

Invisible Robes of Injustice

Written by Jeffrey L. Boney

Wednesday, 19 October 2011 00:00

Houston Black News, Religion, Business, Sports and Entertainment |
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If you follow my articles, you should know by now that I love movies and television and making modern day comparisons to them.

I particularly have an affinity for watching older movies, although I am intrigued by all types of movies.

One of my favorite older movies was derived from H.G. Wells' book, "The Invisible Man," brought to the big screen in 1933. In this psychological thriller, a young scientist pushes the envelope continuously, through the creation of his own experiments. Using himself as the subject, the scientist discovers the key to being invisible, but finds that he is unable to reverse the results. H.G. Wells created a masterpiece and was able to lead people into the mind of the scientist, better understanding the destructive effects that invisibility has on the scientist and the insane and murderous chaos left in his malicious wake.

There have been several television spin-offs and movie adaptations, such as the movie, Hollow Man, in early 2000, that seek to capture the spirit of the original book by H.G. Wells.

After having spoken to many of my fellow black colleagues, friends and family members, I realize that there are a lot of people that are completely oblivious to the atrocities suffered by blacks in this country. If a person doesn't know, of course they more than likely don't care. Out of sight, out of mind, is what they call it.

One of the historical truths that is important to remember is the fact that black Americans have had to deal with dark forces that were created to intimidate and keep them in a state of fear and bondage. One of those dark forces, still has a presence in the United States, and it is called the Ku Klux Klan.

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The Ku Klux Klan, often abbreviated KKK and informally known as the Klan, is the name of three distinct past and present organizations in the United States, which have advocated for many views such as white supremacy, and have expressed their views historically through acts of violence and terrorism.

The Klan came to fruition and flourished in the South in the 1860s, then died out by the early 1870s. Members adopted white costumes: robes, masks, and cone-shaped hats designed to strike fear into those that saw them and primarily to HIDE THEIR IDENTITIES. As time progressed, they began to introduce cross burnings and was associated with opposing the civil rights movement and progress among minorities.

As a secret vigilante group, the Klan targeted freedmen and their allies and sought to restore white supremacy by threats and violence, including murder, against blacks and white Republicans.

Whoa, did I just say that they went after white Republicans?

Yes, I did, but that article will be coming in the near future about the history of both parties, Republican and Democrats.

In 1874 and later, the KKK began a fresh round of violence aimed at suppressing blacks' voting and running Republicans out of office. These contributed to segregationist white Democrats regaining political power in all the Southern states by 1877. The Klan had major political influence in several states, and it was influential mostly in the center of the country. The Klan spread from the South into the Midwest and Northern states.

Klan members adopted masks and robes that hid their identities. Many of them operated in small towns and rural areas where people otherwise knew each other's faces, and sometimes still recognized the attackers.

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Why is this all important?

Today, researchers estimate that there may be approximately 150 Klan chapters with upwards of 5,000 members nationwide.

While many KKK members still wear the traditional robes and costumes, many of them do not. There are many elected officials, police, community leaders, business people, wearing invisible robes of injustice, hiding their true identity and their true beliefs, but behind closed doors, in the dark of night, they are plotting and planning and executing those plans to intimidate black people.

It is up to you, black man and black woman, to know your history and teach your history to your children and grandchildren, so that we may be empowered and enlightened to see beyond the veil and allow God to reveal to us those that are wearing those invisible robes of injustice.

Jeffrey L. Boney is a dynamic, international speaker and a Next Generation Project Fellow. Jeffrey is the Founder and CEO of the Texas Business Alliance and is an experienced entrepreneur and adjunct professor in Houston, Texas. If you would like to request Jeffrey as a speaker, you can reach him at jboney1@texasbusinessalliance.org.

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