

## The Post-Journal

Covering The Way You Live

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Established 1826

The Jamestown Morning Post  
Established 1901

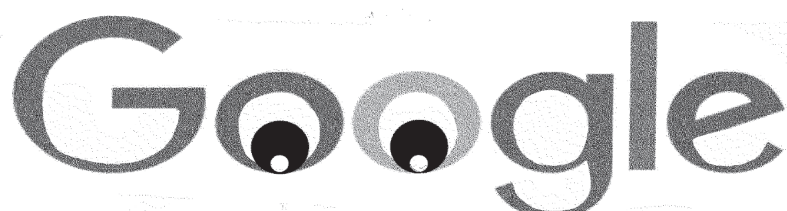
The Post-Journal  
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"Truth Above All Else"



Randy Elf

## This Couple Could Be Your Neighbors

You wouldn't think a two-hour movie that is largely an interview with a husband and wife would be this engaging.

But it is. The movie, called "Created Equal," is largely a biography of him. In his life, she has played no small role.

Her upbringing was far different from his. She tells the story of when she first went to his hometown, she could hardly understand anyone. So she just smiled.



He's from the low country of Georgia — Pin Point to be exact — and is a descendant of west African slaves who lived in the coastal communities of South Carolina, Georgia, and northern Florida.

When his immediate family's home burned, the family moved to Savannah, where his mother worked as a maid.

He describes the poverty in Pin-point as tolerable and the poverty in Savannah as, well, not.

He remembers being hungry and not knowing when he'd eat, and being cold and not knowing when he'd be warm.

In the part of Savannah where the family lived, flushing a toilet in those years sent material into neighbors' yards. It was, he said, "putrid" and "gross."

After a time, his mother's parents offered to raise him and his brother. So one day, each of the boys packed everything he owned into a paper grocery bag. Their bags were half full.

Off they went to the grandparents' house, which changed his life.

The "vacation is over," the grandfather told the boys. Now there would be "rules and regulations."

The boys were happy to live in a beautiful home. They were so enthralled with the white bathtub and toilet that they would flush the toilet when they didn't need to.

The grandparents had joined the Catholic church and sent the boys to a Catholic school, which — like the public schools — was racially segregated.

As a teenager, he experienced a call to the priesthood and went to seminary, which he enjoyed and appreciated. This began to change when some fellow seminarians spoke ill of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

When some of them were glad at King's death, the young man from Pin Point left the seminary.

He enrolled in college in Massachusetts, where he involved himself in radical politics. But after taking part in a nighttime demonstration, he prayed for the first time in two years, promising God that if he removed the anger from his heart, he'd never hate again.

After college graduation, he enrolled in law school.

Thereafter he worked for Missouri Attorney General Jack Danforth, Monsanto Corporation, and on Danforth's U.S. Senate staff.

By 1980, he had transformed politically. He voted for Ronald Reagan for president and worked in the Reagan administration.

President Bush 41 appointed him to the federal-appellate court for the District of Columbia.

"Created Equal" gives this couple's perspective on all of this and the rest of their story, including the political correctness they've endured.

He doesn't do many public appearances. When he does, they're great. Anyone wanting an example might consider a speech entitled "Be Not Afraid" at <https://www.aei.org/research-products/speech/be-not-afraid>.

Because public appearances are rare, the opportunities to meet this down-to-earth couple are few.

When this columnist met them once at an Acton Institute event in Grand Rapids they came across as neighbors over the garden gate.

Although they could be your neighbors, they're not.

He's the longest-serving current justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In his office is a gift from his wife: A bust of his grandfather, whom he reveres.

This is the story of Justice Clarence and Virginia Lamp Thomas. For more information on this well-worth-seeing movie, please see [justicethomas-movie.com](http://justicethomas-movie.com).

Dr. Randy Elf's June 2, 2020, U.S. Supreme Court brief on the constitutionality of law regulating political speech is at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3585160>.

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## Police Agencies Must Do Some Self-Examination, House-Cleaning

Prosecutors in Minnesota last week made the right move by broadening the reach of their efforts in the wake of the killing of George Floyd. Now the three officers who stood by and watched Derek Chauvin press his knee into Floyd's neck until he stopped breathing have been charged with aiding and abetting a murder — and Chauvin's charge has been upgraded to second-degree murder.

