

OTHER AWARENESS PROJECT

95% GUILT & ANGER FREE



THE ONLY REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PEOPLE, DESPITE WHAT YOU THINK YOUR RACE & ETHNICITY IS, IS THAT SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE DO NOT LET OTHER PEOPLE DEFINE WHO THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY CAN BECOME!

More involved than your personal association with whatever arbitrary and undefined “racial” name you call yourself, the Other Awareness Project is a 95% guilt-free, thought-provoking, humorous mixture of film documentary, stand-up comedy, and audience discussion that looks into what I think is the continued incorrect categorization of people into “racial” groups by skin color and other arbitrary things. Despite everything we know scientifically, legally, religiously, practically any way you want to look at it, governments and businesses STILL ask questions concerning your “racial” choice? In this era of “keeping it real”, Internet access, and DNA research, why does an intelligent person, using current information, answer the questions and STILL classify themselves into “racial” groups? Moreover, Is it helping to solve any problems, real or perceived, going forward?

The project is about self-identification! It is geared towards forwardthinking, solutions oriented people, who are involved in building their communities. That's it!

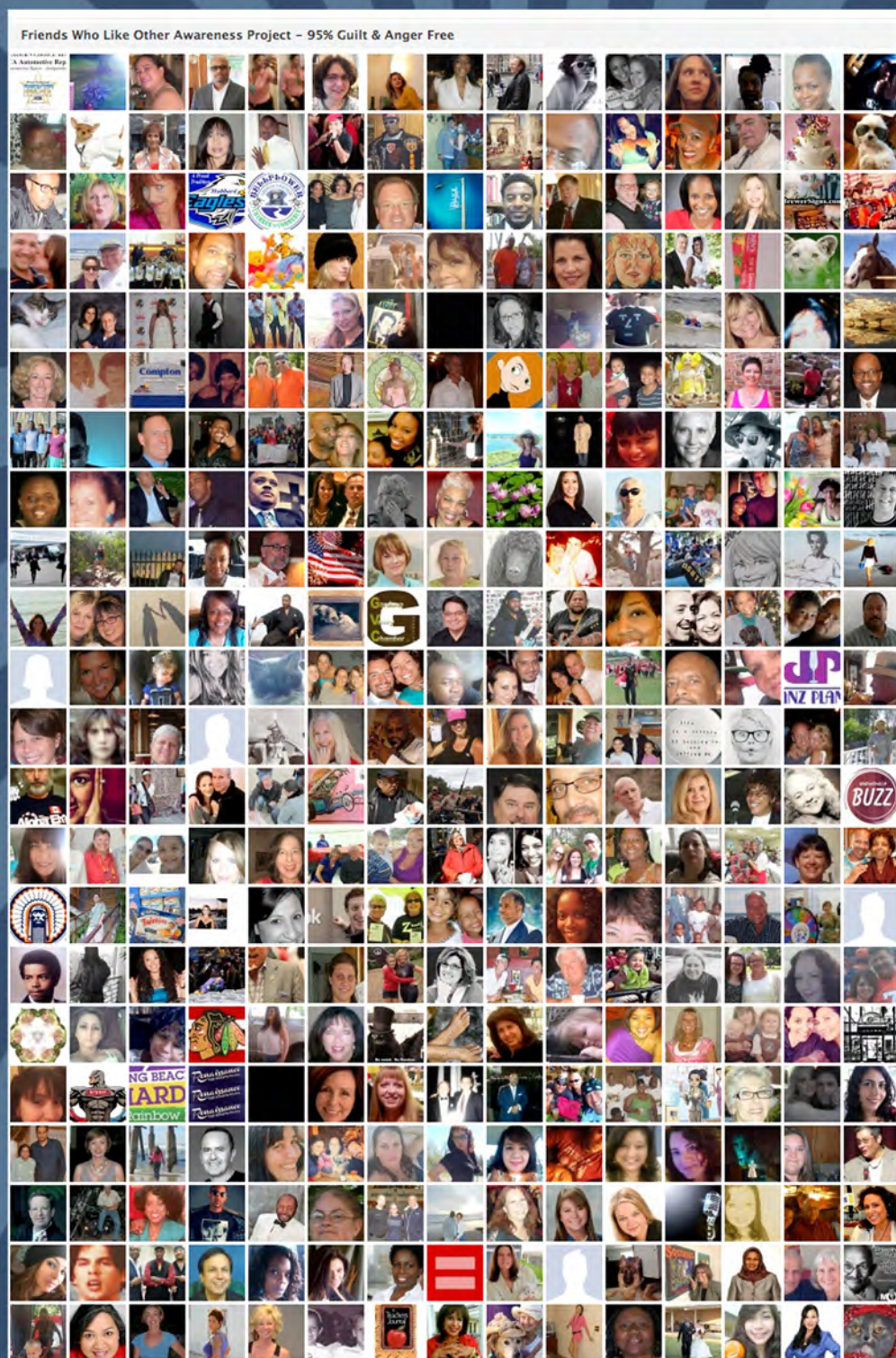


Michael James Brown



facebook.com/otherawarenessproject

600+ and growing!



NOTABLE PAST PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS (1 OF 2):

26th National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education
New Orleans, LA (5/31/13) (Selected for presentation, couldn't attend)

Poly Academy of Achievers & Leaders
Long Beach, CA (1/17/2013) (Joylyn Sauter)

Cultivating Energy For Success – Radio Interview
(10/1/12) Angel Eyes

Futures – Equity in Education Conference
Toronto District School Board
Toronto Canada Ontario (5/5/12) Phi Tan

Power 4 Youth Recognition Dinner (6/9/12)

Male Academies of Long Beach Unified School District
Millikan
Lakewood
Cabrillo
Jordan Freshman Academy
(11/29/11 & 11/30/11) Quentin Brown

24th National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education
San Francisco, CA (6/2/11)

Reed Continuation High School
5-period presentation for students
Long Beach, CA (5/10/11) Mick Hoglund

North Long Beach Community Action Group
Presented at the **Long Beach Police Department – North Station**
Long Beach, CA (5/1/11) Dan Pressberg

Other Awareness Project – Gen Y Radio Interview 9/14/10
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/gen-y/2010/09/14/other-awareness-project>
<http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/blogTalk91410.html>
<http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/genyradio.mp3>

Santa Monica High School
Special presentation at the 200-seat **Humanities Center**
Santa Monica, CA (12/14/10) Jenna Dillion-Gasparino

Muzeo Museum
Kabel Discovery Room – Special Presentation
Anaheim, CA (8/8/10) Karen Gee

Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific
5th Annual Dia del Nino/International Children's Day
Long Beach, CA (5/1&2/10) Peter Martineau

Nino's Restaurant
Special presentation to **Connected Corridor/Leadership Long Beach**
Long Beach, CA (2/18/10) Carina Christiano Leoni

31st Annual Southwest Texas Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference
Selected to present academic paper on the **Other Awareness Project**
Albuquerque, NM (2/12/10) Lisa Stein

NOTABLE PAST PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS (1 OF 2):

Clarion University

Presented by the **Martin Luther King Committee**

Hope Chapel

Clarion, PA (2/1/10) Joseph Croskey

Long Beach Unified School District

Special presentation to the **Male Academies Leadership Board**

Long Beach, CA (1/7/10) Quentin Brown

22nd National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education

San Diego, CA (5/29/09)

3 hour workshop. (Ratings of: **17% Excellent, 33% Very Good, 33% Good, 17% Fair**)

Orange County Democratic Club

Special presentation

Irvine, CA (1/18/09) Sharon Toji

Carson Sheriffs Department Community Night Out

Carson, CA (8/12/09) Sergeant Carol Rogers

The Cellar Night Club

Long Beach, CA (12/21/08) Chef Paul St. Bernard

Reed Continuation High School

5-period presentation for students

Long Beach, CA (12/12/08) Mick Hoglund

Community Group

Special presentation

Hyattsville, MD (7/7/08) Bernard Moore

Smooth's Restaurant

Long Beach, CA (5/1/08)

