#pointergate may be the most racist news story of 2014

By Shaun King
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What you are about to read and watch is stranger than fiction. It's so racist and so outrageous, that people are questioning whether or not it's satire from The Onion. It's real though, and that's what is so shocking and heartbreaking about the whole ordeal.

Getting their picture taken above is the mayor of Minneapolis, Betsy...
Imagine, then, the shock, utter disappointment, and disgust when the local ABC news affiliate, KSTP ran a news story on Thursday night claiming that Mayor Hodges dangerously flashed a gang sign with a known criminal and has put officers in harms way. Follow the trail below.

First, ABC reporter Jay Kolls wrote the following tweets before the news story ran live on Thursday night.

Jay Kolls @JayKollsKSTP · 3h
Why would Mayor Hodges flash gang signs with 2x convicted felon? Find out why police are fuming in ten minutes on 5 at ten.
Mayor Hodges flashes gang signs with 2x convicted felon. Police not happy. Details on 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS at ten.

Then, the story ran with this insane headline, but the video below it is worse than you could EVER imagine!

Mpls. Mayor Flashes Gang Sign with Convicted Felon; Law Enforcement Outraged

You have to watch this video to believe it. It literally may be the most racist news story of all of 2014. It's so outrageous and has such a phony feel to it that it seems almost like a practical joke—except it's completely real. In it, current and retired police officers claim that Mayor Hodges has put the safety of officers in serious risk by her deliberate and flagrant action.
But what KSTP isn't telling you in this news story is that the Minneapolis chief of police, Janee Harteau, was actually there with Navell and Mayor Hodges the entire time. Here they are in a picture together. That's the chief on the far left.
Or that the Mayor made this exact same common hand gesture before this insane news story ever broke.
Me and the Mayor (@mayorhodges) talking sugar, weightlifting, body cameras on police, Ralph Macchio, fake Twitter accounts, and harmonicas. NBD.

Does the Minneapolis ABC affiliate KSTP not have a filter in which something that smells this bad gets flagged for poor journalism?

Sadly, only racism allows such an ugly story and stereotype to be advanced about a young man who was clearly not flashing a gang sign with the mayor of Minneapolis. He deserves a public apology and heads should roll at this station for even allowing it to ever make it to the air.

Furthermore, some real investigative journalism needs to uncover just why the police were willing to get behind such a phony story. Something smells off in a major way. Could it be because the mayor is behind the police wearing body cameras and the police faked this story hours before the pilot program was due to launch? Or could it be that she called out police corruption and vowed to clean it up last month?

Since KSTP ran this awful story, the hashtag #pointergate has gone viral with hundreds of photos of regular people and celebrities all over the world pointing at people in photos.

Here are a few samples, all taken BEFORE this outrageous scandal broke out.

My city councilmember @CMDaiThao should clearly be anticipating a full media inquiry #pointergate
Just in time for #tbt; Bobby "the Brain" Heenan! #pointergate
Oh noes! Apparently I am in a gang with Jeff Johnson! Yes, that Jeff Johnson!

#pointergate
Tip Jar

Shaun King  Nov 07 • 12:55:53 AM  •  Recommended 493 times

holy shiznit  Navel is my hero. I'm getting chills at his ability to rise above his mistakes. I am literally tearing up in appreciation for his humanity and not turning bitter. And how is he rewarded????? I guess the best way to respond is with action, not anger. Is there anything I/we can do to help Navel out and let him know we are not all bigoted idiots.

kamala  Nov 07 • 01:16:08 AM  •  Recommended 102 times

I just can't  sorry, just watched the "news report". It is SHOCKING how racist it is. It is f*^&*^ing SHOCKING. This is.. I.. how dare this be aired. I just.. this news station and police department need to be investigated for racism and collusion. This is the most blatantly racist story I have ever seen in the news. Anyone with an IQ over 1 can see how twisted this is. I do not believe this is America.

kamala — kamala  Nov 07 • 01:26:39 AM  •  Recommended 106 times

Sadly, I have no trouble believing it's America. America has been breaking my heart for decades. That's why I hang out here on Kos, to restore my faith in Americans.

