.

All the while, Vulcan looks on.

This has been another great moment in black history.

Into the Mind of the White **Liberal: Birmingham, Alabama** **Edition**



**Breakdown of the Black Population in Birmingham, Alabama
1870-2010**

Year	Total Population	Black Population	% Black
1870	NA	NA	NA
1880	3086	NA	NA
1890	26178	11269	43
1900	38145	16565	43.4
1910	132685	52305	39.4
1920	178806	70230	39.3
1930	259678	99059	38.1
1940	267583	108914	40.7
1950	326037	130035	39.6
1960	340887	135113	39.6
1970	300910	126310	42
1980	284413	158200	55.6
1990	265968	168277	63.3
2000	242840	178372	73.46
2010	212237	155791	73.4

Figure 1 - This data is from "America's Johannesburg" (p. 108) and CensusViewer.com

Notice the population of not just whites, but black people since the election of Birmingham's first black mayor in 1979; Birmingham went from being 61% white in 1960 (58% white in 1970) to being 22% white in 2010

The saga of African American liberation is perhaps the most thrilling in our country's history, biblical in its subtexts and angles of moral instruction. But even though this book traces the Movement through its prime in Birmingham (an offers a somewhat unorthodox, pre-glory view of Martin Luther King), it is not merely about the civil rights struggle. I hope it also sheds insight on the segregationists and the respectable underpinnings of their violent resistance. Because of the city's industrially stratified demographics, the influence of class was more pronounced there than in other places in the South. The conflict made Birmingham America's racial Armageddon in 1963 was the "class warfare" that had always threatened the confidence of a young nation founded on the preposterous principle of equality. (Carry Me Home, p. 17, Diane McWhorter, New York City, September 2000)

These words, written by a white woman, are written in the preface to *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama -- The Climatic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*.

We always hear and read about the events leading up to "Birmingham America's racial Armageddon in 1963" (especially seeing the pictures/video of dogs and water hogs), but curiously we never read about what happened after 1963. Even McWhorter dances away from this subject in her book, spending exactly two pages (out of 752!) discussing life in post-1963 Birmingham.

For her, all that mattered was that black people were liberated.

Leaving Birmingham, by the late Paul Hemphill, is an instructive window into the heart/brain/thinking of a huge southern white liberal writer. Spending the entire book attacking white people who dare consider whites as having interest (interests besides bending over backwards to uplift black people, the only type of 'white interests' Hemphill believed exists), he writes this glowing praise of his daughters correct views:

My three daughters couldn't be more different from each other. Lisa, at 30, is married to a co-worker in the Family Ministry of the Crusade for Christ, sort of a feel-good yuppies-for-Jesus organization; once her husband finished seminary in Dallas, they'll settle in Little Rock and start a family where it's safe.

Molly is turning 21 and about to graduate from Rhodes College in Memphis, in sociology and anthropology, and she won't be long for Birmingham; she's a liberated woman, tall and beautiful – made a beeline to Dachau when she arrived in Germany to study... And then there is Martha, the most fortunate of them all due to her parent's marriage; 14, slim and quick, being educated at one of the best schools in Atlanta (private, but 25 percent minority), absolutely color-blind when it comes to race. [\[216\]](#)

When a quest for a correct balance of minority exposure trumps all, you know there's something vastly different with Hemphill, his brood, and those like him.

Paul Hemphill, a poster-child for the good white liberal, had an estranged relationship with his father. Much of *Leaving Birmingham* is about the formers view of civil rights and the impending destruction of Birmingham if blacks took over, and Paul's view that freedom, justice, and democracy meant whites capitulating with glee to this change.

The last home his parents lived in Birmingham was purchased by a black family, the Baylor's, which Paul took a special delight in thinking how this act would have infuriated his late father.

We learn this story at the end of the book, after Hemphill has spent the entirety of the narrative blasting white people for abandoning the city to head "over the mountain" and live in suburbs like Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Hoover – all prosperous and thriving because of a lack of black people.

Hemphill pays the Baylor's a visit, and we get a glimpse into the "Soul of White Liberal Folks":

My father would have been interested to know that the Baylor's had fled their rapidly decaying neighborhood across town in West End because, although they certainly didn't put it that way, the "niggers" were taking over. They had integrated that neighborhood, too, in fact, in the mid-seventies, but it had steadily declined and now had become a place of drugs and crime and poor schools." "We had our share of West End" is how Lawrence Baylor put it. [\[217\]](#)

Odd that the arrival of one black family would precipitate such a huge "climate change" in an area that was once nice – and white; but once it went black, the property value, quality of life, and quality of schools all collapsed.

Correlation? Not to Hemphill.

But here's the crescendo of white liberal in the book, the last few words Hemphill writes relating the joy – the rush of endorphins perhaps? – of leaving the Baylor's home and realizing the transformation of Birmingham into a black-run metropolis was all worth it:

If there was a single moment of my entire stay in Birmingham when I felt that the struggle had been worth it, this was it... but now, as my parents' last house faded away in the rearview mirror, I felt an elation – a feeling that all of the blood and the tears shed over all of the years had been worth it, that finally justice had prevailed. It appeared to me that the new owners of the house at 403 North Eighty-ninth Street had found peace there, had taken their rightful place in the world, and that they weren't likely to be leaving Birmingham any time soon. [\[218\]](#)

Elation?

What kind of person is overjoyed by such a turn of events, happy in the fact their “racist” late father’s last home he ever lived in had been sold to black people?

How about the same kind of white people who would voluntarily place their children into perhaps the worst run school system in America, all so they can be exposed to diversity [Long After Civil Rights Movement, *Whites* Integrate Birmingham City School: Despite System's Stigma, Avondale Elementary Attracts Professional Families, WBHM.org, 9-24-12]:

Birmingham’s public schools are 95 percent black and 90 percent on free or reduced lunch. The system has been under state control since June and has been hemorrhaging students for decades. And at this point, it’s certainly not just *white* flight: many poor black families do what they can to enroll their kids elsewhere. To put it mildly, Birmingham schools have a stigma.

So it was unusual when Laura Kate Whitney enrolled her four-year-old, Grey, in pre-K at Birmingham’s Avondale Elementary.

“Our neighborhood school hosted an open house, and we were completely shocked, in a good way, as to what we saw,” says Whitney.

She and her husband are white middle-class professionals and part of a group of two dozen similar families who are not buying the conventional tradeoff — that if you live within city limits and have means, you send your kids to private school, *period*.

Whitney’s friend Elizabeth Brantley also enrolled her four-year-old at Avondale, which last year was *four* percent white. But Brantley grew up in nearby Mountain Brook, one of the whitest and wealthiest communities in America. Her impressions of Avondale might come as a surprise:

“The minute we walked in, we were like, ‘this is just a normal school. This feels like the kind of school that I went to when I was little.’”

These parents want convenience and higher property values, but they also really believe in diversity. Whitney says she’s not concerned with her child being in a place where he looks different from the other kids.

“I feel like at this age, they don’t really see color,” she says. “They go straight to playing together, and learning about each other and talking and sharing snacks. I want him to have those types of experiences. I mean, we live in a city that is extremely diverse.” White students bring more fiscal resources, parental involvement, and *subconsciously*, higher expectations, say researchers. And according to Tondra Loder-Jackson, Associate Director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, integrated schools confer many other benefits.

Summarizing a body of research, she says, “White graduates from those schools believe that they’re more open-minded about race and less likely to stereotype. The black graduates, they’re more confident about competing with whites, and they’re also not as likely to see whites as being categorically racist.”

But the white parents coming to Avondale aren’t counting on a love-fest. One possible stumbling block is that inner-city schools tend to be more authoritarian, more “old-school,” relying on teacher-centered models of instruction as opposed to more progressive methods favored by many middle-class parents, methods that involve kids initiating more of their learning. [\[219\]](#)

How about these inner-city schools being hopelessly pathetic, all because they all filled with black students and run by hopelessly corrupt black administrators, whose members of the board of education have no problem fighting on another at meetings?

Yes, that’s right – the black board of education members fight one another at meetings [Alabama School Strife Strikes Outside Of Class, NPR, 4-19-2012]:

Alabama is near the bottom of the country's academic rankings. The state has problems with test scores, school improvement ratings and dropouts. But the district in Birmingham has a different kind of issue. The state recently took over the school board because of infighting on the board. The move has triggered cries of racism. MELISSA BLOCK, HOST:

You're listening to ALL THINGS CONSIDERED from NPR News.

Now, to Birmingham, Alabama, where the state has effectively taken over the local school board. It's not because of academic issues, but because the board is widely seen as too inept to function.

As Dan Carsen of member station WBHM reports, the intervention has triggered cries of racism in a city with a long history of racial tension.

DAN CARSEN, BYLINE: Do an Internet search on Birmingham school board and dysfunction, and you'll find more reading material than you know what to do with. Board members have assaulted each other, police have gotten involved, and now armed security guards are fixtures at meetings - not just to protect board members from the public, but from each other. There are allegations of secret gatherings. And even in public meetings, the infighting is intense. [\[220\]](#)

and Paul Hemphill praise when they wrote glowingly about the racial transformation of Birmingham in their respective books.

More to the point, the white Whitney family profiled above – who happily enrolled their white daughter in the Birmingham City School system – have knowingly endangered their child and should have child services called on them. It is a sick person who would put their child’s education behind their hopes and dreams of racial liberation and acceptance.

Besides the black administration of the Birmingham City Schools being hopelessly corrupt, the remaining students in the BCS system are – struggling. Thirty-one of the 51 schools in the metro Birmingham area that are classified as “struggling” are in the city of Birmingham. [221] And the 95 percent black students of the BCS system produce test scores rivaling those of the almost entirely black Detroit Public School system [Birmingham Education Foundation summit outlines challenges and opportunities for city schools, Birmingham News, 11-9-12]:

In Birmingham, the number of students living at or near the poverty level is nearly twice the national average and well above the state average. What's more, as students have left the school system, the percentage of students living at or below poverty level has climbed.

In Birmingham, the number of students who will move from one school to another in a given year is 25.3 percent, meaning teachers and principals have trouble establishing relationships with many students.

