Open housing marcher says ‘state of the city has gotten worse’

By Alex Groth, courtesy of Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service

Editor’s note: This is one in a series of 15 pieces being written by the Neighborhood News Service about the Milwaukee Open Housing marches, which took place 50 years ago beginning on Aug. 28, 1967.

Earl Bracy didn’t notice his picture being taken, but 47 years later, it would be on a pamphlet about segregation in Milwaukee.

In the iconic photo, Bracy, 68, is gripping the American flag, participating in the 1967 open housing marches alongside the Rev. James Groppi and hundreds of Black Milwaukee residents.

The pamphlet, titled “Fulfill The Promise,” was created by Greater Together, a nonprofit organization that promotes racial and economic equity.

According to data compiled by Greater Together, Milwaukee is the number one city for Black and White residential segregation among the 102 largest metro areas. Milwaukee is also the worst metropolitan area for residential segregation based on poverty.

In Bracy’s view, “The state of the city has gotten worse, which is alarming because as we progress things should be getting better.”

Bracy decided to participate in the marches as a young man because he felt what he called “the sting of racism” discrimination because of the color of Milwaukee’s image too often is viewed by

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tivity. Of course, if you were under-em-
ployed or unemployed, you would feel that way. Or if your schools were not producing top notch students capable of going on to any college or university of your choice.

For the rest of the city was attending another festival and an air show, our community was celebrating with the Blues, food, information and fun in the heart of Black Milwaukee! The 20th annual Garfield Avenue Blues, Jazz, Gospel and Arts Festival was held along Garfield Avenue. With the demise of African World Festival, Juneteenth Day, Bronzeville Days, the Negro League Tribune Baseball game, and the Garfield Festival have become the summer celebration staples for Black Milwaukee to meet and greet each other, as well as reminisce about past festivals that have taken place along that street.

Comedians, food vendors and entertainment by some of the best local blues, jazz, and gospel acts around made everybody forget about the heat and pack the street for a great time! —Photos by Yvonne Kemp (Look for more photos in this week’s Weekend Edition!)
MCW’s mission to improve cardiovascular health through cutting-edge research with an emphasis on training the next generation of leaders and stakeholders in cardiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He recently completed a term as president of the American Heart Association Board of Directors. Dr. Benjamin, who previously served as chair of AHA’s Research Committee, will serve as president elect from June 2017 to July 2018, president for the 2018-19 term as past president-elect, and begin his four-year term as president of the AHA in July 2020.

“I am humbled and honored to be nominated for such major leadership roles in the American Heart Association, the largest professional organization committed to the prevention, detection, and treatment of heart disease and stroke both nationally and internationally,” said Dr. Benjamin.

The board of directors is the final authority on AHA operations, including being responsible for the control and management of funds, the approval of by-law changes, policies, approval of policies and standards. The board is also the final say on matters of employment of the chief executive officer and approval of the AHA budget. As president, Dr. Benjamin will also chair the Science Advisory & Coordinating Committee at AHA, among numerous additional duties.

“Congratulations to Dr. Irv Benjamin on his election as President of the American Heart Association,” Joseph E. KIFICATIONS, MD, dean of the school of medicine and executive vice president of MCW. Under his leadership in the past four years as director of MCW’s Cardiovascular Center, we have created integrated programs that serve as a model for driving the continuum of how research can be leveraged for quality patient care that improves the community’s cardiovascular health.

Dr. Benjamin, who joined MCW in 2013, was born in Georgetown, the capital of Guyana. His long and distinguished medical career has taken him across the globe, including 15 years spent as a tenured professor of internal medicine and cardiology at the University of Utah School of Medicine. He recently completed his term as president of the Association of University Cardiologists and is a past president of the American College of Cardiology.

At MCW, including a $4 million project funded by the Advancing a Healthier Community Fund, he has been driven by his commitment to the prevention, detection and treatment of heart disease and stroke both nationally and internationally, and exemplifies the positives that do exist in our community despite its negatives.

Dr. Benjamin is recognized internationally as a thought leader in cardiovascular medicine and research, and we are extremely pleased that he will continue his talents and expertise on the national stage as President of the American Heart Association,” said John R. Raymond, Sr., MD, president and CEO of MCW.

Dr. Benjamin said that as president of the AHA he looks forward to continuing AHA’s mission to improve cardiovascular health through cutting-edge research with an emphasis on training the next generation of leaders and embryos who are collectively committed to improving health equity in all communities.

“As part of the AHA’s national leadership team, I will continue to advocate how best to leverage such opportunities both for our community here in Southeast Wisconsin and the nation,” said Dr. Benjamin.
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The real debate that Islam should spark

BEIRUT — Every few years, it seems the world of Middle East and global policy analysis passes through a phase in which a basic question rears its head in the media and in conversations across the world: Is Islam a dangerous threat to the future of Muslim-majority societies, or a natural passing phase?

