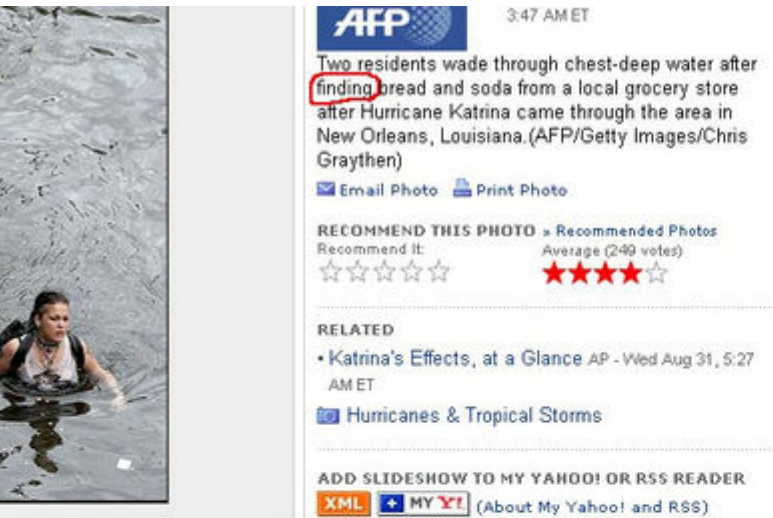


The Open Source Classism, Racism and Sexism Project: Hurricane Katrina, the Blogosphere and Corporate Media... "White People Find, Black People Loot"

This is Issue #1 [Second Edition with updates and Open Letter to Snopes] which is currently 20 pages (pages 1-19 are filled in. Page 20 should be filled in by the public in order to make a booklet with open source, community input.)



White people "find"

Black people "loot"

Issue #2, due out in December 2005, will have 32 pages. I would like to receive all comments on the articles in this edition, submissions and articles that you find that are interesting and related to classism, racism, and sexism as it directly or indirectly relates to Hurricane Katrina, The Blogosphere and Corporate Media. Please feel free to post such information anonymously at this discussion forum:

www.forums.dsame.com

Our Main Website is located here: www.opensource.dsame.com

In this first issue I included 19 pages, so that you can create your own page 20 (add your agreements, or disagreements with this publication, add a flyer for your activist project, your activist group, your distro etc.) and then publish this publication as a 20 page booklet on the front and back of 5 sheets of 11" x 17" (or 279 x 432 mm) paper. Thank you for your support!



A young man walks through chest deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans on Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005. Flood waters continue to rise in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina did extensive damage when it

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RECOMMEND THIS PHOTO Recommended Photos

Recommend It: ☆☆☆☆☆

Average (138 votes) ★★★★★



3:47 AM ET

Two residents wade through chest-deep water after finding bread and soda from a local grocery store after Hurricane Katrina came through the area in New Orleans, Louisiana. (AFP/Getty Images/Chris Graythen)

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Recommend It: ☆☆☆☆☆

Average (211 votes) ★★★★★

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Common Responses

Actual Common response:

“...that’s old news and “we” shouldn’t have to read it...”

You said "old"...

"Old" in terms of someone who lives on the net, and belongs to a social class that is privileged enough to have easy computer access?" "Old" in terms of someone who lives on the net, and belongs to a social class that is privileged enough to have their own home computer or easy access to a computer... every minute and finds that less than a month and half ago "old"?

Or "old" in terms of the disproportionately large number of minorities who only use the internet at the library and can only get to this blog community on a rare basis?

or "old" in terms of the large number of Hurricane Katrina victims who didn't have access to the internet until very recently (if they are at someone else's house now rather than the Government Internment camps)?

In addition, the "yahoo apology" was not old news, and that is what is most encouraging about this post, corporate media kowtowing to the blogosphere.

I have actually heard many people comment that this article and the entire issue, less than a month and a half ago, is old. And it seems to me to be a mark of how such classism is used to stop minorities, women, and people of financially disadvantaged social classes from pursuing and circulating issues that directly effect minorities, women, and people of financially disadvantaged social classes.

Rarely, if ever does a blog community state that “your news story must have occurred with the last 45 days, or the privileged people of this community will rally for it to be deleted and the moderator will listen.”

Yet, in terms of issue of race, class and sexism that is exactly what is happening more and more throughout the internet and in media in general.

[Please See **Privileged Troll** in Glossary for more information]

Actual Common response:

“I really don't believe that there is a racist agenda..”

The agenda of racism is well known to exist and increase in American Media.

See also this excellent article published by Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR):

"Racism, in fact, may be gaining a firmer foothold in American media institutions as its promoters adopt more stealthy and sophisticated ways of presenting it."

Found here: <http://lists.riseup.net/www/arc/abwwrpeace/2005-06/msg00003.html>

and here: <http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=2487>

Actual Common response:

"Please don't make this another black vs. white criticism..." "...it's quoting an editorial written 100 years ago...." "...The media has changed since then."

First of all, thanks for your comments. This is not a "black vs. white" criticism (using the word vs. for versus makes it sound extremely adversarial). This is a detailed criticism regarding racial issues in hopes that people of all races may learn and move on. Below is a link to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream Speech (in six different languages). I recommend that you read it and try to imagine what that speech would have been like if it had not specifically mentioned detailed racial issues of Black and White people before you ask anyone else not to mention racial issues. <http://www.lfhniivaaaa.info/awbcdream.html>

The below website also has a link titled "Full MP3 audio and text of speech" located at the bottom under "external links" so that you can hear that speech and try to imagine if Dr. King had not detailed Black and White people in that speech. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_Have_A_Dream

Second of all, it might be better if you would read the entire article written by F.A.I.R. before making a statement (about the article having quotes from 100 years ago) like that or at least skim through the dates. I would like to recommend that you read the entire article and not just the first two or three sentences.

