Does Race Matter?

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Goodbyes...
Times are changing and goodbyes are not so easy. Saying my farewells to this publication I think about watching it grow and flourish right under my nose and how this experience has been more than gratifying.

I want to thank you the readers for making this year very special for me and the entire Talon team. Without you all I wouldn’t be here putting this issue together. I love seeing you all picking up issues’ and reading through them. That was my whole goal this year was to make the Talon as eye catching and interesting as possible and I hope I have succeeded.

As my time here at Avila dwindles I want to thank some people who have made a huge impact on me throughout my four years:

Snorgrass: If it wasn’t for your absolute faith and belief in me I wouldn’t be where I am today. Thank you for giving me the confidence to believe in myself and succeed.

Mom: You pushed me to be great and always believe in my work. I’m lucky to have a mom who is such an inspiration and someone I can call my best friend. You say you raised a great kid, but if it weren’t for you I wouldn’t be great.

Until we meet again,

Colbi Howser
Does Race Matter
It’s a simple question, but one that is hard to answer in the world we live in. After all that has happened in history there is still racism and segregation. We ask ourselves why all the time, but what’s the answer? Or do we have an answer?

Does race matter?

This issue is dedicated to that simple question and how we as different races and different sexes answer this question.

Thourghout this issue you will be reading articles written by Talon journalist’s on why race matters to them.

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can learn to love, for love comes comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela
Race has been an issue since the beginning of time. Between the whites, the Native Americans, and the African Americans, it continues to be a growing problem in today’s society: in all aspects. From sports to occupations, race is one of the most common discriminating factors in the world today. But why? If our skeletons are all the same then what does it matter if the pigments in our skin is different? Or are the skeleton shapes even different?

Based on research, the bones in African Americans do differ from those of a white person or a Hispanic. The bone structure is different but also the bone density differs.

During my time researching I found that we are clearly different. So what does that mean? That we’ve been lied to all of our lives? That race really does matter?

Well, what if there was a program at which you could change your race, and become someone else. Avila University brought a program to their campus called The Race Kiosk.

I decided to get the experience first hand and try out this experience for myself. As I sat down at the kiosk, the first screen that pops up, after you press start, has a quote that reads, “It is not our difference that divided us, it is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” —Audre Lorde

I stared at this quote for the longest time, trying to figure what exactly it meant. In the end, I decided that Audre meant to tell the world that it’s not our skin color that is causing problems all around the world for centuries, it is the fact that we, as humans, can’t seem to recognize that truly we are all the same person. Yes, we might look different and maybe our structures differ, but in the end we all have hearts and souls that should be celebrated all over the world: not torn down.

Gracyn Reed
Editorial Policy

The Talon News Magazine is produced by students of Avila University. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Talon News Staff, the Trustees, administration, faculty, or staff of the University.

The Talon News Magazine encourages letters to the editor. These may be submitted electronically or in writing and should include the writer’s name, address, and telephone numbers for verification purposes.

Letters can be mailed to the Talon News Magazine Editor, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. The Talon reserves the right to edit letters for reasons of space, clarity, or inappropriate language. Copies of the Talon News Network Operational Guidelines may be requested by writing to the above referenced address.
A Different Perspective

An international student's outlook on race

Photo Credit Abdullah Alshaddi
As foreign person, I have never thought of racism as an issue to think about until I lived in a different country. When I came to America, I found racism is a very big and sensitive issue in a society that claims the right of equality and freedom. Even though the citizens and non-citizens are pretending it is not an issue, it is because people see racism everyday in their streets, schools, and hospitals and even on television. Racism here has way broader definition than where I came from, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The word Race falls into two categories. The first one is racism between Saudi and Saudi. Neither skin color nor gender is a racism issue in Saudi culture. Tribes are the conflict that racism is rise over between Saudis. A person without a tribe is always qualified as lower class socially. Even if the person is wealthy, he or she will have something missing, which is a tribe. Tribes in Saudi Arabia are seen as very important part of personal identity. It is the person’s story, background, and heritage. In addition, people who don’t have a tribe can’t marry people who have tribe. Some tribes don’t allow their people to marry out of their tribe. Also, one will hear a lot of disparaging remarks about the Beduin or “Bedu.” The Beduins are viewed mostly as the ethnic tribal groups. Jokes and comments will be made in regards to Beduin among Saudis, similar to the kind of comments one hears in the states about “Rednecks.” The Beduins are generalized as uneducated, uncouth, sometimes dangerous, and lack sophistication. However, that is not true, it is just a stereotype.

