

Jeremy Malibu

3/27/18

Lynching

Lynching has terrorized African Americans in America since they were forced to come here. It has been one of the most popular methods of execution by the KKK. Lynching is killing someone especially by hanging with or without a legal trial(Google Dictionary). According to Ann Heinrichs book, *The Ku Klux Klan*, between 1915 and 1935 there was 726 lynchings executed by the KKK. Of those victims, 654 were African American and 72 were white. That is a shocking statistic and that shows how popular lynching was for the KKK and how violent it was and still is for the African American community.

Recently, an Eighth grader at Albany Middle School named Cole Curtis wrote to me explaining a situation at his future high school. He informed me on how a group of boys had created a social media account that possessed images of their fellow students who were black with nooses around their necks. These pictures were of kids and teachers who were at the boys own school but the boys chose to put nooses around their necks in the pictures and post it. I looked up Albany, California, where it happened wondering if there was a big KKK influence in that area. I was shocked when I found out that the Bay Area, which contains Albany, is one of the most Liberal areas on the West Coast. This group of boys, although they were surrounded with liberal views and values chose to make a joke out of lynching like the KKK had done for centuries. The KKK, who have far right politics, had no influence on these boys.

Throughout my research and teaching career, I have discovered much about the Klan and their doings. If there is one thing I have learned it is that Lynching is not something to joke about. Lynching has brutally taken the lives of many African Americans and other races because of the KKK. It has left wives and children without husbands and fathers. In many cases, the last time a son or daughter of a KKK victim would see their dad or mom, they would be hanging from a tree or disfigured and tortured by the Klan. I strongly believe that if these boys had done the research I have done or even just knew what they were talking about they never would have even thought about creating those accounts and posting those pictures. What they did was wrong and I want the world to know the truth of lynching so incidents like these will not happen ever again.