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The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

VOLUME 95 - NUMBER 35

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

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PRICE: 50 CENTS

Poll: Support for Black Lives Matter grows among white youth

By Jesse J. Holland and Emily Swanson

WASHINGTON (AP) - Support for the Black Lives Matter movement has increased among young white adults, according to a poll that suggests a majority of white, black, Asian and Hispanic young adults now support the movement calling for accountability for police in the deaths of African-Americans.

Fifty-one percent of white adults between the ages of 18 and 30 say in a GenForward poll they now strongly or somewhat support Black Lives Matter, a 10-point increase since June, while 42 percent said they do not support the movement.

But most young whites also think the movement's rhetoric encourages violence against the police, while the vast majority of young blacks say it does not. And young whites are more likely to consider violence against police a serious problem than say the same about the killings of African-Americans by police.

Black, Hispanic and Asian youth already had expressed strong majority support for the Black Lives Matter movement in the June poll. Eighty-five percent of African-American young adults now say they support the protesters. Sixty-seven percent of Asian and 62 percent of Hispanic young adults agreed with that sentiment.

The GenForward survey of adults age 18 to 30 is conducted by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. The first-of-its-kind poll pays special attention to the voices of young adults of color, highlighting how race and ethnicity shape the opinions of a new generation.

Sean Bradley, 26, of Clearwater, Florida, said watching several encounters between police and black suspects online helped cement his support for Black Lives Matter. As a white male, he said, he also has had run-ins with the police and witnessed officers trying to cover for what he considered illegal conduct by other officers.

"The fact is that the police target blacks and they discriminate against blacks," Bradley said. "Because of how they've treated blacks over the years, of course they (blacks) don't trust them (police) and I know for a fact that some of the things the police do are illegal. I would be upset as well."

The Black Lives Matter movement emerged in 2012 after Florida neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman was acquitted in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager, Trayvon Martin. It gathered strength in ensuing years following the deaths of other black men at the hands of police in New York, South Carolina, Baltimore and elsewhere.

The August GenForward poll came after police in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, fatally shot Alton Sterling after pinning him to the ground, and after Philando Castile was shot and killed by a white police officer during a traffic stop in a suburb of Minneapolis.

Asked specifically about recent killings of black people by (Continued On Page 12)

What If: Could Clinton win it before Election Day?

By Hope Yen

WASHINGTON (AP) - Election Day isn't what it used to be. The presidential winner may be all but known by then, thanks to early voting.

Beginning Sept. 9, residents in North Carolina can submit absentee mail-in ballots - the first of 37 states and the District Columbia to vote by mail or at polling sites before Nov. 8. Four years ago, about 45.6 million people or 35 percent of the electorate attracted by its convenience voted early, and that number is expected to spike in 2016.

That's where Hillary Clinton's ground game - at least double the size of Donald Trump's - could make a difference.

In seven states being targeted by both campaigns - Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, North Carolina, Arizona and Georgia - early votes are expected to make up 45 to 75 percent or more, based on 2012 numbers. All but Colorado are must-win for Trump.

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The Durham Academy of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy 2016 Auxiliary Honorees - From left to right standing are: Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell and keynote speaker, Dr. Michael H. Richards. Seated honorees from left to right are: Dr. Lizzie Harrell, Dr. Haywood L. Brown and Dr. James R. Lewis. See story and photos on page 8)



President Barack Obama gives a toast with President Bounnhang Vorachith of Laos in the Dok Boua Ban Room at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane, Laos, Sept. 6. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Double Murder-Investigative Misconduct - Exclusive: Review of convictions underway in N. Carolina

By Martha Waggoner and Emery P. Dalesio

(AP) - Advocates are undertaking a massive review of convictions in a North Carolina county where one prosecutor was disbarred for misconduct in the Duke University lacrosse case and another was suspended for ethics violations.

Inspired by the innocence claims of Darryl Howard, who was freed after spending 21 years in prison for two slayings he says he didn't commit, the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence has spent about two years quietly combing through hundreds of cases from Durham County of people who remain behind bars.

The group has focused that investigation on about 20 cases, the center's executive director, Chris Mumma, told The Associated Press on Thursday. She said four directly involved work by Mike Nifong, the prosecutor in the Duke case; more than half were handled by other staffers during his nearly three decades prosecuting crimes in Durham.

