
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

Sections

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
- **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
- **Announcements**
- **Happenings Gallery!**

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

"Project 2025 - Dystopian Nightmare"



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

A graphic with a light blue background. On the left, the text 'PROJECT 2025' is written in large, bold, red capital letters, followed by a blue equals sign. To the right of the text is a blue stethoscope. Below the title is a bulleted list of five items in black text.

PROJECT 2025 =

- Repealing Obamacare
- Discriminating against pre-existing conditions
- Gutting Medicaid & Medicare
- Cutting childcare & paid family leave
- Raising the price of insulin

I wrote an article about the threat of the ACA being repealed in August 2020, published in the Cardinal & Pine News on September 24, 2020. Deja vu, here we are again in 2024, but this time, Trump has a more sophisticated and sickening plan –

"Project 2025."

Instead of seeking to reduce health care

costs, which is what most Americans want, the policy proposals in [Project 2025](#) would have the opposite effect: they would cut back on medical care for those who can least afford it, increase prescription drug costs, and leave more people without health insurance.

The Trump agenda would establish lifetime caps or time limits on receiving Medicaid. It would require states to implement stricter eligibility determinations for Medicaid, leaving many needy people without coverage.

From eliminating the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to cutting Medicaid benefits, increasing Medicare Part D prescription drug prices, and eliminating reproductive freedom nationwide, Donald Trump's Project 2025 would have disastrous, deadly consequences on our country's healthcare system.



There are countless North Carolinians and millions of other Americans whose healthcare stories are similar to mine. Here in North Carolina alone, almost 5 million people have a pre-existing condition. In contrast, hundreds of thousands of others have been able to purchase insurance for the first time because of the Affordable Care Act. We owe our health and financial security to the ACA; right now, that law has never been in greater jeopardy!

Here's a sample of what "Project 2025" - Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise intends to do.

"It's not 1980. In 2023, the game has changed. The long march of cultural Marxism through our institutions has come to pass. The federal government is a behemoth, weaponized against American citizens and conservative values, with freedom and liberty under siege as never before. The task at hand to reverse this tide and restore our Republic to its original moorings is too great for anyone conservative policy shop to spearhead. It requires the collective action of our movement. With the quickening approach of January 2025, we have two years and one chance to get it right."

Let's Get to Work Democrats and WIN THIS ELECTION!
"WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN!"

Go to <https://www.ncsbe.gov/voting/upcoming-election> For more information on candidates, check voter registration and your sample ballot.

Here are voter dates and deadlines for the 2024 general election in North Carolina:

- **Oct. 11**: Voter registration deadline (5 pm).
- **Oct. 17**: In-person early voting begins; same-day registration is available.
- **Oct. 29**: Absentee ballot request deadline (5 pm).
- **Nov. 2**: In-person early voting ends (3 pm).
- **Nov. 5**: General Election Day.
- **Nov. 5**: Absentee ballot return deadline (7:30 pm).

DON'T FORGET THE JUDGES!!!!

Judicial Voter Guide

In the 2024 general election, there will be a contest for one N.C. Supreme Court associate justice and three N.C. Court of Appeals judge positions.

You can find information about each candidate here: [Judicial Voter Guide: 2024 General Election](#)



To Volunteer for VP Harris:

<https://web.kamalaharris.com/forms/take-action-for-kamala-harris>

<https://www.mobilize.us/ncvictory2024/>

Works Cited:

<https://cardinalpine.com/2020/09/24/the-aca-saved-my-life-we-cant-let-trump-destroy-it/>

<https://www.afscme.org/blog/trumps-project-2025-would-tear-down-our-countrys-health-care-system>

<https://www.aclu.org/project-2025-explained>

<https://kamalaharris.com/project2025/>

https://static.project2025.org/2025_MandateForLeadership_FULL.pdf

Editorial

A Personal Anecdote on Racism in America

By

Tarik Kiley

9/26/2024

Let's talk about racism. What do I think about it?

Well, for one, I have always had a difficult time dealing with the



existing definitions of racial identity. My father, Henry Sterling Kiley, Jr., is an African American of the Muslim faith. My deceased mother, Marguerite Kiley, was multiracial. Also, after my mother's passing, my

father married a Panamanian woman, Beatriz, and they stayed married for three years before their relationship broke apart.

Also, I spent the majority of my childhood in majority-minority cities. I was born in Baltimore, which is predominantly African American. When I was 11 years old, I moved to Los Angeles, CA, where I resided in Hollywood with my brother and father. Los Angeles is a very multicultural city with a heavily represented

Latino population. Hollywood, CA, was also increasingly diverse. Moving to Charlotte, NC, was the first time I saw a heavy White presence in the local population. There was a notable Armenian and Eastern European presence in Hollywood, CA, but not Americans of Western European descent.

So, for someone coming from such a diverse background, how do I navigate race in America?



Let's start with the one-drop rule. According to the one-drop rule, you only have to have one person in your family who is Black to qualify as being Black in America. So, people who are racially mixed are categorized as Black. This is interesting but also

concerning. Many people are mulatto, and if they attempt to embrace their non-Black ancestry, they can be shunned or questioned.

Expressing your non-Black ancestry can also be seen as a form of selling-out. This can lead to confusion and an identity crisis for mixed-race people. But the painful truth is that race-mixing has always occurred in the United States of America, even when society has shunned it. So, while miscegenation laws in the Jim Crow South shunned race-mixing, people still had sexual relationships across racial identities.