In Birmingham, test scores have fallen and student achievement has faltered. The average ACT score among students is 18. UAB requires a score of 21 from its applicants to enroll, Froning said. The school system has a high school graduation rate of 55 percent. [222]

How do those test scores compare to those of white high schools in the white suburbs surrounding Birmingham? [‘I shouldn’t have [to send my child to private school](#)’, Birmingham News, 2007]:

More than 7,300 students have left the Birmingham City Schools since 2000. The system faces school closings and hundreds of layoffs to cope with plunging enrollment. The city touches four of the state’s five top-performing school districts: Hoover, Mountain Brook, Vestavia Hills and Homewood. Yet Birmingham lags significantly behind its suburban neighbors. It is one of 19 school districts across the seven-county metro area, 12 of which are in Jefferson County.

Birmingham’s average ACT assessment score was 17.3 in 2005-06, compared with 23.7 in Vestavia Hills, 22.8 in Hoover, Homewood’s 22.3 and 25.4 in Mountain Brook. A perfect ACT score is 36. [223]

It's hard to understand what motivates a white person like the Whitney family in Birmingham (who happily enroll their white child in a school system that is 95 percent black, with 90 percent of the students on the free/reduced lunch program – a powerful sign of the poverty found in Birmingham); a McWhorter, who writes of the racial revolution in America without mentioning what black-rule unleashed in Birmingham; and a guy like Paul Hemphill, whose great 'elation' was knowing a black family moved into the last house his "racist" father lived in, in Birmingham.

White liberals are incapable of seeing the devastation their policies produced, because all that matters to them is that their policies produced the liberation of a downtrodden minority group – any and all people who stand in the way of "progress" are seen as vestiges of the past that was thankfully overcome.

Meanwhile, 74 percent black Birmingham continues to collapse into its own footprint (a city footprint whites created a century ago, handed over when 'white flight' ceded the city to black rule), with the black population abandoning a city that has been politically controlled by blacks since 1979.

Birmingham has lost roughly 12% of its black population since 2000, with these black people seeking a better life in the neighborhoods/communities/cities that the whites who abandoned Birmingham built in places like Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Hoover.

But the white liberal will continue to celebrate 1963 as the crowning moment in the history of Birmingham, without ever considering what was unleashed in this victory.

"The saga of African American liberation" rests in the ruins of Birmingham, post-1963.

"Beneath the White Man's Skyscrapers": Kelly Ingram Park - The Iwo Jima of the Civil Rights Movement

Why is it black people always follow white people to the communities they create when "white flight" occurs?

You know the drill by now -- white people flee a city, say Memphis or Atlanta, when the conditions for raising a family become too difficult to escape from with the rise in black crime and the high costs of private school to make up for the deficiencies black students create in public schools.

These whites move to the suburbs and create thriving cities; meanwhile, black political power is consolidated in the major city whites abandoned, but the economy collapses without normal, middle-class white people around.

Eventually, middle-class black families (many times those working in government jobs) decide to move to these suburbs white people created in a bid to escape the low property value found in the city completely dominated politically by blacks.

The trickle of black families becomes a torrent, and soon "For Sale" signs pop up everywhere as white families seek a new community to raise their children in... and the once safe white suburb takes on all the characteristics of the black city, because black people imported with them the very conditions responsible for the demise of a city like Memphis -- themselves.

Nowhere is this phenomenon more hilarious to watch than in Birmingham - ground zero for the civil rights victory in 1963 and a now 74 percent black city. As Paul Hemphill shared with us in "Leaving Birmingham," black people have created a living, breathing civil rights shrine in Kelly Ingram Park, which sits in the shadow of - in his words - "the white man's skyscrapers":

The majestic statue of the Roman god of metallurgy, Vulcan, the city's logo during its heyday as a steel town, had become a forlorn figure, ironically overlooking a 20 mile valley of battened steel mills and blast furnaces that once were Birmingham's heartbeat but now resembled slain dinosaurs choked by kudzu...

And finally, more germane to the Birmingham that the world knew, there was a black mayor, a black majority city council, black faces everywhere downtown except in the highest suites. The playing field, one might infer, had been made more nearly level.

Birmingham's white flight, for those who could afford it, had occurred southward, literally behind Vulcan's back, "over the mountain," beyond the genteel all-white villages of Mountain Brook and Homewood and Vestavia hills, onward into the lush hills and bottomlands, where not just new towns but new golf communities had sprung up overnight.

What once had been dismissed as "Niggertown," the traditional black business area four blocks west of City Hall where the most visible violence had occurred in 1963, now as being designated the Birmingham Civil Rights District. [\[224\]](#)(p. 2- 6)

Hemphill describes in the book that on the morning of Tuesday, September 15, 1992, a crowd of 850 people (almost all black) would gather in the shadow of the new \$12 million Civil Rights Institute in Kelley Ingram Park, to attend "A Salute to the Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement."

Reverend Joseph E. Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference stepped to the podium and said, "It was Birmingham where spirituality met brutality," then launching into a discussion of the "Rodney King Verdict, drugs, economic inequities ("35 years later, after all the sit-ins, the kneel-ins, the pray-ins, and the march-ins, the median income for blacks is still 60 percent what it is for whites."

He would continue, "heard some fool on the radio talking 'bout how they oughta send all the niggers back to Africa. Well, in the first place, most of us have never been to Africa. But I get over there every now and then - got me some bucks now, you know, I can do that sort of thing. Africa's lovely, all right, but let me tell you something. I don't go over there to Africa without checking my tickets first to make sure it says 'round trip." Folding chairs squeaked on the slick concrete as everyone rose to give the old warrior an ovation, and while they were up they began to sing "We Shall Overcome," and soon they were leaving the hall and walking toward Kelly Ingram Park, en masse, beneath the white man's skyscrapers..."

Kelly Ingram Park had been named for a white man, Oswald Kelly Ingram, the first American sailor to die in the First World War, but over the years it had evolved as a buffer between the black and white business areas of downtown Birmingham. It was during the first week of May in '63 that it became the focal point of the war between Bull Connor and his cops and firemen and Martin Luther King and his demonstrators, mostly preachers and students. Every morning 100s of blacks would walk across the street from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church and begin milling about in the park, queuing up for a march on City Hall. Facing them would be Birmingham's all-white police force with their riot gear and paddy wagons and K-9 dogs and the firemen with water cannons capable of stripping bark off a tree at 100 yards. Soon enough, the battle was joined, with network television crews there to record it all for the world to see: chanting crowds... frightened young blacks fleeing for safety from the snarling dogs and the water cannons; paddy wagons being loaded with so many demonstrators that ultimately people were being jailed behind fences at the state fairgrounds.

Those days in May created the most chilling television images recorded during the civil rights movement in America. When they were over, on May 10, King had won. A tentative agreement was reached that the city's white leaders would release all prisoners and begin to desegregate public accommodations and hire blacks as clerks and, for the first time, actually sit down and start listening to the black people who constituted 40 percent of the city population. [225] (p. 8)

Since that moment, white people haven't been able to get a word in on the topic of race in America -- it's a one-way conversation with black people pushing and pushing and pushing for more, more and more.

Any white person who dares interrupt this conversation with a "but," or worse, "no," is automatically disqualified from participating in this one-sided conversation. But back to Hemphill describing Kelly Ingram Park:

No wonder then that on this bright summery day nearly 3 decades later the words "hallowed ground" would be heard over and over from the two dozen dignitaries seated in a semicircle before a bandshell in the park... again no more than 10 percent were white.

Many of them were black schoolchildren, romping on the newly laid sod, skipping along Freedom Walk, playing hide-and-seek among the sculptures depicting demonstrators cowering before vintage water cannons mounted on tripods and kids languishing behind prison bars (not yet in place was a wall from which would spring sculpted police dogs)... And as always, up on the forbidding ridge of Red Mountain, the natural barrier that is Birmingham's Berlin Wall, there was the sulking statue of Vulcan looking down on it all. (p. 9)

Reverend Abraham Woods would call Birmingham and Kelly Ingram Park the, "Jerusalem of the civil rights movement," "the Mecca of the civil rights movement, the Iwo Jima of the civil rights movement." (p. 10)

"From now on, when we come here and hear the birds sing, they will be singing 'freedom.' When the water runs, it will run 'freedom.' When the crickets chirp, they will chirp 'freedom.' When the wind blows, it will blow 'freedom.'

And yes, after he spoke, the crowd sang "We Shall Overcome" again... the song echoing through a park which contained a granite marker proclaiming it a "Place of Revolution and Reconciliation."
[\[226\]](#) (p. 11)

Hilariously, this black city - run by black people in all branches of government, the board of education, and the police, and with a school system that is 95 percent black - is being abandoned by black people.

Just as Reverend Joseph E. Lowery of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference spoke in the shadows of the "white man's skyscrapers" in 1992, joking how he always was sure to have a 'round trip' ticket to Africa, black people in Birmingham are abandoning the "Mecca of the Civil Rights Movement" and following white people to the thriving suburbs they created (curiously, in the complete absence and without the divine hand/assistance of blacks) [Birmingham changes as blacks move to the suburbs, Birmingham News, March 27, 2011]:

For the growing cities identified by The News, Theresa Davidson, a sociologist at Samford University, noted that the very large increases in the percent of black residents were often the result of low actual numbers of blacks to begin with.

"This provides a number of interesting possibilities," she said. If those growing neighborhoods and communities can successfully integrate, she said:

- Minority students in integrated schools will gain positive results such as better academic outcomes, higher likelihood of college attendance and lower levels of involvement in delinquent activity.
- The dominant group will gain advantages such as increased tolerance and development of informal networks that are more

racially diverse than they otherwise would be.

"If these areas can find positive ways to embrace these changes, welcome diversity and true integration, and build and strengthen neighborhood social capital, the communities and their residents will be healthier for it," Davidson said.

But, she cautioned, some cities that appear to be integrated overall may have a lot of residential segregation in different neighborhoods. [\[227\]](#)

What's funny is these formerly all-white suburbs of Birmingham already had strong neighborhood social capital and real communities; the residents were quite healthy because of the lack of diversity (someone needs to send Ms. Davidson a copy of Robert Putnam's work on diversity and social capital...).

