



FAR FROM TIMID



Aug 16

This is Our America

Politics (/features/?category=Politics), Real Life Shit (/features/?category=Real+Life+Shit)

Charlottesville, Virginia is a tragedy in a cycle of tragedies. Three people dead. Others injured in a heinous attack with a car from a white nationalist. For months, we've seen profiles of the alt-right like it was some appealing Maxim cover story. All of a sudden, racism and bigotry was paraded as the "other side of the conversation". Right, because racism is so misunderstood. We were just missing the point. There was a hashtag that was put out on Twitter after the rally happened that was used by some celebrities. It was named "This Is Not Us," which I found pretentious. It's easy for people who have never felt the scourge of the cold hard truth - the real facts is that hate is every bit of American as the crust on an apple pie.

This is our America. Trail of Tears (<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part4/4h1567.html>), from 1830-1850, Native Americans in result of the passage of the Indian Removal Act removed them from their homelands to territories. Literally, from the birth of America and the thirteen colonies, slavery was a mainstay in importing Africans. By the time of the American Revolution in 1775, there was a racial caste system set. Or how about during World War II (<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/japanese-american-relocation>), where about 120,000 Japanese Americans were relocated in internment camps result of the Pearl Harbor attack? How about the xenophobic "Muslim" ban and that in a 2015 study (<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/u-s-sees-300-violent-attacks-inspired-far-right-every-year>) from law enforcement groups, they found that anti-government extremists are a more pressing threat? Are we going to gloss over Jim Crow, that black citizens were hung out in the open, or attacked with fire hoses and K9s? No? Let's go to the video tape (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFcQDkVOJM>). It's not too long ago that black people were not allowed to go to the same schools, drink at the same water fountains, or get a meal at the same place as white people. Why are we debating the moral semblance of nazis? Now, I know that facts are not big with some crowds, but we literally fought them in a war. It was a big war - a turning point. Google is still free. "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." So, when holocaust survivors say "never again," have we not learned everything? We haven't learned anything from the six million Jewish people and six million others who were lead to their deaths and experimented on because of an asinine theory of a superior race?

Right now, in the White House have a sitting president who started his presidential campaign labeling Mexican (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jaz1J0s-cl4>) people as rapists. A president that labeled Black and Mexican Americans (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2016/08/22/donald-trump-to-african-american-and-hispanic-voters-what-do-you-have-to-lose/>) poor, prone to failure, and living in neighborhoods that were worse than war zones. "What do you have to lose," he said. A lot. This is not even touching on his previous history of housing discrimination in the 70s (https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/inside-the-governments-racial-bias-case-against-donald-trumps-company-and-how-he-fought-it/2016/01/23/fb90163c-bfbc-11e5-bcda-62a36b394160_story.html?utm_term=.56b0b3857aa4&tid=a_inl), the Central Park Five (<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/18/opinion/why-trump-doubled-down-on-the-central-park-five.html>), and his own comments about Native Americans (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cZ4vFZ8A_Y). How much more proof do you need? This man has shown you who he is time and time again who he is and what he is about. That press conference today was one of the lowest points in American history from a person who has never taken accountability for anything in his life. You have Steve Bannon, Sebastian Gorka, Stephen Miller, and Jeff Sessions in prominent positions influencing policy despite their own nefarious dealings on race. Hell, Bannon controlled a news outlet who claimed to be the birthplace of the alt-right. It's like a starting five for the racist all-star team. This is privilege.

Privilege is condemning a terrorist act in London that was committed by a car in Charlottesville. Privilege is having a newspaper headline label you as "misunderstood" when you really should be called a terrorist. Privilege is rallying around statues of a failed idea like the confederacy and it's figures like Robert E. Lee. These statues are apart of an endearing ideology that began with the 1860's domestic terror group, The KKK and most were made during the time of Jim Crow and the Civil Rights Era. What history are you trying to preserve exactly? Privilege is the tale of two rallies. See, when Black Lives Matter marches, it's to be included in the collective. It's to show that within the conversation of all lives, black lives are included in that conversation. When white supremacists march, it's because they want to show superiority over on racial guidelines. When the "good ole boys" of the alt-right march, they depicted as peaceful. When those who marched in Ferguson and Baltimore marched, they were labeled thugs as a blanket statement. Who is the threat here? Why do hate groups hide behind the veil of freedom of speech? First amendment rights come with consequences. It protects your right to say what you want, but not how you want to do it. It does not include inciting actions to harm others or to make obscene materials. (Law Cases: *Schenck v. United States*, 249 U.S. 47 (1919). *Roth v. United States*, 354 U.S. 476 (1957).) Besides, how are you proud to use such a great right in being a racist?

Yes, it's America. The ugliness. The hate. The bloodshed and divisiveness. The fact that the "American Dream" does not mean the same thing to all people. White supremacists state that they are trying to take their country back. How do you claim ownership of something that was never yours in the first place? It's like the bully in kindergarten that screams, "MY TOY, MY TOY!". So, America take a good look at Charlottesville, Virginia. Take a long hard look because sometimes staring at your reflection is needed. Some people are horrified at what they see, where others having been living in it for decades upon decades. No, there are not two Americas because this is America. We don't need outlets dressing up racism with cute words as alt-right, it's already mainstream.

America (/features/?tag=America)

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Coeur Noir is an autofiction novel written by Al Patron. The title is Haitian Creole for black heart or heart of black, in reference to the traits of the main protagonist, Nikolas Daniel, who may or may not be based on Al Patron himself. A coming of age novel *Coeur Noir* will evoke emotional reactions ranging from but not limited to crying & laughter, all while detailing a path to greatness for Al Patron, Nikolas Daniel.

Foreword by Felonious Munk (http://twitter.com/Felonious_munk) & Afterword by Cole Frayer

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