

Gregory Kane: Thank you Senator. Well, sometimes you just have to challenge a premise and I'm going to challenge the premise of the question posed. I'll tell you the reasons why. This past Friday I did a Lexus Nexus search when I was at the Sun with the words race and poverty. I got more than a thousand documents for all available dates, more than a thousand for five years ago, more than a thousand for two years, more than a thousand for one year, more than a thousand for six months, and more than a thousand for 90 days. In a one month period there were 450 stories. So I did something else. I put in the words black middle class. I did get more than a thousand documents for all available dates and five years ago, 446 stories for the previous two years, so there were more stories written with the words race and poverty in one month than had been with the words black middle class in the past two years. So the media clearly prefer, given a choice between stories with the words race and poverty and the words race and black middle class, the words race and poverty. It's as if the black middle class is somehow a dirty word, no street-cred I suppose. Anyway, I'm going to talk about three stories that were done in The Sun to show the way we covered three particular stories.

First story involves a fellow named Noah Jamahl Jones, black teenager sixteen, seventeen years old. Summer of 2005 he's in a street fight, five white assailants, he dies. The way that the story's first reported is that, you know, Noah Jamahl Jones, known to date white girls and these five racist white guys had a grudge against him, they attack him in the street and they kill him. Upon further investigation it turns out there was bit more to the story. It turns that Noah Jamahl Jones was with four other black guys, three or four other black guys. Apparently one of their friends was having some beef with these white guys, may have been racial, may not have been racial, anyway, the five white guys and the other black guy, they're at a party. Noah Jamahl Jones and his cohorts led by some guy named Merrian Shepard and you may have seen Merrian Shepard's photo on the mug-shot on the well-known TV show, America's Most Dimwitted. Led by Merrian Shepard, they go to this party to supposedly rescue their friend from these five racist white guys. Merrian Shepard pulls out a gun, hits one of the white guys with the gun, sets off the entire fracas in which Noah Jamahl Jones ends up dead.

How many stories did The Sun do on Noah Jamahl Jones and his death? Eighty-six.

Another story. A young lady named Kwatrina Johnson, fifteen years old. This is a story I originally did for Black America Web.com. DeWayne sent me on this story. I say that in a good way. He should have sent me on the story, this was an important story. DeWayne knew that, he knew before anybody else did how important this story was.

She's fifteen years old, her sister, her younger foster sister is twelve years old having a sexual relationship with a guy in his twenties who claims the younger sister tells him that she's in fact older and a stripper in a night club. Twelve year old girls must have changed a lot in appearance from the days when I was younger.

(Laughter.)

Gregory Kane: Because this story ain't passing the smell test at all, but that's what he claims. So the mother catches the sister and this older guy in bed, claims she's going to file statutory rape charges against this guy and he convinces the sister to go with him away to California. And Kwatrina goes along, I guess to protect her sister. It turns out this

guy has a plan to kill both sisters to prevent them from testifying. So Kwatrina Johnson is killed in Baltimore City, her body's taken to Baltimore County where it's burned so that authorities won't recognize it.

And this is a story that involves some not too bright guys with nicknames like Ock and G-whiz who adhere to the code of stop snitching, which is another story that DeWayne sent me on. I had to do the story on the DVD. He should have sent me on that one too. Anyway, we did 27 stories about the death of Kwatrina Johnson so rather than answer the question, I'm going to pose a question. Why did we give more coverage to the death of Noah Jamahl Jones than Kwatrina Johnson? Why was his death more important than hers?

One more story, concerns a young woman by the name of Jenifer Morlat and a young man by the name of Joseph Wocio. They're both white, they're both from Carroll County, they're both, at least one is a drug addict. Why they come from Carroll County into Baltimore City to buy their dope, I don't know. You can get dope in Carroll County. I know this, I've heard this. There are places to get dope in Carroll County.

(Laughter.)

Gregory Kane: They come into Baltimore City, they come into a very bad part of a very bad city at a very bad time. Because they're both shot to death. And there's a fellow named, seventeen-year old named Davone David Temple who put the text message, send a text message from his cell phone to somebody else's cell phone. It says, I shot two white people today. One of them was a woman. The police do some investigating and in spite of the code of stop snitching, somebody snitched and they said, Well, you might want to check this guy out.

So Police Lieutenant claims he got consent to search Davone David Temple's cell phone for, you know, phone numbers of gang members. The cop looks in the phone, then he looks into text messages and sees the text message. Davone David Temple is arrested, charged with the murder. The Sun did four stories about Davone David Temple. They did the story about his arrest and being charged, did one story about how the cops did the investigation leading up to the charge, and did a third story about why those charges were dropped because the State's Attorneys Office felt that the search of the cell phone text messages was unconstitutional.

I did a column, that was a fourth story say that, you know, asking how many people wanted to die for the exclusionary rule. For the record I said, I don't. That's just how I float, I don't want to die for it.

So, another question, why is Davone, why is the murders of Jennifer Morlat and Joseph Wocio, why are they less important than either Kwatrina Johnson or Noah Jamahl Jones? Another question, I don't think The Sun followed up this story properly. We only did four stories. Where is Davone David Temple? Where is the boy? Because according to his, what he sent in his cell phone text message, he's got at least two bodies on him, probably more, West Baltimore being where it is, I mean, this is more than just an academic question with me. I've got people in West Baltimore, I've got sons, I got cousins, I got nephews that live in West Baltimore. I don't want this guy rolling up on them and

doing the same thing he did to the two white people from Carroll County. So it's more than just an academic question with me. So, the question is, where is Davone David Temple?

Well, the State's Attorneys Office, I spoke to her yesterday, the spokeswoman, she said, The investigation is continuing , but she couldn't tell me whether or not he's in the custody of juvenile authorities as he was when he was charged because, you know, that will violate rules. I don't think it violates the rule. She can't tell me he has a juvenile record. She can certainly tell me if he's in custody or not. So, I don't think that that was the case, but the bottom line is, no ones giving out information about where this guy is. And this is important in the coverage, entire coverage of race and poverty because not only do I want to know that, I want to know, you know, if, in fact, Davone David Temple committed these murders, how he got that way. He didn't start when he was three or four years old saying, I want to grow up and kill two white people. Something happened on those streets of West, he's 1 of 20 juvenile suspects charged with murder in Baltimore this year. Pardon me, at least 20. There may be more, but he's one of at least 20. None of these guys, all the suspects are black, none of them started out saying, they live in poor sections of Baltimore, I'm sure none when they were born and got to be two and three and four and five and they started school and somebody asked them, What do you want to do whey you grow up? I want to commit murder on the streets of Baltimore. None of them said that, so that's why we've got to get to the bottom of these questions. Not only where Davone David Temple is, but, you know, why he did what he did and why the others did what they did. So I'm going to stop there. Thank you.