The Second category is the Racism toward Non-Saudi citizens. On this category I would view it more as discrimination more than race! A Non-Saudi citizen might treated differently depends on where they came from and what their job is. For example, if a person works as a waiter and he is from a poor county, he might face challenges to fit in the society, and he might be treated badly. On the other hand, if an American is working the same job he will be treated very well because he is an American.

Racism exists everywhere, but it has different definition and action from a place to another. Americans are more into skin color, gender, and racism. Where Saudis are more into tribe racism and non-Saudi discrimination. However both of them are wrong because people should be treated with love and equality because we all belong to HUMAN RACE.

Abdullah Alshaddi
The University of Oklahoma severed school ties with a national fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, on Monday, March 9, and ordered that its campus house be closed down, after several members took part in a racist chant caught on video. The video, posted online, shows several fraternity members on a bus shouting and chanting, “There will never be a ni**e SAE. You can hang him from a tree, but he can never sign with me.”

The video was brought to the schools attention Sunday afternoon, and by Sunday night, SAE’s national chapter had suspended the University of Oklahoma members and threatened lifelong suspensions. SAE apologized for the video and said it did not reflect the views of its 15,000 members nationwide. However, President David Boren took it a step further. He called for zero tolerance. He issued this statement:

“To those who have misused their free speech in such a reprehensible way, I have a message for you. You are disgraceful. You have violated all that we sand for. You should not have the privilege of calling yourselves “Sooners”. Real Sooners are not racist. Real Sooners are not bigots. Real Sooners believe in equal opportunity. Real Sooners treat all people with respect. Real Sooners love each other take care of each other like family members.

“Effective immediately, all ties and affiliations between this University and the local SAE chapter are hereby severed. I direct that the house be closed and that members will remove their personal belongings from the house by midnight tomorrow. Those needing to make special arrangements for positions shall contact the Dean of Students.

“All of us will redouble our efforts to create the strongest sense of family and community. We vow that we will be an example to the entire country of how to deal with this issue. There must be a zero tolerance for racism everywhere in our nation. President Boren”
The video was first brought to Boren’s attention by Unheard, an African American student group at the University of Oklahoma. The video was brought to their attention, after the student newspaper, The Oklahoma Daily, received the video in a Sunday email. Their group is devoted to fighting and ending racism on campus. A large crowd of students attended a protest at the university, some of them arriving with tape over their mouths with, “Unheard” written across it. Members of the Oklahoma football team, and head coach Bob Stoops also protested, instead of going to practice. Boren also took part in these protests.

Boren has expelled two students identified as leaders of the chant in the video. All of the members have been evicted from the house, and the Greek letters have been removed from the house. The University has cut all ties with the fraternity.

Since the incident, there has been an outpouring of tweets saying, “Racism is alive at the University of Oklahoma.” The harsh reality of the situation is that racism is alive at universities across the country. There have been an uncountable number of racial incidents across campuses. Oklahoma University’s immediate response and reaction sets the standard for other universities. President Boren and the University have stood for zero tolerance when it comes to racism, and that’s exactly how it should be.

Casey Lee
Avila has had a long history of athletes and once the school became coed in the 70's the university really started to put its trust in the athletes. It started to do more advertising and marketing that was geared toward the athletic department. After searching for some time through newspaper clippings and only finding white males and females that held the position of head coach for most of our teams I finally came across a picture of what I was looking for; I was looking for someone of color, male or female, that held the head coach position of one of the athletic teams (preferably in women's athletics). So I found that in 1978-79 season for the women basketball team their coach was Bernard Williams. This record would make him the first black head coach for Avila and the women's basketball team as well. During his season as head coach his team was made up of four sophomores with the remainder of the squad made up of first year players. Though the team was small and made up of mostly new girls Coach Williams was quoted as saying, “we are going to have to pay our dues early in the season while we mold as a team”. Then during the women’s basketball season of 1989-92 the team was blessed to have Jamie Collins as their head coach. Just like Mr. Williams making his mark so did Jamie being the first black women to coach for Avila and for the women’s team. Coach Collins’ motto during her time as head coach was “work hard, improve game to game, and have some fun”.

