

# CERRITOS COLLEGE TALON MARKS

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## Love has no color

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When Cerritos College student Brianna Sittrop first started dating her boyfriend at the time, she did not realize that his Japanese background would create conflict between her and her Caucasian family.

"Because of my history, my family members were persecuted by Japanese people. It was very difficult to get my parents to be OK with me being with someone who is Japanese," Sittrop said.

Though Cerritos College is a diverse campus where students are open to mixed races, interracial dating was banned on college campuses until three decades ago according to the "Historical analysis of college campus interracial dating."

Until 2000, Bob Jones University had a rule on its books stating that, "There is to be no interracial dating. Students who become partners in an interracial marriage will be expelled."

The idea that races should intertwine often conflicts with older generations because they were around during a segregated era.

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, "Just half of white respondents aged 50 to 64 said they would be fine with one of their

relatives marrying someone of any other race or ethnicity."

Students still find their families' disapproval to be a problem because in order to date or marry their partner, they would like their parents' approval.

Business management major Gary Frye experienced a similar conflict with his girlfriend's parents when he dated a half white, half Filipino girl.

"I wasn't able to meet her dad because of the fact that I'm black," Frye said. "My mom liked that girl, but she disagreed with the fact that I couldn't meet her dad."

While dating different races can have its difficulties, marriage can be an even bigger hurdle.

Marrying a person of a different race was illegal until 1967 when Mildred Loving, a black woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, brought their case to the Supreme Court.

The Lovings were arrested for marrying each other in Virginia, and they were asked to leave the state for 25 years if they wanted to suspend their arrest.

Leon M. Bazilehe, the judge in the Loving v. Virginia, based his decision to arrest the couple on his interpretation of the Bible, at a time when its passages were used to condemn interracial marriage.

"Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix," Bazilehe wrote in his ruling.

The Lovings won in the case of miscegenation.

Philosophy major Juan Reynoso said interracial relationships are fine, but they shouldn't be encouraged.

"I don't think you should force people to try (interracial dating)," Reynoso said. "I think people have a right to want their grandchildren to look like them."

His friend, Martin Chavez, saw interracial relationships as fun and different and noted the positives of dating a Filipino-Korean girl.

"You'd have to make sure you have your shoes off before you went in the house," he said. "The food would be prepared, and they'd always give the guests food first. They'd give us so much food!"

Chavez mentioned that different cultures could be difficult, but noted that there was a difference between dating out of one's race.

Despite the opposition from their families, both Sittrop and Frye also saw interracial relationships as a positive experience and were glad that most people were accepting of their relationships.

Sittrop said, "It's good that people could go (out) with other races and get to intermingle with them. You get to experience other kinds of beliefs and cultures."

Frye said, "It was actually cool because we got to experience how both of our cultures were."

"She took me to places that I've never eaten (at) before, and I took her to places she's never eaten (at) before."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEBASTIAN ECHEVERRY/TM



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## Embracing 50 years of equality for all mankind

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The issue of this week's Talon Marks is focused on the issue of race.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

King fought for equality among all races as he and many other people of color were discriminated against and looked at as beneath white people.

He fought for his dream of equality until his death.

Unfortunately, even after 50 years, his dream is still just a dream.

Yes, segregation and racism aren't what they once were back during the civil rights movement, but there is still racism and stereotyping everywhere we go.

There are issues that have stemmed beyond just race, such as religion and sexual preference.

In just the last 15 years alone, we have gone through 9/11, the Trayvon Martin case and the legalization

of gay marriage.

The general population labels others based on the color of their skin, the god they pray to, the way that they dress and the places they come from.

We automatically assume that Hispanics are low class workers that speak nothing but Spanish.

We think blacks are "ghetto."

We assume Muslims are terrorists.

We think that whites are either "hillbillies" or greedy snobs.

These are not labels that we were

born with, these are the ones given to us by the people already on this earth that haven't become educated and tolerant of the different races and cultures that they have been exposed to.

As a college, we can learn to become more tolerant and understanding of other cultures and preferences by being more open and getting to know more about those cultures and preferences.

The key to that is education. We as students can learn from the classes we take and the people in them in

order to understand different ways of thinking.

Yes, the steps to tolerance will be long and difficult, but they are steps in the right direction.

We want to better our country, not weaken it by labeling people and being afraid to take the time to learn about the diverse groups that live in this country.

People come to this country and go to this school for a better opportunity. We should learn from them.