CCEJ (Kicked Out of Program)

Community Hospital

Auditorium

1720 Termino Avenue

Long Beach, CA (7/17/07)

Carlsbad Village Theater

Carlsbad, CA (2/18/06) Lamont Ferguson

LINKS:

Facebook (Become a Fan!):

<http://www.facebook.com/otherawarenessproject>

You Tube:

<http://www.youtube.com/OAProject>

Other Awareness Project - Clarion University (1/4)

<http://youtu.be/xbtUErBIHxO>

Other Awareness Project - Clarion University (2/4)

<http://youtu.be/UcGKTB9btw4>

Other Awareness Project - Clarion University (3/4)

http://youtu.be/4un_3HPN7Ak

Other Awareness Project - Clarion University (4/4)

<http://youtu.be/NJxIH7Ycc2M>

Creativity Network Radio Interview: (15 min)

<http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/creativityNetwork42011.mp3>

Gen Y Radio Interview: (50 min)

<http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/genyradio.mp3>

Clarion Call Article:

<http://www.clarioncallnews.com/features/project-addresses-puzzle-of-racism/#more-3036>

LBPost Story:

<http://www.lbpost.com/sander/7153>

Watermelon Sushi:

<http://watermelonsushiworld.blogspot.com/2009/11/are-hip-hapa-homeez-obsolete.html>

Other Awareness Project Blog:

<http://www.otherawarenessproject.wordpress.com>

Wheel of Fortune (Community Service Follow Up):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl319Zz4TGY>

High Resolution Photo:

http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/mjb_official.jpg

Other Awareness Project - 95% Guilt & Anger Free!

Hello, my name is **Michael James Brown**, writer/producer of **Other Awareness Project**. The project is a thought-provoking, humorous mixture of film documentary, stand-up comedy, and audience discussion that looks into what I think is the continued incorrect categorization of people into "racial" groups by skin color and other arbitrary things, in light of everything we know scientifically, legally, religiously, just about any way you want to look at. In this era of "keeping it real," internet access, and DNA research, why do intelligent people, using current information, still classify themselves into "racial" groups? Moreover, is it helping to solve any problems going forward, real or perceived?

Although we touch upon a wide variety of topics, the project isn't focused on racism or past wrongdoings, real or perceived. It's more focused on today and tomorrow, and helping to discover what is the best plan going forward that everyone can support. The project is about self-identification and is directed towards community involved, solutions oriented people. That's it!

I traveled to various cities around the country. (**Long Beach, CA; Austin, TX; Portland, OR; Cypress, CA; Carson, CA; Youngstown, OH**) intentionally looking to film conversations with people I didn't know and who are more intelligent than I am. People, who have been calling themselves any of the completely arbitrary and legally undefined "racial" categories for 20, 30, 40 years, and see why they still chose a "racial" category, how they support that decision, and how it has or hasn't affected their lives.

Everyone answered the same roughly 20 questions, from **"Who is Al Sharpton?"** to **"Where is Caucasasia?"** to **"What is the legal description of a _____ person in the United States?"** To their credit, not one person knew the questions until we were filming. I didn't prep any of the responses. The conversations are exactly as they happened with as little editing as possible. I gave each participant an unedited DVD of our entire conversation.

Highlights include speaking with Marc Dann, **Attorney General** for the state of Ohio. Jim Dear, **Mayor of Carson, CA**. Dr. Joseph Graves Jr., **Professor of Biology** at NC A&T University, and **Rabbi Brian Zachary Meyer** Los Angeles, CA

The purpose of the filming is to show:

- 1) It really isn't that hard to talk with people of different "racial" groups. Anywhere!
- 2) That the conversation doesn't have to be angry and can lead to solutions. "Racism" isn't a hard problem to solve.
- 3) You can actually have fun and just might learn something from listening to someone else's experiences.

View trailer and download complete media kit at:

otherawarenessproject.com

youtube.com/OAPProject

facebook.com/otherawarenessproject

Brief Biography:

Born in **Champaign, IL**, Michael is the fourth of eight children who have the same mother, but have different fathers. He met his father for the first time when he was about ten years old. "Growing up on welfare without a full-time father has its challenges, but as you talk to other people, everyone has challenges." **"Your problems don't define you racially" unless you let them.**"

After the third grade, his mother and five kids moved to a two bedroom house in **Rantoul, IL**, a small farm town with an Air Force base, population about 20,000. Everything was different! New people, new places, but at the same time, many people had similar life experiences and they didn't call themselves "black". "Since before the fourth grade my friends, teachers and mentors have been people from all "races". During college, he was asked to join a "black" fraternity and a "white" fraternity.

After the birth of his daughter in 2002, Michael resigned his position as **Director/Operations for News America Marketing** to spend time with her and complete this project. "I have completely enjoyed the time I have shared with my daughter and think the direction of this project better reflects the experiences I have had with other people throughout my lifetime." "I also think it provides a better platform for building a society going forward."

I went on your website, and enjoyed what you had written. You have what seems to be a unique and very correct perspective on races.
Long Beach, CA

Michael James Brown
Writer/Producer
Other Awareness Project
mjb@otherawarenessproject.com
562-884-2565





FEE SCHEDULE

Call 1-562-884-2565

Email: mjb@otherawarenessproject.com



More involved than your personal association with whatever arbitrary and undefined "racial" name you call yourself, the Other Awareness Project (OAP) is a 95% guilt-free, thought-provoking, humorous mixture of film documentary, stand-up comedy, and audience discussion that looks into what I think is the continued incorrect categorization of people into "racial" groups by skin color and other arbitrary things. Despite everything we know scientifically, legally, religiously, practically any way you want to look at it, governments and businesses STILL ask questions concerning your "racial" choice. Why does an intelligent person, using CURRENT information place themselves into "racial" groups? Is it helping to solve any problems going forward, real or perceived?

Please call to see where the Other Awareness Project can be utilized in your fundraising plans. A 50% deposit is required to confirm booking. Travel and hotel costs are not included and should be billed directly to the client. I travel out of Long Beach, CA (LGB) and prefer aisle seats.

I am available to help publicize your event and fulfill media requests. Interviews (print, radio, TV) need to be scheduled with as much notice as possible.

Some non-profit & community organization discounts are available.

Fee Schedule - Effective until 12/31/2013

Keynote

45-60 Minutes

Call For Quote

Half Day Workshop

(3.5 Hours)

Call For Quote

Full Day Workshop

(7 Hours)

Call For Quote

Multi-Day Retreat

Call For Quote

Master of Ceremonies

Call For Quote

Panel Participant

Call For Quote

Other Awareness Project - 95% Guilt & Anger-Free

Business professional, consultant and mentor, **Michael James Brown** helps you to understand how your participation in the continued incorrect categorization of people into arbitrary and undefined “racial” categories is used by the media to drive the false notion that everyone is dealing with this “problem.” More importantly, his talks help you **break through** outdated perceptions and stereotypes and realize that most people are already closer than they think in solving this “problem.” In fact, we have never been that far apart! Our perceptions are “**off**” because of the inaccurate language we, and **mass media** continue to use to describe ourselves and other people. Language, which is not supported by **current** science, religion, or law.

Categories: Reexamine Ongoing Racial Diversity Discussions, Workplace Team Building, Relationships, Self-Identification.

Cultivate the “energy of success!” Through his workshops and presentations, Michael uses his background as a former **Director of Operations** and more than **25-year** career in various upper management and marketing positions, along with his experience as a **stand up comedian**, to enhance and revive workplace and interpersonal relationships. He shows how to generate good will among coworkers, colleagues, and throughout the community, resulting in better leadership, teamwork and eventually sales. In all of his talks, Michael emphasizes the need to respect everyone’s background and heritage, but remain focused on the task at hand! **Michael** has spoken to a wide range of audiences. Highlights have been; Workshops at the 22nd & 24th **National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education**, a special presentation at the 200-seat **Humanities Center** at **Santa Monica High School**, by invitation of the **Martin Luther King Committee** at Hope Chapel at **Clarion University**, Clarion, PA, **North Long Beach Community Action Group** at the **Long Beach Police – North Station**, Long Beach, CA.

