



This is not a moment, it's a movement

FEATURE BY ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

A police officer murdered George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota by holding him down with a knee on his neck. Armed civilians murdered Ahmaud Arbery while he jogged through a neighborhood near Brunswick, Georgia. Officers entered Breonna Taylor's house in Louisville, Kentucky on a no-knock warrant and shot her in her home, after her boyfriend discharged a firearm at them under the impression they were intruders.

Floyd's murder in May sparked protests across the nation, and even the globe, but the protests did not call for justice only for Floyd. Protesters demanded justice for Arbery's murder which happened in February, Taylor's murder in March and justice for even more Black individuals who were victims of police brutality. Commonly at demonstrations, lists of police brutality victims would be read. The Black Lives Matter movement resurged into the media.

The city of Jonesboro saw its own demonstrations in late May and early June. May 31, protesters organized outside the Jonesboro Police Department and marched down Caraway to demonstrate support for BLM.

On June 1, Yesenia Hernandez and Lexie Brenton organized a BLM rally downtown outside the Craighead County Courthouse. The rally featured many different speakers, including volunteers from the crowd, Hernandez themselves and Dominique Phillips, a representative of the A-State NAACP chapter. A march followed the speakers, and ended with the able participants kneeling silently for 8 minutes and 46 seconds -- the amount of time former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on Floyd's neck. June 6, protesters marched down Red Wolf Boulevard to show their support for BLM.

A-State athletes demonstrated in support of BLM on August 31. A large group of athletes marched from the campus athletic facilities to the Carl R. Reng Student Union. They carried signs including phrases such as, "When Will It End? #BeTheChange" and "I WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND BUT I WILL STAND."

During demonstrations, protesters often chanted phrases both associated with the movement and associated with the events

causing the protests. These included, "Black lives matter" and "no justice, no peace." Currently, a main goal of the movement is justice for victims of police brutality and racial profiling, and police reform.

No one wants to admit that systemic racism may be a problem in their city, but unfortunately, peaceful BLM demonstrations in Jonesboro were not completely well received. Bow Hendrix recounted an individual threatening protesters by revving his truck's engine and swerving dangerously at the crowd, almost injuring multiple individuals during the May 31 protest.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITY OF JONESBORO, AR - GOVERNMENT | FACEBOOK (@CITYOFJONESBOROAR)

Protesters marched down Red Wolf Boulevard on June 6 to show their support for BLM. At the front of the line in the photograph wearing a teal fanny pack, A-State instructor of history Heather McNamee carries a sign reading, "Breonna Taylor #sayhername."

Hendrix, an adviser in the Wilson Advising Center, said, "The rest of the march we all became super vigilant to cars. I started walking with my body angled between the young girl and the road thinking, God let them hit me before her."

During this same demonstration, John Bosze brandished a firearm at the crowd and called them slurs, then fled the scene. JPD later arrested Bosze for aggravated assault.

Jonesboro's own police controversy happened in 2012. The death of Chavis Carter continues to raise suspicion as to what truly happened. Allegedly, Carter hid a gun on his person that went undetected during two searches, and shot himself in the head while sitting in the back of a police car with his hands cuffed.

Carter's mother stated Carter had no history of suicidal thoughts, and was left-handed, and the bullet entered through his right temple. Carter also allegedly made plans for his girlfriend to meet him at the prison the next day.

The Arkansas crime lab ruled Carter's death a suicide August 20, 2012. JPD made a video demonstrating how Carter allegedly shot himself. Despite this, many still find his death to be suspicious, and even mentioned it at the recent Jonesboro BLM demonstrations.

The nation still needs to make changes, but some justice came from the protests. Derek Chauvin became the first white officer in Minnesota to be charged in the death of a black individual after he murdered George Floyd. His initial charge was third-degree murder, but it soon changed to second-degree manslaughter. Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison also charged three other officers with aiding and abetting second-degree murder.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation took over Arbery's case in May and charged Gregory and Travis McMichael and William Bryan with felony murder, as well as charging Bryan with false imprisonment for attempting to detain Ahmaud Arbery with his truck.

The Louisville city council passed "Breonna's Law" on June 10, a law that banned no-knock warrants and requires all officers to be wearing body cameras which are turned on from 5 minutes before the warrant is served until 5 minutes after.

Taylor's murderers still walk free.

A recent event sparked even more outrage: officers shot Jacob Blake in the back seven times while he allegedly attempted to break up a fight between two white women in Kenosha, Wisconsin. His children watched from the car. Blake survived the shooting, but may never walk again.

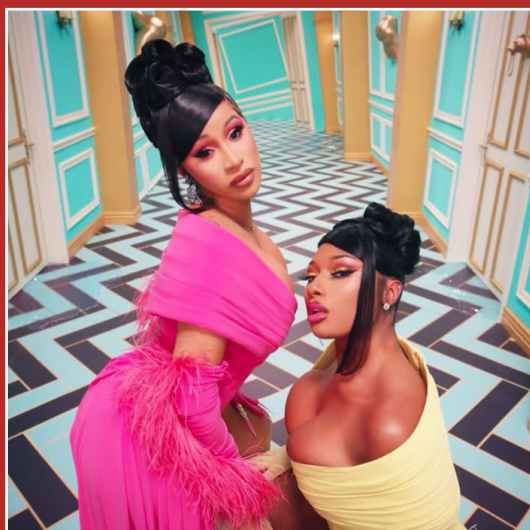
Why is it that even while the nation is protesting, and marginalized groups are begging for justice and to not be profiled and murdered, just that is still happening?



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE ATHLETICS | FACEBOOK (@ASTATEREDWOLVES)

A-State student athletes participated in a BLM march August 31 from the athletic facilities to the student union. In this photo, they hold up the Black power fist while a sign reading, "BLM" is visible behind them.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK



"WAP (feat. Megan Thee Stallion)" - Cardi B

Though explicit and controversial enough to warrant a very unfortunate video from Ben Shapiro, "WAP" is a fun track from Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion highlighting female sexuality and that women can be explicit and enjoy sex just as much as men.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VULTURE

HOROSCOPES

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p>+ ARIES (March 22 - April 19)</p> <p>Do not make mountains out of molehills. Your problems may be actually be coming from your negative perception of things.</p>	<p>TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Be mindful of how you are treating yourself. Show yourself the same kindness and grace you would show others.</p>	<p>GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>People are drawn to the positivity you exude. You reap what you sow, so keep being kind.</p>	<p>CANCER + (May 21 - July 22)</p> <p>Keep an eye out for good news coming your way. It could be something small or it could be a new opportunity.</p>
<p>LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>Now is a good time to be flexible and ready to adapt to new situations. Big things are coming your way.</p>	<p>VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>The people around you will make you feel welcome and supported. Let your walls down for the ones close to you.</p>	<p>LIBRA + (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>You have the resources you need to be successful. Things are lining up to work out for you, but you have to make it happen.</p>	<p>SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>You are creating a solid foundation for yourself. Be conscious of the decisions you are making and think them through.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>New endeavors will take off for you. You may have to think on your feet a bit more, but you can handle it.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>You may be feeling drained, but it is not time to give up yet. Your goals are just around the corner if you push for a little longer.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>Your hard work is going to pay off. There is nothing wrong with allowing yourself a break or a bit of pampering.</p>	<p>PISCES + (Feb. 19 - March 21)</p> <p>Learn to accept praise from others. You have been working hard and the compliments are genuine.</p>