



# CMC News

A publication of the Center for MultiCultural Communities

**December 2015**

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## *Message from the Director*

Events continue in our region and throughout the United States that make us aware that much needs to be done before we are truly an egalitarian society. Daily events emerge that cause us to question. How can a region, a state or nation that is as highly educated as ours, and have technical skills to send astronauts to the moon and bring them safely home, almost routinely perform kidney and heart transplants, but get upset when someone from a people group different from their own move in their neighborhood or shop at the same shopping center they do?

### **The year in review**

What a tragic year 2015 has been and continues to be. It is a year we would never like to see again. The heinous events that have happened and continue to happen should not be happening anywhere. One philosopher, when asked how he would describe our American society, answered in one word: "barbaric!" Is there compelling evidence that the philosopher is correct? Let's examine events that occurred and are continuing to happen.

### **A spotlight on police activities**

Most of the questionable acts against civilians were people of color. It has been reported that 776 people were killed by police so far in 2015, and 151 of them were unarmed. Though the videos are not prosecutors or juries, legitimate questions must be raised as to why so many unarmed people were shot to death.

The Washington Post reported that, on average, an unarmed black man was shot by police every nine days in the first seven months of 2015. Is this a reverting back to the United States Supreme Court's decision by Chief Justice Taney in 1857 who said, "Blacks had no rights which the white man is bound to respect"?

### **The murder of the Charlotte Nine**

What enters the mind of a young man and motivates him to go to, and participate in, a Bible study and then murder nine of the people who are from a people group different from his own? He said to those people, "You have been very nice to me but ya'll got



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to go.” He then proceeded to commit the barbaric murders. This young man’s motive was to start a race war.

### **Our future**

Is there peace and harmony in our institutions of higher learning? Can we be assured by examining incidence that are occurring there a brighter future is ahead? Some examples, University abolished fraternity for racial slurs, Young man goes on hunger strike and football team refused to play because of unresolved racial issues, president resigns.

### **Continuing community unrest**

Five people from “Black Lives Matters” were shot as they exercised their rights by protesting the recent police killing of an African American man. A Midwest city in an uproar because of a video disclosing a young unarmed black man being shot 16 times to his death by a police officer, and no charges being brought for more than a year. Is a cover-up indicated?

### **The assassination of police officers**

What motivates person without provocation to murder police officers at lunch, or kill officers who are making a routine traffic stop? What motivates hatred toward a whole group because of the action of a few people from the group?

### **CMC’s relevance in the 21st century**

As we come to the end of 2015, it is clear that we are not yet a post-racial society. There is much compelling evidence to the contrary. It is clear that some people are still having trouble with people that are different from themselves. We can reference many painful incidents that scream we still need to work for cultural and racial harmony. While progress has been, and continues to be, made the end of the twin evils of discrimination and racism are alive and well.

### **Question of the Month**

Recently, some critics of civil rights advocates have severely criticized advocate organizations by asking why they even exist. They further implied that they exist for selfish reasons, not for the benefit of the oppressed. Shouldn’t these critics also ask the question, “Why don’t the people these groups advocate for have the same rights all other citizens have?” How long will it be before all Americans have the same rights in reality without the need for special advocates?

– Eugene Dumas



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The Speak Up, Speak Out events at Prairie State College feature lively dialogue about racial and cultural issues (above), one-to-one sharing (below, right), and group sharing of specific ways we can work on today's problems.



**An Open Invitation**

Come and join us as we work to promote cultural and racial harmony. You may do so with a tax deductible contribution.

Associate membership – \$20

Graduate membership – \$30 plus completion of a workshop



The 2015 CMC Board of Directors, left to right: Therone Watson, Nodee McNeal, Cynthia Pryor, Eugene Dumas, Melisa Watson, Monica Regan and Ruby Donahue.