A Powerful Generation: Understanding and Overcoming Race Relations on College Campuses

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A Powerful Generation:

Understanding and Overcoming Race Relations on College Campuses

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We are powerful. We are the generation that must not and will never give up, for we are weary and fatigued we may grow. We are the generation that is exasperated by parties that call farm animals and other derogatory terms. We are the generation who, when protesting, are able to better expose matters regarding race on their campuses expeditiously and more widespread. The use of hashtags such as “#insolidaritywith” and inserting a specific universities’ name, videos of protests, and even recordings/stories of racist acts have indicated we will not be complicit like the many faculty, administrators, and students that are at a point of privilege. Through social media we are able to hold those persons and others who may have racist ideologies accountable for their behavior and hopefully transform beliefs.

Nonetheless, it is imperative that the raw, sometimes unfathomable, often times uncomfortable truth be told. But one of the most taxing aspects of revealing these truths is that people believe we exist in a “post-racial” society.

For change to be crafted on college campuses there first must be a pervasive understanding that there is, in fact, an issue of race relations. Many Americans are not aware, are not taught, or do not understand the fact that people of color have been, and still are treated differently because of historical and institutionalized racism. In fact, some individuals would rather be unconscious to the fact that racial acts are a part of a larger scale of systemic racism because it disrupts their perception of the world and the institutions they support. Nonetheless, it is imperative that the raw, sometimes unfathomable, often times uncomfortable truth be told. But one of the most taxing aspects of revealing these truths is that people believe we exist in a “post-racial” society.

Image by Matthew Lewis

education as their White counterparts are threatened, disparaged, beaten and terrorized, how can a post-racial claim be made? One instance in which college students have begun to reiterate the importance of Black lives on college campuses and expose our racist institutions, is through social media. Social media sites are at an apex since their creation and college students are able to better expose matters regarding race on their campuses expeditiously and more widespread. The use of hashtags such as “#insolidaritywith” and inserting a specific universities’ name, videos of protests, and even recordings/stories of racist acts have indicated we will not be complicit like the many faculty, administrators, and students that are at a point of privilege. Through social media we are able to hold those persons and others who may have racist ideologies accountable for their behavior and hopefully transform beliefs.

We are powerful. We are a generation cognizant that there is still racial unrest. We are a generation mindful of our forbears fight for racial equity and determined to follow in their footsteps. We are a generation that will address the acts of discrimination against people of color, on and off college campuses. We are the generation that is prepared to hold individuals accountable for every act of racial injustice. We are the generation that will forever stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters no matter what college campus they protest on, no matter how weary and fatigued we may grow. We are the generation that must not and will never give up, for we are powerful.