Why is it that black people must always follow whites? Why couldn't Birmingham - the "Jerusalem of the civil rights movement," "the Mecca of the civil rights movement, the Iwo Jima of the civil rights movement" - be a thriving city under black rule?

Why is it that the conditions in a community that black people create are always conditions that black people flee from, seeking the solace (and economic opportunities) of the communities white people create?

Why is it the conditions that white people create in their communities are always more desirable than the conditions black people create in communities they have complete control over -- and, more importantly, where the "hallowed grounds" of Kelly Ingram rest?

Of course, race discussions/debates in America are only a one-way street of perpetual black victimology/grievances, so asking why black people must follow white people wherever they go is out of line.

There's a new book out by Tanner Colby called, "Some of My Best Friends are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America." In it, this confessed, unapologetic lover of all things Barack Obama attacks the white citizens of Birmingham for turning their back on the city. He attacks the school system white people (and white students) built and sustain in places like Vestavia Hills, while whining about the poor academic conditions of the Birmingham City School (BCS) system - a 95 percent black system (run by black people) that is merely a reflection of the type of school system blacks create:

Vestavia Hills sits just south of Birmingham, the largest city in Alabama and, at one time, the largest industrial center in the South. Together with the neighboring towns of Mountain Brook, Homewood, and Hoover, Vestavia forms the nucleus of “Over the Mountain” – the catchall term for Birmingham’s suburban sprawl, so named because you go “over” Red Mountain to get there from downtown. (p. 5)

In the wake of the 1963 Civil Rights campaign, Martin Luther King sat down and wrote *Why We Can’t Wait*, a personal remembrance of the monumental events that transpired here.

“I like to believe that Birmingham will one day become a model in Southern race relations,” he wrote. “I like to believe that the negative extreme of Birmingham’s past will resolve into the positive and utopian extreme of her future; that the sins of a dark yesterday will be redeemed in the achievements of a bright tomorrow. I have this hope because, once on a summer day, a dream came true.”

Came true for some. As wonderful as life in the New South may seem, there is still the matter of those left behind. There is still the matter of Woodlawn. Vestavia may not be the bad guy anymore, but the fact of Vestavia – the gross racial and socioeconomic divide its existence created between city and suburb – remains very much the problem.

In Birmingham, the dropout rate is over 20 percent. In Vestavia, 99 percent are walking out with diplomas.

While 80 percent of the city’s schoolchildren hover at or below the poverty line, not one student in the entire Mountain Brook system is poor enough to qualify for an assisted lunch. As city schools go without working bathrooms, Homewood has just built a brand-new, green-certified middle school. I walked through it. It’s like going to eighth grade in the future.

White have deserted the city schools for good. In the 2008-2009 school years, out of the 27,440 students enrolled in Birmingham city schools, only 263 were white, less than 1 percent. Out of 1,157 students, Woodlawn has ten white kids. (p. 67)

White folks took the tax base, the property values, their collective social and intellectual capital. They all but ripped out the plumbing. But there's at least one thing they left behind. During desegregation, historically black school may have been stripped of their names and their mascots, but white weren't. At Woodlawn, even as the student body got blacker and blacker, out on the athletic field they were and still are known as the Woodlawn Colonels.

By which I mean Colonel Reb. By white I mean Woodlawn has the exact same Colonel Reb mascot we have at Vestavia. Only he's black. He's got the same cocked hat, the same angry mustache. Someone's just painted him in blackface to match the building's new occupants.

Vestavia can't run away from Woodlawn, because Vestavia is Woodlawn and Woodlawn is Vestavia. Different schools, different districts, yet bound by a DNA they'll always share. [\[228\]](#) (p. 69)

Actually, Mr. Colby, white people created the property values in places like Vestavia Hills and Mountain Brook, which are only a reflection of the neighborhood and community that white built - and sustain- in these cities. Black people inherited a city built by whites when they assumed control of Birmingham, and if these neighborhoods/communities have low property value, then it's merely a monetary reflection of the types of communities black people create.

Why is it black people always follow white people to the communities they create when "white flight" occurs? Why can't black people create thriving communities with the absence of white people, especially when they control the police, the city government, the school system, and the judiciary?

Birmingham should be a thriving black city -- but it's not. The white suburbs of Birmingham are thriving, and black people are flocking to them.

All the while, Vulcan watches the hilarity unfold from his perch high above Red Mountain.... He has seen Birmingham, once known as "The Pittsburgh of the South" become the very city where white people lost all moral authority and from which white guilt was exported to every corner of the world... but he has silently watched over the city since 1963 as well, noticing the collapse of black-controlled Birmingham into... tragedy.

Birmingham: Too Black to Fail -- How the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Kept the "Magic City" from becoming Detroit

There was something I could never quite understand – when I figured it out, it all made sense, knowing the city representing “ground zero” for the death of our civilization wouldn’t be allowed to collapse into a scenario like that of Detroit.

How has [Birmingham, Alabama](#) (a 74 percent black city: who had a median per capita income of \$15,927 in 2009[229]; whose city council banned the establishment of new payday and title loan, and pawn shops[230] because they represented the only “growth industry” in the city; which has a crime index of “1 out of 100” – 100 being the safest – according to neighborhoodscout.com[231], meaning the city is only safer than 1 percent of the cities in America; and whose 98 percent black public school system was recently taken over by the state of Alabama due to incompetence, negligence, and poor test score[232]) still have such high bond ratings, meaning the city can borrow money?

It has a bond rating of ‘AA’ from Standard & Poor’s; Moody’s gives it an ‘Aa2’; and Fitch an ‘AA’?[233]

It just doesn’t make any sense – by all indications, the city is as insolvent as Detroit, a demographically similar city (84 percent black – though you aren’t supposed to notice).[234]

But it has an impressive bond rating, meaning creditors are reasonably assured they will get reimbursed for lending money to the city of Birmingham for infrastructure improvements.

But... it doesn’t make any sense as to why the city should have a high bond rating.

Until you realize it’s all artificial.

The crown jewel of the civil rights movement can’t go insolvent, for it might prove those evil white people who dared stand defiant against the sea of changes that eventually took down South Africa after white people were stripped of all moral authority.

Enter the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Wikipedia tells us:

UAB ranks among Top-20 nationally in federal research and development funding and 1st in the state of Alabama, receiving more funding than all other Alabama universities combined. UAB received over \$416 million in external grants and contracts in fiscal 2007–2008. The University of Alabama at Birmingham is nationally ranked among Top-20 in total federal research funding and key areas of health sciences receiving more than \$433 million dollars in funding. [\[235\]](#)

Birmingham is “too black to fail” – thus the need for a lifeline in the city known as UAB to act as a middleman from federal government to Birmingham accountants, which helps keep the city solvent.

Why not go a little deeper down the rabbit-hole to see how the federal government has kept alive the city responsible for the downfall of a civilization that went to the moon, and the erection of a society that gave us 2013 Detroit? In an inadvertently sobering 2007 series in the Birmingham News about the state of city under black-rule, we learn just how important UAB is to the health of Birmingham. (Which Way Forward?, Birmingham News, 2007):

In the 80 years from 1890 to 1970, the city of Birmingham had a mix of people that was about 40 percent black and 60 percent white, with most black residents segregated into areas with poorer housing close to industrial sites. Beginning about 1970, the mix began to change as whites left the city. By 2005, Birmingham’s population had flipped — 76 percent black and 22 percent white.

Some of Birmingham’s aging neighborhoods have become islands of the poor. A recent Brookings Institution study found that 28.9 percent of residents within the city limits live in poverty — the eighth highest percentage among America’s 100 largest cities.

Yet at the same time, there is a strong, vibrant Birmingham.

The city is by far the major place to work in the metro region, hosting about 44 percent of all the jobs in Jefferson and Shelby counties. Birmingham is still a major banking center and home to Regions Financial Corp., now one of the 10 largest banks in America. And it is home to UAB, where 18,500 people work.

That realization has begun to hit Birmingham-Hoover metro leaders, said Charles Ball, executive director of the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham.

“The mayors I’ve talked to realize they need to cooperate,” Ball said. “As far as the whole region is concerned, we’re way behind.”

Farthest behind is the central city, where 64,200 men, women and children live below the poverty line, and where the city school system lost 20 percent of its students in the last five years because parents don’t trust the schools.

In the past 17 years, Birmingham has demolished 7,948 houses, 350 duplexes and 3,332 apartments. While some new houses and apartments have been built, the city had a net loss of 4,257 dwelling units. That demolition will continue.

Birmingham has at least one life raft — UAB.

“Just from an economic and social standpoint, UAB saved us,” Ball said. “It’s the one thing that kept us from becoming another Gary (Indiana) or Cleveland after the steel industry collapsed.”

The university has 16,600 students, and 3,000 people a day visit its research and medical complex. It brings in \$408 million a year in grants and contracts and it’s a nursery for spin-off businesses. [\[236\]](#)

So UAB is an asset, while only 3/4th's of Birmingham's population is a liability?

No. We need to deeper down the rabbit hole, Alice. We need to go much deeper. Richard Arrington, the first black mayor of Birmingham, wrote this about UAB in his autobiography “There’s Hope for the World”:

The blighted City Center was also a major target from the beginning of my administration and for the succeeding 19 years. The rapidly expanding University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) buoyed the Southside of the City Center with its nationally recognized medical center. New facilities and new jobs were brought on line by UAB. Construction, professional, and service sector jobs expanded on the UAB campus at a pace that soon made it the city’s number one employer. Its tremendous growth continued throughout my administration’s 20 year tenure. More than any other single entity it became our city’s saving grace. It was also a strong partner with city government, and much of the city’s economic recovery was a result of the strong leadership of the presidents of UAB from 1950 to 1999. Aside from the positive tax impact UAB had on the city, it contributed much to the city’s social and civic structure, bringing highly trained professionals into the civic fabric of the city’s communities. [\[237\]](#)

We must continue to follow the white rabbit and go deeper down the rabbit hole. What else can we learn about the importance of UAB to the city of Birmingham, a metropolis that truly personifies the phrase: “Too black to fail.” In Christopher MacGregor Scribner, “Renewing Birmingham: Federal Funding and the Promise of Change, 1929-1979,” we learn much, much more about UAB importance to a city that was going majority black fast in the 1970s:

By 1980, the racial composition of Birmingham was the mirror image of century-old norms; African Americans constituted nearly 60 percent of the city’s population. The centripetal movement pulled wealth out of the city as well. Thanks to residential displacement and white flight, blacks moved into new parts of the city, for instance locating in areas of Ensley and West End abandoned by whites.... The sprawling Southside health and education complex offered evidence of change. “A new force is at work, slowly, perhaps irrevocably reshaping social attitudes and patterns of life in this one-time stronghold of segregation,” a New York Times reported noted.

