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RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

Ain't No Love

A 17-year-old white male was shot and killed by police during a traffic stop in Arkansas.

Hunter Brittain, who was unarmed, had gotten out of his truck to place a bottle of anti-freeze behind a tire because he was unable to shift his truck into park; thereby trying to prevent his vehicle from rolling backwards into the squad car of the deputy behind him. Sheriff Deputy **Michael Davis**, who also is white, inexplicably shot Brittain three times; killing him.

Now, I say *inexplicably*, because officer Davis did not turn on his body camera. Furthermore, Davis was fired from the Sheriff Department. Not for killing Brittain, mind you; but for failing to turn on his bodycam. Moreover, Lonoke Sheriff John Staley said, "It is my decision, in review of this deputy's actions, it is determined, that he did not activate his camera in a timely way. This means there's no video of the actual shooting. You see the aftermath but no shooting. It is that failure that I terminated his employment as deputy."

So, **Benjamin Crump** is now giving interviews about the shooting, and the lack of facts thereof; while **Al Sharpton** gave Brittain's eulogy at the memorial service.

I feel for Brittain and his family. I'm sure they are going through hell right now.

However, my most pressing question is, where's the media? Where is the flood of national coverage for this young man's death?

If I've said it once, I've said it a quattuorvigintillion times: The main media **does not care** about BLM. They care about ratings. They **exploit** the death of blacks by police. Use it as a lightning rod to generate income. They revel in the **chaos**. I bet the first question their editors/producers asked when this went down was, "Is he Black?"

And when the answer was no, the follow-up response was, "Then find another story!"

Texas Does D.C.

BY **ABBY LIVINGSTON** AND **ALEXA URA** | THE TEXAS TRIBUNE



State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, speaks to the press after Democratic members of the Texas House of Representatives, who are boycotting a special session of the legislature to block Republican-backed voting restrictions, arrive at Dulles airport in Sterling, Virginia, Monday night. Credit: REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

(Washington, D.C.) - Shortly after landing in Washington D.C. in an effort to deny the Texas House a quorum to block a voting restrictions bill, House Democrats indicated they plan to remain out of state until the end of the special legislative session that ends Aug. 6.

Democrats' Monday departure from the state will bring the Legislature's work to a halt just days into a 30-day session that was called largely to advance GOP-backed legislation that would enact new restrictions on voting.

Asked by a reporter what the caucus planned to do if Gov. Greg Abbott called another special session for the next day, state Rep. Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, suggested that was the reason behind why they had decamped to the capital.

"That's our message to Congress," said Turner, the Fort Worth Democrat who chairs the House Democratic caucus. "We need them to act now."

At least 51 of the 67 Democratic members of the Texas House — the number needed to break quorum — fled the state on Monday, most of them boarding two chartered planes that landed in D.C. around 7 p.m. Central time.

Last month, a delegation of Democratic state representatives and senators traveled to the U.S. Capitol to advocate for a federal bill.

This time the group was much larger — at least two buses full of members as of Tuesday night — and state Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, D-San Antonio, referred to the expanded numbers as "reinforcements."

Since the news broke that Democrats were leaving the state, Republicans pounced to characterize them as abandoning their jobs.

"Texas Democrats' decision to break a quorum of the Texas Legislature and abandon the Texas State

Capitol inflicts harm on the very Texans who elected them to serve," Abbott said in a statement earlier in the day. "As they fly across the country on cushy private planes, they leave undone issues that can help their districts and our state."

Fellow Republicans from all over the state and the country joined in the criticism.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," said Turner. "We are doing our job. We were elected to represent our constituents and fight for our constituents' interests. We aren't going to sit in Austin in the house chamber and watch the Republican majority steamroll the voting rights of our constituents."

Democratic state Rep. Barbara Gervin-Hawkins of San Antonio said in an interview that she was "definitely" prepared to be out of the state for three weeks as well and packed light.

"It wasn't even about clothes, it was about let's do what we need to do to protect our right to vote," she said. "We can't go back to the days of old... think about our forefathers who died for us to have the opportunity to vote."

"What I did, I went into my clothes, and I got all those things that are washable," she added, when asked how she prepared for such an uncertain trip.

There was a sense Tuesday in this group that Abbott's threat to cut the salaries of legislative staffers could become reality.

"I told my staff to get ready for unemployment," said Gervin-Hawkins "OK? Think about it. If you are released from a job beyond your control, you qualify for unemployment."

"We hope that doesn't happen," she added.

State Rep. Joe Moody, D-El Paso, called the bill "toxic piece of legislation."

"We're here to fight," Moody said, referring to Congress. "We just hope we're not alone."



L. C. Anderson High School

Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony



SATURDAY, JULY 17, 2021
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 10:00 A.M.
900 THOMPSON ST. AUSTIN, TX 78702



"Yellow Jackets Forever"

Please join the L.C. Anderson Alumni and community in celebrating the unveiling of the historical marker commemorating the last location of Austin's only Black Public High School.

In addition, this year commemorates 50 years since the Original L. C. Anderson building was closed as a high school.

We also invite you to tune into the event virtually. Live streaming will be provided on AISDTV at www.austinisd.org/aisdvtv and Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/Austinisd. AISD and COVID-19 CDC Protocols will be recognized.

INSIDE



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Lee Merritt based campaign around voting rights battle. See **CIVIL** Page 4



Food and Drug Administration flag reports of Guillain-Barre syndrome. See **COVID** Page 6

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