

# Hollywood lacks representation of minorities



By  
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Representation in the media has been a topic of discussion for many years, and may always be. Hollywood has a preference of casting heterosexual white men for lead roles, but minority groups are demanding a change.

“We’re being unrepresented a lot in every aspect of society,” Afro-Caribbean math teacher Gary Clayton said. “That’s just the norm and that stems from Jim Crow and it still stems to today.”

The lack of proper representation for minorities is dangerous. I grew up only seeing white or light-skinned women on television. As a young girl in Jamaica, the only shows I remember seeing on Disney Channel with a black female character were “That’s So Raven” and the animated series “The Proud Family.”

“We only see white people,” Bengali sophomore Nafeesa Khan said. “I felt isolated because I didn’t see people like me on the TV. Yeah, I didn’t like myself.”

When Hollywood does put Afri-

can-Americans and Caribbean-Americans in films, the characters are seen as gangsters and ghetto.

“They give us bad representation, like we’re poor,” Afro-Caribbean sophomore Medjina Dareus said. “The way they do represent us it’s like they don’t know what’s really going on. They drag us down.”

It’s very rare that minorities are given the proper non-stereotypical representation they deserve. Though recently, just this year, some movies have been released that are finally pushing the boundaries, such as “Black Panther” and “Crazy Rich Asians.”

“(Black Panther) was really good,” Dareus said. “I loved everything about it. I was surprised, ‘cause at first everyone was like, ‘Oh, it’s a good movie.’ I was like, ‘Okay, y’all just hyping it up ‘cause it’s black people,’ and then I was watching it myself and I was like, ‘Wow, this is really good.’ And it sends a really powerful message.”

The Netflix original “To All The Boys I’ve Loved Before” was sent to several production companies before one finally agreed to keep the main character Asian. The same fate befell the movie “Crazy Rich Asians.”

Many fans of the book “The Hate U Give” were excited to hear about

the movie adaptation that is set to come out in October; however, not many were pleased to hear the main character Starr, who in the book is a dark-skinned African-American teen, would be played by Amandla Stenberg, a light-skinned half African-, half Danish-American actress.

“If you pay attention to all these shows, they have a specific standard or type they go for,” Dareus said. “When they do cast black girls in shows, they’re mixed.”

A lot of light-skinned actors take advantage of their privilege and take roles that were meant for dark-skinned actors. Others though, like Zendaya, acknowledge their privilege and use it to support the dark-skinned community.

Race and ethnicity are not the only categories dealing with a lack of representation in Hollywood. Gender, sexual orientation, religion, people with disabilities and people with mental illnesses are also not properly represented.

The movie “Love, Simon” did help and impacted many members of the LGBTQ+ community. For some, the movie gave them the courage to come out to loved ones.

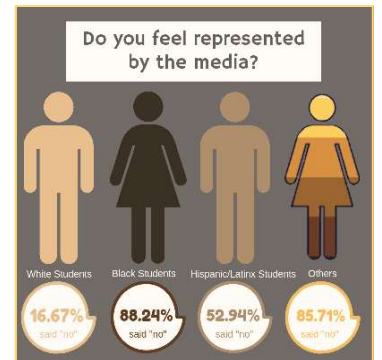
The hardest thing Khan has had to overcome was dealing with her bisexuality. She says the lack of rep-

resentation in the past affected her greatly.

“I grew up watching heterosexual couples being constantly represented and praised in the media,” Khan said. “It was just considered the norm, so I thought liking two genders was really weird.”

It seems as if Hollywood is at least trying to be more inclusive and portray diverse people in a more positive light, though it will take some for everyone to be fairly represented.

“(Hollywood) still continues to whitewash people,” Khan said.



From a poll of 66 students on Sept. 24.

GRAPHIC BY KAYLA GAYLE

# When’s brunch? Lunchtimes at school way too early



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According to the Oxford Dictionary, lunch is a meal eaten in the middle of the day, typically one that is lighter or less formal than an evening meal. The middle of the day is noon, yet those who have A Lunch go to lunch before 11 a.m.

Most students get to school before

seven, so they already have an early breakfast. An early breakfast makes sense; it’s a morning meal, after all. However, lunch is supposed to be an afternoon meal, and 11 is hardly afternoon.

During the summer, I ate lunch around noon, at the earliest, although usually much later. Making the switch from lunch at a normal time to lunch before the morning’s even finished is an inconvenience, even if it’s only the difference of an hour. Meals should be evenly spaced out, and yet many of us eat breakfast around 6 a.m., making the time between typical breakfast and

school lunch five hours, and the time between school lunch and a typical dinner, around 7 p.m., nearly eight hours.

Sure, A Lunch may seem like a good idea in theory. Lunch after second period breaks your day in half: two classes before lunch and two classes after. And it would work great, if lunch were an hour later. Students, especially those in high school, are known for being constantly ravenous, and uneven spacing of meals makes it hard for us to focus, especially toward the end of the day when it’s been quite a few hours since lunch and there’s still quite a lot of time until dinner.

I only have A Lunch this year, but my last two years of school have been filled with an alternating lunch schedule, which isn’t much better. Instead of being able to reluctantly get used to eating lunch so early, those who alternate lunches can’t get used to a steady lunchtime. On days where they eat earlier, they’ll be hungrier towards the end of the day, and vice versa on days where they have B lunch.

In a perfect world, we could all have B lunch and eat lunch at 12:47 p.m. instead of before we’ve even fully woken up. That’s not the case, though, so we’ll just have to accept that brunchtime is here to stay.