Topics include:

Brief History of The World:

Learn how it can be shown through some of the great books of history and your own personal experiences, that people **HAVE NOT** always looked at each other through the context of their skin color. For most of the time people have been on the planet, skin color has had very little to do with coalitional behavior. The science behind why people build coalitions with other people.

Self-Identification:

Cultivate the “energy of success” to naturally attract what you want into your life. Develop the mindset that successful people have and understand how your unique abilities combine to maximize your level of personal achievement. It’s not all about money!

Building Better Communities, It Starts With You:

Rediscover “old” ways of thinking, feeling and behaving towards other people. Inject new energy and focus into your relationships and interactions with others. Stop wasting time fighting old perceptions and incorrect ideology that you don’t have.

Michael’s “**not to be missed**” presentations provide the audience with information for increasing intelligence, insight into handling even the toughest “racial” situations, and stress management for maximum effectiveness in all areas of life. Audiences leave understanding the difference in the words: **race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, and heritage**. They also leave with a sense of relief and the understanding that “racial” discussions don’t have to be **ongoing, perpetual**, never to be resolved events. **There is a solution!** Hear Michael’s recent radio interviews at:

Creativity Network Radio Interview: (15 min)

<http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/creativityNetwork42011.mp3>

Gen Y Radio Interview: (Youth-oriented) (59 min)

<http://otherawarenessproject.com/genyradio.mp3>

Download the complete information kit with letters from **Barack Obama, Vernon Jordan**, etc. at:

http://www.otherawarenessproject.com/OAP_mediakit.pdf

If you are looking for a curriculum to implement at your **school, company** or **organization** that helps **reduce** the perception of racism, not just **record, report** and **rehash** the “problem.”

Contact: Michael James Brown
Telephone: (562) 884-2565
E-Mail: mjb@otherawarenessproject.com
Website: <http://www.otherawarenessproject.com>
Availability: S. California, Nationwide

The McQuaig System

Personality Profile – Michael James Brown

This is an extremely sociable and persuasive individual who will seek out situations where he can be with people. He is remarkably outgoing and extroverted in approach, communicating easily. He is very comfortable, open and confident in his dealings with people. He shows great empathy towards others, their opinions and feelings, and most people respond to him readily. He has faith in others and is able to delegate responsibility and authority easily. He is unusually optimistic, viewing both people and situations very positively. Because people generally like him and react to well to him, he is likely to be a good motivator. He is assured in his interactions with others, very convincing, and enjoys situations where he can persuade others to his point of view. He is truly gregarious and people-oriented.

Very persistent and decisive, he is self-reliant and determined. He thrives in unstructured environments where he can use his initiative. He will fight to do things his way because he knows his ideas are right. He needs to be able to think for himself and works best in situations that enable him to do so. He can make decisions, act on them and, if need be, defend them. If others set up obstacles or barriers, he will persevere around them. He has strong convictions and is not afraid to voice them, even if they are unpopular. He is very resolute and independent.

Restless and driving, he gets things done quickly. He works well under pressure and enjoys working to tight deadlines. He can adjust to change, is quick to respond to new situations and can work in a changing atmosphere. He has a sense of urgency, likes variety and tries to work at top capacity. He enjoys it when things are really happening and moving and can keep a variety of jobs going at once. He is active, energetic, and will vigorously attack the parts of his job he likes to do. He will push himself and others to get results quickly.

He tends to be competitive and goal-oriented in approach. He will be inclined to compete with others and take on the odd difficult assignment. He enjoys overcoming the occasional objection and achieving goals in the face of some obstacles. He aims to clear up problem situations and increase productivity and efficiency. He endeavors to set goals for himself and strives to achieve them.

Extraordinarily sociable, he needs people stimulation and will be very unhappy unless he can have continual interaction with others. He genuinely likes people. Very independent. He wants to do things his way and will fight to do so. He is strong willed, preferring to think for himself rather than be hampered by rules and regulations. Although he may recognize that detail work is a necessity, he certainly will not like it and will be frustrated if it takes too much of his time. He will tend to want some challenge on the job.

This profile is indicating some potential, with coaching and direction, for relationship-based new business development or team leadership functions. He will likely want to work in very close collaboration with people in an environment which provides occasional variety and room for self-determination.

BUSINESS:

OWNER/MARKETING MANAGER
PLAN B SOLUTIONS, - LONG BEACH, CA

PROJECT FOREMAN MANAGER
GES EXPOSITION SERVICES, 5560 KATELLA AVENUE, CYPRESS, CA

MARKETING OPERATIONS MANAGER
ING ADVISORS, 200 N. SEPULVEDA, EL SEGUNDO, CA

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
NEWS AMERICA MARKETING, 20 WESTPORT ROAD, WILTON, CT
(Traffic Mgr. 1996-1997 | Sr. Pre-Press Mgr. 1997 - 1998 | Director of Layouts 1998 - 1999)

INSIDE SALES/CUSTOMER SERVICE
MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL, 5555 FRESCA DRIVE, LA PALMA, CA

GRAPHIC ARTIST/LITHO PREP TECHNICIAN
MOORE DATA MANAGEMENT, 7590 CARROLL ROAD, SAN DIEGO, CA

PRE-PRESS MANAGER
DELUXE CHECK PRINTERS/COLWELL SYSTEMS, 201 KENYON ROAD, CHAMPAIGN, IL
(Halm Jet Press Operator 1985 | Management Trainee 1986)



VOLUNTEER:

2011 - BLACK FAMILY UNITED - ADVISORY BOARD
Provide feedback/constructive criticism to this organization that builds strong family relationships

2011 - CITY OF LONG BEACH - 9TH DISTRICT CAPTAIN (McKINLEY NEIGHBORHOOD)
My goal is to resurrect regular neighborhood meetings in the McKinley area of North Long Beach.

2006 - FOOD FINDERS - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Food Finders, Incorporated is a multi-regional food bank whose mission is to be a resource link between donors, service agencies and people in need in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, as they strive to become more self-reliant citizens.

2006 - LONG BEACH DAY NURSERY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
The mission of the Long Beach Day Nursery is to provide quality early care and education for young children of working parents.

2002 - ROSETTANS ORGANIZATION - BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Non-profit Information Technology (IT) organization dedicated to closing the Digital Divide by providing IT access to disenfranchised communities and individuals.

2001 - 100 BLACK MEN/NEWS CORPORATION
Promising high school students, given part-time work assignments in companies through out New York City.

1999 - FOOD FROM THE 'HOOD
Help the program to develop an ad to give them visibility in our advertising products.
FOOD FROM THE 'HOOD is a program that helps inter-city kids raise money to finance their college education.

1998 - JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
In-class instructor MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL LONG BEACH, CA

1996 - BIG BROTHERS OF GREATER LOS ANGELES
Group and One on One Mentor

1988/1989 - JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
Business advisor to CHAMPAIGN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

1988 - DELUXE/COLWELL SYSTEMS
Served on committee that approved non-profit organizations to receive corporate contributions.

1980 - URBAN LEAGUE CHAMPAIGN, IL
WHITNEY M. YOUNG, JR. AWARD



OTHER AWARENESS PROJECT - PERSPECTIVE

I would like to thank everyone for choosing to read the background information concerning how I created the **Other Awareness Project**.

More involved than just your personal association with whatever arbitrary and undefined "racial" name you call yourself, the **Other Awareness Project** looks at the continued value of using any of these names as valid descriptors of people, based on **CURRENT** information. The whole project is based on **self-identification** going forward, not on the things that anyone did wrong in the past. Besides, everyone's job can't be to continue telling the "**White**" man how wrong he was into perpetuity.

In my opinion, this project is a comedy that draws great inspiration from many seemingly unconnected people such as: **Simon Rodia**, **Christo** and **Jeanne Claude**, **Kurt Cobain**, **El Malik Shabazz**, and my all-time single greatest performer **Mr. Howlin' Wolf**, to name just a few.