When the college finally acquired the 42 block urban renewal area in 1976, a decade after it had first applied for the land, it had a new name – and it made a broader and deeper impact on the city. The former University of Alabama Medical College had become UAB.

UAB's employment growth and its growing reputation put the health and education complex front and center in the city's development policy. Commercial leaders believe that the school had "Boosted the area's economy and [was] changing the attitude and prospects of the city." By 1976, it was Birmingham's largest employer and 4th largest statewide, with 12,000 workers and a \$100 million annual payroll.

Throughout the 1970s, employment in Birmingham was virtually stagnant, while the suburbs added 80,000 new jobs. By 1970, blacks held about 1/3 of the nearly 5,000 positions at UAB.

Nonetheless, black employees mostly filled the menial, lower-wage positions. About half of the blacks held service jobs, which accounted for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of all of those positions. As the educational requirements and pay levels increased, black workers held a smaller share. 25 percent of the college's African American employees, for instance, worked as technicians (50 percent of that category) and 12 percent held clerical jobs (less than 25 percent of those spots). At the same time, fewer than one in six blacks were managers or supervisors (4 percent of that class).

Still UAB's "dramatic contribution" to the black community offered some hope of creating a more equitable society. By 1970, 13 percent of its 3,000 students were black, a far higher percentage than at Alabama's Tuscaloosa or Huntsville campus or Auburn University, where black enrollment was below 2 percent.

Blacks accounted for one in six graduate students, but the vast majority of those blacks studied for their master's degrees in education.

By the mid-1970s, UAB – and the municipal government – was knee-deep in federal money. The legislature’s flintiness magnified Washington’s role at the medical center. In 1971, the Alabama government paid just 23 percent of the medical school’s operating budget, about half the national average (40 percent).

Alabama’s share of the medical school funding was the lowest in the South, whether measured in total dollars or as a percentage of the budget. No other medical school received a larger percentage of its funding from federal sources. The Birmingham campus received \$3.41 from Washington for every dollar of state aid, nearly double the average at other state-supported medical colleges in the south.

Birmingham’s efforts to cleanse its past through racial accommodation and the growth at UAB could not disguise the city’s failure to forge a stable biracial order. A federal study of the largest 65 cities in the mid 1970s ranked Birmingham second only to Jersey City, New Jersey, as having the lowest “standard of living” in the country.[\[238\]](#)

How were the almost entirely white suburbs of Birmingham able to add 80,000 jobs in the 1970s, without the kind of federal intervention that propped-up Birmingham via UAB?

How indeed...

Tennant S. McWilliams “New Lights in the Valley: The Emergence of UAB” makes clear that UAB had the uplifting of the black community of Birmingham as one of its central tenets all along. President Charles McCallum (1987 – 1993) did all he could to erase the Visible Hand of Blackness in Birmingham:

Two years into his presidency – at a time when it was increasingly apparent that the American civil rights movement lacked anything approaching consensus on what the “next step” should be – one of McCallum’s key focal points became unmet goals of the civil rights movement in Birmingham, particularly UAB’s obligation as an urban university to do something about increasing African Americans access to the higher socioeconomic levels of life in Birmingham and elsewhere. [\[239\]](#) (p. 361)

We could have been on Mars, but we had to fund UAB and countless institutions like it (and UAB isn’t even a Historically Black College/University – it’s just a school designed to be a middle-man between the federal government and the black-run city of Birmingham to artificially supply a solid bond rating to the city).

Dr. McCallum knew UAB had successfully launched many black medical careers and he wanted to do more, especially a public school system in his university’s backyard that could supply a black pipeline of diversity – i.e., more minority grants from the federal government to the school – yielding only green for the medical college:

... he recognized that UAB’s high African American enrollment, plus its location in a city with high African American population, permitted UAB to do much more, influencing broad fields of education and professional life. He believed that UAB had a preeminent opportunity to help “fix the national pipeline problem” with regard to African American faculty.

And so he fired back, “Tell me how we are going to do this better and do it right away.” ... assembled a plan revolving around summer institutes for African American high school students, increased partnerships between various units of UAB and high schools in the city with high African American populations, and UAB scholarships for African American students, graduates and undergraduates. [\[240\]](#) (p. 363)

And all of this was done with grants from federal agencies.

So how did it all pan out? How has the black community of Birmingham (74 percent of the city's population) enjoyed the racial socialism the University of Alabama at Birmingham represents – a form of weaponized equality from the federal government to combat the otherwise poverty-stricken condition of the city without the lifeline of UAB?

Charles E. Connerly's "The Most Segregated City in America: City Planning and Civil Rights in Birmingham, 1920 – 1980" has the answer. He writes, that by 1990:

At the same time, however, Birmingham was the 10th poorest large city in the nation, with nearly 25 percent of its residents living below the poverty line.

Overall, 91.5 percent of the population in the city's 13 ghetto poverty tracts was black. For residents who lived in these neighborhoods, poverty in the 1990s was commonplace; unemployment was three times greater than the metropolitan area average; and the majority of families were headed by a single female.

By the 1980s, with the reductions in force at U.S. Steel and the growth of UAB, the university and its hospital had become the city's largest employer. Without UAB, the decline in the steel industry would have been an economic disaster for the Birmingham.

The contrast between Birmingham's booming health sector and the black neighborhoods left behind can be seen by comparing UAB with its neighbor to the west. Lying just west of UAB's western boundary, Interstate 65, North Titusville is one of Alabama's poorer neighborhoods. In 1980, 57 percent of the neighborhood's residents had incomes below the federal poverty line, and 99 percent of its population was black. Of the neighborhood's 1,640 families, nearly 60 percent were head by a single-parent female.

In 1990, North Titusville neighborhood leaders, including the president of the North Titusville Neighborhood Association, petitioned UAB officials for a partnership between the neighborhood and the university to address issues related to the neighborhood's impoverishment.

The fact that a neighborhood located so close to the city's chief economic engine could identify economic development as being of high importance indicates the degree to which the economic benefits flowing from the urban renewal of the city's south side had failed to trickle down to the city's poor, black neighborhoods. If a neighborhood such as North Titusville, for which geographic accessibility to employment is not an issue, could not enjoy the fruits of UAB's growth, then it is not surprising that the remainder of Birmingham's black neighborhoods were also not sharing in the benefits of the local economy's shift to health and education services. [\[241\]](#)

Wait a second... what's that *spatial mismatch theory* you always read about as to why majority black areas are blighted? Oh, never mind.

But here's the killer quote from the book:

... in the 1990s the quality of the Birmingham school system came under question, with 80 percent of the schools in the system on academic alert for low test scores and the state's superintendent of education considering takeover of the school system. [\[242\]](#)

Today, the state has assumed control of the almost entirely black Birmingham City Schools system – meanwhile, black people are leaving Birmingham in droves, heading to the thriving white suburbs to find work and safe streets – no one ever dares mention the reason Birmingham has a crime index of “1 out of 100” is entirely due to the city being filled with black people.

Crime, after all, in the Birmingham metro area is something white people just don't do – that's why black people must import it with them “Over the Mountain” to bring about true equality to the region:

So yeah -- *surprise surprise* -- Birmingham is again a crime leader nationally, ranking 11th in homicide rate among cities of more than 100,000 people, and second overall in total crime rate.

The only city with a higher crime rate last year was St. Louis, Mo. Yeah, Birmingham gets all the attention. But Birmingham -- Crime Central and all that -- is not even the crime capital of its own county.

Not even close. Not among cities of more than 10,000 people.

Bessemer, in that group, was last year's crime leader in both Jefferson County and the state of Alabama. Next was Selma, followed by Fairfield, Anniston and Prichard. Birmingham was sixth, with 98 crimes per 1,000. It was a rate high enough to make it a scourge among large cities in America. But it's not even close to Bessemer's 135 crimes per 1,000 residents.

Bessemer, Selma and Fairfield were eighth, ninth and 10th *nationally* in overall crime. That's among 3,370 cities with more than 10,000 people. Anniston was 18th, Prichard 26th and Birmingham 28th.

But it is hard, really, to turn them into anything but a paint-by-numbers indictment of our cultural divide.

We don't have a Tale of Two Cities scenario, a *best-of-times-worst-of-times* cliché about the state of our community. We are reading a tale of at least 18 cities. And those are just the ones with population greater than 10,000.

It is the worst of times when it comes to crime in Bessemer and Fairfield, Birmingham and Irondale. Those are overall crime leaders in the metro area, among the worst 25 in the state, the worst 1 percent in America.

But it is the best of times - at least by comparison - in other parts of the metro area. Because the six cities in Alabama (of more than 10,000) with the least amount of reported crime are all in the Birmingham metro area, too.

The city with the lowest crime rate in Alabama last year was Trussville, followed by Helena, Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, Pelham and Pleasant Grove.

The six of those cities together have a population 4½ times Bessemer, and half the total reported crimes.

Statistics, of course, can make liars of us all. They can reinforce our stereotypes, become self-fulfilling prophecies and give us easy excuses to keep on doing what we do. [\[243\]](#)

Statistics, metrics, and data provide all the information you need to know the John Lockean view of equality is... bunk.

Birmingham, Alabama, a city kept alive by UAB and the tax-revenue it provides the city to maintain a high bond rating (which the 74 percent black residents of the “Magic City” are incapable of providing) is living, breathing proof of the reality of racial differences.

Not even the federally-funded experiment of UAB, an urban school deep in the heart of the city of Birmingham, can keep the financial blood flowing to maintain a heartbeat for ever.

We know the difference between Pittsburgh and Detroit, and now, emerging from the rabbit-hole, we are painfully aware of how a city like Birmingham (where 74 percent of its citizens are black, who had a media per capita of \$15,297) can survive.

