

From the Editor.

Charlie Kirk's death has pulled the sheets back on a revealing truth: White conservatives want the power to control what people say and how people process what is said. Kirk was a proudly unfiltered racist. He incited violent rhetoric against anyone who wasn't a white, toxic male, psuedo-Christian. He *spit* out vitriolic narratives that contributed to racist ideologies and violence against marginalized communities.

When that violence came "home to roost" (in the words of Malcolm X), white conservatives demanded that those who highlighted Kirk's racist track record remain silent and accept the asinine deification of someone of horrible character. In other words, they demanded that America *swallow* the truth. They demanded that Black people *swallow* their rage at the fact that Kirk consistently considered our community problematic and unqualified. They demanded that teachers, celebrities, and other professionals *swallow* their rights to free speech when they spoke against Kirk's ideologies - the same right Kirk exercised to insult and incite violence. They demanded that America *swallow* their outrage that Donald Trump remained silent at the assassination of Minnesota Representative Melissa Hortman, yet ordered the U.S. flag to be lowered to half-mast (a symbol of great honor) for someone who said, *"If we would have said that Joy Reid and Michelle Obama and Sheila Jackson Lee and Ketanji Brown Jackson were affirmative action picks, we would have been*

called racists. Now they're coming out and they're saying it for us ... You do not have the brain processing power to otherwise be taken really seriously. You had to go steal a white person's slot to go be taken somewhat seriously."

The president continues to smear America's face with abuse of power, incompetent leadership, visceral hatred and unashamed greed. Right now, the world is witnessing the very public defiling of Democracy herself. So what do we do? We defend her. We protect her. We say, "No!" for those who can't speak up for themselves. We record. We post. We sue. We hide those who are hunted. We teach our children that what they are seeing from this administration is wrong, wrong, wrong. We vote. We show up in our communities. We hold every leader accountable to upholding truth and justice.

We don't choke. We don't hold our breath and wait for it to be over. We don't hide in shame. We resist. If we don't fight the brute of authoritarianism, tyranny, and anti-democracy it will keep coming back until there is nothing left to ravage.

In Black,

Alpha Woolen



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