I. Radio talk host Timothy Johnson and Harvard professor Billy Parks (Radio Interview)

Timothy Johnson: Good morning everyone! Today we are going to discuss a touchy subject. The topic of the day will be “is the Black Lives Matter Movement really necessary?” Also today my guest is a professor from Harvard; Billy Parks.

Billy Parks: Hello everyone.

Timothy Johnson: Okay, let us get started. So, if some of you don’t know, the black lives matter movement was created because of the increase in police brutality cases. It started going viral in 2013 after George Zimmerman was acquitted in the death of 16-year-old Trayvon Martin. Ever since then the movement has been campaigning against violence and the systematic racism toward black people. So how to do you feel about this Mr. Parks?

Billy Parks: Well to be completely honest I don’t believe there is a need for this BLM movement. I know I might offend some with this but it almost seems like reverse racism towards the white race and other races. Why can’t all lives matter? It makes me think about the black Panther party.

Timothy Johnson: Wow, that was very interesting Billy. I know a lot of people are going to be mad at what you said, but I am going to try to understand what you said.

Billy Parks: Well I don’t understand why they would be mad. As a white American, I feel like everyone has fair rights. Whether it be when applying for jobs, college, or dealing with the
police. To be completely honest, I believe racism is dead and gone, but people just keep on bringing it up in irrelevant issues.

**Timothy Johnson:** Okay Bill, those are some really big assumptions and interesting beliefs. Well while you were talking I had some time to think about what you said. Okay so I'll start off by saying the BLM movement is necessary in our day and age. To be completely honest, this movement has been going on for decades. For instance, the Black Panther Party responded to the" discrimination faced by poor communities that were surveilled and impaired by institutions and individuals that were supposed to “protect and serve” and to heal” (Alondra Nelson, Ph.D.). The BPP was there to help other African Americans during this time from all the oppression brought on by cops or health care professionals.

**Billy Parks:** Yea, but why are those things needed if America is a place for freedom and justice for all?

**Timothy Johnson:** Well Bill the honest truth is, America has never been a place that provided freedom for black people. During slavery my people were considered "three-fifths of a human," then in 1868 the 14th amendment was passed, despite this blacks were still seen as three-fifths of a human. Even to this day we still have to deal with the systematic racism in our country. For instance, police officers are more likely to pull over or profile minorities over whites or killer cops who get acquitted for the murder of black people. All black people want is the same freedom whites have.

**Bills Parks:** Okay I think I am starting to understand your point, Timothy. Maybe since I have not experienced any of the situations you have faced I can't comment on them.
Timothy Johnson: Well, the producer are saying our time is up, but thank you Mr. Parks for coming and sharing your opinion

Billy Parks: You’re welcome but thank you for having me and helping me broaden my perspectives.

Timothy Johnson: You are certainly welcome. Now for all of you listeners, we will be continuing the music. Enjoy!

II. Girl Expressing her frustrations (Poem, Leslie Clark )

Sometimes I don't understand how fashion designers think

But hopefully this poem will make one specifically rethink

Marc jacobs, how is the criticism you have received reverse racism?

You may think just because you had your models wear dreads it's high fashion

But when I wear them I am put in a prism

Characterized as thug or messy, despite that the fact I was trying to embrace

My culture shouldn’t be “insidiously refashioned” (Zukiswa Wanner,78).

Not only my culture but others as well

Marc, if only you had used them in a respectable manner

We would not even be discussing this matter

But hey my opinion will be seen as incoherent chatter

III. POV of Robert L. Johnson( Ebook)

"Many people tend to ask me why I even started such a network whenever they meet me. My main goal was to create the kind of diversity that the broadcast networks never had” (Johnson 32). During the early 80's black people were being portrayed in a better light compared to previous decades. Shows such as The Cosby Show, Good Times, or even the Jeffersons. They
were shows that portrayed black people as real people just like everyone else. Contrary to all the stereotypes others had of us as a race. The first program to air on BET was “A Visit to a Chief’s son”, which was very uplifting and prosocial. The right kind of thing for us in the early days” (Johnson 44,45). One thing that brought joy to my heart was when the network started using advertisement. “We used to promote the football games of HBCUs since their teams rarely appeared on national television” (Johnson 47). Being able to fill that void made our hard work seem as though it paid off. We also received criticism when we started receiving a lot of success. Many thought out channel was promoting reverse racism since it was a predominantly black channel. Honestly, that wasn't what we were aiming for. We were aiming to create a gate for other black people to get in the entertainment industry because of the constant denial they would receive. From personal experience, I wanted to do something so others wouldn’t have to feel the pain of rejection.”

