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Alabama Voices

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Legends in their own minds

*See articles below that precipitated this response © *The Montgomery Advertiser*

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Legends in their own minds (or some other appropriate title)

It's a sad day in America when free speech has been usurped and victimized by the likes of Josh Moon and Dana Milbank—two white guys who hate anything about American whiteness or white privilege—whatever that is!? Where do I sign up for this 'white privilege' thing anyway? Is it a government handout? Can I stop working and 'get-mine' like all those other millions of privileged white folks?

I've been white for 61 years and if the color of my skin has given me some type of advantage, well...hell, I've missed the boat on this one! I don't remember white privilege when my father had to work two jobs just to put food on the table. Some thief stole my privilege when I received my draft notice during Vietnam. And I've worked all my life and put myself through college and paid my loans and bills when white privilege could have been as simple as sitting on my duff all day enjoying the fruits of being free and white. Is this where an expletive goes?

Let me see if I have this right: by the year 2043, a racial majority will cease to exist which will essentially wipe out American whiteness. That's going to keep me up nights. In fact, I better call Josh and Dana and arrange a beer summit to get on board with this load of crap. It must sell or else they would have to get real jobs as they have proven time-and-again that legitimacy in editorializing is cheap and sleazy these days. Here's why.

Between the two of them, they find fault with legitimate illegal immigration issues; slander the GOP, Tea Party, and conservatives; they want people to pay their fair share in taxes; and they practice overt and covert hatred for anyone that is opposed to their sense of what will be in America's future. I am a Christian conservative and I will not apologize or hang my head in shame before these two so-called gentlemen.

Their literary ideas of 'Bringing a welcome end to American whiteness' (Ref: Milbank) or 'Just Saying: Brooks made bad GOP day worse' (Ref: Moon) are attempts to take the voice of one individual and holistically apply that voice to a nation. Sort of like saying Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi are great politicians and if you disagree, you are a bigot, idiot, and you must be stupid—just saying.

I can only imagine what millions of white Americans might feel about this load of manure. For example, it's no secret that the vast majority of we Silver Spoon White Privilege Racists surely get up every day and bow to our whiteness. Is this where another expletive goes?

We care about our families, the economy, and the future for our children. Milbank and Moon, in case you selectively missed it, I didn't say white children but children of all colors. You see, to you two self-proclaiming Prophets (should be spelled profits), Christian conservatives are worried over the loss of white privilege, not about a nation where our children of all colors

are cared for and our nation will remain viable for all adults and children—of all colors, races, creeds, and nationalities.

In fact, my granddaughter is a Latina. Her father, a legal immigrant, came here from Mexico. He and my daughter are doing okay financially because they both work very hard in this 'pontificating' economy and they care, as we as grandparents do, for our daughter and granddaughter. My sense of anything racial (American whiteness) concerns me at the same level of credence as that placed in the writings of Moon and Milbank. I'm too busy working two jobs, paying my fair share of taxes and bills, serving my community, and being responsible for my actions. I can't say the same for Moon and Milbank.

Your attempt(s) to correlate Mo Brooks on the lives of others is lower than the belly of a cockroach. How about I interpolate your senseless sensibilities into the following: 'Bringing a welcome end to American Democrats' (Ref: Milbank) or 'Just Saying: Reid and Pelosi made bad Democrat day worse' or 'Moon and Milbank epitomize how to hate.' I could substitute anything in these titles from race to politics and it would be as asinine as it was in original form.

The two of you take Brooks as some sort of spokesman for the all-inclusive GOP/White/Conservatives/Obama Haters, and you try to sell it like every white American was guilty of something. [Insert two-word expletive here.] The same assumption you both demand we accept as you deem it to be could be made by other idiots about other races, politicians, and so on. But two things you always conveniently leave out: responsibility and truth.