It’s all smoke and mirrors, provided courtesy of the federal government.

You can laugh now... the Comedian from *Watchmen* was right – it’s all a joke.

Why Must Black People Always Follow Whites? The Lesson of Birmingham and Why Secession Won't Work

“Birmingham is where it’s at, gentlemen. I assure you, if you come to Birmingham, we will not only gain prestige but really shake the country. If you win in Birmingham, as Birmingham goes, so goes the nation.” – Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth

“I believe those sidewalks on Sixth Avenue running from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church toward City Hall are as sacred... as the ground at Valley Force or Yorktown.” –David J. Vann, the last white mayor of the city of Birmingham

The flow of history can change on a dime; when the waters propelling one narrative forward dry up, revealing a bedrock built on lies, it's imperative to once and for all dam up this portion of the river and divert the waters of history in another direction.

John T. Bennett dared challenge the narrative in a brave piece on Birmingham Post-1963 at American Thinker [[Civil Rights and the Collapse of Birmingham, Ala.](#), February 25, 2013]. He was attacked by David Sher [[An article on Birmingham that will make you vomit](#), March 5, 2013, The Comeback Town], a citizen of the Birmingham Metro Area (Vestavia Hills), who runs a blog called "Birmingham: The Comeback Town" -- what Birmingham needs to "come back" from is never addressed, considering that the liberation from white supremacist rule in 1963 should have ushered in an era of peace, tranquility, and prosperity.

Right?

Anyone...

Now, The Birmingham News - a dying newspaper that is only published three times a week - has published an objective piece on Bennett's truthful look at the state of 74 percent black Birmingham in 2013 [National commentary issues scathing review of Birmingham as racist, corrupt and declining, Al.com, 3-15-13]:

In the essay ["Civil Rights and the Collapse of Birmingham, Ala."](#) the website [American Thinker](#) notes the conviction of former Mayor Larry Langford for corruption at Jefferson County, the county's bankruptcy, crime and allegations of racism in city employment.

"Underlying this fiasco is a mixture of problems, none of which can be solved by the civil rights agenda, or by liberalism in any form," [John T. Bennett writes in the essay](#). "This is not to suggest that those rights should be rolled back, but to point out that today's solutions will not come from civil rights."

The critical commentary comes at the same time the city is celebrating a jubilee year marking 50 years since major civil rights moments of 1963. The article implies that the city is repeating some the mistakes of its past - only in reverse.

In an interview with AL.com/The Birmingham News, longtime political science professor D'Linell Finley agreed with many of the points in the essay, but said it erred by presenting an oversimplified explanation of Birmingham's problems.

"As painful as this article is, these guys have a good point," Finley said. "(However) the city did not go down because blacks became a majority, and thereby took control of the political power of the city. The city went down because as it became a black majority city, it was also losing a significant portion of its affluent population. That affluent population at the beginning was mostly white, but now that affluent population loss represents both black and white."

Finley, a political science professor at Alabama State University, said diagnosing Birmingham's ills is more complicated than which ethnic group took political control.

"I cannot disagree with what has happened, but I disagree with how it happened," he said. "How Birmingham got to where it is today is a lot more complex than saying that because the city went black it went down. There are a lot of cumulative factors that caused the city to be where it is today."[\[244\]](#)

Actually, dear, dear Doctor D'Linell Finley, Birmingham did collapse when the Bonita Carter incident in 1979 galvanized black people in the city to vote almost 100 percent (72 percent black voter turnout) for the black candidate - Dr. Richard Arrington - and help elect the first black mayor by an incredibly slim margin over a white candidate (Frank Parsons, a "law and order" candidate whose defeat ushered in an era where "law and order" are completely absent from the city of Birmingham).

Whites flocked to new cities (though they made the tragic mistake of staying within Jefferson County, instead of fleeing to Shelby County -- whites who were genocided out of Detroit abandoned both the city and Wayne County) that, as we have noted here at SBPDL, [black people flock to live in](#), hoping to take advantage of the quality school system, neighborhoods/communities, and economy whites created in their absence.

Strangely, a quality school system, neighborhood/community free of blight, and an actual economy were all things black people were incapable of sustaining/creating in the Birmingham they inherited when whites moved "Over the Mountain."

Tanner Colby's book, "Some of My Best Friends are Black: The Strange Story of Integration in America," is an all-out attack on white people in the suburbs of Birmingham for daring to create communities and school systems that excel, when back in Birmingham the black people are only capable of creating... chaos. Somehow, this is white people's fault:

Whites have deserted the city schools for good. In the 2008-2009 school years, out of the 27,440 students enrolled in Birmingham city schools, only 263 were white, less than 1 percent. Out of 1,157 students, Woodlawn has ten white kids. Ramsay, the once vaunted magnet program, has only five.

The schools in identifiably black suburbs, meanwhile, aren't doing much better: they're less than 3.5 percent white.

The greatest diversity, as it happens, is found Over the Mountain. Taken together, Hoover, Homewood, Vestavia, and Mountain Brook have an average enrollment that's 14.9 percent black.

If you take out Mountain Brook, it goes up to 17.8 percent. That's light-years ahead of where things were just 20 years ago, but the marvelous diversity in the suburbs is also an indication of just how low the city schools have fallen, and how desperate black families are to escape. Between 1993 and 2009 the black student population of the Birmingham city schools fell from 37,950 to 26,465, a 30 percent drop. "They'll sell their souls to get out," Sue Lovoy says.

Birmingham's schools are crumbling from within, and the consequences of that are falling squarely on the suburban school districts that spent the past four decades thinking they could run away from it.

Kids in the city get passed through the system learning next to nothing; they're oftentimes four or five grade levels behind.

If their parents manage to relocate Over the Mountain, the time, energy, and resources it takes to remediate those students turn into a considerable drain on Vestavia's blue-ribbon resources.

Then there are the discipline problems. Violent offenders. Kids wearing ankle bracelets. They get expelled from the city and, after a turn in reform school, head to the 'burbs. "We've had an influx of kids who cannot go back to Birmingham city because they've been in trouble with the law and expelled permanently," Lavoy says. "So we're dealing with them, some successfully and some not."

Call it the White Flight Boomerang Effect: because Vestavia legally segregated itself from the city and county, it has no choice but to give a fresh start to the worst troublemakers they decide to cast off. "It behooves all school systems that all school systems do well," Cas McWaters says. "The surrounding systems need Birmingham to succeed. They realize that now. Because this is a topsy-turvy mess we're in."

Secession doesn't work. you'd think the fine people of Alabama would have figured that the first time. But no. Forty years ago, the Sigma Tau Beach Beauties of Woodlawn lit out of Birmingham like the place was on fire, seeking refuge in Vestavia Hills.

White folks took the tax base, the property values, their collective social and intellectual capital. They all but ripped out the plumbing. [\[245\]](#) (p. 66 -67)

Memo to Tanner Colby: property values dropped in Birmingham, Alabama to reflect the fair market value of what an individual would part with to purchase a home in the now-majority black city, just as property values are high in the white suburbs of Vestavia Hills and Mountain Brook for the same reason.

But Mr. Colby, secession can only work when you have the ability to legally discriminate who may live in your community/neighborhood/city/state/nation and, most importantly, who can attend your schools.

That Birmingham City Schools are perhaps the worst in the nation is entirely due to it being a school system with an almost 100 percent black enrollment; consequently, wherever black families try and have their children educated - as they evacuate the Birmingham City School system, eventually that school system will be overwhelmed as the community watches property value drop and crime rise (yes, there is a correlation to black people creating lower property value in a community because of the high crime rate they bring with them, thus a school system with lower tax revenue to support and black children posting lower test scores/engaging in more discipline problems that drives away white kids).

Black people will always follow white people wherever they may go, because the conditions found in a white community are preferable to the conditions found in a black community (even in a black-run city like Birmingham, the city that was so important to overturning white morality in not only Alabama, not only America, but the entire world).

White people can create thriving cities and school systems, but if black people can't do the same in their communities, then they must move to (and eventually overwhelm) the white communities -- then, they will vote as a monolith when their numbers rise and elect into power black candidates with a black-first agenda.

This is the future for Birmingham's white suburbs.

Secession, of any kind, must be 100 percent racial in origin and motivation.

If not, it will fail.

Back in 1998, then mayor Richard Arrington tried to pass Metro Area Projects Strategy (MAPS), an ambitious metro-wide program that's goal was "Building the Foundations for Our Future" -- which basically was a plan to rob from the white suburbs in Jefferson County to pay for improvements in 74 percent black Birmingham, since the black residents of Birmingham didn't have the financial means to provide tax revenues for such ambitious city-wide programs.

Thus, the need to fleece the productive members of the Jefferson County community, where white people had created the conditions where individual business owners and commercial enterprises could flourish.

As Arrington outlines in his book, "There's Hope for the World: The Memoir of Birmingham, Alabama's First African American Mayor," MAPS was to pay for many economic development projects (all, of course, largely overseen by black elected officials, to help create more public jobs and no-bid contracts for black people and black owned firms respectively):

1. A 200,000 square-foot, \$280 million domed public convention and entertainment facility to be connected to the existing Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, \$8.7 million for upgrading the existing convention center.
2. \$75 million for the Public School Education Capital Fund; \$2.5 million for enhancement of technology in the regional library system.
3. \$20 million capital fund for police and fire protection needs.
4. \$25 million capital fund for regional cultural and historic facilities
5. \$40 million for regional zoo; \$10.3 million for development of a 69-mile linear greenway system, including bicycle and pedestrian trails, and \$21 million for a multipurpose recreational center.
6. \$590 million in temporary retail sales; \$590 million in construction retail sales; \$114 million per year in convention income; and 1, 239 new permanent jobs. [\[246\]](#) (p. 8)

Arrington mentions in his book that suburban opposition to the MAPS plan was framed as "why would you want to put your tax dollars to work to benefit black Birmingham?"

And the opposition was right -- why not have your tax dollars benefit the improvement of your community and city, instead of helping to pay for improvements in a city whose own citizens are incapable of building any wealth that doesn't revolve around the Civil Rights Institute?