Eileen B — kamala  Nov 07 • 01:32:31 AM  •  Recommended 129 times

Inter racial dating  I just posted a diary on

"White man (67) pulled out of church by state police because with black girlfriend (55)."

Will racism ever end as long as white police are the major force in our society??

nailkeg — Eileen B  Nov 07 • 09:53:37 AM  •  Recommended 59 times
...and as long as we allow it? You can't sustain a belief system/action mode without some social sanction for it.

mwm341 — nailkeg  Nov 07 · 10:48:18 AM  •  Recommended 20 times

Kinda sexist tagline, doncha think? In an article on racism you play into gender stereotypes and tropes.

I guess the "real men are tough and can get bloody without padding" belief system still has some social sanction for it.

huntsu — mwm341  Nov 07 · 11:21:43 AM  •  Recommended 7 times

My tagline is not the topic. And if you'd seen what the All Blacks did to Team USA last week, you'd know what I'm talking about.

Now, go away.

mwm341 — huntsu  Nov 08 · 05:05:09 AM  •  Recommended 1 time

No, but bigotry is the topic ... and your tagline is bigoted.

I know exactly what you are talking about in your tagline without seeing the game you mentioned because I know rugby, and have played rugby. I played soccer, baseball, softball, wrestled, dove, swam, did gymnastics and lots of other sports -- though never American football except flag or pick-up.

I know what you're saying because you not only belittle American football players with your tagline, but your dismissive "go away" shows an arrogance endemic to the bigoted. "You're beneath me, and should not be in my presence. No begone, knave!"
The implication in the "real men do this" social sanction is that being a "real man" involves a willingness to hurt others and be hurt by others, and humans who would prefer not to harm and be harmed are lower types of human than the "real men."

You know, like the American football players who wear armor and have so many rules protecting players you attempt to emasculate in your tagline.

Or women.

The social sanction implicit in your tagline is identical to the one that allows the star quarterback to bully and physically abuse geeks and gays, because after all he is better than them and they are either there for his amusement or should "go away."

It is the same social sanction that allows tough athletes to date rape women at parties, and then say that she wanted it or deserved it because of how she was dressed.

It is the same social sanction this diary is about, that allows the "real humans" of European ancestry to look down on and abuse those who have African or Latin American or other non-white ancestry.

It is the social sanction that there is an "us" and a "them," and that us is better than them.

It's just phrased in a more socially acceptable way.

Sanctioned, if you will.

huntsu — mwm341

Nov 08 • 09:57:55 AM • Recommended 1 time
Wow, impressive mind-reading skillz.... "I know exactly what you are talking about"... "I know what you are saying"... "implication"... "implicit"...

Or perhaps I should be jealous that the original author was able to pack SOOOOO much meaning and intent into a 4-word signature line and a 3-word comment in a reply.

If you want to be PC, by all means insist that the "men" be changed to "people". Our university has both mens and womens rugby teams at the varsity level.

Since I lack your inductive skills, I saw the comment as a shot at the very things you are ranting about. It's a challenge to the supremacy that football has in North America. It's a game that is played by both genders. It's a game that fosters teamwork much more than football.

But you should know that, since you played it. So what's your real beef? Methinks there is some projection going on here.

Court Jester — huntsu
Nov 08 · 10:58:17 AM · Recommended 1 time

No, and no. And you do not know what I'm talking about unless you've watched both games with an open mind.

Would you react the same way if I'd said something like 'HOCKEY: Canadian Women Kick Ass!'?

Now, let's get back to the topic at hand before we get yellow-carded for thread hijacking.

mwm341 — huntsu
Nov 08 · 12:09:06 PM · Recommended 1 time