It should also be noted that other countries have dealt with race differently. The Spanish empire was one of race-mixing. Under the French empire, the status of mixed-race Blacks, called Creoles, as particularly noted in New Orleans, Louisiana, was created. South Africa, while experiencing apartheid, also had a category called "colored" reserved for mixed-race Blacks.

Because interracial relationships are considered strange in the USA, I had a confusing relationship with racial identity in my youth. My brother, Faruq, didn't seem to have this problem. His first girlfriend was a Latina, and his second girlfriend was White. As for me, I had an identity crisis.

How did I resolve my identity crises?

Well, I aligned my identity with Black culture, but not necessarily with any racial identity. This means that I embrace the music, the food, the literature, the clothing styles, and the vernacular of African Americans. I consider myself to be of the Black ethnic group, while not necessarily entirely of the Black race.

So, how would I define Black culture?

According to dopeblack.org, "Black culture refers to the diverse range of customs, traditions, beliefs, practices, art forms, languages, and social behaviors that have emerged from the experiences and contributions of people of African descent. It encompasses the shared experiences, history, and identity of Black people, which have been shaped by their interactions with various societies, including Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe.

Black culture is not monolithic but rather consists of a rich tapestry of distinct ethnic, regional, and national identities." This is an interesting definition. Black culture isn't a monolith. That means that I can have a Muslim father and still be Black. All Black Americans aren't Southern Baptists. Jamaicans can speak patois, Haitians can speak Creole (based in French), and still, both can be Black.

Not only am I culturally Black, but I'm also proud of Black culture. Black truly is beautiful. I'm unashamed of my skin tone. My pride in my culture most likely comes from the fact that my father was a member of the Nation of Islam before moving on to orthodox Islam. While some people might find that fact controversial, I was taught to be respectful of my own culture, and I learned about the effects of mental slavery as defined by prominent thinkers such as Marcus Garvey.

So, I understand how Western European imperialism and colonialism led to a hierarchy system put into place to justify the enslavement and continual economic exploitation of people of African descent. Even after the abolishment of slavery, and even after Jim Crow ended later in the 20th century, having melanin in your skin has continually been seen as a stigma and as a badge of servitude.

The Nation of Islam took these definitions and flipped them by pointing out the continual history of Black people. They expressed the fact that our history was interrupted by slavery, not defined by it. This is part of the reason why I am so achievement-orientated. I know the history of Black people is full of accomplishments, so I don't have a defeatist attitude.

While I do have a healthy dose of self-esteem, I would be foolish to say that white privilege doesn't exist. Colorism exists. The racial hierarchy exists. I just don't let it define me.

Let's talk about White privilege. White privilege consists of all of the socioeconomic advantages that White people have today because of policies, practices, and customs that historically discriminated against non-Whites and placed Whites into a position of power and dominance over others. This not only consists of the 400 approx. years of slavery, which was free labor used to build this country, but also the more modern economic neglect of African American neighborhoods through practices of redlining, for example.



Racists such as former President Donald Trump want to build walls to keep people apart. But they don't understand that communications technology has made building a physical wall between people

completely defunct. Look at how the last "great wall" faired. During the Cold War, there was the Berlin Wall, but that wall eventually fell. Keeping people who want to be together apart is exceedingly tricky. If people want to move to the United States to find better opportunities, then racism shouldn't stop them. The idea that they are migrating from non-White countries should not be a stigma at all.

I will say, though, despite racism and its ugly effects, that I remain optimistic about the future. When I look at the presidential campaign of Vice-President Kamala Harris and the fact that she comes from a multiracial background, I believe that some in White America are ready to move forward into accepting the heterogeneous reality that is the United States of America.

Also, it is becoming increasingly difficult to be racist on this planet. Because people can communicate across large geographies, using cell phones, for example, and because of other technology like the Internet, people are not as ignorant of different cultures as they used to be.

I'm saying all this to say that the United States of America is a heterogenous destination. There are no "pure" White people, and a lack of "pure" Black people, too. We are more than just Black and White. Not only is this the science of it all, but also, socially, Americans are continuing to recognize our diversity. While some still want to hang onto racism to exploit their White privilege, many Americans want racism to end. I say that ending racism is a step on the path toward universal freedom.

Works Cited

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/jefferson/mixed/onedrop.html>

<https://dopeblack.org/what-is-black-culture/>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/black-beautiful-emergence-black-culture-and-identity-60s-and-70s>

<https://www.learningforjustice.org/magazine/fall-2018/what-is-white-privilege-really>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50013048>

Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 3 at 6:30 pm

**North Regional Rec Center, 18121 Old Statesville
Road, Cornelius (south of Bailey Road)**

Light refreshments will be served.

Zoom option

Zoom Link

Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party

**Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7:30 pm, at Hickory Tavern,
Huntersville.**

RSVP by clicking on the link below:

**[https://demsofnorthmeck.us20.list-
manage.com/track/click?u=765fdf3806a10a2c360de71c2&id=
22e6253f52&e=e90d0cd318](https://demsofnorthmeck.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=765fdf3806a10a2c360de71c2&id=22e6253f52&e=e90d0cd318)**

Announcements



Democratic Women of North Carolina

VP Debate Watch Party

Tuesday October 1, 2024

8:00 - 11:00 PM (Debate starts at 9:00 PM)

Hattie's Tap and Tavern

2918 The Plaza

Charlotte, NC 28205

[Click here to RSVP!](#)

Democratic Women of North Carolina

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 9

6:30 PM Reception, 7:00 PM Program

Hope Community Hall

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

1609 E 5th St, Charlotte, NC 28204



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings!



<https://vote.mecknc.gov/upcoming-elections>

The Executive Corner:

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley