

S01E05 Asian Race Relations

SPEAKERS

Ray Abel, Andrew Churchill, Gretchen Hurd

Ray Abel 00:00

Hello, and welcome to research the news. As always, we have a sponsor this week. That's not a real sponsor, because where, as I've said before, not large enough, a real sponsor, I don't know if I have to say that every week. I keep saying it. I just want to get sued if like, you know, we have already as a sponsor, and maybe they don't want to sponsor us. So just to be clear, this our disclaimer, we just like these products products. And this week, I'm actually going to bring on Gretchen to talk about this week's fake sponsor. So Gretchen, who's our sponsor this week,

Gretchen Hurd 00:34

this week's sponsor is universal yums. Get a box for your friend, or loved one. He's actually about universal. Yes. So universal. yums is a company that puts together care packages that send you snacks from all over the world. So my sister shout out to Heather gave me this for Christmas. And they come in a couple different sizes, but you basically get a bunch of candy and chocolates and chips from like the Netherlands or Italy or Germany, or that's all I've gotten so far. So that's all I can talk about. But I have a a tiramisu chocolate ball that I've been saving, that is about to call my name, and it should actually

Ray Abel 01:19

chew it during the show at some point when Andrew is talking to just distract from whatever he's saying.

Gretchen Hurd 01:26

It'd be perfect to lighten the mood.

Ray Abel 01:28

I actually love the idea. So I've I've looked in the i will say i There's food that I've had from around the world when I've traveled that I love prawn crisps from England. They sound gross, but they're really good. Sound grass, Guinness beer ships from mostly chips. I like chips or crisps.

Gretchen Hurd 01:46

These These ones were these are from Germany, I believe, is that were the these are garlic, rye, wheat bread chips, and they are gonna be so good. Yeah, but my

Ray Abel 02:00

real sponsors. Oh, I love Stroopwafel. I can't wait to get real sponsors, though. And they only get 20 seconds of a commercial and they pay for it. And we're giving this universal young people like three minutes of time.

Gretchen Hurd 02:12

They should already do it. It's

Ray Abel 02:13

fun. As always, we're live so there's gonna be no edits when if you're listening to this as a podcast on Monday. But we are starting out this week's episode of research the news by going over what we talked about last week in research news. And you know what, I forgot to do the theme music so I'm just gonna hit the theme music. It's weird. Because I'm not. I'm used to doing it myself. And now you're on air. So I hit the theme music. There we go. We crossed that off the checklist. But last week, we talked about prison reform. So we had Caitlin on the show. And I feel like I learned a lot. Gretchen how you feel about last week?

Gretchen Hurd 02:49

Yeah, I've been thinking about it all week, actually. So I talked to my mom this morning, and we were we were discussing parts of the episode. She still hasn't watched a full episode, she just watches the clips. And so I was telling her that That episode was so eye opening things that I did not know were going on, just because I don't know anybody who's in prison. So or I do know people in prisons, I just don't talk to them. But yeah, it was it was incredibly eye opening. And I it made a really big impact on me and how I how I view the whole prison and justice reform in general.

Ray Abel 03:30

And that's what we're here for. So last week, we talked about prison reform. Actually, we want to have Caitlyn back on the show we already talked with her about maybe filling in. Gretchen is also has a real full time job. So there's going to be some episodes where she's not going to be able to make it. So we've already talked with Caitlin as a potential backup for some of those episodes, we really did enjoy her. Feel free to check that out. You can see the episode from last week either on video and research the news.com or research the news.org or research the dot news if you don't want to type as much all the information is there. As always, the links that we're talking about today are posted on research the news.org. They have all of the articles that we reference here so you can go back and research the news yourself. This week, we're talking about Asian race relations, and I'm bringing on one of my favorite people in life. Andrew, welcome to the show.

Andrew Churchill 04:22

Thank you, Ray. Thank you Gretchen It is great to be here today.

Ray Abel 04:26

Andrew actually told me when we were warming up. You don't have to mention that. You know me it doesn't look like it's an inside job. But I actually love Andrew Yang one of the most honest people that I I've ever met and we worked together for four or five years and had some great conversations and wanted to reach out to him when we're talking about this episode. So, Andrew, we always play a game

called What's your bias? So we're talking about Asian race relations this week? What are what are your biases?

Gretchen Hurd 04:52

Oh, wow. Well, you know, that isn't an awesome question. Nothing to make you feel comfortable than to be immediately asked. About your biases, but, uh, no, I have many, I have many, you know, my first bias is that, you know, I am an Asian man. And that will be a different perspective than an Asian woman. And, you know, there's only so much space for guests. So I'm an Asian man, but you're missing an Asian woman today, to be a great perspective through I also am adopted, I was adopted as an infant from Korea, and raised by a white American family. So that's definitely an interplay that creates a bias. I think another bias that I would say that I have is, I'm definitely would consider myself a follower of Jesus, although that doesn't necessarily align with what the culture, you know, it's sort of place on that, you know, when they hear that, so that's, that's probably me for today.

Ray Abel 05:50

I like it. Well, I'll go through mine. I well, I mean, clearly, when I clearly but I'm not an Asian man. I did a DNA test. And I do a very small amounts of Asia, Southeast Asian, in my DNA tests. I'm basically the Elizabeth Warren of Southeast Asia. So but in general, I'm I'm white I also too, I think there's, there's some things we'll get into it later. But talking with Andrew, there was a huge bias that came up for me in the sense of, there were some things he was talking about that happened to him. And I know Andrew, and he's, again, one of the most honest people I've ever met. So hearing him say that these things happen to him, if I would have saw that on Twitter, or someone in passing that I didn't know, I may not have, it sounded like it's just wouldn't have happened. So that's some of my bias that I didn't realize I had, I'm a little dismissive sometimes of things that sound crazy. But apparently, these crazy things actually happen. So that's a big bias on my part. And that's something that, you know, I feel like this conversation, that's what I'm hoping to get out of it is to understand more about where you're coming from. Also to, I think there is a bias towards some of the media narratives that I feel like these, a lot of situations come up when it's convenient. And we start talking about difficult conversations when it's convenient to push a narrative. And so I'd like to hear kind of your thoughts about some of the the media influences and these are in these situations. So those are my biases, Gretchen.

Gretchen Hurd 07:13

My bias is I am a white woman in my 40s. I grew up in a small town, we kind of talked about this last time. I have, I grew up in a small town that had one Asian family, one black family, and one Indian family. And we didn't, we were very far from any other large areas. So we we really didn't see a lot of ethnic diversity, or religious diversity. I grew up in a very conservative area, I am very liberal. So I live in Pittsburgh, and I'm an artist. I'm around a lot of different ethnic minorities, different religions. And I find that I'm, I feel like I'm a very accepting person. And I am not religious, so. But I'm very supportive of anybody who wants to be. So I feel like my empathy kind of plays a higher role in my moral compass. And I informs my decision making usually and the way I view the world, so where Ray is more dismissive, I'm more, I guess the word would be maybe compassionate. I

Ray Abel 08:33

miss that is, that is such a liberal thing to say right there. We're Ray is so dismissive of any problems. I'm just so compassionate that I just am empathetic to them.

Gretchen Hurd 08:44

We joke that Ray is very logical, and I am very allow my heart to lead more things. And I'm less logical. And we we balance each other out a little bit. It's good, but that's where my that's where my my heart usually leads me places instead of my head. So I am very, very excited to hear you talk today, Andrew, because these are things that and when I was speaking this morning, with some other people kind of bending their ears about the topic today. It was it was interesting to hear how differently our educational system has approached race relations and things that have happened racially in our past, I did not learn about things that have happened to Asian Americans the way that my mother did. She learned a lot. She knew so much more than I thought she did. And I was like, I learned all of this in the last week, like and she knew it since she was in seventh grade. So that was kind of interesting to me.

Ray Abel 09:51

Cool. Well, we're gonna get to Andrew here. And before we do, I just want to say, I think there's the last thing I'll say quickly here is that when we're starting out by saying our Are backgrounds and ethnicities I feel like sometimes when I'm hearing shows, and hearing people talk about race relations, they say things like, I'm a white male, and so I shouldn't speak and I'm a white female, and I shouldn't be. That's not what we want here. That's not why we said that. So if you're a first time listener, just know that that doesn't mean that we are going to be we're going to ask hard questions are we're going to ask questions that that help us to hopefully understand each other more and not try to hide. So that's something that's important about us. But when I hear that, that terminology of I'm a white male, that and I'm biased, and oftentimes, that means you can't speak but that's not what you want here. We want people to be able to talk and understand each other. So with that being said, Andrew, I think we're going to hand it right over to you. We always start out with a definition. And so there's been a hashtag going around, right? Stop Asian hate. And Andrew, do you want to unpack that for us? What does Asian hate mean?

Gretchen Hurd 10:50

Man? Well, Asian hate is very complex, I think the first thing we've got to understand is that Asian is such like a broad term, in the sense that like, pretty much correct my statistics, but I feel like a third of the world could come to America and be called Asian. So it's such a broad term of people that are from different cultures, different nations who, you know, eat different food, speak different languages, and look very different. So, you know, when we talk about stop Asian hates, you know, I think there's a big, you know, feeling amongst the Asian community, and there's 20 million Asians in America today. So that's 20 million different experiences. You know, I obviously can only speak from my own experience. But I think there's this one idea that, you know, Asian hate is sort of like, a greater community, just making you feel like the perpetual foreigner, you know, Asian hate is the fact that, you know, there's an assumption that, you know, do you speak English, and, oh, it's surprising, if you speak really good English, even if you've lived here, your whole life, you know, Asian hate in a lot of senses is, you know, minimizing the Asian man, as you know, non masculine, and just sort of get out of the way, you know, you're sort of, in some senses, you know, you have no sexual presence. But then for the Asian woman, there's issues of being fetishized, there's issues of being hyper sexualized, in the view of the culture. So

you have these sort of opposite spectrums. But I think a lot of it sort of mixes together to sort of, you know, in some sense, you can start feeling like you're on the outside. So it's a hate of exclusion. I think for many, many years, you look back to the 19th century, we even had something that passed our Congress and was approved, you know, signed into law by the President called the Chinese Exclusion Act, you know, so exclusion, I think, is a term that we see in regards to, you know, any sort of hatred toward the Asian community, in America. And I think, again, there's always been, you know, I think we are seeing more attention in the media to some violent elements of that hate men and manifesting itself to violence. You know, I think a lot of situations of hatred toward Asian Americans have really not manifested in violence over the years. But you know, whether that's new or not, you know, there is a fresh spotlight being shone on that aspect of, you know, Asian hate, hence, you know, the hashtag stop Asian hate or stop AAPI hate.

Ray Abel 13:29

Well, and I think a couple things there for people who are tuning in the main I know API, that's Asian American and Pacific Islander. So that's the term if you hear that going around the Chinese Exclusion Act. This is interesting, because Gretchen and talked about some of the things we've learned in educational settings. I learned about the Chinese Exclusion Act about a year ago, I mentioned the constitutional podcast last week. And I was listening to an episode of that show. And they talked about it for people who don't know, it was an 1882. And it banned all Chinese laborers from entering the United States. And it's actually the first and the only law that was ever actually implemented. There were other laws that were put forward that didn't pass, but the first and only law to prevent all members of an ethnic or national group from immigrating to the US so that was 1882. There was a big constitutional debate about that issue. And that's something if you haven't looked it up, it's a very interesting subject about why it happened. And the kind of the legal cases that go around it, especially when it ties into the constitution. So there's a few things that you can look up I think there's a link about the Chinese Exclusion Act on research news.org. But with that, all said, Andrew, I think this is new for a lot of us. We we've we've you know, I think we've always known that the mean everyone knows there's racism everyone knows there's issues everyone knows there's a problem with all kinds of different things, but the the Asian hate seems to have popped up pretty quickly and I'm sure maybe people were talking about it earlier, but it seems just really snowballed into something that that hit over the past month or so. But when I was talking with you offline, I feel like this has been happening to your whole life. So is this something that's more recent? Have you seen any kind of change? Or is this something that's, you've been experiencing? Since you were since you were a kid?

