

Racism still rampant in everyday life

I'm writing in response to Greg Morin's Jan. 31 column, "Liberals misidentified teens as racists," because I feel the people of Oconee do not want to settle for such a narrow and incorrect analysis of our history and social life.

Morin claims that racism was isolated to the 20th Century. He describes racism as an interaction between two people or groups of people.

He claims that black people are the racists now. In making all of these claims, he ignores our nation's history and conflates racism with prejudice.

Contrary to his inaccurate opinion, the oppression of Black people is not isolated to the 20th Century. In fact, it existed centuries before, during slavery, and is still ongoing.

We should not accept Morin's argument that racism against black people is "dead" without acknowledging the reality of the world around us.

Data refutes Morin's assertion that whites are now the oppressed group.

When applying to jobs, black applicants with identical résumés to white applicants are significantly less likely to be called for an interview.

Black defendants receive longer and harsher sentences than white defendants accused of the exact same crime. White employees earn more money than black employees in the

same jobs. The list of these inequalities is lengthy, and they not only affect blacks but many other minorities as well.

Racism entails much more than the way in which one person or group of people treats another. Victims of racism experience systemic discrimination.

Consequently, in a clash between a group of white people—who by every measure hold the power in society—and groups of black and Native American people—who hold significantly less power—the only act committed by blacks or Native Americans is prejudice, not racism.

Morin's characterization of whites as today's victims of racism also clashes with the fact that the vast majority of race-based hate crimes are committed at the hands of whites toward people of color.

Hate crimes and hate groups have been on the rise since 2016, and many involved with these openly use the Make-America-Great-Again mantra as

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Guest Columnist

"Sometimes white boys can be seen as wrong just because they are."

a rallying cry.

In choosing a recent news event on which to focus, it is telling that Morin did not write about Jussie Smollet, a black actor who was brutally attacked last week by a group of white men who, after putting a noose around Mr. Smollet's neck, beat him while yelling racial expletives and hollering that they were, "Making American great again."

I watched the two-hour video and heard what the Black Hebrew speakers said.

I was offended by their homophobic remarks, and I disagree with their religious beliefs. The white students who were on the

receiving end of the Black Hebrews' angry and prejudiced remarks, however, were not targets of racism.

By collectively wearing MAGA hats to a public forum in which Native American rights were being demonstrated, these white students were not neutrally walking through a public space.

Morin asserts that, "...when young, white boys are assumed to be in the wrong...racism is dead."

From this statement, his lack of understanding of what 'racism' means could not be clearer.

Sometimes white boys can be seen as wrong just because they are, and it does nothing to change the power dynamics that exist in this country.

Anthony Potts is a University of Georgia student who graduated from North Oconee High School in 2017. During his senior year, Potts penned The Oconee Enterprise's Young Scholar column. He co-authored this week's column with his mother, Melissa Landers-Potts.

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