There are bigots in the white community, black community, political community, and in the editorial community. Using your logic, Moon and Milbank, everyone has some form of 'Oedipus complex' towards their race or politics or their right to something. For you to push the idea of whiteness in America or white privilege, when the overwhelming majority of whites in this nation are hard-working and caring, is so ridiculous that I can't respond properly in mixed company. God would not be pleased with what I would say to you both if it could be printed as I considered the inherency of both of you being legends in your own minds.

The color of America is changing; so what! I am concerned about the changes in our economy, our position in the world as a leader, our ability to defend ourselves as a nation, and how many babies we kill each year under the guise of legal abortion. If either of you think that the vast majority of white Americans give a hoot about whiteness, both of you are so delusional that you might want to consider the following pen-names: Chicken Little, Sr., and Chicken Little, Jr.

With so many pressing issues facing this nation, the best the two of you can come up with is white privilege or the death of whiteness in America? Beam me up, Scotty!!!

Ken Scott writes from Montgomery.

Just Saying: Brooks made bad GOP day worse



Josh Moon, Montgomery Advertiser 8:08 a.m. CDT August 7, 2014

There was an escalation on Monday in the "war on white people."

First, there was evidence that President Obama — otherwise known as "that black guy in the White House" — did not handle improperly the attack on the American embassy in Benghazi.

Then, the Alabama abortion clinic law — which required clinics performing abortions to meet certain standards, like owning a copy of the Beatles' "White" album and a rotary phone — was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge.

And then, the news website Politico published a scathing investigative piece about Alabama House Speaker Mike Hubbard laundering Indian casino money. And a short while later his chief of staff got the heck out of Dodge.

And well, mercy, white people, it was a tough day. But none of that was as bad as the attack on white Republicans perpetrated by the whitest of white Republicans, Alabama congressman Mo Brooks.

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Rep. Brooks charges Democrats with 'war on whites'



Because as bad as all of that was for the GOP, nothing was as bad as Brooks rambling, ignorant spiel about Democrats engaging in a "war on white people" by pursuing minority voters.

In a time when Republicans are trying desperately to shed an image of intolerance and indifference to minority issues, the last thing that party needs is Brooks saying this: "This is a part of the war on whites that's being launched by the Democratic Party. And the way in which they're launching this war is by claiming that whites hate everybody else. It's a part of the strategy that Barack Obama implemented in 2008, continued in 2012, where he divides us all on race, on sex, greed, envy, class warfare, all those kinds of things."

Brooks made the comments on Laura Ingraham's radio show, and even Ingraham, who isn't exactly known for her restrained viewpoints, tried to reel Brooks back in.

But there's no reeling in Brooks — not the embodiment of the Alabama Republican. Brooks carried right on, even doubled down on his comments in later interviews with local media outlets.

Because what he said is the truth — to him. He believes it.

MONTGOMERYADVERTISER

Numbers undercut Brooks' 'war on whites' argument

Like other Republicans, Brooks believes that white people — the same white people who hold nearly 90 percent of the nation's wealth and lead better than 90 percent of the nation's Fortune 500 companies — are under attack. Not because they're actually under attack, but because a large number of minority groups are beginning to receive equal treatment under the law and equal respect from lawmakers.

This isn't fair to them. It's not fair, they believe, that all of a sudden white people have to care what minorities want out of government. And it's really deplorable, they think, that these minority voters are wanting government help.

Sure, the Alabama GOP benefited directly by apparently creating a backdoor way to receive gambling donations while decrying gambling donations. And yes, technically, making up random rules that forced abortion clinics out of business and immigrants out of state were ways of legislating the GOP beliefs into practice. And OK, the limiting of welfare payouts while handing out billions in "economic incentives" does tend to mostly help out the pigment-challenged.

All of that is different, I guess, since that's white government doing things white people want.

But God forbid a politician turn to a black voter or a Hispanic voter and ask how government might help boost him or his business or his education or his family. God forbid that Democrats actually venture into minority neighborhoods and talk with voters about issues that truly matter where they live. And please, don't even think of adding black and Hispanic lawmakers to your party so you might be better able to address the needs of minority voters.

