

## ***Diverse Voices***

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” Martin Luther King Jr stated this on August 28, 1963 in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Here, he is talking about how he hopes someday there will be a time when there's no racism or discrimination. A day where people aren't judged or denied certain things because of the color of their skin. But unfortunately, these things still happen today. Just hearing some of the things people have been told because of their race makes me sick to my stomach, and that's why we need to listen to the diverse voices of our community.

However, I myself have never really been discriminated against but reading about how people have been denied certain rights or been hate crime is an awful thing to hear. Not long ago I was sitting on my bed, watching TikTok as most teens do. When a video about the George Floyd incident pops up, it was a disgusting site to see how some people are treated just because of the color of their skin. I would also see videos of people protesting, both peacefully and not peacefully. And they were all about police brutality which is something that still probably happens.

Once, my mom and I had gone to her friend's house, she started telling us about how her daughter had been going around to protest against how people of color are treated. Protesting can be a great thing if it's done correctly but the reasons people have to protest aren't right, having to protest because you're being treated differently because of the color of your skin is not something we should have to do still. I thought racism would have ended back in around 1900, but some people just can't accept the diversity of others.

Also, something most people might also not know is that Goshen was a sundown town. A sundown town is a town where after sundown all colored people were not allowed into the town. Luckily we have had the change since then and are longer a sundown town. During the first half of the mid 20th century is when Goshen started as a sundown town, but fortunately in March of 2015 Goshen acknowledged that this part of the town's history was in the past.

In conclusion, everyone's voice matters. Whether you're black, white, tan, pink, blue, red, or orange. Everyone deserves to use their voice, to be heard and not to be discriminated against. Everyone should have the rights they deserve, and be able to walk onto a store and not be accused of stealing. You should be able to walk in front of a cop and not fear for yourself. Goshen has already changed a lot in the past years, and we definitely have the potential to become a more diverse and accepting town of all people, no matter their race.