â??I Hate Black History Month,â?• Pinkie Points It Out

Description

The Auto Ethnographer

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I hate Black History Month.

There. I said it.

African American Florida Family Going to NJ to Pick Potatoes, Jack Delano, 1940, public domain

Itâ??s Black History Month 2023, and another Black man has been murdered by five police officers, all of whom are Black. Now, Iâ??m not going to rehash the gruesome details of Tyre Nicholsâ?? murder. I donâ??t have to. You already know what it looks like. You watched the disturbing video, didnâ??t you?

I refuse to watch it. I donâ??t need to see another Black man dying. And Iâ??m not hating on you if you did. But please, I beg you, miss me with the bullshit public performance of grief.

Just nonsense!

Posting tributes to Tyre Nichols, all your heartfelt messages alongside tear drops and heart emojis, as if you didnâ??t just watch this manâ??s death on your phone in-between texting your friends about grabbing dinner and scrolling on IG to find tickets to Beyonceâ??s Renaissance Tour. Side note: Not hating on Beyonce at all!

Same thing with the death of George Floyd. Changing profile pictures to BLM and posting trendy sayings while sharing the video of this manâ??s death with your Twitter followers and your Facebook friends. Oh, what a feat it must have been to pause flexing and taking selfies of your new outfit or hairdo in order to find the perfect meme to express your sadness at Nicholsâ?? death. The casualness of Black death is disturbing!

So, yes. I. Hate. Black. History. Month.

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I hate that thereâ??s a video of the death of a Black man widely circulating on the Internet right now. And I hate that youâ??ve shared it with all your connections, from your Big Momma in St. Louis to your third adopted cousin in Florida. I hate that his Black mother is already being blamed for his death and that her grief will be nearly impossible for some to see. I hate that we have been so desensitized to the level of violence in this society that we will repeatedly watch the actual demise of a human being in all its ghastliness . . . and not see a problem with it.

What do you actually get from watching the video? Black people dying at the hands of police or authority figures is NOT NEW. Black people dying at the hands of other Black people is NOT NEW. The public spectacle of Black death is NOT NEW.

For some, it is shocking that Black police officers would do something like this. Why the shock? We all learn to police Black bodies, that they are dangerous and in need of submission and control. And we learn that Black bodies have no value. We can see this from the officerâ??s behavior: They knew better than to try that shit on a White motorist! Simone de Beauvoir says: â??The oppressor would not be so strong if he did not have accomplices among the oppressed.â?• Whereâ??s the lie?

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Renata Ferdinand as Pinkie for The AutoEthnographer

So, yes. I. Hate. Black. History. Month.

And Iâ??m hopeful, that in time, you will come to hate it too!

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Author
renataferdinand