Mumma would not say specifically why the center zeroed in on those 20 cases. However, cases in North Carolina and elsewhere have been re-examined when there are problems with evidence or witness testimony, or suggestions of misconduct by police or prosecutors.

Re-examining the cases became necessary after the Duke case and after Howard's conviction was thrown out, said defense attorney Kerry Sutton, who defended some of the three lacrosse players accused of rape by a stripper a decade ago.

"I don't know that it was really optional. There was not any way around it. It was going to be done," said Sutton, a friend of current District Attorney Roger Echols. "I'd be surprised if other damaging pieces of evidence of flaws or things not done correctly - intentionally or unintentionally - weren't found."

Nifong became district attorney in 2005, just before the Duke players were charged in 2006. He was disbarred the following year because state investigators determined he lied and buried evidence proving the players' innocence.

A judge ruled that DNA evidence showed Howard didn't participate in the rape and murder of a woman and her 13-year-old daughter in 1991. Judge Orlando Hudson freed him from prison. Hudson two years ago also threw out Howard's sentence, saying Nifong failed to share with defense attorneys a police memo and other evidence that pointed to suspects other than Howard.

Howard remained jailed despite the 2014 ruling, and an appeals court decided Hudson had not heard enough evidence.

Nifong did not return calls to his home seeking comment. His successor, Tracey Cline, was dismissed from office and suspended from practicing law for accusing Hudson of bias and violating rules by seeking prison records for two inmates. The Associated Press couldn't find a working number for her, and an attorney didn't return a message.

Echols and Mumma agreed two years ago, about the time the judge first ordered Howard's release, that they ought to investigate whether more cases of questionable prosecutorial conduct remained unearthed.

Mumma and her staff began by searching for claims of innocence or constitutional violations in 1,120 cases in which the defendants remained imprisoned. They sent letters to 620 inmates asking for details about their cases, and based on the responses have begun a deep look into 20.

Echols has promised to cooperate with investigating any questionable cases, saying Aug. 1 that the perception of the justice system, and specifically of his office, "is almost as important as the reality of whether or not we are being fair or doing our jobs with integrity."

The review work is similar to that of the conviction integrity units now active inside about two dozen of the more than 2,300 local prosecutorial offices around the country. But any reviews of past prosecutions will come out of Echols' existing budget, and he will likely do (Continued On Page 12)

NABJ Congratulates Lester Holt as Moderator of First 2016 Presidential Debate

WASHINGTON, D.C. - NABJ congratulates Lester Holt, NABJ Journalist of the Year and anchor of "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt" on being selected as the moderator for the first 2016 presidential debate.

Holt will moderate the first debate on Sept. 26 at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. The commission also announced today that Martha Raddatz of ABC and Anderson Cooper of CNN will moderate the town hall debate on Oct. 9; and Chris Wallace of Fox News will moderate the final debate on Oct. 19.

All of the 2016 moderators are first-time presidential debate moderators. CBS News correspondent Elaine Quijano will moderate the vice-presidential debate on Oct. 4.

"NABJ is pleased that the Commission on President Debates selected Lester for this important role and for ensuring that diverse voices are at the table to lead the discussion. We know that Lester will do an exemplary job as moderator, and that the public will learn more about the two nominees," said NABJ President Sarah Glover.

"As an advocacy organization, we have continued to champion diversity inclusion. Just four years ago, black journalists and journalists of color were not selected for the moderator roles. While we celebrate Lester and Elaine Quijano's participation, it is unfortunate that a Latino journalist won't be represented in a moderator position this year."

Holt follows in the great footsteps of NABJ members Bernard Shaw, co-moderator of the 1988 presidential debate and vice presidential debate in 2000; Carole Simpson, the only black woman to moderate a presidential debate in 1992; and Gwen Ifill, moderator of the vice presidential debate in 2004 and 2008.

LINK: NABJ Expresses Disappointment Over Lack of Diversity in Presidential Debate Moderators (August 17, 2012)



Lester Holt

About the National Association of Black Journalists:

An advocacy group established in 1975 in Washington, D.C., NABJ is the largest organization for journalists of color in the nation, and provides career development as well as educational and other support to its members worldwide.