This year during black history month let’s celebrate these two individual’s as they broke the barrier for athletes and had no idea they were doing something so important in this schools history. Being the first at anything is something that most don’t think about as important, they are just doing what they want to do in life. And this would also go for being the first black woman or man doing something as small as being a head coach for the Avila Women’s basketball team. When these two people took their positions as head coach it was their love for the game that brought them to the school. This is what they love (coaching) not thinking if they took the position that they were going to be the first nor that later on in history it would be something that one journalist would be looking for to get her next big story.  

Johnetta Cox

Coach Bernard Williams
Photo from Avila Archives

For The Love Of The Game

The start of Avila Athletics
A DAY OF SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS
Thursday, April 16
Oral | Performance | Poster

AVILA UNIVERSITY
Be Inspired.
Does Race matter

It depends where you are in the world where race matters. In the U.S. all races are supposed to be treated equally. It hasn’t always been that way. White used to be superior to all races here. Black people used to be slaves and not offered the same rights as whites. Same as Spanish, Asian, etc. In a perfect situation many people would like to think race does not matter. Race does matter in the world.

To some people it may not matter but all it takes is for it to matter to one person for race to matter. It doesn’t matter to me personally but it does to some people. It definitely depends on the different things in the world to depend if race would matter in that certain area. There are certain things where race does matter, things where race doesn’t matter at all, and things that race doesn’t matter that much but still is brought up. Things like stereotypes are in everyday life that makes race matter. Race doesn’t matter as much as it did in the past.

Obviously race doesn’t matter as much as it did in the past years, but it does matter. For instance in basketball, race doesn’t matter as much as it would if someone was running for president. This is my example for a scenario that race doesn’t matter, but it is still brought up. In basketball black people are seen as better basketball players. If you are looking for an athletic basketball player most likely you will have a black person in mind. If you are looking for a shooter, you most likely will have a white person in mind. If you are looking for a big body that can take up space, you most likely have a foreigner in mind. These stereotypes are what make race matter in basketball. Even though these things are real, race doesn’t matter as much in basketball because it basketball brings all races together.

Something in which race would matter is running for president. For example president Obama being the first black president is maybe the biggest situation of my lifetime. Not because he is the president, but because he is a black president is why it is such a big deal. Race is always going to be brought to attention when someone is running for president, especially if the person is non-white. Another example where race would matter is stereotypical thoughts from law enforcement. Things like “driving while black” are a real life situation where law enforcement makes race matter.

There are racist people in the world that make race still matter. To me race doesn’t matter with anything. I don’t believe any race is better than the other, I believe they are all equal. I don’t believe things happen because of the race you are, I think it’s the kind of person you are. Race doesn’t make a person who they are, their actions do. If everyone thought this way, race would not matter. But it does.

Lewis D’vante
There are a lot of events held on TV in the month of February; some of the biggest award shows if not the biggest award shows of the year. There’s certain things that happen at these award shows that catch people’s attention and have them talking about it the next day. Whether it’s a topic of controversy, praise or maybe just pure interest. But the biggest award shows is not the only thing happening in February. It is also black history month. When black history month combines with an award show like the Academy Awards it is sure to grab people’s attention. During the Academy Awards there talked about moments which raised awareness for black history.

The controversy raised prior to the Academy Awards about the lack of minority in the group of nominees is one of the first things that caught people’s attention regarding black history. During the award show Neil Patrick Harris was sure to point out the obvious saying, “Today we honor Hollywood’s best and whitest, sorry…brightest”. Implying that there was no diversity among the nominees of actors. According to the Los Angeles Times “This was the second time since 1998 there was no minority in the acting categories”. Though there was a lack of minorities in nominees, it seems the Academy tried to make up for it with the show, having mostly people of minority as presenters. Though some may not have noticed this attempt others are still surprised about the history of minorities and the Academy Awards. For example, student Maria Gall says, “I was surprised that there was such a focus on it this time. There have been predominately white Oscars several times in the past, but this year they wanted to really point out how underrepresented blacks are in movies”. Some people may not notice that though the Academy does attempt to make a change there is still a ways to go.

Something that had most people talking in regards to black history and the Academy Awards as the performance and win of the Selma song “Glory”. Having a very powerful and moving performance of a song with lyrics of the same importance. The song in and of itself will always raise awareness but the words of John Legend and Common in the acceptance speech really inspire. John Legend said, “We know that right now the struggle for freedom and justice is real”. Racism is very live and well today, and it’s important for people to know that the fight for justice is still happening.
Does Race matter

In Theatre...