In discussing the new charges, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison called the protests after Floyd's death "dramatic and necessary," and said Floyd "should be here and he is not. His life had value and we will seek justice."

Good. Culpability for Floyd's death should not end at Chauvin.

But authorities across the country must not stop there.

The work is just beginning. Law enforcement agencies at all levels — filled with good men and women who take seriously their job to serve and protect — must do some self-examination and house-cleaning.

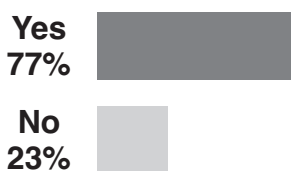
Is there de-escalation and sensitivity training on which they need to catch up? Is there a culture of turning a blind eye toward "minor" insensitivities that could encourage behavior that leads to a tragedy?

Pope Francis had it exactly right when he said this week "My friends, we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life."

One might add, "or claim to uphold the law."

## Question Of The Day

Have you been enjoying the warm weather?



The Question of the Day can be found by visiting our website, [www.post-journal.com](http://www.post-journal.com)

## READERS' FORUM POLICY

All letters to the Readers' Forum must include the writer's signature and the correct full name and address of the author as well as a telephone number for verification purposes.

The maximum limit is 400 words. The forum is designed for the discussion of issues, not personalities. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit all material.

## WHERE TO WRITE

Express your opinion to your representatives in the Legislature and the federal government. Their addresses are:

### NEW YORK

U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer — 130 S. Elmwood Ave., #660, Buffalo, NY 14202; 716-846-4111; 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-6542.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand — 726 Exchange St., Suite 511, Buffalo, NY 14210, 716-854-9725; 478 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; 202-224-4451.

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed — 2 E. Second St. Suite 208, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-708-6369; 2263 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-3161.

State Sen. George Borrello — 2-3 E. Second St., Suite 302, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-664-4603; 188 State St., Albany, NY 12247, 518-455-3563.

John Stossel



## Race And Riots

"No justice, no peace!" they shout. Then they break windows.

It makes me furious.

But then I watch the video of the Minneapolis cop kneeling on George Floyd's neck, while Floyd repeatedly says, "I can't breathe," and three other officers just watch.

Then I see the video of the woman in Central Park calling 911, claiming, "An African-American man is threatening me!" But that was a racist lie.

Christian Cooper just asked her to leash her dog. We're supposed to leash our dogs in that section of Central Park.

But Amy Cooper didn't leash her dog. She frantically called 911, claiming she was under threat. She knew that by telling the police "an African-American man is threatening me," she'd probably get a more aggressive response.

The left-wing New Yorker (she donated to Democratic campaigns) was careful to use that pointless, yet politically correct, term for black. Even though she's a racist.

Watching things like that should help me sympathize with the people rioting last night.

So should my friend Fabian's experience. When Fabian was 20, he bought his first car, a luxury edition Infiniti J30 Sedan. He'd saved up for it working as an airplane technician, transporting U.S. soldiers to war zones around the world.

Then, while pumping gas back in NYC, police officers approached him, demanding his license and registration.

He produced the documents and showed them that the car was registered in his name. But Fabian is black, and the police would not believe that the car belonged to him. They arrested him and charged him with grand theft auto.

He sat in jail for two days. Finally, a judge dismissed the case — using the same documentation Fabian had showed the police. They released him — without any apology.

The trauma still haunts him. Fabian says it evokes a sense of helplessness — a fear that "anytime there's an encounter with law enforcement, getting arrested or even death could be the outcome."

Yet, as I watch protesters (even two lawyers were arrested) throwing Molotov cocktails at police officers, and I see opportunistic young people looting stores, and my privileged left-wing white friends say things like, "the looting of our society by

unrestrained capitalism is worse!" I get even more furious.

This country, and capitalism, has done more good things for disadvantaged people of all races than any society, ever.

Fabian, despite his terrible experience, says that living as a black man in America is a gift. He came here as a teen from Jamaica. America, he says, gave him opportunity he would never have had elsewhere.

