

**Ishmael Reed:** They're saying that White life expectancy is lower for the first time than Black life expectancy. Why do you think that's happening?

**Michael LeNoir:** It's happening as a result of COVID. More Black people died, but the numbers are more staggering for White people.

**Ishmael Reed:** And what about Fentanyl?

**Michael LeNoir:** That may be part of it, certainly the number of overdoses of young people. That may contribute, but I think it's mostly COVID.

**Ishmael Reed:** The CDC says that the highest rate of suicide is among LGBTQ.

**Michael LeNoir:** I don't know. I can't respond to that. I believe the CDC.

**Ishmael Reed:** Why do you think that is?

**Michael LeNoir:** There's a lot of prejudice against that community, personally and in the workforce. I think that that weighs on people. We, as a race, are used to it and expect some of the things that the LGBTQ community encounters.

**Ishmael Reed:** I thought they had been mainstreamed. You look at popular culture.

**Michael LeNoir:** They have never been mainstreamed except in some parts of the country, in some constituencies, but they still haven't become mainstream.

**Ishmael Reed:** Why is the suicide rate among Black men much higher than that among Black women?

**Michael LeNoir:** I can't answer that question.

**Ishmael Reed:** Would you attribute it to Black women still in the church?

**Michael LeNoir:** No. It's not that.

**Ishmael Reed:** What about high mortality rates among Black women? Infant mortality?

**Michael LeNoir:** We have the highest rate of maternal mortality pretty much in the world. White women, 9%, African American women, 14%. Most of these differences and issues related to specific conditions or chronic diseases have much to do with how we treat them—the healthcare system. Then we get such a negative experience that we often don't want to enter the healthcare system. I think a lot of it concerns where Black women go for care. If you look at the statistics, the United States has one of the world's highest infant mortality rates. The Kaiser Health Foundation did a study that shows that African Americans have negative experiences in the healthcare system. Once we enter the system, we don't get the same kind of care, and we tend to use facilities that may not be state-of-the-art. I think all of that contributes to and decrease in return mortality.

**Ishmael Reed:** So I propose that there might be a pattern of non-violent extermination.

**Michael LeNoir:** I think that's a bit of a stretch.

**Ishmael Reed:** Well, what about putting all the Black people in toxic places?

**Michael LeNoir:** I don't think they put Black people in toxic places. I think they've built unhealthy places around Black people's lives.

**Ishmael Reed:** Okay. What about the kind of neglect you see in Florida, where the White flood victims got better care than Black flood victims?

**Michael LeNoir:** You expect anything less? That's the way it is.

**Ishmael Reed:** I'm just saying there seems to be a tolerance of the Black death in this country. And they achieve this by using different means. For example, prison health, you know, where the health of Black prisoners is neglected or laughed at or ridiculed, and the symptoms are ridiculed.

**Michael LeNoir:** Well, the discord among Blacks has much to do with the everyday racism we face. I don't believe they are organized enough to exterminate us. They don't seem organized enough to do much of anything on the right, like that extreme right. I think that they practice everyday racism. And that's enough to kill a lot of Black people.

**Ishmael Reed:** But they have a theory promoted by a White psychologist named Cattell. Called "Genthanasia," it's defined as " a humane form of genocide, essential to the elimination of "moribund" cultures. The American Psychological Association was going to give him an award until they found out he wrote some things praising Hitler. So there might be an extermination plan, far away in the dark corners of the far right, funded by white nationalist billionaires.?

**Michael LeNoir:** I don't see it. I see a defensive plan to protect White Privilege.

**Ishmael Reed:** What about guns? Why are they so heavily armed?

**Michael LeNoir:** I, I think it's for many reasons. And we have a condition of allowing this to grow under the pretense of the Second Amendment. The Amendment says we can carry guns, but the founding fathers, so to speak, really meant for those to be small (inaudible). The second Amendment is to gather as many guns as possible, Black or White.

**Ishmael Reed:** Well, it was said that Ronald Reagan, for example, was for gun legislation until he saw the Black Panthers coming to Sacramento with their guns.

**Michael LeNoir:** I can't imagine that made him more fearful. That made him more on guard and perhaps a little more resources. I don't think he was scared of black people.

**Ishmael Reed:** Well, Bobby Seale told me that when they approached the capitol, Reagan was making a speech, and when he saw them, he ran.

**Michael LeNoir:** I don't think they're organized enough to exterminate us.

**Ishmael Reed:** What about the Omicron variants? They said that there might be a point where the vaccines are not effective for the Omicron variants.

**Michael LeNoir:** Yeah. I don't think there's a question as so few people are getting the vaccine. That's the first thing. I wrote a piece.

**Ishmael Reed:** Is that, is that still political? Like the MAGA people?

**Michael LeNoir:** Here's what I'm saying this week, which speaks to that. "When talking about the Omicron surge, people were patting themselves on the back. Either because they did not get COVID-19 or they were infected and blew through this episode with no problem. And now we're starting to realize the impact of the whole experience of being cooped up for two years, always fearful in every episode, and nasal congestion might be the deadly virus invading your home comes with consequences. Many people have become relaxed during this COVID pandemic. And this influences the attitude towards COVID-19, increasing deaths and hospitalizations because fewer people are getting boosted. But a new surge is coming. People get ready."

**Ishmael Reed:** When is it coming?

**Michael LeNoir:** Probably this winter.

**Ishmael Reed:** What about Monkeypox? You don't hear much about that anymore.

**Ishmael Reed:** I think they got that under control.

**Tennessee Reed:** I got my bivalent booster.

**Michael LeNoir:** If 80% of people got boosted, that would save 80,000 lives this week.

**Ishmael Reed:** Thank you, Michael.