

# No such thing as 'Black-on-Black' crime

Last weekend, 28 persons were shot and five of them were killed in 19 separate incidents throughout the city. That means, so far this year, 625 persons were shot and 135 of them were killed. And during that time, approximately 2,000 guns were confiscated by police.

By the way, nearly all of the people shot, wounded, or killed and nearly all of the people shooting and possessing seized guns were young Black men in Black neighborhoods.

This proves that young Black men in the hood are violent thugs, actually monsters. End of story. Class dismissed.

But wait just a minute. Get back in your seats. I almost forgot to mention the following.

You all remember Mary Shelley's 1818 book, "Frankenstein," which was later widely popularized in several different movie versions. Despite the fact that the novel's been around for over 200 years and 57 films pertaining to it have been made, most people mistakenly think the creature's name is Frankenstein. But it's not. That creature had no name. People confused it with its creator, the evil European scientist named Dr. Victor Frankenstein. Today's Back so-called thugs/monsters are created by the evil American system that miseducates them, unemploys them, underemploys them, over-polices them, and over-incarcerates them. America is Dr. Victor Frankenstein.

Allow me to give a personal example. I was born and raised in North Philly, which, for the most part, was and still is poverty-stricken. But while in the third grade at an under-resourced Black neighborhood school, I got lucky and did well on a citywide test. As a result, I was admitted into Masterman — one of the top schools in the country and, by the way, was and still is predominantly white. Consequently, because of a great education stemming from great academic resources at a great school, I was directly on my way to college and law school.

But what happened to Smitty and Patty who had sat next to and behind me at that North Philly school? And what happened to all the other Black students there and at similar under-resourced Black schools in poverty-stricken Black



neighborhoods throughout the country? I'll tell you what happened to most of them. They got passed from grade to grade like an assembly line product despite having learned nothing or dropped out of school due to scholastically indifferent and culturally undermining teachers. Either way, they were unprepared for employment, trade school, college and life itself.

And if they weren't "lucky" enough to find less than minimum wage dead-end jobs, they had to resort to welfare. And if they weren't able to qualify for welfare or if welfare continued to keep them mired in abject poverty, many of them would try to escape life's harsh realities through ever-increasing drug use that would lead to petty crime and then to more serious crime resulting in convictions. Following certain convictions, they became ineligible for public housing, driver licenses and even menial employment. In the end, many of them resorted to violent crime by victimizing those in close proximity, i.e., their Black neighbors.

And this violent criminality is primarily the result of what Dr. Joy DeGruy diagnoses as "Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome," which is the title of her seminal book about violent Black criminality. In it, she mentions "feelings of hopelessness, depression, and a general self-destructive outlook." She also references a "marked propensity for anger and violence ... [especially directed] toward the members of one's own ... cultural/ethnic group." To paraphrase Brother Malcolm, "We have been and continue to be hoodwinked, bamboozled and led astray" by this racist (and classist) system, a system established and promoted by slavery, sharecropping, convict leasing, peonage

## CRIME MYTHS DEBUNKED

- 1 MYTH BLACK-ON-BLACK CRIME IS UNIQUELY BAD
- 2 MYTH VIOLENT CRIME IS ON THE RISE
- 3 MYTH JUSTICE IS APPLIED EQUALLY
- 4 MYTH BLACK KIDS HAVE BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS
- 5 MYTH CRIME IS PREVALENT IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

— CREDIT: COLORLINES.COM / HATTY LEE AND SHANI O. HILTON

labor, Jim Crow, de facto segregation, no education, miseducation, unemployment, underemployment, over-policing, mass incarceration, redlining and gentrification.

By the way, notwithstanding this troublesome issue of violent Black criminality, did you know that less than one percent of Black folks and only about 2 percent of Black men commit a violent crime in any given year? Well, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics knows it and documented it.

And just in case you erroneously think the violent Black criminality that does exist is genetic as a Black thing, did you know that poor urban whites have a higher rate of violence toward each other at a rate of 56.4 per 1,000 compared to poor urban Blacks at a rate of 51.3 per 1,000? Well, the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics knows it and documented it. As an aside, why don't people ever call white mass murders, white serial shootings, and white serial killings "white-on-white" crime? Hmm ...

Furthermore, the FBI points out that most murders involving a single victim and a single offender are committed by whites. Moreover, the Center for Disease Control notes, as reported by the L.A. Times, that "Rates of homicides, gun killings, and illicit drug fatalities are highest in counties where nine of ten residents are white and where President Trump won." Nuff said. Let's get back to the recent rash

of shootings in Philadelphia. Despite some of the respectable and understandable disagreements I — as a defense attorney — obviously have with Larry Krasner — as the top prosecutor — I gotta give him major credit for realizing that merely arresting people not only doesn't help society, it actually hurts society. And that's because you can't give a life sentence for every crime, which means "criminals" will get out eventually, whether in a few years or a lotta years. And then what? That "criminal" comes back to society worse because prisons don't rehabilitate. They simply warehouse. And the nearly \$45,000 per year it costs to warehouse inmates in Pennsylvania state prisons are wasted because that amount could've and should've been used for schools and job training — which ultimately would've protected society by stopping juvenile delinquency and adult criminality before they even started.