I am struck by how often in conversation with friends and colleagues around the world the discussion gets stuck on this issue — even with data discussed, and with terms and language used to discuss Arabs and Muslims across the Middle East, the issue is less frequently raised.

I am not sure if that means that, a) the West is rightly scared about the rise of political Islam; or b) the West has bought the line put out by a few wealthy Arab countries that are generating disseminated through global public relations campaigns and diversionary propaganda that is now widely accepted.

For decades, governments have good cause to fear the sustainability of Islamist movements in a natural passing phase.

Do Arab countries like Egypt and some wealthy oil-producing countries have nowhere else to turn other than these movements to frighten the people about “political Islam.”

This broad term can refer to a thousand different movements that wrap themselves in the banner of Islam and add an appropriate adjective to identify them as pacific, activist but non-violent, political action-oriented, community social services-oriented, militant, terrorist, or some other descriptors that differentiate the movements we are talking about.

In the context of conversation, we must note that there are signs of mass discontent by countries who have nowhere else to turn other than these movements.

The future and political-social-militant movements that wrap themselves in the banner of Islam and appeal to Muslims in a natural way that Congress uses people talking about “political Islam.”

I find it more useful to talk about “Islamist” movements, and add an appropriate adjective to identify them as pacific, activist but non-violent, political action-oriented, community social services-oriented, militant, terrorist, or some other descriptors that differentiate the movements we are talking about.

We all know what we are talking about. A majority of these movements that frighten many people include, a) the traditional Muslim Brotherhood (that has existed longer than most Arab countries have been sovereign states) and its assorted national chapters, including voting rights and the right to a quality education. And we need the Black Church’s leadership for an appropriate response to this issue.

I would say the answer is both yes and no.

The real debate that Islam should spark.

The real debate that Islam should spark.
Earl Bracy (right, holding flag) walks with the Rev. James Groppi during an open housing march.

Open housing marcher says "state of the city has gotten worse" (continued from page front page)

He and fellow marchers demanded open housing and better treatment by the police department. Bracy recalled that the police repeatedly followed him because of his skin.

"A few blocks further you'd see the same thing," Bracy added. "They always say you don't know where you're going until you know where you're going." A psychologist who works with youth and families, Bracy said he thinks the younger generations are not as involved in social change as people were during the marches. "I don't see the same zeal in a lot of the young people," he added. "Sometimes they don't really buy into what's happening in the past."

According to Bracy, the younger generation doesn't appreciate or strive to learn about the sacrifices made during the marches, contributing to the lack of understanding among the younger generation.

"A lot of them are just clueless," Bracy said. "They can walk through doors and the doors are wide open, but they don't know why."

For Bracy, understanding the past is key to establishing a platform for the future. He and fellow marchers demanded open housing and better treatment by the police department. Bracy recalled that the police repeatedly followed him because of his skin.

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A LONG JOURNEY’S SUCCESSFUL END!
Dr. Kourtnei M. Robinson, daughter of MCJ photographer Kim Robinson (far right), completed her long journey of becoming a physician recently when she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston School of Medicine. She’s pictured above with her family after commencement. Dr. Robinson is a 2008 graduate of Rufus King High school. She also attended the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston School of Medicine. She’s pictured above with her family after commencement. Dr. Robinson is a 2008 graduate of Rufus King High school. She also attended the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston School of Medicine.
King Drive Commons Gallery and Studio’s Gallery Night and Day

The King Drive Commons Gallery will hold a “Gallery Night” on King Drive at the King Drive Commons Gallery and Studio, 2779 North Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Join us for an exciting experience as the Gallery and Studio presents an exciting mixed media art exhibit titled, “Vanity is the Spree of Life.”

The times are Friday, July 21, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 22.

Featured in this exhibit are artists Aurna Floyd-Pratt, who will be starting his MFA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall. He exhibits his talent in this show through Multi-Media artwork using a combination of non-traditional materials to create a disturbing meditation about consumerism and our individual roles.

Darrell Eckford uses acrylics on canvas to display his abstract artwork that motivates one with hypnotic movement that is almost trance-like.

Ronalda Singh, who attended the Illinois Institute of Art, considers her various styles of realism artwork using vibrant colors in her paintings of oil, acrylics and pastel mediums related to her experiences as a woman and a mother.

She also featured an connection with “The Art of Healing” during this exhibit is a presentation by Marquita Edwards regarding Healthy eating.

Friday evening will also feature a performance by: THE LEGENDS with Rozalia Singh, who attended the Illinois Institute of Art, considers her various styles of realism artwork using vibrant colors in her paintings of oil, acrylics and pastel mediums related to her experiences as a woman and a mother.

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Local Doctor Publishes Results of Community-Based Weight Loss Intervention for African American Breast Cancer Survivors in the Journal of Clinical Oncology

Melinda Stolley, PhD, associate director of Cancer Prevention and Control at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) Cancer Center, completed a study, Moving Forward, with 250 African American breast cancer survivors, successfully implementing an intervention to help these women make and maintain positive changes in weight, eating habits, physical activity and social support networks.

