

If I Wasn't Here, Would You Miss Me?

Today we, as people of color – racial and ethnic minorities – are choosing to be silent as a way to symbolize and highlight the many days when we are pressured to be silent.

We are maintaining this **day of silence** as a symbolic protest to the continued disregard of our experiences and our voice in the world and in particular at Earlham College. The racism and power structures that we see in the world are reflected at Earlham, in similar and different ways. Earlham is not immune to the problems of society.

We must acknowledge that the discussion of diversity is part of a historic discussion about racism and power. As racial and ethnic minorities, many of us experience the following:

- ❖ not being allowed to talk about race and racism and how it relates to class, gender and sexual orientation – or not engaged when we do;
- ❖ people assuming our inabilities and talents based purely on skin color;
- ❖ common misunderstanding of our experiences as people of color;
- ❖ readings that do not adequately represent our histories, cultures, theologies, philosophies, arts, and other areas of study;
- ❖ disconnected from our college experience due to a lack of such readings that are vital for understanding our personal and collective experiences;
- ❖ working with teaching and administrative faculty who are generally not of our skin color or ethnic background;
- ❖ working with faculty who are unaware of their privilege or how destructive racism is to us; and
- ❖ lack of attention to the differences among students of color.

Because you do not ask our stories,

Because you do not listen to our rage when we tell our stories,

Because you do not go beyond our individual stories into seeing the structure of racism,

Because you do not use the details of our experiencing racism to combat racism,

Because you do not go beyond talking about diversity,

Because you do not *get us* —

I ask you: If I wasn't here, would you miss me? Would you miss more than some coloring in your photos?

Developing Goal Areas

Students of color should not be responsible for implementing the developing goals – similar to how GLBTQ students should not be the only people fighting against hate crimes and as sexual assault survivors should not be the only people fighting for a sexual assault policy.

Affirmative Action • Recruitment of Students & Faculty • Retention • Expansion of Multicultural Affairs

Many of us think about these issues every day. We ask that you do the same.

We invite you to a discuss the Day of Silence, this flyer and these issues:

Tonight at 7:00 pm in the Wellness Center (Rm 2240)