Although as the District Attorney, Krasner's impressively doing what he was overwhelmingly elected to do and is legally obligated to do — which is why, under his administration, prosecutors in 2018 approved nearly 99 percent of firearm cases presented to them by police thereby constituting more than what was approved by the previous DA in the two years before Krasner was sworn in — he realizes, as a genuine and pragmatic progressive, that violent street crime is a symptom of societal factors and

must be thoughtfully treated as such.

Even Police Commissioner Richard Ross, as reported in The Inquirer on June 18, described the problems contributing to ongoing gun violence such as poverty, joblessness, or trauma as "fundamentally structural."

Whether it's described as "fundamentally structural" or, as I define it, "inherently systemic," it nevertheless stems directly from the racism (along with the classism) that continues to serve as the foundation and policy of this country. If anyone believes I'm wrong, answer this question: "If you had to go to trial as a defendant in a criminal case and could choose to go as a Black defendant or a white defendant, which would you choose? Or, if you were going to a job interview for employment or to a bank for a home loan and could go as a Black applicant or a white applicant, which would you choose?" The obvious and honest answer is precisely why I use the word "racist" (as well as classist) to accurately define this system and to accurately explain the actual cause — as opposed to the mere symptom — of so-called Black criminality and to totally reject the myth of so-called "Black-on-Black" crime.

Michael Coard, Esquire can be followed on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. His "Radio Courtroom" show can be heard on WURD96.1-FM. And his "TV Courtroom" show can be seen on PhillyCam/Verizon/Comcast.

# Weather

## ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR PHILADELPHIA

### 5-DAY FORECAST FOR PHILADELPHIA

SUNDAY	SUN. NIGHT	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
High 84° Low 67°	High 85° Low 72°	High 87° Low 69°	High 89° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°	High 90° Low 70°
Mostly sunny and nice	Mainly clear	Seasonable and more humid with some sun	Clouds and sun with a t-storm in spots	Sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny
RealFeel: 87°	RealFeel: 65°	RealFeel: 90° 72°	RealFeel: 91° 68°	RealFeel: 93° 70°	RealFeel: 93° 71°

The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature® is an exclusive index of the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sunshine intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure and elevation on the human body. Shown are the highest and lowest values for each day.

### ALMANAC

Philadelphia through 4 p.m. Saturday.

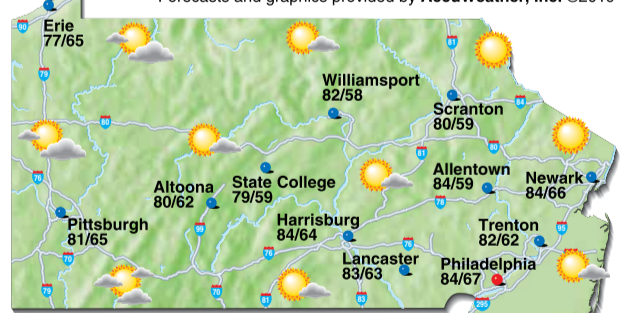
**Temperature**  
 Saturday's high ..... 81°  
 Saturday's low ..... 64°  
 Normal high ..... 85°  
 Normal low ..... 66°

**Precipitation**  
 24 hours ending 4 p.m. Sat. .... 0.00"  
 Record precipitation ..... 2.47" in 1967  
 Year to date ..... 27.04"  
 Normal year to date ..... 19.27"

**Cooling Degree Days**  
 Saturday ..... 8  
 Month to date (normal) ..... 161 (169)  
 Year to date (normal) ..... 311 (258)  
 Last year to date ..... 295

### REGIONAL WEATHER

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2019



Shown is Sunday's weather. Temperatures are Sunday's highs and Sunday night's lows.

### REGIONAL CITIES

City	Sunday			Monday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Allentown	84	59	s	85	70	pc
Altoona	80	62	pc	79	68	t
Annapolis	84	68	pc	85	73	t
Atlantic City	85	64	s	86	72	pc
Baltimore	86	67	s	87	73	t
Dover	83	66	s	85	72	t
Erie	77	65	pc	81	69	t
Harrisburg	84	64	s	83	70	t
Lancaster	83	63	s	84	69	t
New York	83	66	s	83	69	pc