In the theatre world there is a practice called color-blind casting, or non-traditional casting. This is when actors are casted not based on their ethnicity, but on how well they play the role. This is a common practice among stage productions in the United States. This can be done in multiple ways. Actor, Laurence Olivier, a white male, was casted as Othello in William Shakespeare’s Othello. Othello, a moor, is often portrayed as a black male. Laurence Olivier was able to use make up to appear like a black instead. Olivier appeared both on stage and in film with this role and went on to be nominated for an Academy Award for this role.

While this is looked, as “ideal” to give everybody a chance, and not to discriminate against other ethnicities, there are some cases where color-blind casting cannot be done. For example, in the musical Hairspray, it is necessary to have a black male in the role of Seaweed (unless you hire Laurence Olivier). The musical is a social commentary on racial discrimination in the 1960s.

When asked Theater major at Avila University, Nick Horne, if he thought race mattered in theater he said, “Yes. Different races have different cultural backgrounds, theatre is about the story of human existence and each character should be expressed its own unique way.” I then asked him how he felt about color-blind casting, he said, “The script and play need to be general enough to do that. It shouldn’t discuss the race, and ethnicity of characters. If so, then you should cast according to the race and ethnicity discussed.”

When I spoke to a non-theatre major, Tony Baker, if he thought race mattered in theatre, he also replied with yes. He said, “Race is defined in character. It doesn’t mean that other people with other race have a lesser ability to play the character, it just takes away from how the writer intended the character to be portrayed.”

In my opinion, coming from a Hispanic background, I do think race matters, but not all the time. If whoever is casting a show thinks race matters in their show, then obviously race matters. If not, then race doesn’t apply to theater. I don’t believe that either person is wrong, unless they are trying to harm another race by not letting them be casted in their show.

Jerry Manan
An Impression Still in Effect

Coretta Scott King’s visit and impact at Avila

Avila University. We aren’t known for our tranquil campus or historic buildings, but we can say we were host to a woman who has ever changed history in itself. Coretta Scott King, yes you are reading that right. The one and only author, activist, and civil rights leader graced Avila with her presence in November of 1978.

In an article written by Denise Patin and Linda McKinley published in the Avila Examiner, Mrs. King was on campus to give a lecture on civil rights where she was presented with an “Avila College Plaque” as a special momento.”
Throughout the article written by Papin and McKinley, Mrs. King talked to students about the civil rights movement and keeping her husband’s legacy and passion going. She also answered questions about women’s right during those times stating, “Women are still not accepted as full citizens in this country, and that’s why the Equal Rights Amendment must be ratified.”

Just the fact that Avila got the opportunity to be host to such an amazing woman during that time was such an honor and it saddens me that this history has been kept in the dark filed in the archives for so many years. With the state this country is in today we need to remember those times of peaceful protest and strong activism that Mrs. King and so many others were destined to be apart of.

Colbi Howser

For the whole story about Mrs. King’s scan here --->
Does Race matter

Race is the idea that the human species is divided into distinct groups on the basis of inherited physical and behavioral differences. People view different things differently from one and other, some people believe that race is important while others believe it is no more than just a person’s complexion. So this leads me to the question, does race matter?

Although there has been major problems in this world we live in regarding race, my answer is I don’t see it as a big deal. Sure, I believe that it’s important in the fact that it makes you unique and who you are, but that’s not the only thing that makes a person unique. We are taught from a young age that the color of someone’s skin does not matter. Being a certain skin color doesn’t make anyone better than anyone. Just because you are white doesn’t make you richer than everyone else. Just because you are black doesn’t make you better at sports than everyone else. Just because you are Asian doesn’t make you smarter than everyone else. Just because you are Middle Eastern doesn’t mean you are a terrorist. Instead you actions are what really matters. In today’s times, nothing in this world is going to be handed to you just because of your skin color, you have to earn everything you get.

I know that there are some people out there who still feel differently. I know that there are still some people who think that they are better than the other people in this world just because they are a different skin color. To those people, I don’t have anything to say to them. A sad, sick, and true part of life is that racism still exist today. Racism works both ways, it’s not just whites being racist towards blacks and other non-white races, it’s also the other way around and every which way in between. To me this is sickening. Racism has caused nothing but problems in this world, people have paid the ultimate price over racism. It’s terrible that the world hasn’t moved passed the times of racism.

