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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS** 

# The Death Of A Missouri Teen

KANSAS CITY STAR (Aug. 12): The scenes and reports coming out of Ferguson and some of the other hardscrabble parts of north St. Louis County are ugly and surreal, like something happening in another time or a different part of the world.

This urban swath of Missouri has suddenly come to resemble a military zone, as heavily armed riot police face off against civilians, many of whom stand their ground with hands in the air and rage on their faces.

The fury that began on Saturday when a Ferguson police officer shot an unarmed teenager, 18-year-old Michael Brown, has manifested itself in demonstrations in the days since.

Some looting and vandalism have occurred, which only serve to detract from the urgent need to find out what happened.

But police must not make a bad situation worse. Reports of officers using tear gas and rubber bullets on citizens who were doing nothing more than trying to make their way home are extremely concerning. Police in Ferguson and north St. Louis County have a lot of hard work ahead to repair relations with citizens. They need to keep the peace and protect people's property but with the least show of force required.

Also very worrisome are continued demands to name the police officer who shot Brown. An Internet vigilante group on Tuesday threatened to release information about the whereabouts of family members of the Ferguson police chief if the name of the officer continued to be withheld.

It is true that Michael Brown had no choice but to be named as the latest unarmed young black man to be killed by a law enforcement officer. But the quest for justice in his name will not be served by further violence. The identity of the police officer will come out in due course; right now the volatility of the situation justifies the decision to with-

Brown, a recent high school graduate, is being described by his teachers at Normandy High School as a "gentle giant." He was to have started classes at a technical college on Monday.

Based on reflections by people who knew him, there is little in Brown's background to square with the accusation offered by Ferguson police that he reached into a police cruiser and struggled for the officer's gun. Brown's companion has offered a disturbing version of events that portrays the officer as the aggressor. Whatever the truth, it is safe to say that Brown should not have died on Saturday.

There is little reason now for Brown's family or many people anguishing over his death to express faith in the rule of law. But it is the best hope for recourse that we have in America. Attorneys with the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department are working with the FBI on an investigation separate from a probe underway by the St. Louis County police. If Brown's death was as unprovoked as his companion's account suggests, the officer involved must be brought to

Meanwhile, we must listen to the people who have raised their hands in solidarity with Michael Brown. He is not an isolated incident but yet another symbol of the indignities and dangers that black people continue to face in America. The nation ignores those voices at its

### ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, August 14, the 226th day of 2014. There are 139 days

Today's Highlight in History: On August 14, 1944, the federal government allowed the manufacture of certain domestic appliances, such as electric ranges and vacuum cleaners, to resume on a limited basis

On this date: In 1848, the Oregon Territory was created.

In 1900, international forces, including U.S. Marines, entered Beijing to put down the Boxer Rebellion, which was aimed at purging China of foreign influence.

In 1909, the newly opened Indianapolis Motor Speedway held its first event, a series of motorcycle races. In 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman announced that Japan had surrendered unconditionally, ending World War II

In 1947, Pakistan became independent of British rule.

In 1951, newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, 88, died in Beverly Hills, California.

1969, British troops went to Northern Ireland to intervene in sectarian violence between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1973, U.S. bombing of Cambo-

dia came to a halt. In 1980, workers went on strike at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk, Poland, in a job action that resulted in creation of the Solidarity labor movement. Actress-model Dorothy Stratten, 20, was shot to death by her estranged husband and manager, Paul Snider, who then killed himself.

In 1989, South African President P.W. Botha announced his resignation after losing a bitter power struggle within his National Party.

In 1994, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, the terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," was captured by French

agents in Sudan. Ten years ago: A visibly weak Pope John Paul II joined thousands of other ailing pilgrims at a cliffside shrine in Lourdes, France, telling them he shared in their physical suffering and assuring them the burden was part of God's "wondrous plan." Nobel Prize-winning poet Czeslaw Milosz died in Krakow, Poland, at age 93. Fifteen-term congressman William D. Ford died in Ypsilanti Township, Michi-

Five years ago: Kicking off a four-state push for his health care overhaul plan, President Barack Obama de-

nounced what he suggested was news media overemphasis on scenes of angry protesters at town-hall meetings, telling his own gathering in Belgrade, Montana, that "TV loves a ruckus." Charles Manson follower Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, 60, convicted of trying to assassinate President Gerald Ford in 1975, was released from a Texas prison hospital after more than three decades behind

One year ago: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators kicked off their first substantive round of peace talks in nearly five years, meeting at an undisclosed location in Jerusalem. Riot police swept away two encampments of supporters of ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi in Cairo, sparking running street battles. For mer Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-III., was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in prison for illegally spending \$750,000 in campaign funds on personal items.