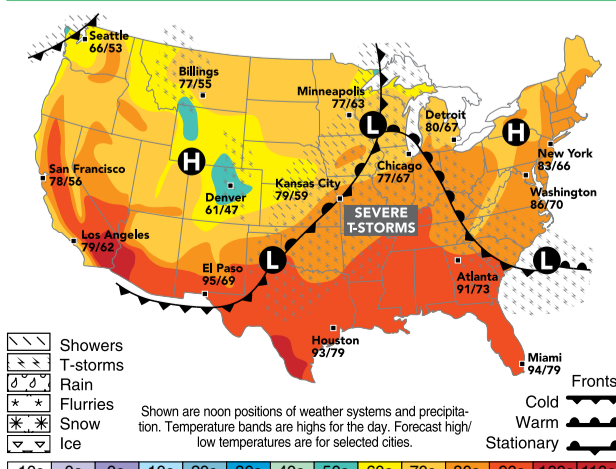
### SUN AND MOON

**Sunday** 5:33 a.m.  
**Sun. night** 8:33 p.m.

Sunrise Monday ..... 5:33 a.m.  
 Sunset Monday ..... 8:33 p.m.  
 Moonrise Sunday ..... 12:21 a.m.  
 Moonset Sunday ..... 11:19 a.m.

Last New First Full  
 June 25 July 2 July 9 July 16

### NATIONAL WEATHER



### NATIONAL CITIES

City	Sunday			Monday		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	91	73	c	91	71	pc
Boston	84	65	s	75	61	pc
Chicago	77	67	t	77	62	c
Daytona Beach	93	74	t	93	74	t
Denver	61	47	t	78	51	pc
Des Moines	78	62	c	77	63	t
Detroit	80	67	pc	80	64	t
El Paso	95	69	s	97	72	s
Fairbanks	78	58	t	73	51	pc
Honolulu	90	76	s	89	76	pc
Houston	93	79	pc	90	78	t
Indianapolis	82	66	t	79	62	t
Kansas City	79	59	t	81	63	pc
Las Vegas	94	75	s	102	79	s
Los Angeles	79	62	pc	79	62	pc
Memphis	93	69	pc	85	70	t
Miami	94	79	pc	86	74	t
Nashville	93	75	pc	86	71	t
New Orleans	93	81	c	94	79	t
St. Louis	84	68	t	82	64	t
Salt Lake City	77	58	pc	83	61	pc
Seattle	66	53	c	69	53	c

# CITY & REGION

## Man in custody in Allentown shooting that wounded 10

ALLENTOWN — An Allentown man has been taken into custody in connection with the shooting that wounded 10 people early Thursday morning outside a nightclub in the 300 block of Hamilton Street in Allentown, according to police. Angelo Luis Rivera, 20, is being charged with criminal conspiracy to commit aggravated assault and other offenses, Allentown police Capt. Bill Lake said Thursday night. Police said Rivera was expected to be arraigned early Friday morning at Lehigh County Central Booking Center. The shooting happened just before 2 a.m. Thursday morning outside the Deja Vu nightclub. A total of 10 people were wounded, according to authorities. Authorities said Thursday that at least three people fired shots. At least 18

shell casings were marked on the street by police. Police and medical officials would not describe the severity of those injured, only saying all 10 are expected to survive and many remain hospitalized.

## Pa. man gets up to 20 years for murdering sister

WILKES-BARRE — A Hunlock Creek man who pleaded guilty to murdering his sister was sentenced Friday to serve up to 20 years in prison. Eric Getz, 41, pleaded guilty in April to a single count of third-degree murder in the death of his sister Rebecca Getz, 41, who was fatally stabbed with a butcher knife during a fight at their Hunlock Creek home on Feb. 4, 2017.

— Compiled from The Associated Press

# U.S. & WORLD

## Trump to name Army chief as secretary of defense

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plans to nominate Mark T. Esper, the secretary of the Army and former West Point classmate of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, to be the next defense secretary, administration officials said Friday. They said Trump would send the nomination to lawmakers on Capitol Hill in the next few days. If confirmed, Esper, an Army infantryman who fought in the Gulf War before becoming a lobbyist for Raytheon, would succeed Jim Mattis, who resigned in December during a dispute over pulling U.S. troops out of Syria. Esper is set to become acting defense secretary Sunday after Patrick M. Shanahan withdrew amid news reports about his 2011 divorce.

plans for special courts in every district in Pakistan to deal specifically with cases of violence against women in the country.

The judge said the new courts would have a "different atmosphere" where victims could speak out "without fear," news agency Reuters reported.

Human Rights Watch found in its 2019 World Report that "violence against women and girls — including rape, so-called honor killings, acid attacks, domestic violence, and forced marriage — remains a serious problem" in Pakistan.

— Compiled from The New York Times, CNN

## Pakistan plans special courts on violence against women

Pakistan will set up more than 1,000 courts dedicated to tackling violence against women in the country, a senior judge has announced. Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khosa detailed

**SATURDAY MIDDAY**  
 Daily Number: 0-7-1  
 Big 9: 7-1-9-0  
 Treasure Hunt: 03-08-17-20-23

**SATURDAY EVENING**  
 Daily Number: 2-2-1  
 Big 8: 3-2-8-2  
 Cash 5: 03-15-21-34-40