

THE WHOLE DAMN ORCHARD: Rotten at the roots**OJORE MCKINNON**

During the Spring Protest of 2020, that took place after the blatant, callous murder of George Floyd, the familiar propaganda of "Bad Apples" were to blame for Floyd's murder was offered to distract people from blaming the State, the system and the culture of policing.

If one knows anything about apples, then surely they know apples are clones of each other, making an orchard full of identical apples. Policing in the U.S. began with Slave Patrols— Paddy-Rollers who policed the enslaved Afrikans movements, and hunted down those who escaped. The paddy-rollers are the roots of modern day police culture, making police today the products of that fraternal fellowship and culture that officers become beholden to upon taking their oath. This Slave Patrol culture of enforcement is what is imposed against the Black community across this nation.

We now have factual evidence that proves, simply instituting a change of culture through training and legislation is not a CURE-ALL. Minneapolis, made a viliant attempt at reform, yet, the officers who murdered Floyd, ignored the new training, policies and law.

Not only have we witnessed the callous nature of law enforcement in the murder of George Floyd, we witnessed the callous and unscrupulous behavior of law enforcement across the country during the protest after his murder. News reports and personal video showed police committing wanton violence and using unnecessary force against the media and peaceful protesters for a Trump photo-op; we also saw police shoot peaceful protesters with tear gas canisters, rubber-bullets, pepper-balls and pepper-spray; and we also saw police plowing their vehicles into peaceful crowds.

I ask you to consider this evidence of impunity and the closing of ranks around fellow officers, bad apples and all:

All departments practice what is well known as "The Blue Wall of Silence," or the refusal to "snitch" on other officers.

Police Chiefs, Unions, Associations and Faternal Order of Police, defend violent behavior, misconduct and malfeasance by officers even when their body-cams depict the bad behavior and criminal acts.

New York Mayor Bill De Blasio, had hundreds of NYPD officers under his command, turn their back on him during an address at an officers funeral. Simply for confessing he has advised his black son how to conduct himself during an encounter with police.

In Buffalo, New York, the "entire" Goon Squad resigned from the Squad in protest, after two Squad officers were brought up on charges for pushing a 73 yr. old man to the ground, then failing to render him medical attention

as he bleed from his head and ear.

Numerous, Atlanta police officers called in sick, in "protest," after the murder of Rayshard Brooks and the resignation of the Police Chief.

A San Jose police officer and member of the Goon Squad, fired rubber bullets at SJPD's "Anti-Bias" Trainer, during a protest, causing him to lose a testicle. The Police Chief and other officers have refused to identify the officer.

After George Floyd s death, a NYPD officer who choked to death an unarmed Black man, had previously been convicted of "pistol whipping" a suspect.

Police in Louisville, Kentucky, killed Breonna Taylor in a hail of bullets, while asleep in her bed, after knocking down her front door. Not only were they at the wrong home, they falsified the incident report by stating no one was harmed during the raid. Yet, the murder has been deemed justified.

San Francisco police officers illegally break into a journalist home with a sledge hammer; illegally search his text; and illegally held him in custody, in an attempt to intimidate the journalist, and force him to reveal his confidential police source. All this is done in violation of the Shield Law. No officers have been charged.

Of course there is further evidence of officers across the nation perjuring themselves; planting drugs on citizens; dealing drugs; stealing from citizens; assaulting children and adults; sexually assaulting children and adults; ect. ect. With only a chosen few ever facing charges. Further proof the vast majority of police, their Departments, Unions, Associates and culture are rotten through-and-through.

If the good officers are afraid or unwilling to rid their ranks of these so-called "bad apples," their inaction and silence define their complicity. Like all rot, it spreads if not removed, infecting the whole orchard. In this case, the paddy-roller culture has rotted and morally corrupted the whole of law enforcement.

All those who refuse to acknowledge the rotting core of U.S. law enforcement and their impunity encourage their tyranny and authoritarian actions against Black/Brown communities.

From my stance on maa, a voice from death row.

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