



# **Eavesdropping on America's Conversation about Race**



# **THE RACE CARD PROJECT**

**BY MICHELE NORRIS**







Download a printer friendly version of the entire list [here](#).

Americans, All Races,  
Shot 87 Koreans

- - Raoul M. Ilew  
Marietta, GA

Arbitrary  
distinctions with no  
scientific basis

- -Cindy Brown, Pine  
Lake, GA.

It was my Path To  
Wisdom.

- -Mattie, Marietta, GA

The beginning and end  
of conflict.

- Leigh Donaldson,  
Portland, Maine

Self-evident: All men  
are created equal

- - Scott Smith. Buffalo,  
NY.

Lord help us to do  
better

- -Anonymous  
Marietta, GA

The content of my  
kid's character

-Kevin Triebsch  
Marietta, GA

Aggravatingly  
presumed and  
ignorant, preventing  
progress

- -Alex, Chapel Hill, NC.

We could learn much  
from ourselves.

- -Ellery Sills,  
Portland, Oregon

You are invited to participate in a little exercise.  
Think about the word **RACE**. Now, think about how you would  
express your thoughts about **RACE** in just **SIX WORDS**. That's right.  
Your experiences, thoughts, triumphs, laments, theory or anthem  
expressed in six words. You can also include your **name, location** and  
**email** so we can alert you if your six-word "essay" is posted.  
Get busy. I'm listening. — Michele Norris

*I hear my  
grandfather's hateful  
words*

Grace of Silence  
5505 Connecticut  
Ave NW #303  
Washington D.C.  
20015

**Michele Norris**

[WWW.MICHELE-NORRIS.COM](http://WWW.MICHELE-NORRIS.COM)  
[GRACEOFSILENCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:GRACEOFSILENCE@GMAIL.COM)



You are invited to participate in a little exercise.  
Think about the word RACE. Now, think about how you would express  
your thoughts about RACE and ethnicity in just SIX WORDS.  
That's right. Your experiences, thoughts, triumphs, laments, theory or  
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**email** so we can archive your 6-word essay and alert you if it is posted  
on the website for The Race Card Project™.

Get busy. I'm listening. —Michele Norris

I was taught "they"  
smell bad.

Sam Ehrlich  
Seguin, TX  
sehrlich@thru.edu

Michele Norris

[www.theracecardproject.com](http://www.theracecardproject.com)

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5614 Connecticut  
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20015-2604

PLATTSBURGH NY 129

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I am ashamed to  
be white.

Cara-Beth  
Potsdam, NY  
cbn@grm.com

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korean marries italian in  
chinese garden

Nikki, Portland, OR  
nicole.hough@gmail.com



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**Michele Norris**

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Whitey likes saying  
get over it.

-Aaron Aitken,  
Detroit, MI

I don't look like my  
family.

-Emma Montie,  
Minneapolis, MN

Over the phone all  
was normal

-Tom Gail,  
Mantorville, MN  
Read more about this  
essay @Your Stories

My children are  
melting the  
meltingpot.

-Michael Ward,  
Sacramento, CA

I'm afraid to say  
something wrong.

-Joel Lemke,  
Minneapolis, MN

Human's only excuse  
to challenge God.

-Eric Tapia,  
Sacramento, CA

Color is just a  
color.

-Endy Pliego,  
Minneapolis, MN

Affirmative Action  
makes hiring  
minorities harder.

-Anonymous,  
Grand Rapids, MI

My culture defines me  
more than race.

-Guy Godefroy,  
Via Twitter: @mrfatlace

Invisible borders we  
let define society.

-Madison Spartz,  
Minneapolis, MN

A person of color,  
though white.

-Rev. Jeri Owens,  
Sacramento, CA  
Read more about this  
essay @Your Stories.

Tell your story-I'll  
listen (promise!)

-Christine White,  
Portland, OR  
My handsome, professional  
nephews-constantly  
stopped by cops for no  
reason other than driving  
while not-exactly-white.





