

# Maycomb Tribune

Your source for all of Maycomb's news.

Issue #784

Dolphus Raymond

Tom Robinson's Unfair Trial

With the recent trial of Tom Robinson fresh in all of our minds, I feel that now is a better time than ever to address an ongoing problem in Maycomb County and the world. This problem is racism, and the worst part of all is that racism is not actually considered to be a problem at all. In the society we live in, racism is not only normal, but embraced, when essentially the idea behind racism is just pure hatred because of people being different. I find it quite languishing that we as a society look at racism as a normal kind of behavior, and always show it in a positive light. You reading this may wonder how I know this to be true. I know it be true because I live among those who are looked down upon. I know this to be true because the only way that you would look at me and see me as sane for the lifestyle choices I make, is for me to put on the façade of an alcoholic. I know this to be true because of the way I chose to live my life, I was cast away as a less than human piece of trash.

When I look at a person, I do not even see their appearance. Most of us look at person and see their appearance. I look, and see the quality of the kind of person they are, and the quality of said person's character. To me, looking at a bland person is similar to looking upon an invisible person. Unfortunately for poor old Tom, the majority of his jury only would look at his

the way a lawyer can talk to a man such as Tom, regarding him as a child. Even a child, who may not grasp all of the details of the trial completely, is able to see the cruelty that Mr. Robinson was regarded with, by the prosecuting judge. I find it upsetting that I must pretend to be an alcoholic or the average person will regard me as a madman just because I married the woman I love and have a family with her.

Something I was hugely bothered by was class. I also prefer not to judge people by any part of the background they come from, but obviously the jury do. Knowing this, I found it shocking that some of the jurors immediately took the word of one of Maycomb's least respected

white families, the Ewells, over that of one of the most respected black families in town. Under normal circumstances I could not forgive myself for saying this, and judging someone because of their class, however we all know that Bob Ewell hasn't worked an honest day in all of his life, and yet Tom Robinson has always been one of the more hard working people in Maycomb. He even took time out of his busy and tiring day many times to help Mayella Ewell. Who would ever think deeds as upstanding as this would ever come back and bite a person?

What makes someones word so important in this case, was how little evidence there was. Word was all we had to go

on. There was absolutely no physical evidence pointing to Mr. Robinson's guilt and yet the word of this lazy fool who can't even support his own family versus that of a man so loyal his employer was willing, without encouragement or being told to, to stand up and court and tell the jury what a hard worker Tom was, was was enough to convict him. Most of the evidence was actually pointing towards a verdict of not guilty, such as Tom being a crippled man on the opposite side of the eye that was blacked. It only goes to show how awful things are.

The worst thing of all happened before the case even started. The worst thing was that everyone already knew the

outcome. This issue is not an invisible one, everyone knows it is there. We all knew Tom had not done it, throughout the case, before and after. Everyone knows it is there but nobody is willing to change anything because we are not comfortable with change and unfamiliarity. One who lies to himself may counter that the issue doesn't exist because it took awhile for the jury to come out with the verdict. This is due to the fact that not all the people of Maycomb are ignorant, and they are willing to stand up for what they believe is right despite it going against the grain and majority of people's opinion. These people must stand up more so that we may stop this

insane whirlwind of hatred. If we do not stand up then we shall all be cowards, there is no easy way around it, but not all good choices are the easy ones.

As unfortunate as this morbid affair has been, we can turn it around and use it positively. We can use it as an example to show to those who hold hatred towards others. We can use it to show just how ridiculous hatred is.