Today's Birthdays: Broadway lyri cist Lee Adams ("Bye Bye Birdie" 90. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Russell Baker is 89. Singer Buddy Greco is 88. College Football Hall of Famer John Brodie is 79. Singer Dash Crofts is 76. Rock singer David Crosby is 73. Country singer Connie Smith is 73. Comedian-actor Steve Martin is 69 Actor Antonio Fargas is 68. Singermusician Larry Graham is 68. Actress Susan Saint James is 68. Actor David Schramm is 68. Author Danielle Steel is 67. Rock singer-musician Terry Adams (NRBQ) is 64 "Far Side" car toonist Gary Larson is 64. Actor Carl Lumbly is 63. Olympic gold medal swimmer Debbie Meyer is 62. Film composer James Horner is 61. Actress Jackee Harry is 58. Actress Marcia Gay Harden is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Earvin "Magic" Johnson is 55. Singer Sarah Brightman is 54. Actress Susan Olsen is 53. Actressturned-fashion/interior designer Cristi Conaway is 50. Rock musician Keith Howland (Chicago) is 50. Actress Halle Berry is 48. Actress Catherine Bell is 46. Country musician Cody Mc-Carver (Confederate Railroad) is 46. Rock musician Kevin Cadogan is 44 Actor Scott Michael Campbell is 43. Actress Lalanya Masters is 42. Actor Christopher Gorham is 40. Actress Mila Kunis is 31. TV personality Spencer Pratt is 31. NFL quarterback Tim Tebow is 27.

Thought for Today: "Freedom of speech and freedom of action are meaningless without freedom to think. And there is no freedom of thought without doubt." — Bergen Baldwin Evans, American author (1904-1978).

# a caglecartoons.com Writer's Block Politics And Inflation BY JIM VAN OSDEL IRS. Everybody becomes not only Sgt. Schultz:

BUT ... HEY ...

WE TORTURED A FEW FOLKS AN' WE DRONED A FEW FOLKS

For the Press & Dakotan

About 62 years ago, our Dad and Mom were slated to attend a dressy dinner event in Yankton, so Mom emptied her dime bank, yes, dime bank, with the full sum of \$5 in it and bought a new blue dress with match-

ing shoes at Harry Margolin's Jo Ellen's Shop, next door to Penney's, south side of Third Street, east of Cedar Street. Unbelievable, isn't it, that \$5 would buy so much? It is more unbelievable if you have some concept of how long it took Mom to save \$5 in dimes — many months.

When I began my employment with the *P&D* 10 years later in April 1962, two eggs, toast and coffee cost 32 cents. I could also buy two ham-burgers and a Coke for lunch for 25 **VAN OSDEL** cents, if I had the money. I was paid less than \$1 per hour to read and correct all the mistakes typesetters had made in the news stories and ads in the entire newspaper. Now the same breakfast costs close to \$4. What the hell happened?

Politicians is what happened. Politicians who read books in "liberal arts" colleges, books whose authors believed that recessions can be cured by spending money. As the kids say, "Like duh." But there are politicians who believe that
— shall we say — baloney today

What happens when families spend more on cars, trucks, boats and campers than they have income to make the payments? Somebody else's fault, right. Like the bank, right. If you do not have much of a paycheck, spending more does not seem like it would help.

Why cannot liberal politicians see that fact? Can you remember the "incentive" interest rate GM placed on their new cars and trucks in the spring of 1980? Take a guess before you read further. I asked a salesman at the Chevy store on 21st and Broadway, Wudel Chevrolet. The "incentive" interest rate quoted by the salesman was 25 percent. How close were you?

No one with whom I have shared this topic has come with 15 percentage points.

What happened? We fought and won WWII, we fought and lost the Korean "Conflict," we sent "advisors" to Vietnam and then came Jimmy Carter, who had read those dang books.

If one earns the money and throws it at payments or savings accounts, that is brilliant.

But throwing money at bureaucrats results in raises for everybody in that department, bonuses for everyone, vacations for everyone and the original problem has not changed, i.e., "I know nothing!", but worse, "You can't touch

Liberal presidents assuage their constituents by insisting they have to further education. The money goes to the colleges who

raise their tuition because they gave raises to all their very worthy educators and the incoming freshmen borrow unprecedented amounts of money to get a degree which does not merit employment in the real world. A radio commentator remarked

the other day that, with all the money Harvard holds in escrow, in the billions, the college could educate all their incoming students for 30 years. Do you think there is any chance of that happening?

Jimmy Carter fell for that "throw money at it" scheme, and my P&D check withered away like an old rose in the hot summer sun due to his inflation/recession. The World Bank had to raise in-

flation rates in order to buy back all that money that had been printed in a misguided attempt to stabilize the economy.

Then came "The Great Communicator," Ronald Reagan, who, as FDR had done in the Thirties, assured everybody that everything

was alright, that America was a great nation, that things were improving and things did improve. No one can argue with what happened between 1983 and 1985. The city editor became a car salesman. His 40-hour week became a 60-hour week but we

were in a recession. Nothing was happening. It snowed every weekend in 1983. Just like a farm kid again, out in the cold shoveling snow. By the fall of 1983, Lee Iacocca at Chrysler produced smaller, quality, front-wheel-drive

cars that were maneuverable in snow and interest rates began to come down. These were followed by the seven passenger minivan evervone wanted.