Here are a few excerpts... just to set the record straight for other people reading this.

Excerpt from the article: *"Racism, in fact, may be gaining a firmer foothold in American media institutions as its promoters adopt more stealthy and sophisticated ways of presenting it."*

"American Conservative was co-founded by Pat Buchanan, Peter "Taki" Theodoracopulos and Scott McConnell, who serves as editor. When McConnell was a New York Post columnist in the mid-'90s he suggested a brand of apartheid might be the solution to U.S. race problems (10/11/95):

" "I do believe that American race relations would not be the worse for acknowledging that blacks and whites have between them the power to develop alternatives to living together. Indeed, it seems to me possible that the very act of considering seriously such alternatives would, in and of itself, bring a rapid halt to some of the more flamboyant rhetorical and behavioral excesses now flourishing in the black community." "

"McConnell would later be named the Post's editorial page editor, before being fired in 1997 for writing a series of anti-Puerto Rican columns—but only because they reportedly threatened Post owner Rupert Murdoch's business prospects (New York Daily News, 9/17/97). Sailer is just one of the racist writers McConnell has published in American Conservative (see, e.g., Robert Stacy McCain, 5/19/03; Sam Francis, 6/7/04)."

"Until his death on February 15, the award-winning writer Sam Francis was another member of this tightly knit circle of sophisticated racists. Francis had come far since his 1995 firing by the Unification Church-owned Washington Times for a speech he gave at the white supremacist American Renaissance conference.* Francis (Washington Post, 9/24/95) had told the gathering that a "war against the white race" was underway, and insisted that fellow whites

"reassert our identity and our solidarity, and we must do so in explicitly racial terms through the articulation of a racial consciousness as whites The civilization that we as whites created in Europe and America could not have

developed apart from the genetic endowments of the creating people, nor is there any reason to believe that the civilization can be successfully transmitted to a different people."

Do you see the dates?

You said: "The media has changed since then."

Indeed, changed for the worse.

This phrase put it best: "Racism, in fact, may be gaining a firmer foothold in American media institutions as its promoters adopt more stealthy and sophisticated ways of presenting it."

And as long as people say "Please don't make this another black vs. white criticism" we, the people who are working to address these criticisms, are going to be much worse off for it.

Common response from commenter Mary and John:

"The photographer of the "looter" says that he actually saw the individual..."

That is a very common series of misquotes.

First misquote) Why refer to the photographer as "the photographer of the "looter"? Continued use of derogatory names and referring to the minority as a looter is the basis of the entire problem. Wouldn't it be just as easy to say "the photographer of the Black person" or "photographer of the minority" or even address the photographer by his name, Dave Martin?

Second misquote) Mary said "...while the photographer of the "finders" says that he saw people pick up items..."

Actually, the truth is that the other photographer, who took the Getty/AFP picture, Chris Graythen, never said the word "saw" as you, Mary, mentioned. It's important to clear that up, because as you can see John quickly repeating your misquote... mistakes repeated over and over quickly become facts.

And it's the public's mistaken portrayal of minorities, especially minority women, that adds to a serious lack of ability for many minorities to receive equal treatment in our society.

This corrected mistake and misquote is best covered by livejournal user **misfratz** when she said in this below excerpt (she is replying to Chris Graythen's unabridged comment, also found on page 8):

"Actually, what he said was "I believed in my opinion, that they did simply find them, and not 'looted' them in the definition of the word. The people were swimming in chest deep water, and there were other people in the water, both white and black."- so he didn't actually see what happened, he just assumed something (you can see quite clearly, he says 'believed', not 'saw') based on indirect evidence. That's NOT good journalism."

"Also, his entire 'rebuttal' is a whiny plea for sympathy 'Oh, my life is so hard, don't pick on me'- as a journalist, he had enough money to get out, or at least get his family out, unlike the other people who were stuck there with young kids, elderly/disabled relatives etc. He also bitches about not wanting to be 'politically correct', which is a pretty obvious indication of being a... moron on the defensive."

Common response from commenter Jay:

OK, what is your solution to this problem?

Thanks for your comments, Jay.

I don't have any specific answers to this problem. I simply desire that more people are aware of it. It was only from people becoming aware of Trent Lott's repeated racism, that something was finally able to be done.

Actual Common response:

"When are people going to get it into their heads that these are from TWO SEPARATE NEWS AGENCIES...?" It's "apples and oranges"

Uh, huhn. People will probably "get it into their heads" and believe that excuse on the exact same day that they believe that Trent Lott had an "innocent slip of tongue", as he claimed, just like the photographer, and ohhhh noooo it was not racism.

Trent Lott? With racial issues? oh nooooo.

ohhh noooo. apples and oranges.

Photographers? With racial issues? oh nooooo.

When People And Media Corporations Such as Yahoo Get Caught In A Racially Insensitive Situation... They Will Always Try To Cover It Up.