Photo Credit: Sarah Nesbitt, Institute for the Humanities



POSTAGE  
NEEDED

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Washington D.C. 20015-260

@michele\_norris

theracecardproject@gmail.com  
#theracecardproject

The University of Michigan is hosting a theme semester called Understanding Race. As part of that effort, you are invited to participate in a little exercise. Think about the word **RACE**. Now think about how you would express your thoughts about **RACE** and ethnicity in just **SIX WORDS**. That's right. Your experiences, thoughts, triumphs, laments or anthem expressed in just 6 words. Please include your *name*, *location* and *email* so we can archive your 6-word essay and alert you if it is posted on the website for The Race Card Project."

Get busy. I'm listening. —Michele Norris

Electing black president,  
unleashes suppressed  
~~big~~ bigotry.

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@michele\_norris

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White  
Greek  
from Turkey  
olive

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Photo Credit: Sarah Nesbitt, Institute for the Humanities





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## Welcome to The Race Card Project

What you see here are **candid submissions** from people who have engaged in a little exercise. Here's how it works. Think about the word Race. How would you distill your thoughts, experiences or observations about race into one sentence that only has six words? **Try it.**

+ About the Six Words

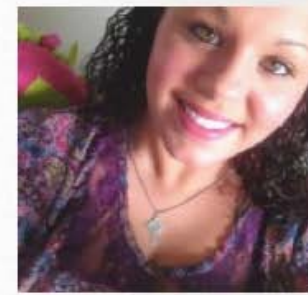


  
**White Middle-Age  
Male No Reserva-  
tions Required**

Mark Whitesel, Statesboro, GA.  
I'm becoming more and more  
aware of my privilege as I  
grow older and how much I



### FACES OF TRCP



### SEARCH









# My Ancestors Bones Not For Museum

Sonya Williams,  
Baltimore, MD.

I grew up in a unique area of North Carolina in what is referred to as a tri-racial community. My Indian family are the Cheroenhaka Nottoway and Meherrin Indians of Southeast, VA & North Eastern, NC. When I went to college, during a lecture in my anthropology class, the professor was discussing a dig that took place on the Nottoway River and how 193 bodies were removed and placed in the Smithsonian collection. After the class, I approached the professor and told her I was a member of this tribe, but had never heard about this. This was in 1985 and that knowledge has haunted me every since. I contacted the museum on many occasions and was told by staff that "the Smithsonian does not house human remains."

I new this wasn't true, but I had no legal way to get to the information. This went on until President Clinton enacted the, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, which forced institutions to return all Native American artifacts and burial remains. After this, the museum did in fact admit to having the bones; however, they will not turn them over to the tribe because the act only covered federally recognized tribes, not state recognized. Therefore, we still wait for our ancestors to be returned to their eternal rest which is promised to all by God, but is being denied to my people.





# A Mississippi secret – not “accidental drowning.”

David Morath  
Wrightsville, PA

On August 14, 1973 three black children from Atlanta, GA drowned in Waveland, Mississippi. Eyewitnesses reported that the children had been harassed by white boaters. The coroner's jury closed the case without investigation the following day. Because of Jim Crow mortuary policies, locating a funeral director who would deal with African-Americans was a problem.



# Vacation Trip Ends In Drownings

Three teenagers, vacationing on the Gulf Coast with an Atlanta settlement house group, drowned Saturday afternoon while swimming in the Sound near Gulfside Methodist Assembly in Waveland.

Shortly after 5 p.m., searchers in rescue boats found the bodies of Jimmy Spratling, 13, his sister Eva, 12 and Theresa Williams, 13 in seven feet of water at the edge of the channel some 400 yards out from the beach.

The three children were with a group of 41 teenagers and counselors from Emmaus House, a non-denominational center in Atlanta, on a week-long vacation at Gulfside. Earlier Saturday afternoon, most of the group had been swimming and wading in the shallow water in front of the Methodist Assembly complex.

Eyewitnesses to the tragic incident at first told County Civil Defense Director Donald McIntyre that when some of the swimmers appeared to be in trouble in deep water, others went to assist. The two Spratling children and the Williams girl, however, went down and disappeared before they could be rescued.

Some five boats answered the emergency call for help and the area was dragged for almost an hour before

the children's bodies were found in seven feet of water.