And in August 1985, folks were calling, "Do you still have one of those Ford Escort wag-

Yes, the anxious salesman answered. "Do you still have that 8.5 percent interest rate on them"?

Yes, he said. "Hold it, please. I will be there at 5 p.m. to

The car dealership was destroyed by fire that night in August of 1985. Stuff happens. But I have my mother's dime bank.

# The K Street President

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com Wonder of wonders: The Washington press

corps woke up. Finally, mainstream journalists are onto Barack Obama's game. Their breakingnews shocker? Turns out all that "hope and change" stuff was just hot air. A new report from the D.C.-based press shows that — gasp — the White House is infested with Beltway lobby-

Good morning, sleepyheads! According to Politico's analysis published on Monday, the "Obama administration has hired about 70 previously registered corporate, trade association and for-hire lobbyists. And many of these former lobbyists work at the highest levels of government.

Wait, there's more. The "most transparent administration ever" is playing disclosure-dodging renaming games to hide lobbyists' grubby paw prints. By officially de-registering as corporate lobbyists and morphing into "consultants," "counselors" or "advisers," Obama's K Street operators can maintain the fiction of upholding the Great Agent of Change's grand ethics pledge.

Remember: Back in the day, candidate Obama assailed the K Street crowd with righteous (or rather, left-eous) zeal. "I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over," he thundered in 2007. In one of his first executive actions, he declared that the White House had closed "the revolving door that allows government officials to move to and from private sector jobs in ways that give that sector undue influence over government.

But the reform-peddling candidate soon found it impossible to practice what he so sanctimoniously preached. Now, Obama depends on their "strategic advice" and Beltway wisdom. Here's the White House's chortle-inducing rationalization for elevating Broderick Johnson (husband of friend of the Obamas and NPR anchor Michele Norris, and longtime Democratic lobbyist for Microsoft, Pearson, JPMorgan Chase, Comcast, Fannie Mae and FedEx) as a top aide:

"The pledge does not bar anyone with prior lobbying experience from serving in this administration," an Obama spokesman told

Politico.com. "Broderick has substantial experience working in the Clinton administration, on the Hill and in the private sector in a variety of capacities, as well as on the president's campaign. We welcome that mix of experience."

That "mix of experience" also includes veteran Beltway lobbyist Cecilia Munoz, formerly of the National Council of La Raza and consultant to the Mexican government, who is now assistant to the president and director of the Domestic Policy Council - along with revolving-door beneficiaries Melody Barnes, Marc Berejka, Bradley Gillen and Sean Kennedy, all lobbyists turned Obama bureaucrats turned lobbyists

When Republicans hire lobbyists, it's a culture of corruption and influence peddling. When Obama hires lobbyists, it's a celebration of experience diversity.

Of course, these double standards and this double talk were clear from the outset. As I pointed out in my book "Culture of Corruption" five years ago this summer, the business-asusual writing was on the wall from Day One. As soon as he was elected, Obama threw open his doors to the nation's leading lobbyists and professional D.C. back-scratchers:

Attorney General Eric Holder was registered as a lobbyist at Covington and Burling. Tim Vilsack, former Iowa governor and Obama's first agriculture secretary, was a registered lobbyist for the National Education Association. Ron Klain, Vice President Joe Biden's first chief of staff, was a lobbyist at O'Melveny and Myers. Leon Panetta was a lobbyist-lite who raked in hundreds of thousands of dollars from corporations in "consulting fees." Former Goldman Sachs lobbyist Mark Patterson served as chief of staff to former Treasury Secretary-turned-lobbyist Tim Geithner.

But now the K Street president is news? Like the old saying goes: There are none so blind as those who will not see. The most deluded people are those who choose to ignore what they already know.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.



Michelle **MALKIN** 

# YOUR LETTERS

**Marijuana Matters** Fran Johnson, Yankton

I'm writing in regards to John Magnuson's letter concerning legalizing marijuana (Press & Dakotan, July 31)

If all you can think about is the tax money from selling that stuff will generate, it's time to dig into this a little deeper. The money the people selling marijuana make CANNOT be put in a bank. Federal law says money from the sale of illegal marijuana monies be put in a bank. Thus there's more crime robberies, killing, etc. That is just the tip of

How many more people will get hurt of killed on the highways due to impaired drivers?

the iceberg.

The worst part of this whole scenario is the effect on people's bodies who take the stuff. Unlike alcohol that exits in the body in 24-36 hours, the stuff in marijuana stays in the body for many weeks. How do you pass a drug test for a job? You don't. The worst part of this whole

thing is what marijuana and other drugs like it do to the genes in the body of the user. It's proven fact that this contributes to deformed babies, autism, mental problems, disabilities, etc. What we do now will affect future generations. Do you want your children or

grandchildren to marry someone with altered genes and have a deformed baby? Think about it and say no to drugs.