A similar situation is described here on the wikipedia site:

"Tremendous political controversy ensued following remarks Lott made on Dec. 5, 2002 at Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party. Thurmond ran for President of the United States in 1948 on the Dixiecrat (or States' Rights) ticket, whose primary campaign issue was the perpetuation of racial segregation in the United States. Lott said:

"I want to say this about my state: When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either."

"At first, the comment, broadcast on C-SPAN, was largely ignored by the mainstream media but was widely discussed on political blogs..."

Later... "Under pressure from Senate colleagues, and having lost the support of the White House, Lott resigned as Senate Republican Leader on December 20, 2002"

When Someone or a corporation such as Yahoo, is caught in a controversery of racism due to a "slip of the tongue", because they know it can swiftly end their career within 18 days, as it did for someone as all-powerful as Trent Lott,

they will always, repeat always, attempt to cover it up. The only thing stopping them from successfully covering it up is whether or not the public will believe the cover up, or act to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

Read more about Trent at the wikipedia site below:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trent_Lott

If the blogosphere had not helped to "unseat" Trent Lott, we might have the mentor of "Strom Thurmond" on our hands as President someday.

Minorities and Women must come together to hold such injustice accountable.

As you said "Oh please..."

Oh please take a moment and see the injustice.

Yahoo was recently caught with thousands of underage Women Pornography chatrooms that relayed illegal child porn, but if people didn't hold them accountable, they would still be doing it (at the expense of the victims of the photos)...and victimizing women all over the world.

We must begin holding people, just like Trent Lott, and corporations like yahoo, responsible for the overt statements of racism and sexism...

Thanks for your comments.

Common response from Tony:

But the Photographer is certain he saw the minority looting.

Is he certain, Tony? He photographed a minority, placed him in an internationally syndicated Associated Press photo and labeled him as a criminal. That's a serious accusation that could negatively impact a person's entire life.

Here are the words of another photographer found here

http://www.sportsshooter.com/message_display.html?tid=17204 commenting on such 'certainty.'

[Armando Solares](#), Photographer



Venice | FL | USA | Posted: 3:10 PM on 08.31.05

->> While covering Hurricane Charley last year, one of our photographers took pictures of people "looting" or so he thought. In actuality the owner of the store told police to let people take everything. His store was destroyed but a lot of the merchandise can be of good use to someone, he said. So, I say, let's not jump in to conclusions.

Actual Common response:

"I read the snopes article, and snopes said it is true, so it must be true..."

When visiting the Snopes website, the first thing that you see, before the article, is an advertisement. It is not simply an advertisement, but a pop-up ad... for an aggressively anti-union, multinational corporation. That ad is followed by several other corporate advertisements. Snopes bills itself as an urban legend researcher, but in fact is the equivalent of multinational corporate media and their investigations are as unreliable as any other multinational corporate media company. I don't know the political beliefs of Snops, but I also don't know of any progressive non-commercial organizations that would use multiple pop-up ads... for a multinational corporations to fund their website. Snopes has written a widely circulated article and passed a judgment (they use the word 'status') that it is "true" that the minority in the photograph was a looter based on the word of the photographer. The Snopes website states:

An article "on the photographs by Aaron Kinney suggests the captions were a result of a combination of contextual and stylistic differences:

"Jack Stokes, AP's director of media relations, confirmed today that [photographer Dave] Martin says he witnessed the people in his images looting a grocery store. "He saw the person go into the shop and take the goods," Stokes said, "and that's why he wrote 'looting' in the caption."

If anyone needs further evidence to prove that a photographer is capable of being completely wrong about a rush to judgment, please see the above quote from photographer Armando Solares regarding jumping "to conclusions."

Editor's Open Letter To Snopes

Dear Snopes,

Hello. Your website makes it appear that you are a self-proclaimed investigator and news source of Urban Legends. Can you please investigate the following to determine if it is an urban legend? Are websites with pop-up ads and advertisements for multinational corporations an unreliable source for people to get information...or is that an urban legend? Has it been proven again and again that media investigators and reporters who serve under the master of a multinational corporate sponsor are far likely to allow it to influence the way in which they report news stories... or is that an urban legend?

[To help you investigate my question, below is a website known as "Corporate Influence in the Media" which talks about "Advertorials — Advertisements disguised as News."

<http://www.globalissues.org/HumanRights/Media/Corporations/Ads.asp>

When visiting your Snopes website, and reading the "Top 25 Urban Legends" (On October 10, 2005) number 3 on your list was "an investigation" referring to free merchandise listing of (possibly) one of the world's worst anti-union corporations and representatives: "**Bill Gates / Microsoft / AOL Giveaway**" and further down on the list was a multinational "investigation" regarding a department store. I have substituted the words "Aggressively Anti-Union store victimizing people of the financially disadvantaged social class] for the actual name of the department store that you have on your website so as not unintentionally advertise for the department store. On your list you will see the following link: "**E-mail claims the [anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] does not contribute to veterans' causes.**" When clicking on the link to your "investigation" here is what is found (other than more pop-up ads):

- The [aggressively anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] does not contribute to veterans' causes: **False.**
- The [aggressively anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] is French-owned: **False.**

- The [aggressively anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] provides corporate grants only for 'gay and lesbian causes': **False.**
- The [aggressively anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] does not contribute to the U.S. Marines 'Toys for Tots' program: **False.**
- The [aggressively anti-union corporation victimizing people of financially disadvantaged social classes] does not allow reservists called to active duty to continue their health benefits: **False.**

In closing, I would like to ask one last question: Snopes, is it an urban legend, or is it completely true that your website is little more than an advertising mechanism for some of the world's worse multinational corporations and any investigation that you do regarding people of financially disadvantaged social classes is completely biased?