All of that is somehow a "war on white people." According to Brooks, it's telling minorities that white people hate you.

Actually, no. What's telling minorities that Republicans hate them are things like a local politician driving through a poor neighborhood and assuming that all of the people living there are deadbeats on welfare. It's the almost comically inaccurate and negative viewpoint most Republicans hold of minority voters. And it's the utter indifference with which issues affecting minorities are approached by Republican lawmakers.

Brooks is right. In this alleged war against white people, there are people out there telling minorities that white Republicans hate them.

It's white Republicans.

Bringing a welcome end to American whiteness

By Dana Milbank 7 p.m. CDT August 6, 2014



WASHINGTON – The unfriendly airwaves of talk radio this week gave us an inadvertently revealing moment.

Rep. Mo Brooks of Alabama, a Republican immigration hard-liner and part of what *The Wall Street Journal* just branded "the GOP's Deportation Caucus," was giving his retort to the paper's pro-business editorialists on Laura Ingraham's radio show Monday: "They need to be patriots, and they need to think about America first," Brooks said.

America First? How 1940! The congressman went on to condemn those who say the Republican position on immigration is dooming the party by alienating Latinos.

"This is a part of the war on whites that's being launched by the Democratic Party," Brooks said. "And the way in which they're launching this war is by claiming that whites hate everybody else. It's a part of the strategy that Barack Obama implemented in 2008, continued in 2012, where he divides us all on race, on sex, greed, envy, class warfare."

It was the battle cry of the white man, particularly the Southern white man, who is feeling besieged. I don't share the fear, but I understand it. The United States is experiencing a rapid decoupling of race and nationality: Whiteness has less and less to do with being American.

The Census Bureau forecasts that non-Hispanic whites, now slightly more than 60 percent of the population, will fall below 50 percent in 2043. Within 30 years, there will cease to be a racial majority in the United States. In a narrow political sense, this is bad news for the GOP. But for the country, the disassociation of whiteness and American-ness is to be celebrated. Indeed, it is the key to our survival.

This is not merely about a fresh labor supply but about the fresh blood needed to cure what ails us. To benefit from such a transfusion, we not only need to welcome more immigrants but also to adopt pieces of their culture lacking in our own — just as we have done with other (mostly European) cultures for centuries.

This is the theme of my friend Eric Liu's provocative new book, "A Chinaman's Chance." Liu writes about Chinese-Americans (Asians, as it happens, eclipsed Hispanics last year as the fastest-growing minority in the United States) but the thesis is similar for other immigrant cultures. Liu argues that the United States needn't fear China's rise because the Chinese have already given us the tools to beat them economically: their sons and daughters.

"America has an enduring competitive advantage over China: America makes Chinese-Americans; China does not make American-Chinese," Liu says. "China does not want to or know how to take people from around the world, welcome them, and empower them to change the very fabric of their nation's culture."

Liu observes that American culture now has an excess of individualism, short-term thinking and prioritizing of rights over duties. He calls for "a corrective dose" of Chinese values: mutual responsibility, long-term thinking, humility, moral character and contribution to society.

"What Chinese culture at its best can bring to America is a better balance between being an individual and being in a community," he writes, offering the example of Tony Hsieh, the Taiwanese-American chief executive of Zappos who is pouring some \$350 million into reviving downtown Las Vegas: "He's an American gambler with a Chinese long view; he is supremely confident yet mainly silent; he has so little of the American need to sell himself, so little extroversion, that he jokes even his friends aren't sure he likes them."

China responds with edicts because it lacks the source of continuous adaptability and vitality that imported cultures give the United States. The inherent advantage in the American system will continue -- if we don't get hung up about whiteness.

The tea party movement was a setback because it elevated extreme individualism over collective responsibilities and because it tapped into nativism and further undermined trust in American institutions. Some tea partyers such as Brooks may never be able to leave the bunkers where they defend whiteness.

But for other conservatives and Republicans — and, more importantly, for America — it's not too late.

Follow Dana Milbank on Twitter, @Milbank.