Coordinating water search efforts was Miss. Boat and Water Safety Patrolman Joe Seal, who recovered the bodies of the Spratling boy and one of the girls. Seal was assisted in his boat by Charles Marino and Emanuel Palmisano, both New Orleans area residents who were camping nearby.

The third body was recovered by Bay City Councilman Lucien Kidd, in another boat with Lee Ferrell and Robert Stroud.

The children's bodies were taken to Hancock General Hospital where they were pronounced dead on arrival. A coroner's jury was empaneled and cause of death was attributed to drowning. They were transferred to a Bay St. Louis funeral home where arrangements were made to send the children to Atlanta.

Fr. Austin Ford was in charge of the Emmaus House group.

Monday, McIntyre was investigating later eyewitness reports linking two speedboats to the drownings.

## Miss Aguzin Named For National Honor

Rebecca Aguzin of Waveland has recently been named to receive the Outstanding Young Women of America award for 1973.

Miss Aguzin will receive the Master of Arts degree in English Education from the University of Texas at Austin this month after which she will teach English and journalism at Bitburg High School in Rhineland-Phalz section of German, beginning in September.

She was a 1967 graduate of St. Joseph





# Black babies cost less to adopt

Race Card Tagged With: adopt, adoption, African American, babies, Black, cheaper, children, Covington, Family, feel, fertility, infertile, LA, white 4 Comments

Michelle P.  
Covington, LA

We decided to adopt a child years ago. We are not infertile, but felt like it was a great way to add to our family, while loving someone who needed us. Our research showed us that African-American children, especially boys, are the least adoptable in our country. We decided to adopt via a non-profit agency, a child of any race. In the US, whether you use a non-profit or a for profit agency, black children are cheaper. I have read the reasoning behind this, but I really don't care to repeat the rationalizations here. My son was cheaper than if he'd been white. How will he feel, if he ever finds out about that?

## Available Adoption Situations

\*Please read more about our Available Adoption Situations on the lower right sidebar

African American baby due any day. \$17k + legals

Biracial (AA/NA) girl due August 18th. \$22.5k + \$2.5k legals + medical

Biracial (CC/HISP) baby due September 15th. \$30.5k + \$4.5k legals

African American girl due September 26th. \$17k + \$6-8k medical

Biracial (CC/AA) girl due October 12th. \$25k + \$8-10k medical

African American girl due October 15th. \$17k + \$4.5k legals

African American boy due October 22nd. \$17k + \$6-8k medical (Mom smokes cigarettes)

Biracial boy due late October. \$30k + \$7k legals

Caucasian baby due late October. \$28k + \$8k legals

African American baby due November 18th. \$17k + \$6-8k medical (Mom smokes cigarettes)

Caucasian baby due in February. \$29k + \$7k legals (Mom would like an open adoption with a few visits per year)





## Navigating world as transracial adoptive family.

TAGGED WITH: ADOPTIVE, CARYN WARD  
LANTZ, MINNEAPOLIS, MN, NAVIGATING,  
TRANSRACIAL IN MINNEAPOLIS, MN,  
RACE CARD [EDIT]

Caryn Ward Lantz  
Minneapolis, MN

[Reply & Read more](#)









All over the COUNTRY!





Antigua and Barbuda

Australia

Bratislava

Brazil

Canada

Chile

Colombia

Czech Republic

France

Germany

India

Ireland

Islamabad

Jamaica

Japan

Kenya

Korea

Peru

Malaysia

Mexico

New Zealand

Northern Ireland

Norway

Romania

Russia

Singapore

South Africa

Spain

St. Maarten

Sudan

The Bahamas

The Netherlands

Turkey

Uganda

Unceded Mohawk Territory  
(Canada)