I look forward to reading the results of your investigation.

Sincerely yours,

Love for the people,

Editor of The Open Source Classism, Racism and Sexism Project: Hurricane Katrina, the Blogosphere and Corporate Media... "White People Find, Black People Loot".

Chris Graythen Responds



Found here http://www.sportsshooter.com/message_display.html?tid=17204

Chris Graythen, Photographer, Photo Editor

New Orleans | LA | USA | Posted: 6:10 PM on 08.31.05

>> Jesus, I don't believe how much crap I'm getting from this. First of all, I hope you excuse me, but I'm completely at the end of my rope. You have no idea how stressful this whole disaster is, especially since I have not seen my wife in 5 days, and my parents and grand parents HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES. As of right now, we have almost NOTHING.

Please stop emailing me on this one.

I wrote the caption about the two people who 'found' the items. I believed in my opinion, that they did simply find them, and not 'looted' them in the definition of the word. The people were swimming in chest deep water, and there were other people in the water, both white and black. I looked for the best picture. There were a million items floating in the water - we were right near a grocery store that had 5+ feet of water in it. It had no doors. The water was moving, and the stuff was floating away. These people were not ducking into a store and busting down windows to get electronics. They picked up bread and cokes that were floating in the water. They would have floated away anyhow. I wouldn't have taken in, because I wouldn't eat anything that's been in that water. But I'm not homeless. (well, technically I am right now.)

I'm not trying to be politically correct. I don't care if you are white or black. I spent 4 hours on a boat in my parent's neighborhood shooting, and rescuing people, both black and white, dog and cat. I am a journalist, and a human being

- and I see all as such. If you don't believe me, you can look on Getty today and see the images I shot of real looting today, and you will see white and black people, and they were DEFINATELY looting. And I put that in the caption.

Please, please don't argue semantics over this one. This is EXTREMELY serious, and I can't even begin to convey to those not here what it is like. Please, please, be more concerned on how this affects all of us (watch gas prices) and please, please help out if you can.

This is my home, I will hopefully always be here. I know that my friends in this business across the gulf south are going through the exact same thing - and I am with them, and will do whatever I can to help. But please, please don't email me any more about this caption issue.

And please, don't yell at me about spelling and grammar. Im eating my first real meal (a sandwich) right now in 3 days.

When this calms down, I will be more than willing to answer any questions, just ask.

Thank you all --Chris Graythen

Actual Response from Rocko:

“Sorry if this bursts your bubble... but the defense that he offers is a reasonable one, and in the absence of any evidence to doubt his story, then he's entitled to be considered innocent until proven guilty. If you have evidence to refute what he said, then supply it. If you don't, then shut up and stop making allegations you can't justify.”

No one is trying to prove him “guilty.” It simply would be more responsible if photographers would not label people as “looters” in a caption of an internationally syndicated news service.

[Anonymous Photographer's Comments from Rancho Cucamonga | CA | USA | Posted: 4:02 AM on 09.01.05] “I really sympathize with those in N.O. and throughout the rest of the South, but I really cannot comprehend how people can go into a clothing store and steal, yes steal, loot, or whatever you want to call it and take designer clothing [brand name] tennis shoes, etc. (I'm NOT talking about those who are taking/finding essential survival items). The death toll and disease factors are only going to get worse before they get better. But hey, these looters will have the best looking bodies when they are found seeing how they'll be dressed in designer clothing and expensive shoes”

Response from another photographer:

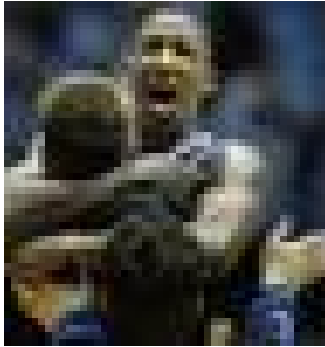
London | ON | Canada | Posted: 11:16 AM on 09.01.05

>> *"But hey, these looters will have the best looking bodies when they are found seeing how they'll be dressed in designer clothing and expensive shoes."*

You are assuming these people have shoes on their feet and that the other people stuck with them have clothes on their backs. What about the people who figure they are going to have to trek a fair distance to find help. The clothes they are wearing could be soaked with chemicals which will end up burning them if they continue wearing them.

I'm not condoning theft, but these people aren't exactly stealing PS2's and big screen televisions ... they are stealing clothes, which after several days in sub-sanitary conditions, I'm sure they would be glad to change into.

It's impossible to fully comprehend what is happening there and yet all too easy to criticise people's actions from our living rooms. These people are simply trying to survive.



If a photographer shouldn't label someone as "looter" then how should a person phrase a caption?