I'm trying to show that by answering a few questions, and looking at it from another angle, everyone's basis for answering a question like, "**What is your race or ethnicity?**" has already changed and continues to change, and it happened a long time **BEFORE** Barack Obama was elected **President** of the **United States**. It is an outdated question based on outdated concepts, ideas that have been proven false and inaccurate by people much smarter than I am. Much of our **current society** is still based on these outdated and false concepts. **In short, we have kept the names that were created when people, not god, created the concept of "races" approximately 600 years ago.** Yet, many reputable and unaffiliated organizations have dismissed all the "science" used to support the idea that there are different races of people. Supposedly, this is the information age; this new information is available to everyone with Internet access and a computer. "**When do the rational, thinking, solutions oriented people replace the agenda driven people, in leading the conversation on the topics of "racism", and what are the next steps for all of us?**"

Most of the people who visit my site are very accomplished. They have responsible jobs, are active in their community, are interested in solving problems, and more importantly, willing to do more than just talk about it! Most of the people are within 15 years, plus or minus, my age range. The Other Awareness Project was completely designed, and created by me for you! That is because I think we are the generation(s) that have the best combination of actual experience and resources to end the discussion concerning the so-called perpetual puzzle that is "racism". We are better equipped to separate the current "factual information" from the old "factual information" that continues to be broadcast concerning "racism". If you have spent anytime watching children play, you already know kids don't have a "racial" problem. It is not a kid's problem to solve! I also don't think the solution to "racism" is incremental and should take another 500 years to solve.

I guess the next important question this project asks is; "Faced with new information, do you even have the ability to change?" The **Other Awareness Project is not an argument**. I have been working through various forms of the project since 2003 and have yet to get into one argument. My goal isn't to argue with anyone or even tell them what their mistakes are, or where they are wrong. I respect everyone's intelligence. I'm asking people to find out for them selves what the new information is. When you say something like, "There are 3 dominant divisions of man: Negroid, Mongoloid, and Caucasoid." My first question is, "When was the last time you heard anyone call someone a Mongoloid?" You might want to refresh your browser!

Sifting through the scientific information is an important aspect to the project. Another component of the questions and subsequent discussions is to look at what has actually happened in your life. The point of the project is to let people know that the people and organizations who ask for your "racial" and "ethnic" information are asking you to define yourself, not what other people think you are. This whole process can't go on if you don't participate in it. They ask you your racial information, but they don't ask you to show your work. "How do you still arrive at the conclusion that you are "White", or "Black", or "Hispanic", or anything else arbitrary and undefined based on current information?" Yes, I know people used to identify themselves as whatever by a multitude of old methods, but what does that have to do with you today? "Faced with new information, do you have the ability to change?" If you don't, then no amount of eloquence of speech on my part will make you do anything.

The “beauty” of this whole project is that it is very easy, if you want it to be. It’s more about what you have to stop doing, rather than what you have to do. You really don’t have to protest or join anything. Sure it helps to buy the DVD’s and other stuff, but it isn’t required.

Before I start presenting the questions in my project, I would like to talk a little bit concerning everyone’s desire to make me “more fully aware”, or give me “more food for thought”. I listen because just maybe there is something I don’t know about being “Black”. However, I think I have a good handle on where I “come from.”

Background:

I have been a **Pre-Press Manager** for **Deluxe Check Corporation**, a **Marketing Operations Manager** for **ING Advisors**; my last corporate position was **Director of Operations** for **News America Marketing**. I have many years of experience volunteering in my community with such organizations as: **Food Finders** (Long Beach, CA); **Long Beach Day Nursery** (Long Beach, CA); **Junior Achievement** (Long Beach, CA & Champaign, IL); **Big Brother Mentor** (Long Beach, CA & Tarrytown, NY); **Food From The Hood** (Los Angeles, CA); **YMCA** (San Diego, CA) and a whole bunch more.

The very reason I make time today to volunteer on charity boards and help chaperone my daughter’s first grade class, is because **I COMPLETELY** know where I came from. Both of my parents were born and raised in rural Mississippi. At the time they left, neither one had a high school education. I think my mom completed the eighth grade. **(She did get a GED many years later)** My Dad might have completed the sixth grade. My mother used to tell us stories how they had to catch black birds for dinner.

Here are a few unedited excerpts from my uncle, who was born in **1936**, concerning the conditions they grew up in rural Mississippi. **(In 1959, he became the 135lb Golden Gloves champion)** (<http://www.goldengloves.com/history>)

“I am a part of a wonderful and interesting family legacy. My ancestors were from diverse cultural backgrounds: Native American, Anglo-Saxon, and African. Legal or not, accepted or not, love found a way, and racial mixing occurred frequently in the South, and my family was no exception. According to my parents, my grandmother Sue was of British and Cherokee descent. Her husband, Isaac the second, was the son of Isaac the first. Professedly, Isaac the first was a Cherokee Indian, probably a member of the Eastern band of the Cherokee.” Freddie Davis

“My father, mother, and older siblings worked on a cotton plantation owned by a Caucasian man named **Kegger**. Clearly, child-labor laws had no impact on our employer for my older siblings all worked in the cotton fields. While living in **Shaw**, at the age of four to five years, **I recall my older brothers and sisters working in the fields, chopping and picking cotton in the 1940s**. Only my younger sister, Elizabeth, and I did not work in the fields. We were considered too small for this type of work; both of us were less than five years old. Our family worked hard to earn a living and to survive. There were times when mother would take us to the fields with her. I remember playing in the fields until we were happily tired and falling to sleep. Once we were asleep, mother would lay us on her sack and pull us while she continued to work. The truth is, back then, Elizabeth and I thought life was beautiful. We were the two youngest children and as a result close. There were others with less than us, so we counted ourselves fortunate for what we had.” Freddie Davis

Discussions with my former brother-in-law reveal that my ex-wife’s side of the family can trace lineages other than African, from both parents. **My ex-father-in-law can go back to an Irishman named John Mullen Sr., born in Armaugh, Ireland around 1802.** (This is an even more interesting story because the son, John Mullen, Jr., who had children by a slave, actually deeded property to his children by the slave. I have personally been out to the tobacco farms where the Mullen’s farmed, before the government paid them to stop growing tobacco. Man, I sound like I’m 200 years old!)

I was born in **Champaign, IL**. My mother was 15 when she had the first of her 8 children, **25 when she had me**. I am number 4. We lived in various public housing units on the **North End** of Champaign, the “Black” part of town. It is completely correct to say that without public aid, Big Brother

volunteers, teachers and coaches, most of them “White”, and I could still be pressing license plates somewhere. Angry kid, yes I was!

Before the fourth grade, we moved without the three older kids to **Rantoul, IL**, a small town, with an Air Force base. The three reasons we moved were: 1) Rantoul was cheaper. 2) I was getting in fights all the time in Champaign. 3) I got this ridiculously high IQ score on a test at Colonel Wolfe, a school on the campus of the University of Illinois.

I didn’t attend church growing up; I was raised in the **Nation of Islam**. It’s always funny to me when people selectively quote the teachings from the **Nation of Islam** back to me. My brother and I used to sell **Muhammad Speaks** (now called the Final Call), bean pies, etc. on the streets of Champaign. We used to drill in the Mosque on Fourth Street for hours in preparation for an eventual battle with the “**White**” man. We would fast for **Ramadan**, go to Chicago for **Savior’s Day** in February, and not get presents on Christmas!

When I met my biological father, around nine or ten, I thought he was simply the “coolest” guy on the planet! Everything “bad” my mother was trying to keep us away from in **Champaign**, drugs, gambling, shootings, prostitution, my father was in charge of in **Champaign**! He always carried a gun and had a pocket full of money! When he was around us kids would fight to see who would roll joints for him!