MAPs would go down in flames at the polls:

In unofficial returns, 96,460 or 57 percent voted NO, mostly in the suburbs, and 71,495 or 43 percent voted YES, largely in Birmingham (Birmingham was 65 percent black and the suburbs were 75 percent white in 1998)Race split the referendum according to the Birmingham News analysis. predominantly black polling places and those in the inner city voted heavily for MAPS, while most predominately white polling places rejected the proposals.

Birmingham was split once again along racial lines on an issue important to its well-being. In Mountain Brook, the area's wealthiest community - and one of the nations wealthiest - the vote was 47 percent for and 53 percent against. Turnout in mostly black polling places was about 38 percent, while white voter turnout was about 50 percent.[\[247\]](#)

What's the moral of this story?

White people can run, they can hide, they build, and they can create, but eventually black people will find them.

White people can vote "No" to bills that would force them to share their hard-earned tax dollars with city's (like Birmingham) whose citizens are incapable of producing any wealth to improve their community on their own, but eventually, black people will move into white people's communities and bring with them the very conditions they sought to avoid by creating suburbs in the first place.

The question must be asked in Birmingham: "Why can't black people create communities that attract either outside capital investment or that white people want to move to?"

Why can't black people, when they politically control a city like Birmingham, not efficiently run either a city government or a school system?

"Why must black people always follow white people?"

John T. Bennett has dared scratch the bedrock of the narrative of Birmingham, post-1963, and found that the waters are contaminated... no longer potable. It's time to dam it up.

The real story of Birmingham, post-1963, is that white people don't owe black people anything -- save the truth.

And the truth is this: Black people are fleeing from the conditions black elected officials, black hired elected officials, black appointed officials, and ordinary black people have created in the city of Birmingham.

And they seek refuge in the communities that white people created.

"Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty I'm free at last!! Now where are all the white people at?"

Life During Wartime: 98% Black
Birmingham City School system
Require Police State Measures to
Keep the Peace

You ever wonder what the daily life of an inner-city school looks like? You don't need to watch *The Substitute* to see the utter depravity found in America's collapsing large cities and the public school systems which serve as little more than daycare/low-level detention facilities.

The quality of the public school system is usually the best indicator of the current overall health of a community or a city, and it is a powerful barometer for measuring the future prospects of that community as well.

And if we are to take this maxim to heart, the future of Birmingham - The Magic City - isn't offering much in the manner of hope for change. A city celebrating "50 Years Forward" in 2013 isn't engaging in "progress," but the retarding of progress, truly the regression of civilization.

No, the Birmingham City School system (roughly 98 percent black, with 80-90 percent of students receiving free/reduced lunches) powerfully mirrors the conditions of the 74 percent black city of Birmingham: with Birmingham being one of the most violent cities in America, is it any wonder that all attendees of Birmingham City Schools basketball and football games must pass through metal detectors?[\[248\]](#)

In a city as dangerous as Birmingham, any and all transgressions must be considered a criminal offense if peace is to be maintained -- especially in the school system. Though a 'zero-tolerance' approach to thuggery has been abandoned, it's important to note the "culture" found in an almost completely black school system [Birmingham city schools rely on arrests to keep order, Birmingham News, 3-22-09]:

The Birmingham city school system has become a pipeline to the courts.

Records show criminal incidents in city schools topped 1,000 last year, and more than half of those students were arrested and taken to family court.

Birmingham, with 27,525 students, accounts for about 25 percent of the public school population in Jefferson County, but 82 percent of the arrests that are referred to the Jefferson County Family Court.

Court officials say an attempt to restore order and gain control in the Birmingham system has had the opposite effect -- criminalizing students, flooding Family Court with cases that once would have been handled in a principal's office, and ceding control of school property to police.

"I will stay here all night; it's not about the workload," said Brian Huff, presiding judge with the Jefferson County Family Court, which handles all juvenile arrests. "But we're arresting children for offenses no one should be arrested for."

"We put SROs (school resource officers) in there to manage the school and serious crimes. They are there if someone commits a felony or major crime," said interim Birmingham school Superintendent Barbara Allen. "But sometimes we have principals who call them to break up a fight. They are busy, and I think it's just easier for them to place the responsibility elsewhere, and that isn't right."

The larger Jefferson County school system generated 10 percent of the arrests referred to Family Court. The remaining 8 percent were referred by other school systems in Jefferson County, including Bessemer, Tarrant, Leeds and Hoover.

The largest portion of arrests in Birmingham city schools, 33 percent, was for fights. Disorderly conduct accounted for the 29 percent of arrests, the second-largest percentage. Criminal trespassing and harassment accounted for 21 percent.

"Other school systems aren't arresting kids for small things; they handle it from within," Allen said. "We call the police."

She said SROs too often are called upon to handle small fights, disruptive behavior and dress-code violations, such as sagging pants.

If Allen's proposals are carried out, that approach will change.

Modeled after a plan in Clayton County, Ga., Birmingham would clearly define the role of a school resource officer and what should constitute cause for arrest. Under the proposed plan, which would take effect in the 2009-10 school year, most incidents would be handled at the school, Allen said.

Birmingham has 12 school resource officers plus two sergeants and a lieutenant assigned to support schools. At one time, there were 30 officers in Birmingham schools, Police Chief A.C. Roper said, but over the years people left or were promoted, and their positions were never filled.

That soon could change.

Last month, Birmingham Mayor Larry Langford called the discipline problems inside the schools appalling and said he wants to double the number of police officers in city schools.

"I will pull officers off the streets and put them in the schools," he said. [\[249\]](#)

That Mayor Langford is now in jail is not part of the story. Birmingham has adopted a "tiered" (a collaborative agreement signed by the Birmingham City Schools, Birmingham Police Department, The Jefferson County Family Court, and the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office to "cut arrests"[\[250\]](#)) system to deal with criminal offenses in their schools, hoping to not only keep some semblance of order, but to keep costs down in the juvenile court system:

...the first offense under the new system results in a Warning Notice, admonition, or no action, at the discretion of the school official. The second offense results in admonition and counsel, a second warning, or an assignment of the student and parent to a School Conflict Workshop. Upon the third offense, the school may refer the student to the court. The agreement does include an exception for "exceptional circumstances," which permits school administrators to bypass the graduated system.[\[251\]](#)

Of course, some organizations believe its the disciplinary tactics that fuel this violence and pipeline from public schools to prison, instead of acknowledging that the 98 percent black Birmingham City Schools system poor quality of test scores, character, and discipline is only a reflection of it being a 98 percent black student body.

That these students fail to abide by the law is the reason such drastic measures as pepper spray is needed to create order from the chaos that is the 98 percent black Birmingham City School system; that these students engage in behavior that can only be described as that of "permanent revolutionaries" is the reason the city, school system, police, and court system must engage in such extraordinary levels of aggression to keep the peace in the 98 percent black Birmingham City School system:

Brutal School Disciplinary Tactics Fuel the School-to-Prison Pipeline

The school-to-prison pipeline is fueled by brutal disciplinary practices where children are literally pulled out of their classrooms, placed in handcuffs or other restraints, maced, and arrested for minor misbehavior.

In Birmingham, Alabama, nearly every high school has one or more police officers permanently stationed in the school. These officers are routinely called to handle minor disciplinary problems, and once they appear, the school administrators consider the situation a police matter. Students are arrested—and sometimes maced—for normal, adolescent misbehavior such as swearing, horseplay, and disrespectful conduct. While the physical effects of this punishment are horrific—injury to the eyes, temporary loss of vision, burning and discoloration of the skin, loss of breath and, in some cases, respiratory arrest—the impact goes far beyond that.

When a child is maced, that child is arrested, taken to the juvenile lock-up, strip searched, and then left in a cell to wait for a parent to come. Although Birmingham schools and police have signed an agreement with the family court that children should not be arrested for this low-level misbehavior, the arrests and the trauma it causes the children continue. In December 2010, the SPLC filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of students who were subjected to the use of chemical weapons, primarily mace, by police officers acting as school resource officers in Birmingham City Schools.

School Resource Officers resort to using pepper spray to deter unruly black students in Birmingham from small fights, cursing, or excessive talking because all of these activities are but a moment from turning into a much greater threat if a show of force isn't immediately displayed. [\[252\]](#)

It's the law of the jungle after all.

But it's not just life in the school system that has to be tracked and watched via police state measures.

Since 1996, Birmingham has operated as it would during wartime with curfew for children under 17 in effect every day of the week [\[253\]](#); because of high rates of violence in the city, the curfew was amended in 2008 to restrict freedoms even further in the hopes of cutting crime [Curfew for Birmingham teens goes into effect on Wednesday, Birmingham News, 9/30/2008]:

Under the new rules, youth under the age of 17 must abide by a 9 p.m. until 6 a.m. curfew Sunday through Thursday and from midnight until 6 a.m. Friday, Saturday and on official city holidays.

Those leaving a sanctioned school activity have one hour after the event is over to get home or with their parents, police said. After that, they are in violation. [\[254\]](#)

Because the threat from teenagers (black teenagers) in Birmingham to the stability of the city is so great, 56 police detectives recently engaged in Operation Parental Control to issue misdemeanor tickets/citations to neglectful black parents [Birmingham police round up parents and guardians with unpaid fines after kids violated curfew, Birmingham News, 4-13-2012]:

Under the beefed-up law, parents became liable for their children's violations with a \$500 fine for the first offense. Repeat offenses carry a mandatory appearance in court and, for three or more offenses within a year, the possibility of up to six months in jail.

In Collegeville, a 28-year-old mother of five groggily came to the door, and denied knowing why the officers were there. "What did I do?" she asked police. "I never picked him up from a curfew violation."

Police verified the warrant against her, and took her into custody after a neighbor agreed to watch the kids until another adult family member could arrive.

"She acted like she didn't know anything," said Sgt. L. Roby, "but I told her we weren't standing in her living room for nothing."

Those arrested were taken to a command post in east Birmingham, where they were photographed and then transported to the city jail. "They didn't think this would really happen," [Lt. Janice] Blackwell said. "We have to be accountable for our children and know where they are." [\[255\]](#)

Accountability is a word currently banned from applying to the black community in not only Birmingham, but in all of America. The police and public school system, however, must be accountable to provide a safe city, school, and athletic experience for the citizens of Birmingham, which require police state levels of security.

