

FIGHTING A DIFFERENT FIGHT

EDITORIAL



Beyoncé backstage at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015.

Lawrence K. Ho/Los Angeles Times/TNS

In April 2015, actress Amandla Stenberg, along with her classmates, put together an extremely provocative commentary on the appropriation of black culture. White celebrities such as Miley Cyrus, Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, and Katy Perry, were just a few of Amandla's targets. She criticized their appropriation of black culture, making money off the black industry whilst women of color are judged and called "ghetto" for wearing cornrows and speaking their mind. The term "black appropriation" has recently gained the attention of millennials, who are becoming more aware of the media's portrayal of black culture. The term has now seeped into an even more controversial issue: feminism.

In today's society, being a woman is a feat, and women have banded together in order to seek equality. However, this strong band is starting to deteriorate as women of color feel that they are battling other issues that white women cannot understand. This has created a subgroup called black feminism, the idea that all women should strive for gender, racial, and social equality as a unit. Black feminists have gravitated towards females who stand with their cause. This can be seen with Beyoncé's recent video release "Formation" which touched on topics such as Katrina, Black Power, and mainly black feminism. Beyoncé also recently released her album "Lemonade," in the

form of a movie, which also addresses the unity of black women and the issues they face as a group. Some white feminists criticized the video for forming a line between black and white females, not realizing that there has always been line and that the purpose of the video was to uplift young girls who don't usually see themselves portrayed in a positive light in media.

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As a female, you're faced with unequal pay, sexism on a regular basis, and scrutiny from the public and media. Women are quick to come together in order to protest these unfair practices. It's in our nature to scream feminism at every injustice we see, but these injustices are not the same for every woman. There is growing division between women of color and white women who do not feel the hardships of having two forces working against

them. Not only are we fighting for gender equality, but racial equality.

The idea of black feminism became popular during the 1960s when black women decided to combine their feminist issues with the growing demand for gay rights racial equality. Leaders in the movement, such as Angela Davis, Patricia Hill Collins, and Gloria Jean Watkins, have stressed the importance of the intersection of female issues, race, and class.

The lack of togetherness within feminism can easily be seen in major issues such as Sandra Bland. White feminists around the country were up in arms about the pink tax, the extra charge on feminine products, same sex marriage, and unequal pay, but after the Sandra Bland incident, there was silence among the majority of them. Feminists fail to recognize the growing division in feminism, mainly addressing broader female issues.

We are at a pivotal point in history where female issues are finally being recognized. But as we continue to fight for equality, we cannot ignore the issues that affect minority women. We must act as a unit in order to bring recognition these problems that face us as a community to move forward as a gender.

The Cavalier

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