

Correspondence Between Bret Weinstein and Rashida Love

From: Weinstein, Bret
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:50 PM
To: Love, Rashida
Cc: All Staff & Faculty DL
Subject: Re: Invitation and schedules for Day of Absence/Day of Presence 2017

Dear Rashida,

When you first described the new structure for Day of Absence / Day of Presence at a past faculty meeting (where no room was left for questions), I thought I must have misunderstood what you said. Later emails seemed to muddy the waters further, while inviting commitments to participate. I now see from the boldfaced text in this email that I had indeed understood your words correctly.

There is a huge difference between a group or coalition deciding to voluntarily absent themselves from a shared space in order to highlight their vital and under-appreciated roles (the theme of the Douglas Turner Ward play *Day of Absence*, as well as the recent Women's Day walkout), and a group or coalition encouraging another group to go away. The first is a forceful call to consciousness which is, of course, crippling to the logic of oppression. The second is a show of force, and an act of oppression in and of itself.

You may take this letter as a formal protest of this year's structure, and you may assume I will be on campus on the Day of Absence. I would encourage others to put phenotype aside and reject this new formulation, whether they have 'registered' for it already or not. On a college campus, one's right to speak--or to be--must never be based on skin color.

If there was interest in a public presentation and discussion of race through a scientific / evolutionary lens, I would be quite willing to organize such an event (it is material I have taught in my own programs, and guest lectured on at Evergreen and elsewhere). Everyone would be equally welcome and encouraged to attend such a forum, irrespective of ethnicity, belief structure, native language, political leanings, or position at the college. My only requirement would be that people attend with an open mind, and a willingness to act in good faith.

If there is interest in such an event, please let me know at bret.weinstein@gmail.com.

2

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From: **Love, Rashida** <rashidal@evergreen.edu>
Date: Tue, Mar 14, 2017 at 5:37 PM
Subject: Invitation and schedules for Day of Absence/Day of Presence 2017
To: All Staff & Faculty DL <AllStaffFaculty@evergreen.edu>

Dear Colleagues,

As you prepare for a much needed break, I'd like to take a minute to remind you about **Day of Absence (April 12) & Day of Presence (April 14)**.

Day of Absence/ Day of Presence is an annual two-day event for Evergreen students, staff, and faculty to explore issues of race, equity, allyship, inclusion and privilege. Day of Absence is a day for community building around identity and conversations about issues of difference. We reunite for Day of Presence for a day to share ideas with each other as allies. Learn more about the history and mission of this annual tradition [here](#).

Theme

The theme this year is **“Revolution is not a one-time event; your silence will not protect you”**, inspired by Audre Lorde. Recently, many of us have been looking for tangible ways to commit to equity on both the local and national level. This year’s theme challenges us to act, engage, and build relationships that build the inclusive community we seek.

Day of Absence

On Day of Absence, you can choose how and where to participate. This year, we will have a full-day, on-campus educational and social program designed to address issues from the perspective of people of color.

At the same time, off-campus, at the Unitarian Universalist Church (2315 Division St NW), we will host a full-day program focusing on allyship and anti-racism work from a majority culture or white perspective. **Due to the capacity limits of the space (200 participants), we are asking those members of the Evergreen community who wish to attend the off-campus Day of Absence program to commit in advance by completing the [registration form](#).** We’ll be taking registration commitments in the order of submission, and will email you to confirm that you’re registered.

Because of the need for a dedicated space to explore issues of diversity within each of these two perspectives, each program has been designed with a specific community-building objective in mind. And because many of us are mixed, and may not wholly identify ourselves with one community or the other, we invite each person to attend the program of their choice, wherever they feel most comfortable.

Please notice that in 2017, for the first time, we are reversing the pattern of previous years; our Day of Absence program especially designed for faculty, staff, and students of color will happen on campus this year, while our concurrent program for allies will take place off campus.

Day of Presence

The program is a full-day conference with keynote presentations, multiple workshop sessions, lunch and community activities. Attached is the schedule for the day. Information about evening events will be announced soon.

Attending the Events

By committing to participate in DOA/DOP, you are engaging in an innovative and unique opportunity to examine equity and difference in an academic environment that truly exemplifies Evergreen's commitment to learning across significant differences.

The DOA/DOP planning committee has created a schedule that encompasses the theme and makes space for students, staff and faculty at different levels of understanding and experience to engage. Because of space restrictions, some events will require registration, some will require tickets, and many will be free and open. Attached to this email is the schedule for the three programs; please review and make your selections for attendance.

Thank you to the almost 750 students, staff and faculty who are already committed to attending this year's event. I encourage many more of you to join us.

Sincerely,

Rashida Love on behalf of the 2017 DOA/DOP Planning Committee



Rashida N. Love

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