WITNESS FOR JUSTICE

Lessons In Leading



women and girls in media." In our efforts to grow social justice leaders, we benefit from paying attention to stories like this. They reveal lessons about what cultivates leadership:

investment in a vision can prompt action and sustain us when the going gets tough. We cannot dictate what people are passionate

BY KELLY JEAN BURD, Minister for Leadership Development

hang of gripping furniture with her chubby fingers and pulling herself up to a standing position. At first I tried to help, until my spouse reminded me that she could do it herself. These Ultimately, it isn't in her best interest for me to help movement that informed her stand up. I know this to be true of any age. We learn teens impacted by hyperby doing.

contemplate how best to offers empower people to grow their leadership wings. observing others in church and society that are learning leadership "on the job".

Recently I was inspired by teenagers larger groups convened who challenged the to protest and the SPARK photoshopping practices of teen magazines. Julia Bluhm, age 14, challenged Seventeen Magazine to post one unaltered photo resist the temptation to spread monthly. In her be personally glorified, we petition* on Change.org, Bluhm wrote, "For the sake of all the struggling girls all over America, who read Seventeen and think these

should be, I'm stepping up." The response was immediate and overwhelming. Bluhm and her collaborators soon presented 84,000 signatures to the magazine's editor. Having won the cooperation of leading themselves. Seventeen Magazine, their sights - spearheaded by of empowering leaders two other teens - are now is to more intentionally set on Teen Vogue. Their connect their passion with leadership was supported opportunities to act, then by SPARK (Sexualization Protest, Action, Resistance them on. After all, we learn

Passion. Personal

about. But we can help them identify their passion and

M y infant daughter is still getting the connect them to resources and opportunities that will equip them to address what they care about.

• Knowledge. Issue education and awarenessraising are vital pieces of leadership formation. teen activists were connected with a their efforts. For countless sexualized female images In the church, we often in the media, this petition

empowering knowledge. It names their experience, affirms Parenthood informs my their inherent worth, and work, as does the practice of invites them to change the problem.

Collaboration. Although a few individuals created online petitions, Summit movement gave behind-the-scenes support. If we surrender the "Lone Ranger" approach and have much to gain from collaborating with those who share our vision.

• Mentorship. There would have been no fake images are what they leadership lesson if this story was about the adults petitioning on behalf of teens. Good mentors are role models, teachers, cheerleaders and allies. over They help create or identify opportunities for leadership, but don't do the

Perhaps half the battle get out of the way and cheer and Knowledge) Summit, by doing. Lesson learned.



The Talking Snake

BY LUCIUS GANTT **¬** alking snakes do not

L have good reputations. Snake stories have not been pleasing to God since they appeared in the Garden of Eden.

If Florida A&M University hopes to improve its image they must address the methods they have used to select and hire the modern day Rattler story teller!

With the recent resignation of President not be able to find a solid James Ammons, now is the time to select the best leader for FAMU and also the best media person to keep the university in a positive light.

Don't take my word for it but the best information officers are not always hired by some universities.

position. Experienced media professionals are after, not interviewed and

improved coverage or better media relations. Look it up. In college

towns, the highest paid media person in town is the college information officer. The make more money than the disc jockey, more than the news writer and more than

the TV or radio reporters. You tell me, how can a university with an accomplished journalism or communications program information officer that is capable of cultivating good relations with newspapers, magazines, bloggers, internet sites, and television and radio station workers and owners? Most Black journalists

don't apply for jobs at universities. They would Oftentimes, the job of help Black colleges and other Public Information Officer institutions for free but they is seen as a patronage must be appreciated. They must be respected.

If you say Black journalists not recognized, not sought in Florida, for instance, are not influential but also say "I rarely hired by colleges don't like that writer or that and universities that need reporter because he said or

school" such a scenario would be ridiculous!

concerned at all.

that Black journalists have won Pulitzer Prizes. Black journalists have been selected

are well known authors and publishers.

media ice is colder than the intent! Black media ice. You feel that message is his-story!

President and the new Facebook and contact Lucius President hires his friend, at www.allworldconsultants. his girlfriend or his wannabe net) jump off as a media expert, you will get the kind of press

wrote something about my coverage that you deserve.

FAMU needs the very best University Relations, Public If no one read, saw or Relations and Information listened to Black journalists team that it can put together. or Black media institutions That group must be able then you shouldn't care or be to communicate with and work with local, national,

The truth of the matter is international and all other print and broadcast media outlets.

The story of the FAMU to appear in the Freedom Rattlers is a story that needs of the Press section of to be told in the proper America's National Freedom perspective, a story of history, Museum. Black journalists tradition, success and truth.

But it cannot be told by a snake like the Biblical snake But you still feel the white in Genesis that had devilish

The position of President the out of town media person is crucial but the hiring of a is better than the local or strong media and information regional media person. You team is just as important to feel that the word of the devil change the current image of is history and the Black man's FAMU! (Buy Gantt's book "Beast Too: Dead an Writing".

If you hire a college Like The Gantt Report on

Auto Safety For Our Children Must Know No Restraint

LATONDRA NEWTON **66** f I only knew."

volved in a car crash in which her young child died haunt us, Up for Life's initial success,

we work to help make sure that every person - regardless of age – is safe on the road. While cars and trucks today

are safer than they have ever been, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of injury-related death for African American children.

Adding to this tragedy is that so many of these deaths are avoidable. Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that our kids are significantly less likely to use seat belts or properly installed car seats. In fact, in crashes involving fatalities in children under 14, seat belt use is lower among African Americans than among all other race or ethnic children in fatal crashes were unrestrained.

