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TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913

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Critics: NFL decision chooses mainstream appeal over players



Trayvon Marton

Trayvon Martin Killer George Zimmerman tells court he's \$2.5 million in debt

SANFORD, Fla. (AP) - The ex-neighborhood watch volunteer who killed a black teen in Florida in 2012 says he's \$2.5 million in debt and has no income.

George Zimmerman filed paperwork detailing his financial state as he fights a misdemeanor stalking charge.

The Orlando Sentinel reports a public defender filed a not-guilty plea for Zimmerman and a request for a jury trial.

Zimmerman is accused of sending threatening messages to private investigator Dennis Warren. Warren had contacted Zimmerman about a documentary series on the slain Trayvon Martin that's being produced by rapper Jay Z. A sheriff's report says Warren received numerous calls and texts from Zimmerman in December.

A judge earlier this month denied Warren's request for a restraining order against Zimmerman.

Zimmerman killed Martin in 2012. He was acquitted of criminal charges.

MLK daughter: No, Bannon, my dad wouldn't be proud of Trump

By Kate Brumback

ATLANTA (AP) - The Rev. Martin Luther-King's daughter blasted Steve Bannon's claim that her father would be proud of President Donald Trump.

"(hash)SteveBannon has dangerously and erroneously co-opted my father's name, work and words," the Rev. Bernice King wrote just before midnight Wednesday (May 23) in the first of a series of tweets. "Bannon's assertion that my father, (hash)MLK, would be proud of Donald Trump wholly ignores Daddy's commitment to people of all races, nationalities, etc. being treated with dignity and respect."

In an interview with BBC's "Newsnight," the former White House chief strategist cited historically low unemployment rates for black and Hispanic workers and credited the president's crackdown on illegal immigration.

"If you look at the policies of Donald Trump, OK, anybody - Martin Luther King - would be proud of him, of what he's done for the black and Hispanic community for jobs," Bannon said.

As he goes on, interviewer Emily Maitlis interrupts him: "You think Martin Luther King would be proud of Donald Trump as president?"

Bannon counters: "You don't think Martin Luther King would sit there and go, 'Yes, you're putting young black men and women to work. The lowest unemployment we've had in history and wages are starting to rise among the working class. And you've finally stopped the illegal alien labor force that's coming in and competing with them every day and destroying the schools and destroying the health care.' Absolutely."

The black unemployment rate for April was 6.6 percent, while the Hispanic unemployment rate was 4.8, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That's the lowest since the agency started collecting that information in January 1972 for black unemployment and in March 1973 for Hispanic unemployment, according to online data.

But unemployment rates don't tell the whole story. King says her father "would be proud of a livable wage for all and not merely a low unemployment rate."

King also noted that her father had a global focus, advocating for human rights in general while also fighting for the civil rights of black people in the United States.

"Further, he would not refer to people as 'illegal aliens.' The term is degrading and does not reflect his belief that we are all a part of the human family," she tweeted.

She also wrote that her father "would be extremely disturbed by the climate created by leaders, who have emboldened people to easily express and demonstrate cruelty, predominantly toward people of color and immigrants."

By Jesse J. Holland

WASHINGTON (AP) - With its decision to ban kneeling during the national anthem, critics are accusing the NFL of prioritizing being in the good financial graces of mainstream America over the social justice passions of its players trying to draw attention to the deaths of African-Americans at the hands of police.

Some opponents of the new policy now vow to never watch an NFL game again.

The NFL's new anthem policy - similar to NBA rules in place for decades - makes the athletes stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner" or be absent from the field while it's played.

Critics say the league acted without input from its majority-black players and buckled to pressure from some major advertisers and even President Donald Trump, who rallied his mostly-white base against players for failing to display their patriotism, shifting the debate from social justice for minorities to how to act during the anthem itself. Others, including some players, applauded the league's action or took no issue with the policy.

"I think they made this decision to placate Donald Trump and those like him who blindly equate standing for the national anthem with patriotism," said Democratic U.S. Rep. Cedric Richmond of Louisiana, chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. "The country I want is a country where everyone wants to stand for the national anthem," Richmond said, emphasizing the word "wants."

Vice President Mike Pence tweeted "(hash)Winning" and declared the decision "a win for the fans, a win for (President Trump), and a win for America."

The NFL started requiring players in the league to be on the field for the anthem in 2009 - the year it signed a marketing deal with the military. Its new rule passed May 23 permits players to stay in the locker room during the "The Star-Spangled Banner" but requires them to stand if they come to the field.

Taking a knee during the anthem has been an issue since August 2016, when now-unemployed quarterback Colin Kaepernick started protesting the deaths of African-Americans at the hands of police. The issue bubbled over from the field into living rooms as other players joined the movement, and morphed into a larger discussion last fall when Trump called on NFL owners to fire players who did not stand during the national anthem.

"This is white supremacy, period. A blatant and disgusting attempt to strip black athletes of their voice and reduce them to a number on a jersey - all while continuing to profit off of their bodies," said Rashad Robinson, executive director of advocacy group Color of Change.