Moreover, at the same time, I remember growing up with kids named **Fernandez, Padilla, Iacono, Knowles, Fentem, Lipscomb, Gatewood, and Williams**. Played basketball with kids named **Washington, Sprague, Malik, Kopmann, Cheek, Taylor, Bagaasen**. Ran track with kids named **Cooper, Bentz, Mace, and Siniscalchi**. My first significant girl friend wasn’t “**Black**.” I can remember all my teachers and coaches: **Mr. Robert Peete, Mrs. June Quint, Mrs. Barbara Causland, Mr. Roger Hollister, Mr. Dave Brooks, Mr. Hal Summers, Mrs. Peggy Usher, Mr. Roger Quinlan, Mr. Bill Anderson**. I listen to **Country** music because of working at **Roessler Construction Company** in the summers. Nevertheless, most of all, I remember everyone as just people I knew growing up in **Rantoul**. Seeing people for more than their skin color has already happened for me, as I think it has for most people. In my opinion, It’s not our fault that mass media, marketing, entertainment, and government are lagging behind the rest of us.

In **2002**, my daughter was born at the **Northern Westchester Regional Hospital** in **Mount Kisco, NY**. I was a **Director of Operations** for **News America Marketing**, living in a **5,000+ Sq. foot** home in **Westchester County, NY**; a house that I designed and built. **Westchester** is the **second wealthiest county** in New York. Manhattan is first. **Bill & Hillary Clinton** lived a few miles away in Chappaqua, **Martha Stewart** in Bedford. Living on the moon, is the only place that could have been any farther from the circumstances that I grew up in as a kid.

My neighbors worked hard to get the homes they had, everyone was concerned about quality education for their children and safe streets. A good portion of my neighbors weren’t “**White**.” Many came here from another country precisely to become non-hyphenated **Americans**. Over the years, I have been fortunate to receive invitations to all types of events from people who consider me a friend. I have celebrated **St. Patrick’s Day** in **Chicago** and **New York City**, cookouts in **South Central LA**, a quinceanera in **Whittier, CA**; **Cambodian New Year Festivals** in **Long Beach, CA**, etc. I have met people who completely shatter the stereotype of their supposed “**race**.” I personally know: “**White**” people who have received degrees in **Spanish** from a college in **St Petersburg, Russia**; “**Black**” people who speak **Japanese** and live in **Japan**; “**Asian**” people who didn’t graduate at the top of their class; “**Hispanic**” folks who are concerned about what happens to **America**, etc. This project is about them.

I resigned the marketing position so I could move back to **Long Beach, CA** and do two things: Take care of what could be my only daughter, while we both were young, and complete this project. The reason I volunteer is simple. I know how much my life continues to be positively affected because of people taking the time to do the same for me, when I needed it the most.

With the **Other Awareness Project**, I’m not looking for people to fight with concerning old “**facts**” and outdated “**information**.” I’m looking for people to compare **current information** and **current experiences**, and then see what else we have to talk about. I personally don’t care what other

people keep doing **“wrong.”** When I talk to my daughter, I want to emphasize the right things to do! This whole project is for solutions oriented people who not only have the capacity for change, they have the ability to change. The only reason this project works, is because I don't think they are that hard to find.

The Project:

Volume One of the film portion of the **Other Awareness Project** is modeled after an afternoon of golf, or a pick up basketball game. When I play golf, it's usually as a single, meaning I don't have a regular group of people that I play with. I go to the course, sign my name and wait to be matched with whomever else has time to play that day. Same thing with basketball, because my schedule is very erratic, I don't have a regular group of people to play with. When I want to play I go to the nearest court and shout, **“I got next!”** Either I get picked for the next game, or I get to choose the people who are going to play with me. In either case, no one ever asks for my “racial” makeup **BEFORE** we start playing. (If I miss several shots in a row someone will certainly look at me strangely and ask; **“Where are you from?”**) Over the year's I have been involved in many very interesting, completely random conversations with people I never met before, from this country and abroad. I have talked to complete strangers about jobs, family, “race”, sex, taxes, everything!

Volume One of the **Other Awareness Project** is a series of random conversations. I know it is hard to recognize because people don't really have conversations on television anymore. If you know anything about TV production, everything is scripted and so heavily edited that it has become mostly a contest to see who can squeeze in as many **“talking points”** in the least amount of time as possible. As **Americans**, we get the majority of our **“information”** from sound bites, tag lines, and colorful pastel graphics. Because I know how valuable TV time is and the amount of effort put into a national media campaign, **I don't believe in “wardrobe malfunctions.”**

I know the filming isn't exactly perfect, but I think it is important to note that there **wasn't** a crew of technicians during the tapings. In every interview, with the exception of the first two, **it's me and the person(s) being interviewed, that's it! I operated all the cameras, I edited all the footage, and I took out the trash!** 15 hours of interviews, times three cameras, times six cities, hopefully you can get a sense of the scope and logistics of the film portion of the project.

Another note concerning editing, I know some of the clips can seem **“long.”** That's because I am trying to keep the feel of the conversation, without cutting it up to look like we were saying things we weren't. **We didn't have any pre-production meetings; we met each other on camera!** I gave everyone an **unedited DVD** of our discussion. These aren't selected interviews of some of the people I interviewed on camera for the project. **These are the first 15 who responded to my invitation on Craigslist.org.** I probably shot too many people, but I attempted to get every answer in the final version. I really appreciated everyone for making the time to be involved in this project! I think we had fun during the tapings. Here is a comment from one of the interviewees **AFTER** seeing early versions of all the pieces put together:

“Michael is the rarest of men. He has a strong social agenda, but he comes across wise, warm and funny – not as a zealot. He excels at putting people at ease and getting them to talk”.

Numerous sources were used in researching the answers to the informational questions in this project. For reasons of efficiency and to help everyone stay focused on the topic, all the answers can be found on the wikipedia.org website. I also chose Wikipedia because it is the fastest way to post your own information if you feel the answer given is incorrect.

One last note: This project became a film project because I noticed that when I would talk with people who called themselves **“White”** they would say, “I understand what you are saying, but what do **“Black”** people think about what you are saying?” I would talk with people who called themselves **“Black”** and they would say, “I completely understand what you are saying, but you will never get **“White”** people to go for something like that. I thought, “Really?” **“Let's give it a shot!”**

CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRY

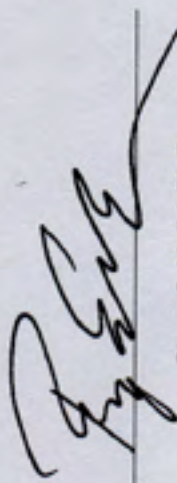
Trace Genetics certifies that

Michael J. Brown

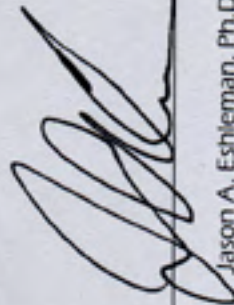
Belongs to

Y-Chromosome Haplogroup R1 predominantly found in

Eurasia



Ripam S. Malhi, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist



Jason A. Eshleman, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

trace  **genetics.**

Analysis performed
January 2006

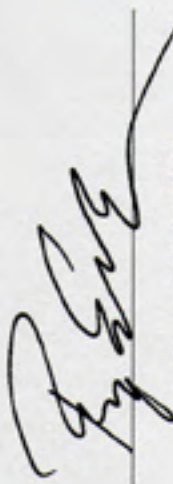
CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRY

Trace Genetics certifies that

Michael J. Brown

Belongs to mitochondrial Haplogroup L1b and is similar to sequences reported in

West & Central Africa


Ripin S. Malhi, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

trace

genetics™


Jason A. Eshleman, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist

Analysis performed
January 2006



ANCESTRYBYDNA™

CERTIFICATE OF ANCESTRY

This certifies that:

Michael J. Brown

has been tested by DNAPrint Genomics for the genetic ancestry
of the individual on this date:

January 31, 2006

ESTIMATE	ANCESTRY
89%	Sub-Saharan African
11%	European
0%	East Asian
0%	Native American



Issued by: DNAPrint Genomics Genealogy, 900 Coconut Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34236

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THE RACE MYTH

**Why We Pretend
Race Exists in
America**

Joseph L. Graves, Jr.