The Birmingham City Council is calling for greater restrictions on civil liberties in light of the March 17 shooting death of 15-year-old Jarmaine Walton at the recently redeveloped Railroad Park, home to a \$64-million city financed Birmingham Barons stadium and brand-new entertainment district (the Barons played in suburban Hoover until this year, when the city forked over nearly a quarter of a \$100 million for the new stadium) – if you scare away white people from coming to Birmingham to see the Barons play, the investment will be a sunk cost within a year:

A Birmingham City councilman is calling for more aggressive police action, including vehicle checkpoints, following the [deadly weekend shooting at Railroad Park](#).

Councilman Steven Hoyt made his request during today's council meeting. It was the first public meeting since 15-year-old Jarmaine Walton was fatally shot in the head at the popular green space Sunday night.

The park is just across the street from the \$64 million city-financed Birmingham Barons baseball stadium set to open next month.

"You've got to do it every day," Hoyt said. "We know the availability of guns. If we don't get these guns out of these young people's hands we're always going to be subject to this violence."

Hoyt said any violent death is tragic and needless, recalling the death of his own nephew in Gadsden. He underscored the need for security and controls, particularly around popular areas where the city has invested millions for amenities intended to spur economic development.

"There are many places around this city that we need to focus on," he said. "While we are making it 'magic,' we are also going to have to make it safe."

Hoyt said he was less concerned about potential 'profiling' accusations and more interested in the ability to confiscate illegal weapons before they are used in violent incidents.

The city already has checkpoints as part of crime fighting efforts, and Hoyt wants more.

Mark Murfee Lanier, chairman of criminal justice at the University of Alabama, called checkpoints the most cost effective and legal way to deter crime.

"More than anything else, what it will do is send a message to the community that the police department is serious about crime in that area," Lanier told AL.com/The Birmingham News in an interview this afternoon. "If you're riding around with an illegal

gun in your car and you see a checkpoint, you're probably going to do a U-turn and go the other way."

Councilwoman Lashunda Scales was the only other city official to address the weekend violence today, saying crime prevention and deterrence is both a government function and a basic family responsibility. Parents must take greater responsibility for their children, she stressed.

"Here's another mother and father that have to experience a 15 year old that has passed," she said. "We've got to do something. It is happening too frequently."

Mayor William Bell did not address the shooting or the implications of its location during his report to the council this morning, but did make [a statement Monday](#).

"There are so many cultural and social issues that we have to look at, such as access to guns and access to an environment that does not preach consistently of ways to deal with conflict other than violence," Bell told AL.com Monday. [\[256\]](#)

No – it's not cultural or social issues that need to be addressed in 74 percent black Birmingham; it's the type of cultural and social problems (crime, degeneracy, lower property values, disinvestment of businesses from the city, etc.) that black people create that must be open for debate.

Hence the need for greater restrictions of civil liberties upon black people in the city, if the hope of a \$64 million investment maturing is to be realized with the new Barons stadium, and it not becoming just another derelict attempt to re-create the "magic" white people took with them when they left Birmingham.

This isn't the first time the Birmingham City Council (7 of 9 members in 2013 are black) have stepped forward to address black crime.

The Birmingham City Council got in the act of acknowledging the high levels of violence in Birmingham City Schools by enacting a "100 Days of No Violence" initiative in 2011 -- an event and pledge unnecessary in the public school system 'Over the Mountain,' where white students simply so show up to class to learn and not engage in wanton violence [Failing Grades: The Decline and Fall of Birmingham City Schools, Birmingham Weekly City Paper, 8-9-2012]:

The most embarrassing instance occurred in early 2011, when the Council passed a resolution to reward certain students for participating in Councilor Jay Roberson's "100 Days of No Violence" initiative, which commenced in fall of 2010. Students had been encouraged to sign agreements not to engage in violence from October 10 through the next year's Martin Luther King birthday observance. These students were therefore receiving special recognition for not assaulting other students. Even if it were possible to lower the bar for achievement in schools past awarding students for merely abstaining from violence, what official body could find the gall to do so?[\[257\]](#)

Life in Wartime in the 98 percent black Birmingham City Schools system, where the plot of "Lord of the Flies" plays out on a daily basis, requiring the police state measures normally reserved for wartime to keep the peace.

Of course, these were also once mandatory (metal detectors, armed guards) for a Board of Education meeting too...

The Birmingham Board of Education met behind closed doors for a little more than an hour this afternoon.

The closed session was held during a special called meeting to discuss good name and character. The meeting at the board's central office downtown ended moments after board members returned from that session.

It was the second board meeting this week and, according to Birmingham police, the first resulted in someone filing a police report.

Deputy Police Chief Herman Hinton confirmed a report was filed but said he did not know who filed it or what it alleges. Efforts by The Birmingham News to obtain a copy of the report, or learn the details of the report, were not successful today.

Five armed guards were present at today's meeting, and everyone who entered the meeting room had to pass through a metal detector. Those security measures are not used at most board meetings. [\[258\]](#)

"Fifty Years Forward?"

No.

Civilization has regressed 500 years in Birmingham since 1963.

Fourth Avenue Heartache

*Sirens ring, the shots ring out
A stranger cries, screams out loud*

*I had my world strapped against my back
I held my hands, never knew how to act
- Wallflowers, Sixth Avenue Heartache*

In trying to [celebrate 50 Years Forward](#), the city of Birmingham (a now 74 percent black city -- roughly 61 percent white 50 years ago) must take a most un-nostalgic look back on all that has been lost in the city.

For that matter, the Birmingham black business district. Where once black entrepreneurs created and maintained businesses, a ban on new payday loan, title pawn, and cash checking stores has been instituted by the [77 percent black City Council](#).

And the Fourth Avenue black business district is nothing but derelict buildings and blight. [Fourth Avenue business district, booming under segregation, still works to rebound 50 years later, Al.com, 3-17-13]:

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama – It was a jewel.
And a jail.

Visitors to Birmingham's Fourth Avenue business district in 1963 could buy dresses or be fitted for a suit, hire a lawyer, go to a concert, see a physician, stay in any one of half a dozen hotels or do any of the things people do in a busy urban center

Most had little choice but to conduct their business and seek entertainment there.

They weren't allowed to do so alongside whites just a few blocks to the east.

Birmingham's Jim Crow-era black business district, centered on Fourth Avenue North between 15th and 18th Streets, was so consistently packed with its captive audience of shoppers, revelers and businesspeople that it earned a nickname.

"They called us the Little Harlem down here," said Jessie Nelson, whose family has operated Nelson Brothers Cafe since 1943. "It was just full all the time. It was going *on* here."

Today, 50 years after the childrens' marches, fire hoses and bombings that moved a nation to adopt the Civil Rights Act, the black business district is a shadow of its former self. A row of businesses along the north side of Fourth Avenue is gone.

Barbershops and restaurants line the south side of the street, most other retail long ago vanished. Only three merchants who were there in 1963 remain, according to merchants and development officials: [Green Acres Café](#), the Magic City Barber Shop and Nelson Brothers Café.

Development advocates and business owners don't mince words when talking about the convoluted forces that held the district in balance under Jim Crow, and started its downward slide even as its residents were freed.

“Blacks, once they could go to Pizitz, they abandoned this district,” said Nathan Hicks, who runs the district's development organization, [Urban Impact](#).

In 1963, whites owned virtually all of the black business district. The landlords lived as far away as California and as near as Mountain Brook, and they rented their buildings to black business owners, many of whom were driven to entrepreneurship out of necessity.

“They had to have businesses because they couldn’t get jobs” with white employers, said Bob Dickerson, executive director of the nonprofit Birmingham Business Resource Center and a former executive at A.G. Gaston’s Citizens Federal Savings Bank.

When black customers were freed to patronize white businesses that had been off limits, they did so, prompting of a flood of cash. But that money flowed in just one direction.

“There’s never been a migration of white customers to black companies,” Dickerson said.

As money was drained from the black district, its businesses suffered, and ultimately nearly all closed their doors. Eventually many of the

white absentee landlords stopped maintaining the buildings and the district deteriorated. By mid the 1970s, Hicks said, the streets were overrun by pimps and prostitutes.

“The johns were mostly white,” he said.

“Bankers and lawyers.”

After more than a decade of despair in the historic district, Birmingham in 1979 elected its first black mayor, Richard Arrington, and the district’s champions found their advocate.

Arrington helped to create a land bank, a nonprofit holding company that could buy real estate from its white owners and then sell it to its black tenants or investors, backing the deals with low-interest loans. The same land bank was empowered to award grants in the form of rebates to new landowners who made improvements to storefronts.

Land owners in the district still can qualify for rebates of up to 20 percent of what they spend on exterior improvements. Private investment in the district has totaled \$4.5 million since Urban Impact began tracking it in the 1980s, including \$300,000 last year. And in its 30-year

history, the land bank program has never had a bad loan.

“Not one,” Hicks said.

Slowly, as the ownership of the buildings shifted to black investors and tenants, the district started to rebound. Today, there’s live music in Kelly Ingram Park the first Friday of the month from April until November, there’s a Christmas parade, and the [Taste of 4th Avenue Jazz Festival](#), now held in conjunction with the [Sidewalk Moving Picture Festival](#).

“We changed that 95 percent white ownership to 98 percent black ownership today,” Hicks said. “Blacks have an ownership position. They can pass that down to their children.” [\[259\]](#)

But it's not just the Fourth Avenue black business district that is gone -- Tim Hollis' book (published by Arcadia Publishing) "Birmingham's Theater and Retail District" is a pictorial journey into the once-mighty past of a thriving Birmingham.

A white-run Birmingham.

Part of the 'Images of America' series - which either this government will one day ban or a future government will use text-books to show what happened to America - the back text of Hollis' book includes these telling wording:

From the 1890s to the 1970s, the thriving area of Birmingham between Eighteenth and Twenty-first Streets along First, Second, and Third Avenues were the bustling heart of this quickly growing city. Before the age of shopping mall, the downtown was the center of retail and entertainment in Birmingham.

What happened in the 1970s again?