Bree Newsome, who climbed a pole to snatch down the Confederate flag at the South Carolina statehouse in 2015, tweeted: "For the white-owned NFL to blackball Kaepernick & then change policy to specifically target Black athletes' protest of racism is not simply a matter of football. It is about using one of the largest stages in America to reinforce racial caste in USA."

Civil rights groups denounced the decision.

"Instead of working together to address an issue disproportionately plaguing the communities of the majority of NFL players, the owners instead

desire that players bury their heads, shut up, and just play football." NAACP chairman Derrick Johnson said.

Kaepernick and other NFL players who knelt said their protests were over the shootings and other mistreatment of African Americans at the hands of law enforcement. The quarterback was not resigned by the San Francisco 49ers after beginning his protest and has not played for an NFL team since. He has filed a grievance against the league, as has out of work safety and fellow protester Eric Reid.

Calls to boycott the NFL because of the anthem decision started immediately online. NFL fans previously had threatened to boycott the NFL because players were kneeling during the Star Spangled Banner, and others said they wouldn't watch until Kaepernick was signed by a team. Now a new group is promising not to watch pro football games.

"As a former NFL player I am extremely conflicted but more than likely will not be supporting anymore until this is resolved amongst other issues," said Matthew A. Cherry, who played

for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Cincinnati Bengals, Carolina Panthers and the Baltimore Ravens.

The NFL Players Association said it would challenge any changes that violate the collective bargaining agreement.

"This is fear of a diminished bottom line. It's also fear of a president turning his base against a corporation," Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Chris Long said on Twitter. "This is not patriotism. Don't get it confused. These owners don't love America more than the players demonstrating and taking real action to improve it. It also lets you, the fan, know where our league stands."



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENTS

NCCU Taps Neighbors in North Carolina's Research Triangle Area for Students Seeking Fortune 500 Internships

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) is giving School of Business students a head start on finding employment after graduation by connecting them with internship opportunities in the Research Triangle area and other major companies.

The university has worked to expand summer internship opportunities for business students at Fortune 500 companies in the Triangle's prominent high-tech research and development area, university officials said.

"I can't imagine a better preparatory exercise than having real-world corporate experience under their belt prior to graduation," said Dr. Carlton Wilson, interim provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

National statistics indicate top corporations increasingly are hiring their top-performing interns after graduation. The 2017 National Association of Colleges and Employers report shows that approximately 67 percent of interns are offered permanent posts after graduation.

For the 2018 summer session, NCCU's School of Business has placed students in several prestigious internships at nearby companies, including two at computer information systems leader Cisco. Senior computer information science (CIS) majors Samson Ayola and Ahmed Meley were selected to join the summer cohort of interns at the networking company.

"NCCU's School of Business recognizes in today's market, many organizations use internship experiences to identify top talent for future employment opportunities. Through internships, students are exposed to professional work environments and are able to hone their skills," said Wanda Lester, Ph.D., interim dean of NCCU School of Business. "I am very excited to see more of our students seizing these opportunities, whether with a company or in many of the non-profit or governmental sectors that serve our state."

Thomas Gaines, also a senior majoring in CIS, will devote his summer break to gaining knowledge and a competitive by interning at Dell Inc.

CIS major Shawn Newton has signed on to spend his summer as a technical intern at SAS, where he will work on web services that enable and provide automation services, while Lyndon Bowden will spend his summer at Eli Lilly sharpening his tactical knowledge of computer information systems.

NCCU's ongoing relationship with and proximity to Research Triangle Park companies is paying off for many students, university officials added.

"NCCU is eternally grateful for the many businesses and corporations - from Cisco, Lenovo to Northwestern Mutual and many others - who have reached out to assist our young scholars in developing skills through on-the-job training and internships," Wilson said.

NCCU's Office of Career Services and Outreach also has been involved in intern placement for 2018. In partnership with the University of North Carolina System, the office has placed six students in the North Carolina Governor's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Internship Program.

"Experiential learning is essential to the professional development of students, as it enables them to compete in the global market, said Shannon Morgan Keith, assistant director of experiential learning at NCCU. "We are confident that these organizations will provide opportunities for students to translate what they've learned in the classroom into real-world experiences."

NCCU students participating in the N.C. Governor's HBCU program are:

Drake Dais, a junior majoring in business administration, and Jimia Ford, a senior business administration major, who will enhance their talents at Lenovo.

Kelvon Keith, a senior business administration major, and junior business administration majors Derek Manison and John Slaton will gain needed financial skills by working for Durham-based North Carolina Mutual.

Evan Jeffers, a junior business administration major, is joining the NC Governor's Internship Program for a second year. After his successful internship with Growth Management Services in 2017, he will be spending his internship with Northwestern Mutual in 2018.

"These types of experiences are beneficial to students and will become invaluable as they leave college and join the workforce," Wilson added.

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