[Chuck Liddy](#), Photographer Durham | NC | USA | Posted: 2:18 PM on 09.07.05

Durham | NC | USA | Posted: 2:18 PM on 09.07.05 ->> I shot a photo of a young boy and older man just on the fringe of the French quarter district two days ago. the young boy had about 15 very nice polo shirts draped over his shoulders on hangers. the older fellow had just ducked through the shattered front door of a store. I waited for him to come out and shot a photo of them both. we had received emails about the "looting"- "finding"-

"stealing"-appropriating" controversy. **I wrote the caption saying "A young boy with two armloads of t-shirts awaits a man leaving a convenience store on Rampart Street on the fringe of the French Quarter of New Orleans ." I didn't know what the situation was** and to tell the truth the reporter and I had just been warned we were in very dangerous section of town (even before the storm) and we hadn't seen a cop in over 10 blocks. so we moved out of there pretty quickly. at first with no one to restore any order, New Orleans was like some kind of weird sci-fi movie, end of the world apocalyptic stuff. things are getting a little better with the military presence patrols and the police have help to try and stop the bad people, who were bad people before this catastrophe hit. the fact of the matter is we report what we see. no matter what I think, if a shooter sees someone smash a window or break down the door of someone's home and steal a TV (when there isn't any power for about a 75-100 mile radius) that's looting. I don't buy the bartering thing whatsoever. I mean does that give someone the right to break into your house under the best of times, steal your stuff then barter with it (take it to the pawn shop) to make their life better. I think not. but is it okay for a person to go in through a broken door and look for necessities (i.e. food-water-baby supplies and such) of course it is. I heard one story of a guy who was jumping from rooftop to rooftop for the first few days pillaging apartments for food and water. I don't think anyone would call him a looter, even the owners of the homes. and he didn't try to rip off anyone's tv. sorry I'm tired, want some decent food and a shower....it kinda pisses me off that whoever started that link about guys like chris and mullett don't know what the hell they're talking about.

INCITE! STATEMENT ON HURRICANE KATRINA:

September 11, 2005

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence is stunned by the catastrophe and tragic loss in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In New Orleans and in many other communities along the Gulf, people are experiencing unimaginable devastating conditions. We are especially alarmed for the people who have the fewest resources, who were unable to evacuate New Orleans because of poverty, who were – and in some cases still are - trapped without food, water, and medical attention. Because of racism and classism, these people are also overwhelming folks of color, and because of sexism, they are overwhelmingly women of color - low income and poor women, single mothers, pregnant women,

women with disabilities, older women and women who are caregivers to family and community members who were unable to leave the city. Women living at the intersections of systems of oppressions are paying the price for militarism, the abandonment of their communities, and ongoing racial and gender disparities in employment, income, and access to resources and supports.

As you know, the Historic Treme Community in New Orleans recently hosted INCITE!'s Color of Violence III conference this past March. Treme is the first free community established by Black people in the U.S. and is currently home to hundreds of Black women and their families, many of whom are poor. We are deeply hurting for the families and communities that graciously hosted us and who are now facing profoundly tragic circumstances.

We have heard word from most of the sistas who are part of the New Orleans INCITE! chapter, many of whom were able to evacuate. We also received word that one of the COV 3 volunteers had a mother and sister trapped on the 8th floor of New Orleans City Hall at some point - we sincerely hope that they have reached relative safety at this time. An early letter from Shana Griffin, member of the New Orleans INCITE! chapter and the national INCITE! steering committee, is below. Our hearts and prayers go out to them and we want to provide them with as much support and as many resources as we can so that they can mourn this horrible loss, re-connect with those that are missing, and, eventually, rebuild the rich and vital communities that have been devastated. Our thoughts and prayers are also with INCITE! chapters, members, COV III participants and supporters in other areas affected by the hurricane in the Gulf States.

Many of you have thoughtfully written and asked how you can help. At this time, we are asking for donations from our supporters so that we can send money to our New Orleans chapter members who will use it to help people who need it most. We have not given up on our sisters and brothers in New Orleans and other places that have been hit. We are dedicated to pooling our resources and using those resources to continue to organize plans for survival, safety, and justice in New Orleans.

Please organize fundraisers in your hometowns and communities and send your donations to the following address:

Nada Elia, 13112 - 184th Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98052

(Nada Elia is a member of INCITE!'s national steering committee and will be organizing the donations to make sure the resources get to New Orleans.) Please make checks out to INCITE and put "New Orleans" in the memo line. Thank you very, very much for your generous support.

That said, we'd like to take this opportunity to express our deep outrage at the federal government's shamefully slow and pathetic response to this disaster. It is clear that the lack of rapid and effective response is based on a racist assessment of the value of the 150,000 mostly Black and poor people - a disproportionate number of whom are women - left behind in New Orleans. Further, INCITE! lays the blame of this disaster squarely at the feet of the U.S. government and particularly with George W. Bush for the following reasons:

1. GLOBAL WARMING

The Bush Administration's willful denial of the existence of global warming has kept this country from taking seriously global warming's dangerous consequences, one of which is an increase in the severity of hurricanes. Hurricane Katrina, for example, began as a relatively small hurricane off south Florida, but it was intensified to a level five hurricane - the highest level a hurricane can reach - because of the unusually blistering sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico caused in large part by global warming. (Ross Gelbspan, The Boston Globe, 8/30/05) However, the Bush Administration, leveraged by the coal and oil industries, relegated global warming to a

myth rather than the emergency environmental crisis that it is. Because the impact of Hurricane Katrina had an exceedingly disproportionate impact of devastation on people of color, Bush's failure at addressing global warming is a catastrophic example of environmental racism.

