

THE THREAT: *“A Threat Letter to Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Oprah Winfrey.”*

Racism has not been eradicated; it has simply evolved into a sophisticated scheme, where the disadvantaged party is simply limited opportunities through a systematic process of oppression. I am a black man who has served honorably in the United States Army, achieved a Masters Degree in Educational Administration with a 3.69/4.0 GPA, and I am surprisingly being oppressed by Racism in Southwest Florida. Although there are many good white people, Hispanic people and black people in this beautiful and growing region of Florida, and I am appreciative to be here, somehow racist people have infiltrated the infrastructure of this area and they are no longer only white people. I have had to file three (3) complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the past two (2) years for three (3) jobs where something outright racist happened to me. Two (2) of the incidents were with white supervisors in middle management. While one (1) was surprisingly with a supervisor whom is Mexican-American and has only been speaking English for seven (7) years. I reported all of these incidents to the EEOC and after the first incident with the white supervisor was investigated, it was found that I actually could have sued the first company. The other two (2) incidents are still being investigated. I didn't sue the company, because I was not after money, I was only seeking to expose the racism, which even involved name calling and intimidation. From these experiences I learned that institutionalized racism is still active in corporate America. My encounter with the Mexican-American supervisor was so recent it is still being investigated, but this experience alone opened my eyes to an even more serious threat. As a result of increased immigration there is increased competition in the job market between the larger minority of Hispanics and the smaller minority of Black Americans. Many of these Hispanics have little or no education about African-American history, and unless they have had a personal experience with a Black person, they are likely to have a negative impression based on stereotypes of Black people perpetuated in media and handed down through information from their ancestors, based on their cultural beliefs, myths and misinformation they have received about Black people. So in light of this, and the influx of Hispanics in the job market, Are Black people losing a foothold in corporate America? And finally, what are the implications of this happening? Will Black people be in threat of falling back into oppression by both a small but effective group of opportunistic racist Whites and uninformed Hispanics? I personally want to live in a world where Blacks, Whites and Hispanics are all equal. But because each race has their own sub-cultures and belief systems, and there are often language and socio-economic barriers, equality seems to be more of a good idea than a sentiment that is shared by some regions of people. It is my belief that in many regions of the United States, current race relations inside and outside of the workplace are strained between the majority of Blacks, Whites and Hispanics. Specifically, it is my experience that Southwest Florida is a place where Black people are oppressed in every conceivable way. I live in Southwest Florida and I see it everyday, whether it is a lack of access to fair law and judicial systems for Blacks, lack of access to jobs, or promotions, or resources and finances. However, I believe the majority of White people in America as a whole, are either not racist or are indifferent about racism. I could be wrong, which is why it is important that we discover the actual numbers and seek to educate people who still live in regions where the prevailing belief systems are racist.

I couldn't find any recent empirical studies that have been done in this region to find out what is going on around here. Maybe you have access to that type of information, as well as demographic information, the composition of races of children in the school system, etc. I propose that we use empirical research to find out what the current sentiment is between Black, White and Hispanic Americans, in a set group of regions. Then we target the high risk areas with educational programs to combat racism in that region. In a country where the word 'racism' is being used less and less, has the problem of racism actually been resolved? It is apparent that it hasn't as a result of the hate crimes, police retaliation in black communities and civil unrest between Blacks, Hispanics and the legal system. These stories reach your local news every other week. Beyond that, we see that Hispanics are silently and subtly increasing in number in America at an alarming rate, and they are not all working in the tomato fields. Many Hispanics are entrepreneurs, supervisors, executives and skilled workers after a few short years on American soil. They are becoming district managers and regional managers in their careers, and with these promotions, they are able to shape the culture of their arm of the company, thus effecting the economy and enacting social change around those job sites. Now observe Black people, who have been competing with White people for employment and opportunities since we first received rights. We are now beginning to compete with Hispanics for jobs and in some areas they are already winning. Although our success stories have increased, and more Black millionaires exist in this day and age, and although Blacks have moved up in corporate America, according to the prevailing media, are we really sure these brochure pictures of black executives at Fortune 500 companies, used in company literature for new hires, really a true representation of the majority of Blacks seeking to succeed in corporate America? How many have been denied jobs, or hired and denied training or even worst, hired and oppressed in the workplace. This is a beautiful time to address this issue because in a world where a Black man is running for President against a White woman, we are setting an important and wonderful example to the nation, that regardless of the status quo in the past, times are changing. We must set the example and educate the nation to follow. Race and gender is not important, justice and equality is. My racist job experiences all occurred in SW Florida, and I know this would be a great place for you to take a look at. This area of Florida, which includes Collier County, Lee County and Charlotte County, is composed of an interesting population of over 1 million people during tourist season. Southwest Florida is an area which is predominantly White, followed by a booming population of Hispanics and a small and oppressed Black population. The Black population here is so small and disenfranchised; they are not able to enact any change. The NAACP here is ineffective, and they have not achieved any advancement for colored people lately. We need the Presidential Candidates to come here and raise some eyebrows. If either Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama could come to SW Florida and speak about equality, workplace racism and mutual respect among races it could change the lives of thousands of Black, White and Hispanic people who are being oppressed. Also, could someone call Oprah Winfrey?

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Because I live in Florida and we need Obama and Clinton to at least stop by here and speak on some important issues, namely racism. It doesn't have to be a campaign trip. If you are not able to come, please upload a video of you covering this issue on my website. I am a real person, I wrote you a real letter from my heart and this is a real threat we are facing. This is my conclusion of my letter, The Threat.

Sincerely,

Steven Jennings, M.S
TV Producer/Creator for The Cipher Show
Visit my website and support our campaign to "STOP RACISM"

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