Trey Bales
THANK YOU AVILA!

Over 675 visitors

Over 3,350 photos

20 class visits

Hours of compelling conversation and dialogue!

Many Enlightened Perspectives!
Did You Know?
1. As far back as the 40’s this university has had black students attending and participating in athletics, student lead organizations and much more.

2. The first black coaches was Bernard Williams; who was the head coach for the women basketball team during 1978-79 season.

3. Did you know that Jamie Collins was the first black woman (on record) to coach the women’s basketball team at Avila during the seasons of 1989-92.

4. Many do not know that sister Barbara Moore was one of the first black nun’s on campus and she was also head of the nursing program.

5. The WOW factor for black history on Avila soil has to be that in 1978 Mrs. Coretta Scott King came to our school to give a speech on “Human Rights and the Challenge of the Future”. Now doesn’t that make you feel special that you attend a university that someone as important as Mrs. King would come and speak at.

This should make you feel proud that you attend a university that has always embraced diversity from the very begin. I challenge each student to find other interesting facts about Avila’s history and the different important facts that took place before our time on campus.

Johnetta Cox
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I strongly wish someday racism, discrimination, and stereotypes become things of the past. These things are made by ignorance. In order to not make people racist, we need to have an education about race. In the United States, we still have a lot of affairs over racism especially between black people and white people. And actually, I started thinking of racism more since I came to the United States. In Japan which is my country, most citizens have yellow skin like me, and even if there are other races, I don’t think it is a bad thing at all. Besides I think it is a great thing to be different than others. I feel especially in the United States, there are racism problems. And this is something we need to fix.

Hanae Ishikawa

Ultimately, race will probably always be an issue for some people and places, and when injustices occur race might be a prominent factor in the matter. But at Avila University diversity is embraced and when it comes down to it every student is here for the same reason. Everyone, no matter where they are from or what the color of their skin is, is here to get an education. Along the way people from different backgrounds and cultures can help teach each other that we are all a part of the human race. And that is the only race that truly matters.

Krystle Davila
The Krispy Kreme franchise of the UK has released an apology for their incredibly insensitive activities promotion last month. The store located in Hull, England, astonishingly advertised an event for the 18th of February named “KKK Wednesday.” According to USA Today, The “Krispy Kreme Klub” was created for youth in the Hull area to come and decorate their own doughnuts while on their half-term break. After immediately associating the acronym with the white supremacists hate group, “the Ku Klux Klan,” online users were in an uproar over this failed advertisement.

Lafeea Watson, the Public Relations Manager for Krispy Kreme UK, told both USA Today and Huffington Post that, “We believe this was a completely unintentional oversight on the part of our longtime franchise partners in the U.K. We are aware of the Hull store’s unfortunate naming choice for its Club program, and we are truly sorry for any inconvenience or offense this misstep may have caused our fans.”

Is ignorance an excuse for racism in advertising? Two Avila students share their thoughts on the issue.

EJ Merlo, a Communications major studying Advertisement and Public Relations stated, “My initial thoughts are that Krispy Kreme employees should be educated enough to not even consider this “KKK” idea to be an option, regardless of where the store location is. If the employees aren’t educated on the sensitive subject that’s associated with using “KKK,” then the PR department and upper management should be at all times apart of the promotional and advertising decisions. We live in a world that now-a-days racism is not acceptable by any means.”
Fellow Communications major, Samuel Love, believes that “ignorance is never an excuse. If that’s the case, they shouldn’t be put in that position to do that kind of job. It was horrible and everyone should’ve looked it over better before it got put out.”

As of today, all “KKK Wednesdays” promotions have been removed by Krispy Kreme and have been retitled with racially sensitive names.

Zach Mize

Zach: a sports communications major will be joining the Talon team next year as Copy Editor
INTRODUCING
Casey Lee
2015-16 Talon Editor-in-Chief
Sophomore...Sports Communications Major
“My full name is Erin Casey Lee, but I go by Casey. Writing is one of my biggest passions. I come from a strong line of journalists. For me, writing things down seems to be so much easier, at times, than saying them out loud. I was sports editor and co-editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper, but I never imagined I would become editor-in-chief for the Talon! I am so excited to be a part of this publication and I am really looking forward to next year.”
STUDENTS FREE!

Man of La Mancha

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