Gretchen Hurd 15:15

Yeah, that's a that's a great question. Right? Because without a doubt, you know, the media lens toward this was pretty much non existent for the first, you know, 36 years of my life. You know, I guess that's a side note that I always get mistaken for, like a college student or high school students. You know, you reach an age where that's a compliment.

Ray Abel 15:34

Yeah, it's your total exuberance. I know you're happy go lucky, young, young looking, man. It's great. It's a common Thank

Gretchen Hurd 15:43

you. And you know, something Ray, you don't look a day over like 19 right now. Oh, you know, clean podcast. college freshmen. Oh, man on campus.

Ray Abel 15:56

You know, I let's, let's skip the rest of the episode. We don't we don't need to learn more about what's what's happening with race relations. Let's just come down. So yeah, let's Alright, sorry, I got us off topic. But Andrew, go ahead. You were talking about being mistaken for a college student? And I interrupted you go ahead.

Gretchen Hurd 16:11

Yeah. And, you know, when we talk about, you know, is this a new phenomenon? And, and I think the reality is, it isn't, but there hasn't really been a lens to it. I think a lot of times, you know, there is a narrative in our news. And, you know, that narrative doesn't know what to do with, you know, certain, you know, difficulties to one group, especially when, you know, how they come upon that difficulty, doesn't necessarily, you know, fit any narrative, you know, or just be honest that for Asians in America, and again, that represents a lot of nationalities, a lot of different groups, you know, especially with I think a lot of Americans. You know, a lot of people will use Chinese interchangeably with Asian, and obviously, like, I can't imagine being like from Sri Lanka, or Pakistan or India and getting that but, you know, for someone, whether they're, you know, Vietnamese or Japanese or Korean, you know, it's all Chinese. You know, I, sometimes I can be a little smarter, just be honest, Ray knows that, you know, I'm sure Gretchen knows that now. So, you know, when I would get that calm, and even when I'm an adult, you know, someone you know, says, Are you from China? You know, if they're white are asking, Are you from France? You know, are you from Austria, Poland, let me get pulled in. Right. You know, there'll be like, What the heck yeah, you know, and, you know, I also live in a community that's majority African American, my wife is black. I don't have a black card, though, because I will always be Asian. But uh, you know, if it's a kid, you know, or an adult, he says, Are you from Chad Avianca? You from Nigeria? You know, largest

Ray Abel 17:45

things I can say, by the way, I just just to be clear, it's good that you know,

Gretchen Hurd 17:52

it is it means that, yeah, can be a little more free with issues of race, you know, total side topic, but you will understand the heart of this, that when I was in college, there was a class that met right next to ours. And we shared the same professor. And they were all white, except for one, you know, girl that was African American, she was black. And I can remember my classmates in our class one day trying to describe her. And like, but they, they were white, so they couldn't say she was black. So they're like, yeah, she's the one you know, she's a little, you know, darker complexion. And they're like, Go who? You know, like, so sometimes her hairs and braids, but sometimes, you know, it's there's a weaver. They're strange, like, I still don't know who you're talking about? Well, you know, that she's brown eyes. And in this went on for like three minutes and find out oh, my gosh, gosh, she's, she's black. And they're like, oh, yeah, like, they were so scared. And like dancing around that feeling. That's not my place to say somebody is, you know, black or Asian or Hispanic or, you know, but I think you know,

okay, that's a side issue. And I don't want to make this a two and a half hour podcast. So I'm moving, I'm moving, I'm moving. But yes, Asian hate, you know, it's not new, but it takes a lot of forms. You know, I mean, from my experiences, you know, when you're a kid, you start to learn that, you know, there's some things that people do that are malicious. And even if it's not racial at all, other kids and adults can do malicious stuff, you know, but when you're an Asian kid, you know, you would get a lot of like, Ching Chong, which just sort of makes you feel it just makes you feel like a nice cut in the in the chest, you get a lot of slanty eyes. And this is something that again, you know, I can't control the fact that I have really cool eyes. So it's like, what am I going to do about that? And then, you know, beyond that, you know, there's there's just there's a lot of side comments, a lot of sort of making you feel like you're the other like you're the foreigner like you're sort of outside of what standard or acceptable and again, that can happen among a number of different races and cultures that people you know, their hatred toward. Asians in America, and I think this does speak to the news honestly, it's not mutually exclusive, that when you grew up in America as Asian, pretty much whatever your community you're in, you can be the target of that hatred. You know, if you grew up in a white community, you can be the target of hatred from people who are white doesn't mean every white person but people who are white, if you grew up in a community that is majority black, you will be the target of people who are black, if you grew up in a community that has majority, Hispanic, Latino, you know, Latin X, you will be the target of that community, you know, again, doesn't mean that everybody is necessarily has a, you know, a bigoted view towards you, but you just know that hate, you know, can come from there's a lot of different flanks that hatred can come towards you, do you think is more? Do you think it comes out of the the model minority thing that came out of the 80s? You know, the model minority? It's sort of funny to