2. WAR ON IRAQ & TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY

Bush's illegal, imperialist, and racist war on and occupation of Iraq - ironically, to enable consumption of more oil, aggravating global warming - as well as tax cuts to wealthy Americans, directly pulled resources away from levee construction and emergency management in New Orleans, as well as from programs and entitlements which could have provided much needed support to poor people and communities in New Orleans. In 2003, as hurricane activity in the area increased and the levees continued to subside, federal funding was specifically redirected away from addressing these problems because of spending pressures of the war on Iraq. In early 2004, as the cost of the war on Iraq soared, President Bush proposed spending less than 20 percent of what was needed for Lake Pontchartrain, according to a Feb. 16, 2004 article in New Orleans CityBusiness. At least nine articles in the Times-Picayune from 2004 and 2005 specifically cite the cost of the war on Iraq as a reason for the lack of hurricane- and flood-control dollars. (Will Bunch, Editor & Publisher, 8/30/05) The lack of resources to prepare for a disaster like Hurricane Katrina is a tragic example of how imperialism not only devastates communities of color abroad, but also communities of color here at home. This criminal neglect on the part of the government is responsible for thousands more deaths than the 9/11 attacks—deaths that could have been prevented with adequate funding.

3. STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE

It is unconscionable that, while thousands of people are suffering from horrible and deadly circumstances, the media continues to harp on the so-called "looting" in New Orleans. The constant media coverage of so-called "criminal behavior" instead of the outrageous and criminal lack of response from the federal government is racist and disgraceful.

Though we are also very distressed about reports of violence- including sexual and physical violence against women and children - in the area caused largely by widespread chaos and desperation, we condemn the current mass militarization of the area. There have been numerous accounts of vicious police brutality experienced by men and women who have survived untold horrors only to be subjected to abuse by the law enforcement officials sent to "save" them. Thousands of soldiers from the U.S. Marines and Army are currently in New Orleans to enforce evacuation orders and bring about "law and order." In response to violence in the area, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco shockingly remarked, "I have one message for these hoodlums. These troops know how to shoot and kill, and they are more than willing to do so if necessary." Besides the fact that it is against the law for federal troops to engage in domestic law enforcement, a militarized response is another piece of a racist pattern of de-humanizing poor people of color. Instead of seeing poor Black people driven desperate by the appallingly weak and unacceptably slow response of the federal government, the media and the government frame these primary victims as criminals or blame them for bringing the circumstances on themselves by "disobeying" mandatory evacuation orders when they had no means to comply.

We demand that there be no further criminalization of survivors of the hurricane as rescue, recovery, and rebuilding efforts go forward. We are particularly concerned about the creation of temporary accommodations - expected to serve as "home" to evacuees for up to six months which are akin to detention facilities, surrounded by barbed wire, in isolated parts of Utah, Oklahoma and other areas, from which inhabitants will be prohibited from leaving without a "pass" and in which they will be housed in gender segregated housing and prohibited from preparing their own meals. The prison-like conditions of such facilities have been justified by the soldiers guarding them as follows "do you know what kind of people we have coming here?"

We are also concerned about the adequate provision of medication, supplies, and child care to women with disabilities, HIV/AIDS, as well as mothers and elderly women. We are calling for support for survivor-led, women of color driven formations within evacuation facilities and for their demands. We are also calling for support of women's individual and collective efforts to ensure their safety from physical and sexual violence within evacuation facilities while submitting that the existence of such violence is no justification for violent repression of evacuee communities.

We call for support and safety for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors of the hurricane, and for respect for the integrity of their families and of their needs in evacuation facilities. We are also deeply concerned for immigrant, and particularly undocumented women, who fear seeking assistance for fear of adverse immigration consequences and deportation. We call for efforts to connect incarcerated women, men, and children with their families, many of whom do not know the location of those dear to them, and for authorities to ensure conditions of confinement that meet international human rights standards. We are asking for charges against those who took food, water, and supplies in an effort to survive be immediately dropped. Finally, we are calling for support of domestic violence survivors who were displaced from shelters, support systems, and places of safety by the storm and may be at greater risk of violence from their abusers under current circumstances.

We demand an organized, rapid, and just response to save the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. We demand a comprehensive plan that is respectful of the value of the people who have been abandoned and responsive to their actual needs for survival and safety. We want immediate action operating from a vision of justice and hope.

We have pulled together a number of analyses of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, information about critical organizing and mobilization of poor people and people of color, letters from sistas from INCITE!, and other ways to help. Please contact us if you have questions, concerns, or resources. Our e-mail is incite_national@yahoo.com and our phone number is 484.932.3166.

In Solidarity,

INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence

FOR A LIST OF COLLECTED ANALYSES AND WAYS TO HELP, PLEASE GO TO INCITE'S E-MAIL NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE:

<http://lists.riseup.net/www/arc/incite/2005-09/msg00000.html>

<http://lists.riseup.net/www/arc/incite/2005-09/msg00001.html>

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence, PO Box 23902, Oakland, CA 94623

484-932-3166, incite_national@yahoo.com www.incite-national.org

Below is the Blog Article Posted on October 8th, 2005 ***Start of My Article****

My Article

***White People Find, Black People Loot???* - With Many Resources and Photos of the Controversial issue**

The following article is from [here](#). : "White People Find, Black People Loot???"

Speaking of [media coverage of the hurricane and race](#), check out the captions on these photos that were just emailed to me.

[In this area was the photo found on the cover page of this issue]

Update: Yahoo! has posted this note about these pictures: (after they removed the photos for receiving so many complaints)

To Yahoo! News readers:

"News photos are an especially popular section of Yahoo! News. In part, this is because we present thousands of news photos from some of the leading news services, including The Associated Press, Reuters, and Agence France Press. To make this volume of photos available in a timely manner, we present the photos and their captions as written, edited and distributed by the news services with no additional editing at Yahoo! News."