Largely a book showcasing pictures of the former glory of downtown Birmingham and the retail/entertainment districts white people created, maintained, sustained, and then sadly watch die, Hollis does include some revealing text:

Although my family lived about 25 miles outside the city limits, I have always claimed that I grew up in Birmingham, and for good reason. We spent most of our time there, doing our shopping or eating or, when in season,

taking in the Christmas scenery. Even though our visits were a regular occurrence, they were still special.

Nighttime downtown was extra special, and at the time no one thought of getting mugged... one landmark that stood out above all others, no matter where we were, was the City Federal building. Prior to the early 1970s it was the tallest structure in downtown, and the huge letters spelling out the City Federal name along the roofline flashed alternatively red and blue.

In recent years, that building has fallen into severe disrepair, yet the neon City Federal letters still sit at the very top. (p. 7)

What immediately comes to your mind when you hear the word “downtown?” Do you think of a blighted urban neighborhood filled with decaying, empty buildings covered in graffiti? Or do you think of an avant-garde type of areas where artists and other creative types live in loft apartments and chum around like the characters on a TV situation comedy? If you are under 40 years old, those are probably your most immediate mental images.

However, if you are past that magic age, you probably think of downtown as the place to shop in elegant department stores, with each floor groaning under the weight of more merchandise than the last one; or as the place to take in a movie at a theater that is as much a part of the show as the film itself; or as a magical Christmas wonderland where multicolored lights twinkle and Santa Claus has come to town to stay.

You may notice that one thing is consistent about nearly all the businesses [in the book]. With the notable exceptions of Parisian and Bromberg's, every single one of them is out of business, and they have been for a number of years. This in itself is enough to give the whole chapter a melancholy flavor, but as long as memories and photos survive, we will have at least some way of remembering these retail kings of the not-so-distant past. (p.9)

So what ultimately happened to kill of downtown as a retail and entertainment scene? There is no simple answer to that question.

Certainly the decline of Birmingham's downtown was not unique; the older city centers in scores of other communities faced the same problem.

There is always the hope that more people living downtown will spur retail, food, and entertainment projects to take root, but certainly not in the form with which the area is still identified in people's memories. About 40 years from now, those individuals will be gone, and whatever guise downtown is wearing by that time will be considered the one it has always had. Books such as this one will be all that is left. (p. 123)

What did ultimately happen to both send white people "Over the Mountain" and destroy the black business district of Fourth Avenue?

What ultimately killed Birmingham?

Urban Impact -- Black-owned businesses in the state of Alabama generate just 1 percent of corporate revenue

Ever wondered the economic impact, the economic footprint of black America? The actual contributions of a group of people who earned their freedom, were unshackled from the chains of the nefarious Jim Crow, and were awarded the opportunity to advance in private and public employment far beyond their merit via government mandated racial quotas and affirmative action?

Well, in the state of Alabama, we know the answer. In fact, we can quantify the exact dollar amount black-owned businesses contribute to the economy of the state of Alabama.

Ready for it?

One percent of corporate revenue in the state of Alabama (the state is roughly 70 percent white and

[26 percent black](#)) is generated by black-owned businesses.

Yes.

One percent.

Now do you understand why in the 74 percent black city of Birmingham, [payday loan, title pawn, and check cashing stores are the only growth industry?](#) [Where is today's A.G. Gaston? Black Birmingham businessman would be worth \$300 million in today's money, Al.com, 3-22-13]:

Robert Kelly, founder of Birmingham-based Kelly Construction, vividly remembers the time he was asked to serve as a consultant for a large Birmingham company that wanted a more diversified work force.

“I didn’t see one person who looked like me until I walked into the board room,” said Kelly, who is black. “And that person was cleaning up.”

Half a century after the events of 1963 served as impetus for the dismantling of Jim Crow

laws, African Americans still are striving to reach the pinnacles of corporate Alabama and corporate America. In Alabama, African Americans make up 26 percent of the population but own 15 percent of the state's businesses, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

More striking, black-owned businesses in the state generate just 1 percent of corporate revenue, said Bob Dickerson, executive director of the nonprofit Birmingham Business Resource Center.

While African Americans undoubtedly have made great strides in business in the last half century and Alabama has many accomplished black executives, no one has come close to matching the success of the greatest black entrepreneur in state history, A.G. Gaston, who built his multimillion-dollar business empire under the boot heel of segregation.

Published accounts from the time indicate that Gaston was worth about \$40 million, or nearly \$300 million in today's currency. He owned a

bank, a business college, about a dozen funeral homes, radio stations, a construction company, an insurance company, a motel and a restaurant, among other businesses.

Stephen Craft, dean of the Michael E. Stephens College of Business at the University of Montevallo, said the disadvantages with which black entrepreneurs are burdened in Alabama are fundamental, but not insurmountable.

If the state's biggest corporations more actively seek out minority-owned partners in deals, he said, capital will flow back into black businesses, ultimately creating more opportunities for black entrepreneurs and leveraging a strength that has been underutilized for generations. The state's economy as a whole would benefit, he said.

“We've been competing with one economic hand tied behind our back,” Craft said.

While government contracts typically include a clause mandating a level of minority participation, few businesses can survive on government work alone, Kelly said. For the

black business community to advance, there must be partnerships with private industry, he said.[\[260\]](#)

Actually, black people not only don't have one economic hand tied behind their back, they have a whole army of lawyers working for them in the government - Department of Justice, Department of Labor, and the EEOC) and government-backed agencies (Minority Business Development Agency[\[261\]](#)) whose sole purpose is to help create minority-owned businesses.

In fact, the White House held an "urban business forum" back in March of 2012, where one of Barack Obama's key advisors - Valerie Jarrett - praised the city of Birmingham for having :

"a strong local mayor (William Bell) who believes in helping small businesses grow and thrive, community involvement and a strong educational system."

Birmingham's almost entirely black city council banned new payday loan, title pawn, or check cashing stores from opening in 2011, and the

Birmingham City School system is perhaps the worst in the nation.

During that same economic forum, Mayor Bell made it clear that the only way minority businesses can be created in Birmingham (and the state of Alabama) is via federal/state intervention

[White House offers help for urban businesses at Birmingham forum, Birmingham News, 3-6-12]:

Bell said as mayor he is committed to giving minority businesses the assistance they need to thrive. During the forum, he announced the creation of The Build Birmingham Bonds, a program that will spend \$75 million from a new bond issue to boost entrepreneurship and increase the number of minority firms involved in building infrastructure and city-led construction projects.

"We are determined to move Birmingham forward," the mayor said. "This is the beginning of making Birmingham the great city we know it can be."

Chuck Faush, Bell's chief of staff, said the Build Birmingham campaign will be a catalyst for giving minority entrepreneurs the capital and business capacity they need to be successful. Besides partnering with Seedco, a New York-based nonprofit secondary lender, he said the city program wants to work with big banks and other small secondary lenders.

Minority contractors that get work with the city often can't produce the desired results due to lack of cash or manpower, Faush said. "This program will enable minority businesses to be able to do what they say and be successful, which stimulates job growth," he said.[\[262\]](#)

"One economic tied behind their back," is perhaps the best way to describe white business owners/potential entrepreneurs in not just Birmingham and Alabama, but the entire nation when you factor in the federal involvement in propping up minority businesses development -- all with the redistributed tax dollars of white tax payers.

That A.G. Gaston was able to amass a fortune by catering to the black community - during those evil days of segregation - and that not one black

individual has replicated his success after the liberation of black people following the Battle of Birmingham (1963) speaks volumes to why the so-called "Magic City" is truly the "Tragic City" since the water hoses of one Bull Connor were turned off.

Recall you read about the historic Fourth Avenue black business district of Birmingham that had fallen into economic ruin following integration.[Fourth Avenue business district, booming under segregation, still works to rebound 50 years later, Al.com, 3-17-13]:

After more than a decade of despair in the historic district, Birmingham in 1979 elected its first black mayor, Richard Arrington, and the district's champions found their advocate.

Arrington helped to create a land bank, a nonprofit holding company that could buy real estate from its white owners and then sell it to its black tenants or investors, backing the deals with low-interest loans. The same land bank was empowered to award grants in the form of rebates to new landowners who made improvements to storefronts.

Land owners in the district still can qualify for rebates of up to 20 percent of what they spend on exterior improvements. Private investment in the district has totaled \$4.5 million since Urban Impact began tracking it in the 1980s, including \$300,000 last year. And in its 30-year history, the land bank program has never had a bad loan.[\[263\]](#)

Wow! A whopping average of \$150,000/a year in private investments over the course of Urban Impact's 30-year history.

Astonishing, when you realize Urban Impact is a non-profit created with the specific task of only funding black businesses and employing black people in mind:

Urban Impact, Incorporated, was created in 1980 to assist local political and business leaders with their vision to restore the business and cultural vitality of Birmingham's Black business district, located primarily on 4th Avenue North. Urban Impact exists to preserve the dynamic cultural significance of the Historic 4th Avenue Business District, while promoting business retention and new

development opportunities in this segment of the City Center, located in Birmingham's Civil Rights District.[\[264\]](#)

What's the actual economic foot print of this government-back adventure into racial socialism/favoritism in Birmingham of Urban Impact?:

Economic Development

Urban Impact, Inc. is a technical assistance agency to the merchants and residents that comprise the Historical 4th Avenue Business District. It was assessed by the staff that for every \$100,000 the City has funded Urban Impact, \$1 million of investment was stimulated in the area by the merchants. During the construction of new commercial properties and the renovation of existing structures, it was determined that:

1. More than 1,900 construction jobs were created;
1. 203 jobs were created;
1. 102 jobs were retained with an average of 85% minority participation during construction

The 4th Avenue Land Bank Program was instrumental in increasing minority ownership by 97 percent.

You have to be proud of Urban Impact, making such strides in securing federal money to build new government buildings and call it "economic progress."

Considering black people have been the majority of Birmingham's citizens since the early 1980s, does that mean Urban Impact has seen 85 percent white participation in those construction jobs?

Of course not -- even when blacks take over a city government and become the numerical majority of the inhabitants of a city, they will always identify themselves as the minority.

A "minority," mind you, who is responsible with only generating ONE PERCENT of the corporate revenue in the state of Alabama.

What... what... what in the world would the proud citizens of Alabama do without the economic

contributions and innovation provided by the black population?

Urban Impact, indeed.

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