United Kingdom

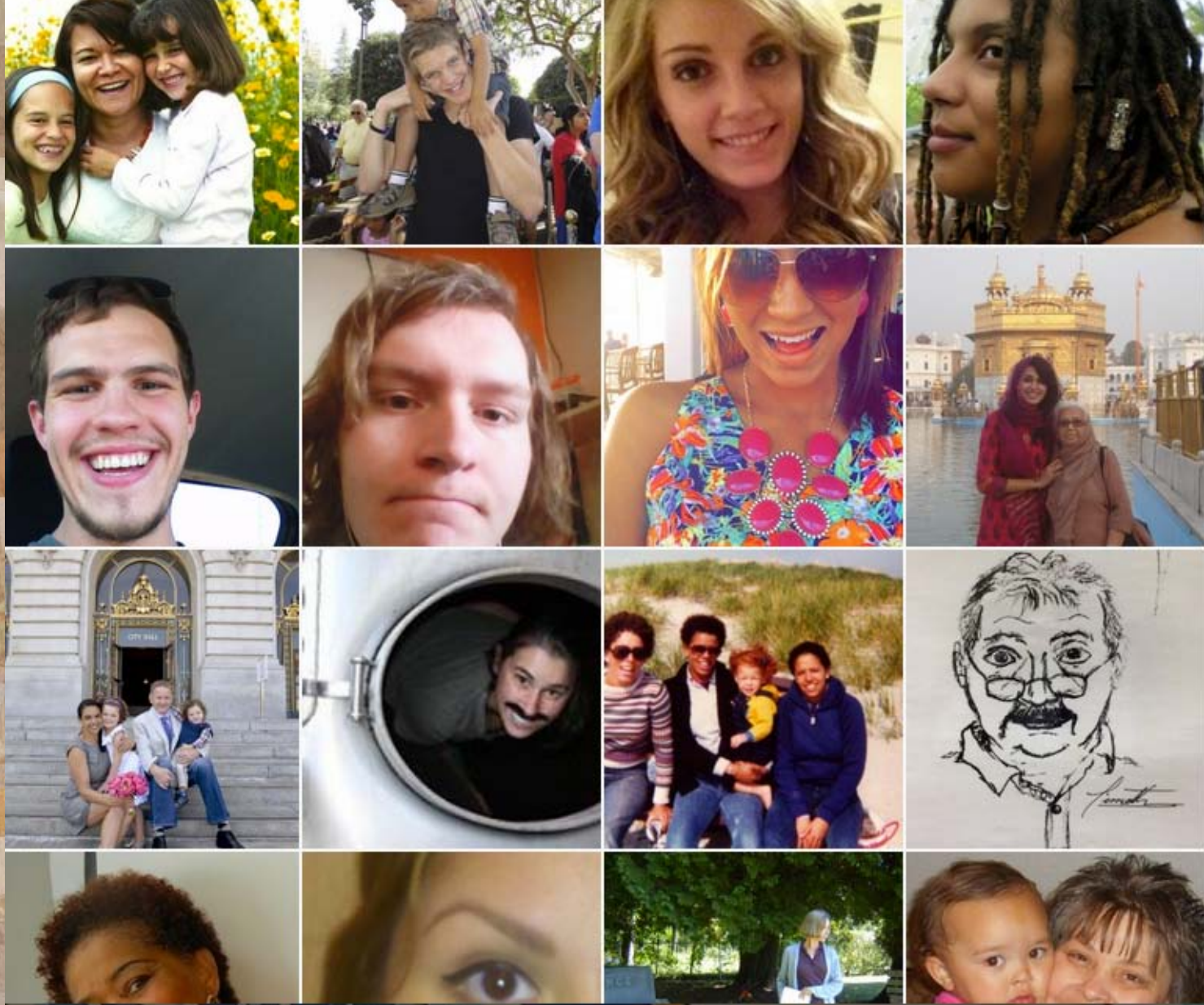
Vietnam

Zimbabwe





Married a white girl, now what?







Alabama. MLK  
assassinated. Students  
cheered. Horrified



MLK Shot -- White 5th  
graders sent home



Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Shot. Applause

April 4, 1968



I'm glad they got the  
SOB!



Get back with the other  
monkeys!





Dr. King's photo behind  
(a) folding door.



Crenchaw climbs  
Denali realizes King's  
dream



Constant conversation  
with my radical mom.

April 4, 1968



Laid his change on the  
counter



1968. Black freshman  
roommate. Different  
planets.

















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BY MICHELE NORRIS