IV. Letter: to New York Times Writer, from James Packard, grandson of Spelman University founder

Dear Nelson Kelly,

Recently I saw your column on how you felt about the creation of historical black colleges. In your narrow-minded column, you made an assumption that did not sit well with me. You presented HBCU as serving ” only Black students throughout their history and continue to serve only Black students today”(Gasman,Nguyen, 5). Being the Grandson of the Spelman University founder, I could not sit here and be silent. Despite being born in the 1980's, horror stories of the racism that went on in the 1800's and the 1900's, were passed down throughout my family. When my great grandmother Sophia B. Packard, founded the school with her friends, their main goal was to create an environment for young black women to learn, despite all the
animosity going on in this country. Later on, during the process of establishing a school, the infamous tycoon John D. Rockefeller was impressed by my grandmother’s vision, he donated money to the institution. This institution has branched out into greater means since then. It has even acquired the label of being the number 1 liberal art HBCU in the country. Furthermore, HBCU schools have even been called the most diverse when it comes to their faculties. Having an estimate of "an average, 60% Black and 40% non-Black faculties" (Gasmen, 1). Also HBCUs were even "safe havens for Jews fleeing persecution during the McCarthy Era". So Kelly, I am still looking for this so-called "reverse racism" you claim to be aware of. I have one suggestion for you. Before you want to write an article, please look up information so then you do not end up looking idiotic. Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

James Packard

V. Diary Journal: Langston Monroe

Wow! Today was a very interesting and eye-opening day. My morning was the usual; eating breakfast with my family. Sadly, dad burnt my waffles and I forgot my completed homework assignment on my desk. My morning was pretty much a bummer, but once I went to history, I heard a lot of interesting statements that have been lingering with me all day. Since today is February 1, the first day of black history month, Ms. Lewis thought we should have a discussion on why and if we need black history month. At first, it was pretty quiet since most of us were too afraid to say what might be a right or wrong answer, but Ms. Lewis assured us it was a safe place to say what was on our minds. After she said that, Nathan decided to say " Well I think it is needed since we barely learn about black history month unless it's about Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks. By having BHM, we are able to learn beyond those two well known
activists." When he said that, I could understand where he was coming from but I still had to add my input on the situation. I then responded "Well, I personally feel like there should not even be a black history month since there is not a white history month. I personally feel like it is a form of reverse racism. Also, months like Asian or Hispanic American Heritage months should not exist either." When I said that, the class started having a mini heated political debate, but fortunately, Ms. Lewis intervened and stopped it. After she was able to calm the class down she started off by stating "I don't want a Black History Month” (Goffe, 16). When she made that statements I was shocked since Ms. Lewis was African American. She further went on to say, "I agree with some of the words Nathan said. I also believe Black, Asian or Hispanic history/heritage months should not exist. But I don’t believe they are a form of reverse racism." Even though she clarified herself, I was still confused. She then defended her statements by presenting "I find it ridiculous that someone is trying to relegate my history to one month. Black history is American history. These months wouldn't exist if they were presented in the curriculum as much as European history Nathan. So I'm sorry if you feel offended by the oppression of other people.” Even though she clarified her statements, I was still in awe. When I got home, it hit me, what she said made sense. Throughout my education career, I always thought BHM was unnecessary, but when Ms. Lewis spoke about the lack of Black, Asian, or Hispanic history representation in history class, it all made sense. I am glad that I was able to see things from a different perspective. Other than that, my day was not that eventful. Thankfully my favorite show is premiering season five in 3 minutes so, I'm going to conclude this journal entry.

VI. Classroom debate: between two groups of students in class

Mr. Kelly: Today we are going to be talking about affirmative action and the Abigail Fisher case. I expect an excellent debate since your homework last night was to research and
bring evidence to back up your view. Remember I split the class into two sections; one for affirmative action and one against it. One side will start off by introducing their argument and the other by refuting it. After both groups present, I will decide who has the stronger argument. I tossed a coin and since group 2 got tails, you will go first. So let us begin.

**Opposing side representative:** Well first off we do not believe affirmative action is helpful to this country. Despite America's racial history, things have changed tremendously. For instance, by the recent case of Abigail Fisher at UT, Fisher believed since she wasn’t accepted and affirmative action was to blame. We as a group believe she had a reasonable argument. Her lawyers attempted to eliminate affirmative action at the supreme court because Fisher believed her admission was denied because she is White (Gray,24). As a group, we all believe affirmative action is hindering equality for all races since, other races are getting a boost while another race is getting the end of the stick. It is kind of like reverse racism in a sense. Overall we believe affirmative action should be abolished.

**Agreeing side representative:** The points you made were pretty interesting, but there were statements that did not sit well with my group. If you had done extensive research you would have seen that in 2007 Fisher was denied admission since "168 Black and Latino students with higher GPAs, test scores and subjectively assessed personal essays than Fisher(Gray,24)." In addition "42 of the 47 students admitted ahead of Fisher were White." So, we don’t understand how this was a form of inequality for Ms. Fisher or "reverse racism" as you say. The reason for affirmative action was to help minority groups who were denied the opportunities that were given to other non-minorities.

**Mr. Kelly:** Well that was really good. I thought both sides had really good arguments but I'm going to have to go with the agreeing side. It was clearly proven that Fisher wasn’t
experiencing this so called inequality or reverse racism. But I will say I don’t completely agree with affirmative action. It doesn’t truly represent the idea of equality because it is trying to help people who are at a disadvantage. As a minority, I don’t want to be looked upon as someone who has a disadvantage because of their race; I want to be seen as a human. I want colleges or jobs to chose me because I have worked hard not just to meet another quota. Since the debate is obviously over, you can use the remainder of the time to do something productive.
Work Cited


Gasman, Marybeth, and Thai-Huy Nguyen. "Myths Dispelled: A Historical Account Of Diversity And Inclusion At Hbcus."


Pulley, Brett. *The Billion Dollar BET : Robert Johnson And The Inside Story Of Black