The results of this work were recently published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO), a high-impact cancer journal.

Dr. Stolley, who came to MCW in 2015, has used the experience and findings from this project to inform new interventions to address breast cancer disparities in the greater Milwaukee area, including a similar program for Milwaukee’s African American and Hispanic and Latina breast cancer survivors.

“In places like Milwaukee, Chicago and around the country, African American women who’ve had breast cancer have higher rates of death from cancer and other causes,” said Dr. Stolley.

“We wanted to show that a deliberately designed program of social support, access to exercise programs and help to change eating habits that encouraged weight loss would have positive results on breast cancer survivors.”

“Now that we’ve seen these real results, we’re bringing the project to Milwaukee, a city with some of the most significant breast cancer disparities in the country.”

The breast cancer survivors who participated in Moving Forward were randomized into two groups, one which received the full intervention that included group meetings that offered social support, direct instruction on diet and supervised exercise classes, free access to the City of Chicago Park District clubs, and motivational text messages from the program staff.

The second group received a self-guided binder with similar information about exercise and diet. The intervention activities and materials were designed based on the results of focus groups with African American breast cancer survivors.

The results of the Moving Forward program are significant and include weight loss, healthy changes to overall body composition and positive behavioral changes. While both groups achieved and maintained positive changes, the guided group lost more weight and had greater body composition and behavioral changes.

“We know that weight loss interventions for breast cancer survivors do work, but few of these programs were accurately designed program of social support, access to exercise programs and help to change eating habits that encouraged weight loss would have positive results on breast cancer survivors.”

“The data from this study is exciting and shows that we can help these women lose weight and maintain weight loss. Women who lose weight after diagnosis have better survival rates, and weight is an important factor in breast cancer prognosis.”

Local Doctor Publishes Results of Community-Based Weight Loss Intervention for African American Breast Cancer Survivors in the Journal of Clinical Oncology (continued on page 10)
OPEN LETTER TO OUR READERS

Milwaukee Community Journal is an actual brick and mortar building, not just an online entity. I was downstairs reviewing our equipment in the storage office and it's like visiting a museum. Old relics, equipment, computers, software and past editions illuminate 40 years journaling the history of change.

Since our origin in 1976, we've moved with our audience. Today our readers are predominantly millennials, 18-40 years of age, shakers and movers, the buyers! They are buying homes, cars, raising families. They are eating “fresh,” active in politics, exercising and partying.

Our readers find us in print, with our twice-weekly editions in tenured retail outlets, churches and selective distribution spots. But they also read us online at milwaukeecommunityjournal.com We're in this to win this! We're dynamic....crisp clear....interactive...and to be honest - exploding with information that you want to read!

We're perfect for new and established advertisers! We want more local interaction and community written articles. We want to offer more millennial access to a proven community source.

This is who we are. But one thing is still deep on our hearts, and that is you've got to join our team. You're the community part of the Milwaukee Community Journal. Let's build together!

Speech Thomas

The Milwaukee Community Journal
Milwaukee's Largest African-American Newspaper
mutilaneously associating normal, standard, or acceptable behavior with the suburbs, its antithesis. As a test, you ask yourself, what does it mean to act ‘sub-
urban,’ if acting ‘ghetto’ means usually, etc.? it

Ghetto. Clemens continued, when used as an adjective, in that Black folks that live in the ghetto conceived it themselves. When the adjective became popular in the mid-90s, ghetto residents originally used it to poke fun at the absurd, depressing situation that is living in the inner city and/or to describe ignobility and resourcefulness — e.g., using a milk crate as a basketball hoop or a hanger as a TV antenna. At some point, the definition in the hood expanded to conically, somewhat affectionately, refer to the quirky, rebellious, and desperate behaviors that poverty stimulates.

The word ‘ghetto’ has co-opted and morphed to the point that Black people now use it to distinguish themselves from one another. But what else is new? Definitely not Black folks’ ridicule and criticism of each other for not being ‘authentic White approval’ or the mainstream’s racism of something, which marginalized Black Americans conceived to mitigate their plight, for profit and the convenient exploitation of its creators.

Clemens has several valid points, particularly the realization that while many of us look down in our less fortunate brothers, most of whom are

[Image]

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

(continued from page 9)

 opportunely employers.

**Application Criteria:** The Selection Committee will re-
view applicants’ materials and identify no more than three

The colloquial usage of “ghetto” perpetuates racist mythology and also mis-
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The irony about “ghetto,” Clemens concluded, when used as an adjective, is that Black folks that live in the ghetto conceived it themselves. When the adjective became popular in the mid-90s, ghetto residents originally used it to poke fun at the absurd, depressing situation that is living in the inner city and/or to describe ignobility and resourcefulness — e.g., using a milk crate as a basketball hoop or a hanger as a TV antenna. At some point, the definition in the hood expanded to conically, somewhat affectionately, refer to the quirky, rebellious, and desperate behaviors that poverty stimulates.

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