BY DR. VICTOR GARCIA and to create Buckle Up for Life, literacy, economics and socio- in working with the community cultural concerns. But we also to develop culturally relevant a community-based safety education effort with results know it is a challenge that can be information and education, The words of an that are unparalleled. It is met with great impact through and in delivering a powerful anguished mother in- the only national program of education, local partnerships message that drives change and its kind. Building on Buckle and innovative thinking. but also inspire us each day as we are now doubling its community-based solutions. families' well-being. reach to four new locations That's why Buckle Up for Life

County, CA. These locations join Buckle Up for Life programs where they live. already established in Chicago,

the Cincinnati area, where the program began.

preventable disparity

empowers people to take even Community crises demand greater charge of their and their Together, all of us in the across the country, each with works in neighborhoods - at African-American community substantial African-American the grassroots - with local have an opportunity and

populations: Houston, Las churches and hospitals to reach a responsibility to make a Vegas, Philadelphia and Orange families in places they trust, are tangible difference. We need comfortable and feel safe, right to reinforce at every turn that safety is a driver's paramount

Over a six-week period, concern; that buckling up is not Los Angeles, San Antonio and Buckle Up for Life's medical an option; and that properly experts and trained specialists securing oneself and one's work closely with participants children needs to become as This significant but of all ages – parents, ingrained a part of the driving in caregivers and children alike experience as opening the car child passenger safety in the - to deliver critical, interactive door or turning on the ignition. African American community safety information in ways Because when it comes to our is driven by a multi-faceted that resonate personally. kids, our community's collective set of challenges. Some are Participants are also eligible to commitment to automotive economic: certain families receive free car seats, and they safety must know no restraint. have difficulty affording child are matched with certified child Dr. Victor Garcia is founding safety restraints or drive older passenger safety technicians director of Trauma Services, vehicles in which it is harder to to help install these car seats Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and Latondra

Newton is vice president of

WWW.ORLANDO-

TIMES.COM

"girl-fueled activist movement to demand an petition, Teen Vogue: Give end to the sexualization of Us Images of Real Girls!

*www.change.org

A DARK COMMENTARY

BY JULIAN CHAMBLISS Whatever the results of the investigation on the shooting in

Colorado, it's important to recognize The Dark Knight Rises served as a convenient platform for the motivation of a troubled individual. This fact will be loss in the media speculation that will be attached to this tragedy. It's understandable, the anticipation for the last

Batman film already

inspired controversy. Just

ask Rush Limbaugh, who

associated

mistakenly

Julian Chambliss

The causes for these results are complicated and wide ranging, but they can be – and they need to be – addressed. This is why trauma specialists at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical

Center and vehicle safety

experts at Toyota teamed up

Occupy movement, in both cases

Begins, The Dark Knight, and the

assumed triumph of The Dark

install car seats. Some barriers groups and 52 percent of Black are cultural, for instance a lack properly restrained. of family history in terms of buckling up. And sometimes accomplish but we are seeing

that all passengers are safe. Regardless of the key families who participated. drivers, we refuse to allow these And the positive results have issues to be overlooked. We sustained over time. That's the know this problem is a complex power in linking up with trusted one - that combines health partners in local neighborhoods,

and ensure that children are There is, of course, a lot to Toyota Motor North America.

More information on the hurdles are about access to real results. One Buckle Up Buckle Up for Life is available information: quickly finding the for Life program, for example, at www.toyotainaction.com/ right guidance to help ensure nearly tripled the number of buckleupforlife.

children buckled up among

to Bain Capital, the former our polarized political landscape. Batman was the second venture capital firm ran by Mitt Whether we acknowledge it superhero created; yet Romney. Or the assertion that or not, vigilantes are symbolic unlike Superman, the first the film's plot alludes to the hedges against corrupt power of all kinds. For all the fantastic the symbolism in Christopher elements linked to the superhero, Nolan's Batman films has struck these characters, emerging from the difficulties of the Great The success of Batman Depression, expressed the public's desire to overcome injustice. Then like now, greedy bankers, Wall Knight Rises comes at a time Street speculators, and ineffectual when Batman's mission can be government officials were staple

superhero, Batman has always been a focal point for anxieties about criminal vice, moral depravity, and psychological stress linked to the failure of American cities. Batman navigates through boardrooms and back alleys to protect the community.

Bruce Wayne/Batman The scion of a wealthy family, he lives on a country estate, but rides down to the city to quell unrest and forestalls upheavals that would threaten vested interests. In his gritty realism starting with Batman Begins, Batman's Nolan continues to emphasize those problems, rooted in the function or threaten dysfunction of our communal social broadly individuals damaged the multiple origins States. he offers in The Dark

Bane - the film's villain - interpreted in varying ways within comic book villains. Knight all speak to a mix of individual and societal failure. Abusive fathers, an unstable relationship, lack of moralityany and all of these could be lurking around our collective corner.

> The Dark Knight Rises once again challenges us to consider the link between communal and individual integrity. In this final chapter, a charismatic figure leading an army of the disenfranchised

has come to "tear down" can also be casted as a the city. In creating this controlling patrician elite. confrontation, Nolan brings together themes that have been present throughout the trilogy. The confrontation between Batman and Bane raises question in a world where institutions are suspect and we have amply evident individuals are devalued. The implicit question, "If we Nolan's approach captures need a hero, whom do they the dualism inherent to represent?" resonates with mythology. our fears of societal failure. It's ironic, the values Batman represents - community, family, and loyalty – are the one we fear slipping away.

Julian Chambliss is an contract. Heath Ledger's associate professor of history Joker, an anarchist at Rollins College in Winter terrorizing the community, Park, Fla. His teaching and may have inspired the research focus urban history current tragedy, but more and culture in the United represented States. His teaching and research focus urban history failed by society. Indeed, and culture in the United

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