Now, he's a capitalist who owns things. He smiles as he says he sees "a cultural black renaissance: promotion of black education, ownership, and acquiring assets as a top priority."

America, he says, is the land of opportunity.

Even if some cops are racist bullies.

Yet, so much that is exceptional about America is drowned out by the loudest voices on the extremes.

On one side, we have an "unraveling" president, as George Will puts it, an angry bully "banging his spoon on his high-chair..."

On the other side are the leftists who defend the violence and looting, like the masked antifa children who want to destroy capitalism.

On Twitter, I watched video of a group driving around in a Mercedes-Benz, passing out bricks (for protesters to throw). I applaud the young black woman who called them "stupid" and tossed the brick back into their car, yelling: "This white b — — giving a group of black men a brick to throw! You know that s — — could get them killed!"

It could. No one wins in these clashes.

I assume there is less racism in America than there once was, but there's no way to prove that. Even if there were, Malcolm X wrote, "If you stick a knife in my back nine inches and pull it out six inches, there's no progress."

But I think that's the wrong way to think about it.

George Floyd's killer was arrested and other cops who abused their power were fired. In the past, police officers were never prosecuted.

For years in America, the percentage of interracial marriage has steadily increased. That suggests progress.

Burning police stations and looting stores won't speed that progress. It sets us back.

John Stossel is author of "Give Me a Break: How I Exposed Hucksters, Cheats, and Scam Artists and Became the Scourge of the Liberal Media." For other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).

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## TODAY IN HISTORY

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, June 12, the 164th day of 2020. There are 202 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 12, 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were slashed to death outside her Los Angeles home. (O.J. Simpson was later acquitted of the killings in a criminal trial but was eventually held liable in a civil action.)

On this date:

In 1630, Englishman John Winthrop, leading a fleet carrying Puritan refugees, arrived at the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where he became its governor.

In 1898, Philippine nationalists declared independence from Spain.

In 1942, Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl living in Amsterdam, received a diary for her 13th birthday, less than a month before she and her family went into hiding from the Nazis.

In 1963, civil rights leader Medgar Evers, 37, was shot and killed outside his home in Jackson, Mississippi. (In 1994, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of murdering Evers and sentenced to life in prison; he died in 2001.)

In 1964, South African black nationalist Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison along with seven other people, including Walter Sisulu, for committing sabotage against the apartheid regime (all were eventually released, Mandela in 1990).

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Loving v. Virginia, unanimously struck down state laws prohibiting interracial marriages.

In 1978, David Berkowitz was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for each of the six "Son of Sam" .44-caliber killings that terrified New Yorkers.

In 1981, major league baseball players began a 49-day strike over the issue of free-

agent compensation. (The season did not resume until Aug. 10.) "Raiders of the Lost Ark," directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Harrison Ford as Indiana Jones, was first released.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, during a visit to the divided German city of Berlin, exhorted Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to "tear down this wall."

In 1997, baseball began regular-season interleague play, ending a 126-year tradition of separating the major leagues until the World Series. (In the first game played under this arrangement, the San Francisco Giants defeated the Texas Rangers 4-3.)

In 2004, former President Ronald Reagan's body was sealed inside a tomb at his presidential library in Simi Valley, California, following a week of mourning and remembrance by world leaders and regular Americans.

In 2016, an American-born Muslim opened fire at the Pulse nightclub, a gay establishment in Orlando, Florida, leaving 49 people dead and 53 wounded before being shot dead by police.

Ten years ago: A French fishing vessel rescued 16-year-old Abby Sunderland from her crippled sailboat in the turbulent southern Indian Ocean, ending the California teen's attempt to sail around the world solo. Ethnic riots wracked southern Kyrgyzstan, forcing thousands of Uzbeks to flee their homes. Daniel Nava hit the first pitch he saw as a big leaguer for a grand slam — only the second player to do it — leading the Boston Red Sox to a 10-2 rout of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Five years ago: Joyce Mitchell, a worker at the maximum-security Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, New York, was arrested on charges of helping two convicted killers escape; Mitchell later pleaded guilty to promoting prison contraband and was sentenced to 2-1/3 to seven years in prison.