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BEFORE YOU SEEK TO BE UNDERSTOOD, SEEK TO UNDERSTAND

Knowledge of self is the first step in your quest of exploring the unknown. While you are learning and understanding, think and plan on how you will share this knowledge with others.

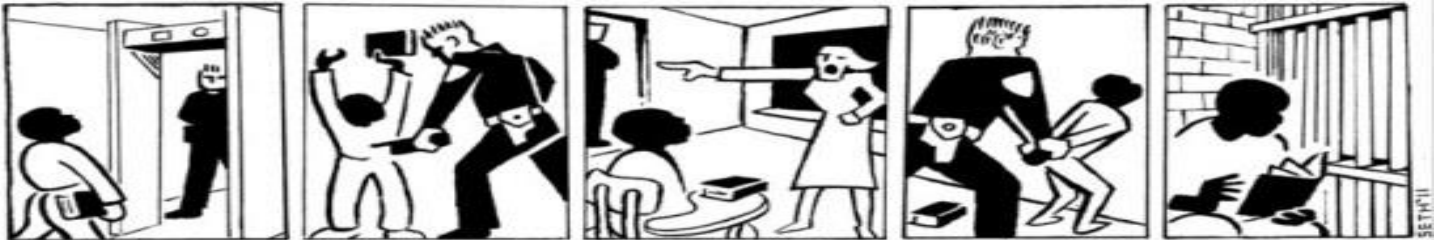
When you lead, you are actively using your knowledge to improve and move the universe.

Bias + calculated division + discrimination = inequality
Inequality is a lack of smoothness or unevenness.

Living memory is the ability to remember events and situations by people who are alive now.

In order to be in a position of unfettered power, you have to forget how you got there and then prevent others from obtaining that same social and economic status that was attained via preventive measures.

School-to-Prison-Pipeline is a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Many of these children have learning disabilities or histories of poverty, abuse, or neglect, and would benefit from additional educational and counseling services. Instead, they are isolated, punished, and pushed out. "Zero-tolerance" policies criminalize minor infractions of school rules, while cops in schools lead to students being criminalized for behavior that should be handled inside the school. Students of color are especially vulnerable to push-out trends and the discriminatory application of discipline.



"If you can control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his action. When you determine what a man shall think you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel that he is inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, for he will seek it himself. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one." -Carter G. Woodson (1933)

No one has to tell us that we are **not** beautiful, we tell each other.



**THE REVOLUTION
WILL NOT BE
TELEVISED**

We must demand that we be treated with respect and we must treat each other with respect.

We must not allow others to formulate and disseminate a bias opinion against why it is wrong to dismantle public school systems that were designed to teach not imprison.

We must not allow others to suppress our right to vote by drafting laws that keep us from the polls because we were born into a legacy of poverty created and designed by preventive measures.

We must not allow others to count on our retail dollars to support inequality and injustice.

We must call out inequality and not allow people to think that the surface is smooth.

We must show them how it is uneven. What will you do? Each one, teach one.

Educate * Agitate * Litigate

2015 United States Supreme Court Updates

By Shawndrica N. Simmons, Esq.

Redistricting Powers: Court ruled in *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission* that voters had the power to strip local legislators of their authority to draw district lines.

Race & Redistricting: Court ruled in two Alabama cases that the State lawmakers had relied too heavily on race in its 2012 redistricting by maintaining high concentration of black voters in some districts.

Housing Discrimination: Court ruled in *Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs v. Inclusive Communities Project* that under the Fair Housing Act of 1968, statistics can be used to show that lower-income black families were prevented from renting in certain Dallas suburbs.

Religious Signs & Free Speech: Court ruled in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Arizona* that a local ordinance that placed limitations on political, ideological and directional signs violated the 1st Amendment.

Free Speech & Confederate Flag: Court ruled in *Walker v. Texas Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans* that state of Texas had the right to reject specialty license plates displaying the Confederate battle flag.

Social Media & Free Speech: Court ruled in *Elonis v. United States* that prosecutors did not prove that Mr. Elonis intended to threaten his estranged wife when he posted threatening rap lyrics on Facebook.

Employment Discrimination: Court ruled in *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch Stores* that a Muslim woman was not required to make a specific request for a religious accommodation to wear a hijab when she applied for a sales position.

Pregnancy Discrimination: Court ruled in *Young v. United Parcel Services* that the wrong standard was used to decide whether UPS had discriminated against one of its' pregnant drivers.

Religious Freedom in Prison: Court ruled in *Holt v. Hobbs* that Arkansas corrections officials violated the religious liberty rights of Muslim inmates by not allowing them to grow beards.

Judicial Elections & Free Speech: Court ruled in *Williams-Yulee v. Florida Bar* that states may prohibit judicial candidates from personally asking supporters for money.

Lethal Injection: Court ruled in *Glossip v. Gross* that states may use a drug linked to apparently botched executions to carry out death sentences.

Same-Sex Marriage: Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage.

Health Care Subsidies: Court ruled in *King v. Burwell* that tax subsidies were lawful as provided by several states not running a marketplace for insurance coverage.

Pollution Limits: Court ruled in 3 environmental regulation cases that the Environmental Protection Agency violated the Clean Air Act by not factoring the cost of limiting mercury emission and pollutants from power plants.

Separation of Powers in Foreign Affairs: Court ruled in *Zivotofsky v. Kerry* that Congress cannot order the State Department to "record the place of birth as Israel" in the passports of American children born in Jerusalem.



Sotomayor



Kagan



Ginsburg



Breyer



Kennedy



Roberts



Scalia



Alito



Thomas