"In recent days, a number of readers of Yahoo! News have commented on differences in the language in two Hurricane Katrina-related photo captions (from two news services). Since the controversy began, the supplier of one of the photos – AFP – has asked all its clients to remove the photo from their databases. Yahoo! News has complied with the AFP request."

Here are a few of the postings that have commented on the photo caption language:

[Flickr](#) [Salon](#) [Romenesko](#) [Gothamist](#)

=====End of excerpt=====

For more information about this go here: <http://hosted.planetether.net/referral.jpg>
<http://www.tonypierce.com/blog/2005/08/black-people-loot-white-people-find.htm>

Below are two very large pics of the "White People Find, Black People Loot" photos.

http://www.boingboing.net/2005/08/30/black_people_loot_wh.html <http://o-dub.com/images/looter.jpg>
http://blogs.sohh.com/media_check/archives/2005/08/after_hurricane.html
<http://www.keithboykin.com/arch/001467.html>
http://www.livejournal.com/community/equality_posse/9087.html

I *sincerely* apologize for the large photo and the large article, but since the news item has attracted so much attention, many websites that had the photos, have taken down their photos, so I provided multiple links, to make certain that everyone can see the photos. Also, if I shrank the photos any smaller, you wouldn't be able to read the print. Please forward this article. If the blogosphere can make Yahoo issue an apology for their 'accidental' racism, perhaps some other corporations may see the light in regards to sexism, ageism, racism and other injustices. Thanks!

Love for the people!

p.s.. Again, I *sincerely* apologize for the large photo and the large article.

End of My Article

Positive Supportive Comments

On August 8th, 2005, Livejournal user "[loveandequality](#)" placed the Blog article, found on page 15 and 16, onto livejournal.

Below are Positive Comments From LiveJournal (Blog writers) regarding the "White People Find, Black People Loot" Article.

Livejournal user: [vintagetraveler](#) <http://www.livejournal.com/users/vintagetraveler>

2005-10-09 03:06 am UTC

i for one am very glad that you posted this. this is a critique of the media, and i find that zines are (by even existing) are critique of the mainstream media/culture. so, again, even though this is "old news" to me, it might not be for someone else, so i'm glad you posted it.

=====
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Livejournal user: [sheis_slaughter](#) http://www.livejournal.com/users/sheis_slaughter

2005-10-09 03:19 am UTC

it was news to me

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=====

Livejournal user: [afterglowxxo](#) <http://www.livejournal.com/users/afterglowxxo>

2005-10-09 03:21 am UTC

LJ drama at its funniest. heh.

really it's not a very big deal right? (in response to all the angry comments here). thanks for posting this, there's nothing wrong with criticizing the mainstream media. i find it especially appropriate to do so in a community that is all about making our own media. and i don't think it's been discussed yet in this community, either.

=====
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Livejournal user: [mrcoffeebean](#) <http://www.livejournal.com/users/mrcoffeebean>

2005-10-09 11:43 am UTC

intresting post. The scary part is that you see example of this every day in every mainstream media.

I think this commnity would be a bit better if it did contain discussions on media a dn why Zines exist and stuff like that. Zines exist becdause there are problems, just like in youre post, in mainstream media.

=====
=====

Livejournal user: [Molten](#) <http://www.livejournal.com/users/molten>

2005-10-09 12:55 pm UTC

"we're not called media or political watchdogs, or analysts, or any other fancy term - we're all here for the zines. And only the zines.."

yeah and what goes into zines? do you know the history of zines? i bet you listen to good charlotte and think it's "punkrock".

seriously. tell me. how is self promotion (aka "networking") more important than paying attention to discrepancies in the corporate media system?

Livejournal user: Molten

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/molten>

2005-10-09 12:53 pm

woah. i don't care why this was posted here, but i for one am glad. i think it's a perfectly fine place to post it. i enjoy zines of many kinds but i especially enjoy reading about things that i might not otherwise hear about, and i hope through my zines and the other stuff i do, i can contribute to society or whatever in that same vein. though i've made personal zines in the past, they too have been political because i am political. i would imagine most zinesters have some independent political/diy qualities running through them. if i'm imagining wrong, then i've been sorely misinformed.

frankly, in my opinion, this kind of subject is far more interesting than those dime a dozen "i am an eighteen year old girl who listens to modest mouse and knits and i don't understand boys here are some pictures of abandoned swingsets and subway stations" zines, the makers of which use this community to post questions about methods of paper folding.

oh and lastly, how is self promotion (aka "networking") any more important than paying attention to discrepancies in the corporate media system?

 [charlie and aj](#)

2005-10-09 13:32 pm

Yahoo really do need to review their procedure for posting things. It worries me that they claim they are putting things on their site without some sort of checking procedure. It doesn't give me great faith in the accuracy of their news reports.

 [rrrrrrr](#)

2005-10-09 17:39 pm

i completely agree

 [th3k1d](#)

2005-10-09 00:49

Again, I sincerely apologize for the large photo and the large article.

Don't sweat it! I'm really happy to see this on my friend's page... what a fabulous (well, except for the fact that it's blatantly racist) find!