Ray Abel 20:59

talk about the model on my own. Can you just explain that? Because I think it's an interesting topic. But Colleen, do you want to explain to us what that means, Andrew, for anyone who may not be

Gretchen Hurd 21:07

Yeah, so the model minority is sort of this concept of, you know, hey, Americans, and hey, specifically, you know, non white Americans, look at the Asians, they're doing really good. Their kids are getting through school, and they're graduating from college, hey, they own businesses, they don't really complain that much in life, they pay their taxes, you know, they go to churches, or, you know, whatever they do, they're just good model citizens. They're not filling up rap sheets, they're not being arrested by the cops be like the Asians. And, you know, I think for me, growing up in a white family, I didn't really have a concept of that, honestly. So that's, you know, a bias that I hold, you know, but I think the more you learn about it, you realize that it does take on a little bit of a, you know, you think about elementary school, and you had that teachers like, why can't you be like Katy, or why can't you be like, Danny, you know, they do all their homework, they never talk back, you know, and they always get A's, they hold the door for the other kids, and they share their lunch money. And, and no one really likes, like, I'm not Katie, I'm not, you know, Danny. And, you know, I'm, I realized that for other groups in this country, it can sort of feel like that, you know, and usually, in this country, the majority culture, is the one saying, be like the Asians, other minorities. Yeah. So it's a little of a conflicted concept, to say the least. Yeah.

Ray Abel 22:33

There's a video that is also linked on the Wikipedia page that Gretchen posted. And one of the one of the guys in there is talking about the the model minority myth. And one of the things he said is actually interesting to me. And I want to unpack this a little bit, because one of my issues in general, and when people talk about race, and this is grossly generalizing both conservatives and liberals. But with oftentimes what I found is that conservatives just kind of say, well, it doesn't really exist, like racism isn't around, there's no issues with race, it's all made up. And liberals kind of oftentimes see it and everything. And so no matter what you do, there's always it's always underlied with it's a racist thing. And one of the things they were talking about when they talked about the model minority myth, they said, Whenever he does something, well, this is the guy who was hosting the video. Many people cite that it's because he's Asian, and people mean it as a compliment. But he says specifically, this is quoting, but really think about how attributing an individual's success to their race undercuts their accomplishment and their individuality. And when I hear that, that makes complete sense to me, and at the same time, it also brings up questions where I didn't realize even even oftentimes, if I'm playing sports with with, you know, people who are black, it's typically I'm not gonna be as good at basketball as a generalization. And there's this idea of like, well, we have, if you're playing and there's a black guy and a white guy, you're probably gonna pick the black guy, because he's probably better. And it's like, oh, wait a second. That's, that's kind of racist there. And I'm, you know, I start to see that, and I also see how that applies a little bit to the whole idea of white privilege. So I hear that and I think, Well, isn't that kind of the same thing as attributing an individual's success to their race, and undercutting accomplishment, individuality? When people hear if you're a white person, you hear about white privilege? It's kind of like, well, wait a second stop. Like I've done things myself. And when you say white privilege, it undercuts that personal accomplishment. I'm not comparing racism to people being said that they have some kind of privilege because I think there is a measure of privilege just for being white. But we all have our own privileges. We all have our own identities. And I think that's the thing that I want to get to the core of when we talk about race is the fact that oftentimes, another part of the video there was a woman there who talked about how she was half Filipino and half black and she's an advocate in this space. And she said she saw a huge need for these two communities to come together, because we're not each other's enemies. And when I Hear that I'm watching this video and it's all about stopping Asian hate. And I'm like this could really stop all hate if we look at each other not based on race, whether it's white, black, Asian, but it's we look at people as people. So that's me on a soapbox saying that that's what we should be doing, I think as a society, but how do you as an Asian American, I know, there's differences that you see and how I think African Americans are treated, Asian Americans are treated, white people are treated. How do you see a common bond there that maybe people can come together and understand how we can move forward? together and not not so separated?

