

“As Officers Beat Tyre Nichols, a Crime Fight Camera Watched Over Them”

[As Officers Beat Tyre Nichols, a Crime-Fighting Camera Watched Over Them - The New York Times](#)

Summary

During a traffic stop on January 7th, 2023 five Memphis police officers beat Tyre Nichols to death, sadly passing away three days later. The horrific police camera footage was captured on the police body camera footage alongside a SkyCop camera, which was placed in several different areas in Memphis, which also caught the rest of the brutal beating. This article discusses the horrendous acts that happened on January 7th of the new year. The 29-year-old was pulled from his car and beaten by multiple officers, which resulted in his death and the officer being charged with second-degree murder. The SkyCop camera captures the officers kicking, pepper spraying, and hitting Nichols with their batons. After being pulled from the car by officers, Nichols runs from them, which is where the SkyCop picks up the brutal point of view. With the five officers now fired and being charged with multiple felonies, the fight for justice and reform are not back in full effect, after the case back in 2020 with the murder of George Floyd. This SkyCop is one of 2,000 video cameras placed in the Memphis area, placed to prevent crime in predominately black communities. The ending of the article contains multiple quotes from locals and Tyre Nichols' family as well, their strength and perseverance are inspiring.

Analysis

This course thus far has taught me many historical events that have happened in this country shaping it into what it is today. The importance of ethics studies related to this article about police brutality, because this has been an issue in this country for quite some time and does not seem to be improving. Police officer who join the force with implicit biases, give the police officers who in fact do, want to protect and serve their community, terrible representation. This article about the SkyCop gives hope to the family of Tyre because, without the video footage, things could have been swept under the rug, just as many other murders and attacks on black men have gone unsolved. Intentionally learning about ethnic studies and what many ethnic

groups endured in the past, would create a more empathetic approach that those five police officers lacked, for Nichol's life.

Another concept that connects with the article is power relations. The relationship that the five Memphis officers had with one another, was evidently clear, one motive. To completely beat someone unconscious, and disregard their life in the way that those officer did, displayed the disconnect that these officers had for another life. The five officers were apart of the S.C.O.R.P.I.O.N group which was a crime-fighting organization within the police department to stop street crime. The five officers displayed clear evidence of their power relationship with one another. The camera footage displayed the men leaving Nichols on the ground for 24 minutes, without medical attention. Throughout history, black children and men are killed by police force at an alarming rate. Slave owners according to William Edward Du Bois in his book *The World and Africa*, had to desensitize "their slave before they could swing a baby by the feet" Just like in this article, the officers appeared to somewhat be desensitized to what they were doing to Nichols. The modern-day murder of Tyre, explores the saying "history repeats" if we allow it to. With the implementation of technology such as the SkyCop, were able to see full evidence of the assault, and the officers were charged fairly.

The final key concept that relates to this article would be institutional and individual racism. Whether it be black or white men, racism is prevalent among those ignorant of it, and the dangers that come with ignorance, are not bliss. Institutional racism occurs when an institution sets up a group of people, ostracizing others and creating an environment for the first set of individuals to succeed. In the camera footage seen on the body of one of the officers, you can hear them in the background, calling Tyre derogatory names and demeaning him as they beat him up. This concept relates to the article *Chinese Workers and Transcontinental Railroad* written by Manu Karuka, she says the "fear of an Asian invasion grew out of racial and class anxieties, that California would act as an escape valve for the 'dregs' of Asia" (Karuka). The word "dregs" is used here as a derogatory words towards the Asian communities, The unfortunate death of Tyre Nichols, was a modern day lynching by the police force, who claim to be there for the protection of the community. His death did not only change the way that officer will be perceived but there is hope to pass the George Floyd bill, keeping law enforcement

accountable for their wrongdoings. Individual racism played a major role in this event as well, despite all parties being black men.