 [jazzkat](#)

2005-10-09 16:30 pm

“On a topic that is wildly important, most people in this blog were too worried about the article being released a few weeks ago rather than discussing it like mature debaters. Refusing to debate an event based on its age suggests that we should not take into account and learn from what has happened in the past. What if this were a post about the 9/11 or Watergate? Would the same reaction be submitted? I am thoroughly disgusted by the condescending tone that most recipients used on a topic we SHOULD be reminded of. We need to know that racism still exists in this country, and we cannot ignore it simply because there is a civil rights act.

Also, to suggest a topic is irrelevant based on not using an LJ-cut is like dismissing an argument because someone spelled a word wrong. If the idea is expressed, there should not be a problem. Again, the condescending tone arises.



How are any of these problems going to even begin to be solved if we always argue on these petty details? Get over yourselves people.

Thank you for posting this .  [loveandequality](#) Keep reminding people of what they don't want to think about anymore.”

Letter to the Editor and Feedback about Issue #1, First Edition

 [purejuice](#)

2005-10-10 11:51 am

Thank you for your post to  [pauper](#) about the katrina zine. would you consider making a post about it, and your involvement, and your vision, to  [poor planning](#)? thanks so much. marie loves you.

[Editor's Note: As requested, I posted information about this zine to the [poor planning](#) community after becoming a member on October 10, 2005. I discovered that [poor planning](#) is a blog community, officially titled “Marie LeVeau,” with over 130 members. The subtitle of this community is as follows: “**Were the Poor of New Orleans Left to Drown? No Evacuation Plan for You..**” The website address of this community is as follows: http://www.livejournal.com/community/poor_planning]

Glossary

In [internet terminology](#), a **priviledged troll** is a person who posts inflammatory messages on the internet, such as on [online discussion forums](#), to disrupt the discussion or to upset its participants by posting comments declaring news items to be “old” or not worthy of to be read by an entire internet community.

Common priviledged troll phrases: “everyone, everywhere has already read this” or “this is old and of no use to anyone everywhere” The word troll, or its variant, "priviledged trolling", is also used to describe such messages or

the act of posting them. The word “privileged” is also based on the idea that they have self-appointed themselves as an elder and speaker for everyone, even minorities and financially disadvantaged people who don’t have the privilege of such frequent access to the internet.

The contemporary use of the term “privileged troll” first appeared in Rough Draft, Issue #1 of “The Open Source Classism, Racism, and Sexism Project: Hurricane Katrina, The Blogosphere And Corporate Media... "White People Find, Black People Loot. It was created to accurately describe people who discourage the continued circulation of information which disproportionately effects minorities and financially disadvantaged people who don’t have the privilege of such frequent access to the internet.

The term was a modified version of the troll definition described below: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_troll

The contemporary use of the term troll first appeared on [Usenet](#) groups in the late [1980s](#). It is widely thought to be a contraction of the phrase "trolling for suckers," itself derived from the [sport fishing](#) technique of [trolling](#). The latter can be compared with [trawling](#), of which it is a near [homophone](#).

The word likely gained currency because of its apt second meaning, drawn from the "[trolls](#)", which are portrayed in [Scandinavian folklore](#), and children's tales, as often ugly, obnoxious creatures that are bent on [wickedness](#) and mischief. The image of the troll under the bridge in the "[Three Billy Goats Gruff](#)" emphasizes the trolls' dislike of outsiders within its physical environment, particularly those who intend to graze in its domain.

The troll is almost always a male figure, and so may parallel the [mythological](#) figure of the [witch](#). The use of these labels for people, as opposed to mythological characters in stories, may have its origins in the conflicts between [Christianity](#) and the [pagan religions](#) in the [Middle Ages](#). People who continued to practice the "old ways" were often isolated, and identified as dealing with dark forces — as "witches", and perhaps also as "trolls".

The Chinese characters for Internet troll are made up of the characters for Internet ([互联网](#)) combined with the characters for provocation ([拖](#)) and learning ([钓](#)).

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Special Thanks

I would like to thank my mom for her inspiration and Mary M., for making me laugh during the sometimes stressful creation of this issue (due to so many negative comments) and I want to thank, C.F, and Joe M. and his kids, Cody and Natasha for their inspiration as activist and I thank activists of all ages for continuing to work for a better world.. I would like to say special thanks to everyone who said something positive regarding the article. I would like to say thanks to those who submitted constructive criticism because you enabled me to respond your common responses. I would like to say thanks to the many moderators of internet communities who did not succumb to the pressure of people who would rather ignore classism, racism and sexism articles. And I would like to even thank those people

who read the article without saying anything negative. I would also like to thank the community members and moderators of all the communities who spoke up against people who try to dismiss this issue as “old.”

Censorship

On October 9th, 2005 the moderator of the 2,289 member LiveJournal community known as **zine_scene** censored and completely removed my article less than 48 hours after it was posted with no warning or contact from the community moderator. No rules that were on the user info page were broken, yet the moderator decided who should be censored.“ The moderator of LiveJournal **zinescene** community of over 400 members also censored this article after declaring “**this is old news that everyone has heard a million times.**” Yahoo also censored their photos. FEMA has also issued a censor to photographers taking photographs of Hurricane Katrina damage. I rely upon everyone, everywhere to help circulate this story! In this first issue I included 18 pages, so that you can create your own page 19 and 20 (add your disagreements with this publication, add a flyer for your activist project, your activist group, your distro etc.,) and then publish this publication as a 20 page booklet on the front and back of 5 sheets of 11” x 17” (or 279 x 432 mm) paper. Thank you for your support!

The rest of page 20 is to be added by you or your activist group.