To: Michael James Brown
Keep up the great work!
Sincerely,
Dr. Joseph L. Graves, Jr.
10/13/07



A PLUME BOOK

Partial Bibliography:

GRAVES, Joseph L., Jr. **The Race Myth: why we pretend race exists in America**. Penguin, Plume. 286p. Notes, index, c2004. 0-452-28658-1.

Muhammad, Elijah. **Message to The Black Man**. Secretarius Mempis Publications 355p. c2006 1884855148

PRICE, Fredrick K.C. **Race, Religion & Racism**, Volume 1: a bold encounter with division in the church. Dr. Frederick K. C. Price Ministries. 261p. c1999 1883798361

PRICE, Fredrick K.C. **Race, Religion & Racism**, Volume 2: perverting the gospel to subjugate a people. Dr. Frederick K. C. Price Ministries. c2003 1883798485

PRICE, Fredrick K.C. **Race, Religion & Racism**, Volume 3: jesus, christianity & islam. Faith One Publishing. 382p. c2002 1883798531

PBS. **"RACE-The Power of an Illusion."** [Online] Available
http://www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm, c2003.

Osterholm, Tim. **"THE TABLE OF NATIONS."** [Online] Available
<http://www.soundchristian.com/man>, Updated April, 2009.

I took the time to review your website and watch your videos. I must say, you have offered a unique niché when it comes to the issue of race. I like what you are doing and I pray you will be able to help those you touch begin to understand what our culture has done to vilify each other based on skin color alone. We need other awareness. I trust my Table of Nations website will help some understand this as well. Let's keep people looking from the inside out, not from the outside in.

Blessings,
Tim Osterholm
<http://www.soundchristian.com/man>

Racial Categories

The information requested below is collected solely to comply and monitor compliance with **Executive Order 11246**, as amended, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Vietnam Era Veteran's Readjustment Act of 1974, as amended (38 U.S.C. 4212) and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and their implementing regulations.

SUBMISSION OF THIS INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION.

ETHNICITY

Hispanic: A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. No need to select any other race if this selection is made.

RACE

Check one:

Two or More Races (Not Hispanic or Latino): All persons who identify with more than one of the five races below. No need to select any other race if this selection is made.

Asian (Not Hispanic or Latino): A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian Subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

American Indian or Alaska Native (Not Hispanic or Latino): A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Black (Not Hispanic or Latino): Persons having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (Not Hispanic or Latino): A person having origins in any of the peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White (Not Hispanic or Latino): A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Do Not Write Below This Line. For Office Use Only.

Volunteered Not volunteered

If not volunteered: Date: Initials:

Upon completion, this document is to be detached by hiring personnel and kept in a separate confidential file.

The

Michael James Brown

Show

How Black is Black?

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1306

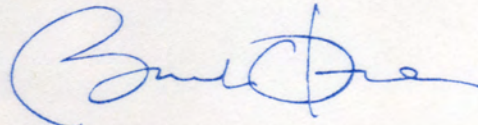
May 9, 2006

Mr. Michael James Brown
Other Awareness Project
P.O. Box 18318
Long Beach, California 90807-8318

Dear Michael:

Thank you for the T-shirt. It is terrific that you are working on a comedy/entertainment project that celebrates the diversity of our nation. I wish you much success with this project and all future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Zanesville Campus

1425 Newark Road
Zanesville OH 43701

October 2009

T: 740.453.0762
F: 740.453.6161

Dear Michael James Brown,

Thank you for your proposal to the American Studies Panels.

I'm pleased to accept your paper, "Other Awareness Project," for the 31st Annual Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Associations meeting. (If needed, I can provide you with a hard copy of this letter in lieu of the electronic format).

To appear on the conference program, you will need to register and pay fees to the SW/TX PCA/ACA by December 31, 2009, via instructions posted on our website: www.swtxpca.org.

Use the site as well to link to hotel and air reservations. Please book your room as soon as possible as space at the conference hotel is limited:

31st Annual Meeting of the Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Associations
February 14-17, 2007

Hyatt Regency Albuquerque

330 Tijeras

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Phone: 1.505.842.1234

Fax: 1.505.766.6710

There will be no placement of TVs or old-style overhead projectors in the presenter rooms. If you need this equipment, you must contract separately and pay equipment charges (SW/TX will not assume any liability for equipment outside our stated contract) with the Hyatt's AV Company, Presentation Services.

Also, as a graduate student, you are eligible to apply for several awards, which you will find here: <http://www.swtxpca.org/documents/48.html>. Please let me know if I can help you in this regard.

Otherwise, as more information becomes available, particularly in terms of your presentation's scheduling, I will let you know. I look forward to seeing you at the American Studies Panels.

Sincerely,

Lisa Stein

American Studies Chair

<http://www.swtxpca.org>



Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

November 20, 2007

Mr. Michael James Brown
P.O. Box 18318
Long Beach, CA 90807-8318

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of October 3, 2007 informing me about your current project. I sincerely appreciate your taking the time to write. Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

Clarence Thomas

LAZARD

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

LAZARD FRÈRES & CO. LLC
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10020
PHONE 212-632-6190
FAX 212-332-1640
vernon.jordan@lazard.com
www.lazard.com

August 8, 2006

Michael James Brown
PO Box 18318
Long Beach, CA 90807-8318

Dear Michael:

Thank you for the tee shirt and the information on your latest project. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to me.

I send my best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,



Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.

BILL COSBY

Mr. Michael J. Brown
P.O. Box 18318
Long Beach, CA 90807

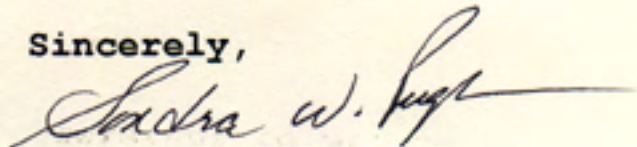
Dear Mr. Brown:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of
March 8th to Mr. Cosby.

Mr. Cosby thanks you for sharing information about
your project and for the cap you sent along with
your letter.

Best wishes for success in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



Sondra W. Pugh
Assistant to Mr. Cosby

PAUL V. CARLUCCI
Publisher

February 27, 2006

Mr. Michael James Brown
OTHER

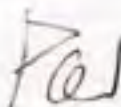
P.O. Box 18318
Long Beach, CA 90807

Dear Michael:

It was an absolutely pleasure to hear from you. Certainly I remember you very well and am pleased hearing of your success. I haven't been in the Long Beach areas in years, but certainly call us when you're heading east.

I am proud of you!

Warmest regards,



PVC:iof



Councilmember
TONIA
REYES URANGA
Seventh District

June 29, 2006

Michael James Brown
P.O. Box 18318
Long Beach, CA 90807-8318

Dear Mr. Brown:

Welcome back to our great City! I am glad that you have chosen to come back and do business here.

I would like to thank you for the t-shirt and scratch off. Although I did not win, it was a nice gesture and would have been nice to help further reduce our budget deficit. I appreciate your involvement with our community and wish you much success with your new comedy/activism project.

It sounds like you are doing wonderful things in the community and I am happy that you have chosen Long Beach to share your talents with. If you ever have any questions or concerns for my office please feel free to me at 562.570.6139.

Kindest Regards,

Tonia Reyes Uranga
Councilmember, 7th District

CITY OF
**LONG
BEACH**



a DNAPrint™ Genomics Inc. company

Trace Genetics, Inc.
4655 Meade St., Suite 300
Richmond, California 94804
toll free ph 866.731.2312
tracegenetics.com

March 27, 2007

Dear Michael Brown,

Everyone at Trace Genetics wanted would like to thank you for recommending our services to the public. Thank you for sharing your website with us and we wish you the best in all your endeavors. I am enclosing a small gift to you from us. Keep making people laugh!

Best Regards,
Gabrielle Kojder

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gabrielle Kojder".

