



Thursday Thoughts

Elon, Laura, John, and MacKenzie

Two weeks ago, this newsletter called **Elon Musk** a scrooge because he didn't appear on the Philanthropy 50 list though he increased his wealth by \$121 billion in 2021. This might have been a misstatement as the **Chronicle of Philanthropy** now reports that he might have given \$5.7 billion to his DAF or his own foundation. It is still unclear, however, for which philanthropic purposes these funds will be used. Other billionaires have less secretive approaches to philanthropy. **Laura and John Arnold** are among the ones **pushing reforms**. And, **MacKenzie Scott** admirably leads the charge and **talks about it**.



Job Postings

Brent's Place - **Community Giving Manager**
Providence Network - **Development Operations Specialist**

Black Resilience in Colorado (BRIC) Fund



From our friends at National Philanthropy Day: During Black History Month, we recognize **LaDawn Sullivan**, Director of the Black Resilience in Colorado (BRIC) Fund and the 2021 National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Professional Grantmaker. BRIC is the first Black-focused community fund in Colorado, providing financial resources and support to Black-led and serving organizations.

Black Resilience in Colorado illustrates community strength, resourcefulness, and drive reflective of generational Black History.

BRIC empowers people and organizations to invest in and strengthen Black communities BRIC by BRIC – become a BRIC Builder and donate online today!

[Click here to donate](#)

Celebrating Black History Month is about honoring historical contributions and Black resilience. When we recognize and embrace the power of diversity, equity and inclusion together, we have the opportunity to build impactful equitable communities BRIC by BRIC.

Reggie Rivers: I'm Black And Despite All I've Accomplished, Society Views Me As A Threat

I've tried, unsuccessfully, to explain to my white friends why I have always feared the police. I can trace the origin of this fear back to a time when my father was pulled over for a traffic ticket when I was in grade school.



I don't remember anything about the exchange except for the sudden realization that my big, strong, all-powerful, all-knowing father was scared.

Sensing his fear instantly made me terrified. I knew that the officer approaching our window was a threat to us.

Since then, I've been pulled over many times, and while I've never been physically abused, I've been yelled at and disrespected and felt that I was being baited into reacting. Getting pulled over by a police officer is the single most dangerous thing that happens in my life.

My white friends "intellectually" understand what I'm saying, and they sympathize with me. But they can't quite empathize because their life experience is so different from mine.

In our country, Labrador retrievers are beloved animals, welcome in hardware stores, parks, restaurants, the homes of strangers, hiking trails and just about anywhere else you can think of. They're seen as kind, loving, loyal, playful, happy and completely "safe."

I am a Rottweiler. Society views me as a threat no matter where I am — on the sidewalk, in the street, in the park, in a car and even in my own yard. It doesn't matter what I'm doing. My mere presence is threatening enough to compel someone to call animal control to remove me.

When animal control officers arrive to capture a Rottweiler, they climb out of their truck in full protective gear, expecting the worst. They approach cautiously and tensely, which the Rottweiler experiences as stalking behavior — a threat. They use a pole to get a collar around

the Rottweiler's neck and then cinch it down tight to ensure that he doesn't get away.

But that makes the Rottweiler feel that he's getting trapped, so he fights for his freedom, which causes the animal control agents to use even more force to control him, which causes the dog to fight harder for his freedom. This cycle of escalation sometimes continues until the Rottweiler is dead.

Labrador retrievers blame the Rottweiler for escalating the situation. They say, "All he had to do was wag his tail and be friendly. But he got aggressive, and they had no choice but to put him down."

But the escalation didn't start with the Rottweiler.

The first escalation was the universal opinion that Rottweilers are dangerous and don't belong in most places. The second escalation came when someone called animal control because there was a Rottweiler sitting quietly outside a Starbucks. The third escalation was the animal control officers arriving with a determination that they needed to be forceful and aggressive.

The Rottweiler's death warrant was written by these escalations before he even got involved in the situation.

Labrador Retrievers have a hard time understanding this. They believe that every dog breed can achieve the same level of acceptance in society simply by wagging their tails and being friendly. They're not aware that they were born with favored-breed status. It's their breed — not their wagging tails — that drives their experience.

I am a Rottweiler, but interestingly, my fame as a former Denver Bronco, media personality and philanthropist has given me a unique status in the state of Colorado. I am so well-known and so well-trusted that most of the time, I am treated like a Labrador retriever — a chocolate lab.

I get to see the world from the Labrador's perspective, and it is astonishing how different it is from the Rottweiler's point of view. The Labrador is universally liked, universally accepted, universally trusted and fits in by doing nothing more than showing up.

But when I leave the state of Colorado, I instantly become a Rottweiler again. The Rottweiler is universally feared, universally suspected, universally distrusted and the Rottweiler stands out — imagine a lone Rottweiler in the middle of dozens of Labrador retrievers at the dog park.

If there's a problem, everyone assumes the Rottweiler started it.

To Rottweilers the differences are obvious and plainly visible — especially when animal control officers execute one of us on the side of the road. But it's hard to convince the Labrador retrievers that it was systemic bias that caused the murder — not the specific actions of that Rottweiler.

The positive bias that the Labradors experience is so far removed from the negative bias that we Rottweilers experience that the labs have a hard time believing it exists.

Reggie Rivers is a former NFL running back who played six seasons with the Denver Broncos. He earned a Master's Degree in Global Studies from the University of Denver. He is the author of six books and a former op-ed columnist for The Denver Post. He is the Founder and President of The Gala Team. The editorial was used with permission of the author. It was originally published in the Denver Post on June 5, 2020.

Effective Conflict Management to Surpass Your Fundraising Goals

Effective conflict management is critical to building relationships with colleagues, board members, community partners, and



donors. Join us virtually, Friday, March 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Come ready to identify your conflict mode, and learn how to leverage your leadership skills. **Anna Nielsen** with Conflict Capable Solutions will review

how we as fundraisers can better navigate difficult conversations with colleagues, board members, community partners, and donors to reach our fundraising goals

[Register](#) here.

Thursday, March 10th
8:00 am - 10:00 am

Community Centric Funding



Presented by

**Andrea Cota Avila and Marine
Brichard**

[Learn More](#)

Anyone with fundraising duties in their job description is welcome to attend. Coffee Chats are free to everyone and there is no need to register

Member Spotlight

**KUDOS! Celebrating the
accomplishments of our**

members.

Kudos to **Marissa Briceno** on her new job at the Alzheimer's Association as a Donor Advisor. She cannot wait to grow and learn during this new chapter and hopefully put herself out of the job one day by ending Alzheimer's and other dementias.



If you have some great news to share, like a promotion, a new job, or an award received, email us at AFPkudos@gmail.com. Please note this is specifically to celebrate our Members, so no need to send the results of your latest campaign or event

Upcoming AFP Events

March 4th

March Education Session: Effective Conflict Management to Surpass Your Fundraising Goals

[Register](#)

March 10th

Coffee Chat: Community Centric Fundraising
Presented by
Andrea Cota Avila and Marine Brichard

[Learn More](#)



*SCLHealthPhilanthropy
proudly joins our community in
celebrating the 2021 National
Philanthropy Day Honorees.*

Congratulations!



Good Samaritan | Lutheran | Platte Valley | Saint Joseph



AFP is a membership organization committed to advancing philanthropy. We offer resources and create opportunities to help fundraising professionals be the best they can be. We bring fundraisers together to network, grow professionally, and advance our field. [Visit Our Website](#)

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