

Black History Month is redundant

Haven't we come far enough in American history that a Black History Month is no longer needed?

I used to think celebrating Black History Month was harmless and I never developed any opinions on it until I found out that it actually isn't as unobtrusive as I thought.

The inspiration for me to attack this subject is teens on Twitter.

There are a collection of tweets filled with ignorant statements demanding a White History Month, which I don't really have a problem with, except for the context in which these requests are made.

Consider this gem from @catoelb: "I wonder why white people don't have a white history month? Did we not do anything important? SMH."

Someone should tell that person that Carter G. Woodson, the father of Black History Month, introduced Negro History Week to be celebrated the second week of February partly because Abraham Lincoln was born on Feb. 12, or would they be confused as to why we used to celebrate black history on a white guy's birthday?

The conviction behind this one from @steponme_1993 is inspiring: "February ... black history month. Where the f**k is white history month?!? I'd like to celebrate my heritage."

These tweets are small iterations of the grander, more comprehensive ramblings of Victoria Jackson of which 140 characters can never do justice.

The former Saturday Night Live cast member, who recently came back to relevance defending conservative remarks but in turn making them dumber, composed a thesis and posted it on her blog Feb. 1.

It started: "I wrote a song called 'White Men Are Good,'" and ended with: "save our country from the God-hating communists like Alec Baldwin and Obama."

In between, she too wondered about White History Month and claimed white people invented space travel, most medical advances and Ivy League universities to back up her demands.

My first inclination is to laugh, but then I get into this introspective zone where I fear for the future of civilization, especially in the form of the tweets.

These aren't stereotypical conservatives ranting on social media platforms they barely know how to use, these are young people with developing minds.

When people start using Black History Month as an excuse to parlay for their benefit, it's gone too far.

The Census Bureau predicts that whites will be a minority in 2043, so those teens could live to see the day of a White History Month, that day they dreamed so much about.

One of the main reasons for the recognition of Black History Month is to spread knowledge about the history of African-Americans in the United States, right?

But I bet some conservative communities choose to not even mention it and the fact that they are purposely suppressing the observance of black excellence defeats the purpose.

The Civil Rights Movement takes up a good chunk of the history books, and deservedly so, but shouldn't that be enough?

If Black History Month conjures up these emotions every year, is it worth having?

George Washington Carver and Harriet Tubman's bravery were thoroughly taught throughout my lifetime, and I think it's safe to say that I am in the majority.

I consider myself extremely lucky to have grown up in a society where history books provided a good assortment of examples of the toil and accomplishments of different ethnic groups.

As a Burmese-American whose roots are in China, learning about the discrimination on Angel Island and the neglect, during the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, of my ancestors during history class is satisfactory, and I have high hopes that my kids will learn about Aung San Suu Kyi in school.

It takes an Intel commercial to tell me that Ajay Bhatt developed the USB, and if you ever need a bio-artificial liver to replace your existing one because of all the drinking you're doing, you can thank Dr. Kenneth Matsumura.

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I understand the contributions Asians made in American history are modest compared to those of African-Americans, but one lesson on Japanese discrimination after the attack on Pearl Harbor is only half the story.

If Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was as prominent as Black History Month, we'd all be wearing Jeremy Lin jerseys and watching Bruce Lee flicks for the entirety of May (Yes, Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is May).

If civil rights and other accomplishments from black Americans were blatantly disregarded in a majority of schools in the United States, I would be an advocate for Black History Month.

The sovereignty of Black History Month has even fallen victim to consumerism.

Nike has sneakerheads clamoring every year for the Black History Month Pack, a collection of the brand's more popular models sold in an exclusive colorway.

The famous argument against Black History Month is the one Morgan Freeman told Mike Wallace in an interview for "60 Minutes" where he said, "You're going to relegate my history to a month? I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."

I'm more accommodating to the heritage months such as National Hispanic Heritage Month and Asian-Pacific Heritage Month because I believe culture and aspects such as music, origin, dance, attire, ethnic groups and of course food is something to be celebrated, but dedicating a month to contributions to American history that are already widely celebrated is irrational.

Accomplishments should not be celebrated with a special month, they are celebrated with results.

The ultimate result for me being the inauguration of President Barack Obama with which we are already reminded of black history every day.

Americans are now more aware than ever of how far we've come in terms of reaching a point of equilibrium in society, even with that small exception who choose to deny Black History Month.

Stanzas by Maya Angelou are not more powerful during February than they are in June, and Richard Pryor is not funnier during Black History Month.

Jackie Robinson's achievements are not forgotten during baseball season.

Is Trayvon Martin's death more unjust because it falls on Black History Month? The tragic nature of a murder should not be dependent upon when it happens.

Two foreseeable futures are that the feelings of the people who want White History Month will heighten, or enthusiasm for it will die down and it will just gradually fall into complacency.

Black History Month was never a pointless celebration, but I think that it sufficiently achieved its purpose that it sees an increase in its chances to do more harm than good.

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