I went on your website, and enjoyed what you had written. You have what seems to be a unique and very correct perspective on races. I can't wait to see and hear you in person, so please, when you are back in Long Beach, let us know where we can see you. Good luck with your shows in Washington and Iowa.

Linda Bauer
Community Relations Representative
Stakeholder Relations
SES Terminal LLC
Long Beach, CA 90802

I must tell you that I just got done with 30 minutes of going through your website. I did not intend that, but it got me mesmerized. Wow!

Jon Gotz
Long Beach

Great stuff bro.....you're definitely on to something big!!!! It's time. Peace & Love,

Tony Silva
Charlotte, NC

I LOVE what your website was about! What's even worse than having to constantly identify people as 'something' is when they don't even offer that "other" box! Both of my children are biracial, and I have very recently had a discussion with my 10 year old about how others will expect for him to choose. I intend to read thru your site with him. Last weekend I pay-per-viewed the movie 'Pride' (Terrance Howard) with my boys. My 10 year old is a thinker and VERY inquisitive, and asked several times why the other swim teams wouldn't compete against them simply because they were black...he didn't understand. We had a rather robust conversation about race, societal issues with race, the history of civil rights in this country and the issues we still have. I was proud of his thought process. I think reading your website will push him to think some more.

When I spoke of how strongly I feel about acceptance of people and my family being diverse...my children are biracial, my cousin is gay, my uncle is Mexican, my brother-in-law is Nigerian, my cousins are biracial, my Grandmother full Hungarian. One thing I miss about not living in California anymore is the level of cultural diversity.

I applaud and support your efforts, and thank you so much for sharing it with me. I intend to share it with many of my friends!

If you are ever in the Portland area speaking or cracking jokes at the local comedy club, let me know...it would be great to meet you. I was intrigued by your profile, and even more so by the work you are doing!

Have a great night!

Chris
Tualatin, OR

Thanks for the info. so what does one say when referring to another human being of a different race, do I say African American? Because to me that gives the impression they aren't really American...as a caucasian "white" woman, I myself have never been a racist of anything, to me "love has no color", I believe we are all African.

You are right in the description of people in regard to their race, as a white woman I don't want to offend, I guess I want to be "politically correct" as when I become friends with some one or a potential partner or anyone to be exact, I don't see color. I'm the type of person who tries or wants everyone to be comfortable, sometimes even at my expense. That's a conversation for another time, smile.

Ally
Grand Rapids, MI

Michael,

WOW!! What you are doing is so up my alley. In 1994 the Department of Defense called and asked me to be an Army EO Advisor. I had no clue, so they told me a little about the job. I thought okay, I like everyone:-) Went to a great school for 16 weeks and learned more about myself than I ever wanted to know. But it is all good. I stayed in the position for 12 years, always looking for the "key" to end racism/sexism - never did find it.

I understand why the "what are you" question is asked in specific situations, but have never understood how come black and white people are a color and everyone else is an ethnicity?!? Go figure. I love your concept. I often mark other and have been told it is a cop out - a denial of self - am I ashamed of my race... I am sure you have heard all of that too. Anyhow, I would love to help with your project, and learn more about your thoughts.

Carrie
Ontario, CA

It's quite impressive and very important stuff. What a brilliant idea! I wish I had thought of it myself. You're obviously a unique and very talented individual.

Deb
Brooklyn, NY

I visited your website and I am even more intrigued...what got you on this kick? You are so passionate about this topic and rightfully so. Boise is pretty different from where I grew up, but probably similar to your midwestern roots. I am originally from the Norfolk, Virginia area and got my bachelors from Norfolk State. I grew up in the black church, lived in an all black suburb, and went to an HBCU. However, I, like you, was accused of talking "white" because I had a vocabulary and was not afraid to use it! LOL! I branched out, so to speak, when I came to Idaho to work at a nuclear laboratory and have lived here for 8 years now. I think it takes a special personality to handle being the only person of color in a room all the time and the attention that garners when you least expect it. Boise isn't too bad, but Idaho Falls (rural, Mormon, very monochromatic) was much worst.

Rachel
Boise, ID

I am mixed with three different races. I am african american, fillipino, and french. That basically explains why I have "other".

?

Marysville, WA

If you are interested in your genetic route, you should check out National Geographic's website and click on "The Journey of men". They did in cooperation with Stanford university an extensive study. A hispanic friend of mine did send his DNA in and they traced his ancestors and the exact geographical route they took, 30000 years back! Interestingly we all stem originally from one and the same African tribe. Genetic mutation lets us look all different now.... (Jealously I have to mention that you were lucky to retain your beautiful skin color, while I have to get a tan now to look good. That little y-chromosome!) :)

?

Carlsbad, CA

I really admire the work you are doing. I think your concept is great and can't wait to see more of it! Keep on trucking.

Lorie

Carson, CA

We will have to talk. I sure I could add a few stories and laughs to "other" since my kids are bi-racial and I am viewed as being "lilly white" and yes my ex is dark black....yes my kids are from the same....dad..... (and I came from a rural farm town in the middle of nowhere MN - 3.5 hours from Minneapolis). And being in HR....well....

Brenda

Shawnee Mission, KS

I checked out your site, it is very cool. I wish you lots of good luck with this idea. It appears to be a neat way for people to connect with each other.

David

Los Angeles, CA

checked out your site. WOW! I knew you were evolved, but didn't know just how much. I try to live my life according to that same philosophy. I'm proud to be an Other! Please keep me posted as to where you will be performing. We have to chat more about it Thanks for sharing "you" with me! I'm honored.

Carla

LA, CA

Had a chance to check out your website. The issues you are tackling through your comedy are very provocative. Congrats on all the success you're having.

Kai

LA, CA

I am looking forward to the opening of "Other" and hope that you will inform me of its schedule. While I yearn for the arts to become Long Beach's cultural anchor, the thought of coupling it with the treatment of race and racism appeals greatly to my deeper senses. Thank you for informing me of your project. I can't wait.

Warmly,

suja

THE ENTIRE WEB SITE IS GREAT. I REALLY ENJOY SUCH A CLEAN POSITIVE MESSAGE & VIBE YOU GIVE. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. MAY GOD BLESS YOU

**DJ B.K.A. SOULSNATCHER-
COMPTON,CA**

I am very excited that you are coming into town so please do keep my email and let me know when you are coming, I told my cousins about your web site and they thought that what you are doing is very cool, most of my cousins have had to put up with some very retarded comments about our ethnicity too.

**Gina
Fullerton, CA**

You are my brother, from another mother! Michael, I applaud you! Great site, I can't wait to see your show in the Los Angeles area. Having lunch with you and learning about "other" was so refreshing. I can now inform my kids not only are they "other", so am I. I will tell others of your site. Best of luck!

**Suzanne
LA,CA**

You are tackling one of the if not the most emotionally charged subjects in American society: "Race", which as you rightly point out is a purely social construct w/no basis in biology...One a tangent: recently on TCM they've aired a segment w/ celebs like B. Cosby and others pointing out Hollywood's guilt in putting on instances of "White" performers doing comedy in Black Face; ie, minstrelse. I think Hollywood gets off the hook here, or at least most of it as they come along at the very tail end of a very long and strange tradition. The perplexing fact is that for a period of 80 years (!) from about 1830 to 1910, minstrelse was the most popular form of entertainment in America...Now what does that tell you?

**Rick
Long Beach**

really enjoyed the site, since I am no longer prohibited by the work email. I love the idea of other. I actually just checked African-American or Black (non-hispanic) because that's what you are told to do. I oftentimes felt that it was wrong or not completely right and that OTHER explains it better since we are a combination of different races even though they are not visibly apparent. I know from now on I will check OTHER. Can't wait to see your show. I know what you mean about being the blackest and the whitest. Keep up the awesome work!

**Khalilah
San Antonio, TX**

Thank you for such a positive and thoughtful site especially the "perspective" page. Really made me sit back and think. I'm definitely an "other" from now on. Good luck and best wishes.

