

## State troopers keep an eye on race minority motorists

**Rady Large**

*Asst. Opinions Editor*

I was just minding my business, rolling along in my car (and obeying the speed limit) on my way home from school, when I saw blue lights in my rear window.

I stopped and followed all the proper procedures one is supposed to follow when being pulled over by a member of the law enforcement community.

When the officer approached my window, he said that I had some "proactive bumper stickers" and asked if he could search my car.

I replied to the officer, "My

father told me never to let anyone search my car." He then checked my license and registration and bid me adieu. In essence, I had been pulled over for driving while liberal.

It is not uncommon for police officers to sight Phish and Grateful Dead stickers as reasonable cause for searching your vehicle.

I just want to say that this occurrence, although not isolated, does not reflect the behavior of all law enforcement officials. Through my years as a social activist, I have known and even labored alongside sheriffs and state troopers who were great and honorable people.

Yet, there is a virus infecting the police community. It has already been established and is seen

by its symptoms of an overwhelming percentage of routine road stops being exercised on minorities and liberals.

It has been admitted by law enforcement officials that more Black and Hispanic drivers are stopped than motorists of any other race. According to a recent article in The New York Times, titled "Racial profiling was the routine, New Jersey finds." New Jersey state law enforcement used race as reason to pull someone over.

The documents released read that the New Jersey state highway patrol used "race-based tactics" in their policies. Four out of five of the people pulled over and searched on the New

Jersey Turnpike were black or Hispanic.

Do black people have lead feet? Do hispanic people constantly swerve down the highway? No, the simple fact of the matter lies in certain minds of the law enforcement community, "Every nigger and spic is a drug dealing, gang banging, thug."

They see the rap videos and O.J. Simpson trial as evidence that the black people of this country are out to destroy American values.

This couldn't be farther from the truth. The black American is the embodiment of American spirit of perseverance, determination and victory. The hispanic American is the embodi-

### Got issues?



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ment of America's ability to transcend culture and language to bring freedom to everyone.

The truth is that everyone out on the road has but one purpose: to get somewhere, to get to their families or friends, to get to work, to get away for a while.

People of all colors are just moving. So, why can't we all just move freely? After all, isn't that what this country is all about?

## The COINTELPRO Papers

The COINTELPRO papers are legitimate documents providing detailed information on how the F.B.I. attempted to undermine United States social movements in the 1960s and '70s. Below are brief points detailed in the documents.

In Dec. 1964, the F.B.I. secretly sent a letter to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., encouraging him to commit suicide.

The F.B.I. authored articles and editorials which "cooperative news media" ran as their own.

The F.B.I. made secret deals with drug dealers to flood black neighborhoods with illegal drugs.

The F.B.I. victimized over 200 black, elected officials in Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina through smear campaigns, false criminal charges and elaborate "sting" operations.

information compiled by Rady Large

## Why work to help others?

**Stephen Dignan**

*Focus Editor*

It may not be necessary for people to save every tree, free every slave or right every wrong.

So what's the point of trying to better the lives of others when you know it's a futile exercise doomed to end in frustration, sadness and possibly even failure?

An old parable of uncertain origin comes to mind. A man was walking on the sandy beach when he spotted another man picking up starfish off the sand and throwing them into the ocean.

The first man became very curious as to what this starfish thrower was doing, so he approached him and asked, "What are

you doing?"

"When the tide comes in," the man responded, "some of these starfish are stranded on the beach. The starfish need water to survive and if they stay here on the beach, they'll all die. That's why I'm throwing them in."

The first man commented, "You know you'll never save all the starfish on this beach."

The second, tossing another starfish into the seas, replied, "Yes, but I just saved *that one*."

It may not be possible to rescue all the children laboring in sweatshops or all the farm workers living in diseased conditions.

But if you have the opportunity to help even one person, isn't the improvement of one person's life worth the effort?

The Pendulum staff extends its appreciation to Elon's Students for Peace and Justice for their contributions to this issue's Focus Section. Their research and writing contributions have made this issue's section a true testament to nationwide, social activism efforts.

**Next Issue's**

**Topic:**

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and Cons of  
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