

**PERSPECTIVE
A MAN NAMED JUSTICE
BY MITCH HALE
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I decided to say no to an interview with 20/20. And Dateline and Extra. After a while, all further media coverage became exploitive for me because I found that I couldn't speak of my friend Anthony without speaking of a passion we shared, which was the telling of a particular story called *The Buffalo Man*.

Media coverage had been very enticing these last few days because a big part of me wanted to scream out to the world that Anthony must be recognized. After attending his memorial at the SGI-USA Los Angeles Friendship Center Nov. 1 with hundreds of other people and dozens of media outlets, I realized he had taken care of any recognition problem he may have had. He touched the lives of so many people it's hard to imagine. He put that huge energy of his into raising capable young men in the pursuit for world peace.

In a sense, his death couldn't have been more perfect. I see clearly that if anybody had the capacity to change the world it was he, and if anybody could affect positive change against violence by the police it would be Anthony. Early in his youth, he embarked on a path that would have led him to incarceration or death, by a police officer or another black man. He died at the hands of a man who was both, and at a time when the world is ready to stand up and say, "No more!"

For many years, Anthony and I worked together on a story in which he would star and I would direct. It's an historical tale of the early days of this country, just after the end of the Civil War. Anthony was portraying an ex-slave who had become a scout for the 10th cavalry in the genocide of Native Americans. At the climax of the story, the situation explodes when one of the black soldiers shoots and kills another and Anthony's character, the Buffalo Man, then intercedes and puts a stop to the escalating violence. It breaks my heart that Anthony died at the hands of a black man in uniform in a violent and fearful society, but it is somehow perfect again — almost as if he had planned it that way.

Part of me wanted to get on national television and say all this and hopefully someone would then come out of the woodwork and fund our project, so that I could honor this great warrior named Anthony Lee. And then another part felt that an action like that would not be dignified enough for this tale and for his legacy. That part won out. So, I'm telling you, my fellow members in the SGI movement: I will make this film, and I will dedicate it to his life. Anthony is saying to me even now, "We will not be defeated!"

He was truly a great man and will be missed sorely. Now we must get on with the business of creating a truly peaceful world, one person at a time.