Beth J. Long Beach, CA

I truly enjoyed our conversation at the Carlsbad Village Comedy Theater. I am in harmony with your concept and enjoy your web site. You are embracing a terrific subject and seem to be "right on the money" in how to promote it. Please, bring it to Canada, and Edmonton, specifically. You will receive a warm and enthusiastic reception. God bless you in all your endeavors.

Anne I. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Love the premise, and your thoughts on "prejudice." I'll watch for you here in the area - I truly want to see "Other. "You are "spot on."

William G. Carlsbad, CA

One of the areas I specialize in is multiculturalism and diversity issues and the systemic marginalization and oppression of various groups, so this is right up my alley!

Heather C. Long Beach, CA

Just filled out my U.S. Census. Checked "other" for our new Kenyan, Irish, Italian, French baby Sophie!

Kerry F. Laguna Niguel, CA

I must say that I am looking forward to the upcoming weeks in which the site will be updated. What I liked most is the music and the diversity that is displayed...AWESOME JOB!!

Lisa P. Sacramento, CA

Your site is fabulous! I think it is an awesome topic and I am really excited you are basing your show around it!

Michelle G, MDR, CA

Great website! We love the concept and look forward to see how it develops.

Guerin B. Long Beach, CA

When I came to the USA it used to annoy the heck out of me all these constant questions about race. I am now a US Citizen, but went through the whole USA immigration process. During that process they ask about your race. There were numerous categories including African-American (how could anyone be one if they weren't already a citizen!), among the other categories of note are Native American, White - European, White - Hispanic. As my family is "racially diverse" (their term!) I choose Black - Other. later in the process they decided that I did not have blond hair and blue eyes (which I've had since birth), but brown hair and gray eyes (a "white" immigration officer decided this with confirmation from a "black" immigration officer!). All very stupid this race categorization none of which is supported biologically or genetically.

Alisdair B. New York, NY

You are one righteous multicultural brother. your website is CHOICE, and you are one "hep-cat".

Dominique Valley Glen, CA

I am Danish American (first generation American) and I have more often than not checked the OTHER box. I didn't even really know what caucasian was. :)

Anne R. San Diego, CA

Your website is so unique, it is refreshing. It is a pleasure to have met such a caring and giving person as yourself. You will go far in this life Michael James Brown.

Chad M. Minden, LA

I saw you in Carlsbad last night and thought you were great! i was interested in what you had to say. I think we ARE related and maybe I AM black! I was poor, on food stamps, have many relatives in jail and my grandma had that crisco can on the stove too! From now on, it's "Other" for me!

Lisa C. San Diego, CA

Amen!

Damara B. Oceanside, CA

I hope we are related!

Jeff S. Leola, PA

I get asked all the time "what are you?" or "what are you mixed with?" Often times before they even ask "what is your name?" It drives me crazy, why does it even matter. Very cool site...I can't wait to see your show.

Tora B. Newport Beach, CA

we really appreciate what you're doing and support you all the way. good luck.

Jade, Long Beach, CA

Once again Michael you open my mind to radical new ideas that are fundamentally simple! Your Web Site is awesome....keep spreading the word.

Dawn N. RPV, CA

Interesting concept. Something I can relate to being half black, and half Korean. I never really knew what to check off so I always put other.

Amy E. Long Beach, CA

Your new site works against normal "American" conventions - happy to see someone making a statement about what should be an everyday topic in America: categories and breaking down stereotypes!

Chris P. Mission Viejo, CA

What a great site. Its really positive a quite funny. You really get it! I can tell by the site that you are naturally funny and surrounded with nice people. I also love the antics of Howlin' Wolf. Of all the blues giants, I think the Wolf had the wildest sense of humor, vocal style and stage presence. He was a phenomenon.

Billy W. San Diego, CA

I've always bristled at the thought of people seeing me as white. I'm Jewish by descent, and always imagined myself somewhat ethnically semetic, even though my mother's parents are from Russia and Romania. This idea was further confused when, a few years ago, my father told me that my great grandmother was a pure-blooded native American, (or actually First People, since she's from Canada). At the end of the day, there is no other choice. Without a doubt, I'm an "Other!" PS: Thanks for the Pearl/Fats tune. I miss that guy!

Sanders W. Long Beach,CA

I viewed your video. Very interesting... I have long believed that we should do away with racial distinctions. Mine is the belief that there is one race, the human race. We were having a dumb meeting at school last week about "tolerating others' differences." I thought the whole concept was repulsive since tolerance implies that the one showing it is in some way superior, and the tolerated person, inferior.... How about just loving people for the beauty in each one...Yours is a noble effort, and I wish you every success!

San Diego, CA

Thanks for sending the invite to your group for your movie. I am so excited for you. I am really interested in the subject matter, and I think my husband would be as well. My husband is an aspiring film maker. He wrote/produced/directed an independant feature a few years ago and did a few other small things, but he is still working on the big break. He did the film festival circuit as well.

More than his experience in the entertainment industry, we both would enjoy your movie as it echoes a lot of discussion we have in our house. While being the first person in my blood family to be born in the US, my identity was always a bit off as I was raised in a really diverse area, and I had been sent to Mormon church along with my step-dad's family and had to learn Spanish at school. My husband's grandfather on his father's side is a son of a slave (also from Illinois). His other grandfather was a Holocaust survivor. One of his grandmothers was also a daughter of the revolution. My husband, Eli, has also been greatly influenced by his father who is in public policy and focuses on race, and he has avoided filling out the race box his entire life. While his father is a bit more conservative than me, I do appreciate his view that we should all be judged as an individual and upon our character rather than the color of our skin.

Anyway, my husband and I laugh because our son, Jack, will be unable to fill in any box on a form to define his race. There is nothing that reflects his Mexican, Black, Jewish, French, American heritage. We have plans to marry him off to an Asian just so our grandkids can be even more mixed.

Please do send me information on the film festival. We would love to support and also enjoy your work.

Stephanie, LA CA

What can I say, "Other Awareness Project" is refreshing, on target and one to pass on to others. Thanks, Michael.

Jama, Houston, TX

Mike, the project is awesome ! Wake em up bro..... it is a new day in USA and world . We need to break, no shatter, no KICK DOWN the old ways of thinking. Your use of comedy to discuss the subject and the documentary will shake the dust off of the robot mental state of mind that most people operate in and they dont even realize it. You point out... Read More the obvious, allow them to laugh about it and more importantly examine what they otherwise would be to embarrassed to admit or hadn't even thought about. Getting people to start defining themselves instead of fitting into a box someone else wants to put them in is critical. This small examination in self profiling will be the catalyst for breaking the other stereotypes and other definitions whose time here in the USA and globally are over. This includes other countries who use race and class like South Africa and India with the Caste system, who use those definitions to divide their own citizens into little ethnic and class camps.

Anthony, Silicon Valley, CA

Hi Michael, Congratulations on the running success of your 'Other' project... Many thanks for the updates! Just so you too are 'aware' that here in the UK, EVERY form I fill in that asks my ethnicity, does not actually have a place for ME.. as you so rightly point out, I AM an 'other', because nowhere on these forms does it ask if I am 'White ... Read More European', it just isn't there!, Even just 'European'?? I am one of the 'others' and until someone realises I am 'somebody', I will sadly always be an 'other'... Thanks you so much for my birthday greeting! Take care. Em.
Emanuela, UK



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

YOUR NAME HERE!!

Congratulations to the recipient above for completing the online component of the **Other Awareness Project** on this date _____. This intensive workshop is designed to help **everyone** understand, then **eliminate** their role in helping to continue the arbitrary and undefined language of racism. By completing this program, the recipient has taken the initiative to proudly let everyone know their belief that there is only one race, **human!** This recipient is ready to move forward with dialogue and actions that will help build better communities, a stronger nation, a better world. This recipient is **excused** from having to attend all future diversity programs, meetings, lectures, etcetera.



Michael James Brown

Michael James Brown
Writer/Producer
Other Awareness Project

Int. Cl.:

Prior U.S. Cls.:

Reg. No. 3,347,490

United States Patent and Trademark Office

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