Gretchen Hurd 25:40

Yeah, I mean, I mean, I think that's a really good point that you bring up, right that the, you know, I mean, quite honestly, you know, the first thing that we need to do is sort of like, honestly, throw politics to the side row Talking Heads fro, you know, what the media is trying to push on us. Let's throw that to the side and deal with people again, as people and build relationships with people who maybe look different than us who come from different communities, different neighborhoods have different upbringing. You know, I think that really, you know, if we unleash that, then there's so much potential to start to not only see the commonalities that we might have, because trust me, you know, one thing I

think is beautiful. When we think about what brings Americans together, you know, I think if I was president, I would give an award to the WWE. WWE like Vince McMahon what I mean, talk about bringing people together, like think of any other space in the history of the world, where you have, think about the group of people who just love studio wrestling. Yeah, you know, you've got like, wait, you know, people that, you know, my apologies to my family from Virginia, who's white, you know, you know, white rednecks, who love it, you know, and then you have, like, you know, I work in an inner city community, you have all the kids, you know, predominately African Americans. He's just, they just love WWE, they never must miss like Monday Night Raw. And you're like, wow, like the WWE is bringing people together, you know, under like this great umbrella of like power bombing? Yeah, rolling people through tables. But that unites us in a beautiful way to get an award that's like the Presidential Medal of doing an awesome job. Right, there be a new thing.

Ray Abel 27:25

I think that is actually WrestleMania is coming up April 10. And 11th. By the way, I'm also a WWE fan. I have been since I was a kid. And it's funny, you bring that up, because I we actually watched the pay per views together with a group of guys. And it was a great mix of different ethnic backgrounds. And we all just enjoyed the stupidity of WWE. And I will say, let me just say this is a complete side note as well. But I actually interviewed a wrestler for a previous job. We had this 5k Ray series known as this wrestler, and he was talking about how he gets really mad when people say it's fake. And he was like, you know, what's your favorite movie? And I was like, well, at the time, it was Anchorman. He's like, it's fake. And he yelled at me and said, it's fake. And I was like, Well, no, I know. It's fake. But why are you telling you that? And he's like, yeah, that's how I feel every time every time someone tells me it's fake. So there is I think there is something there. But at the same time, Andrew, it's interesting, you bring that up, because right now they're scrubbing. WWE is back catalogue when they're going to the peacock network, because there's all kinds of racist things. Roddy Piper came to the ring wearing blackface for a WrestleMania event. Vince McMahon himself actually said the N word and a sketch and made a scrape. So it's one of those things where but it's interesting to me that Hulk Hogan had all that stuff that came out about him being racist. And despite all of that, and despite the fact that I will say, as a historian of WWE, there haven't been many non white champions. And recently that's changed. But it's been a long history of white people that are champions, but people still

Gretchen Hurd 28:54

get behind always have to ruin a good thing.

Ray Abel 28:57

Sorry, I know. It's it's funny. I'm, again, I'm more conservative guy in this show. And I feel like I'm the progressive now that bad web. But it's interesting, you bring that up. But what do you think it is, though? And this? I know, this was a side note, but what is it about web that brings people together? So because there are some really controversial things in there, but you're right, when you look at the crowd, it's a very diverse crowd.

Gretchen Hurd 29:20

Yeah, I think that just speaks that people don't enjoy controversy. I don't think they enjoy, like canceling people they don't enjoy, like feeling like everybody is walking on pins and needles in our society. And I

think in this case, they just want to be entertained by like, you know, I'm watching my words because I'm thinking of your friend who was the wrestler, but they just want to be entertained by pure, you know, athletic sports entertainment taken to the nth degree.

Ray Abel 29:48

There you go. Yep. There you go. That's a really nice way of saying it. So yeah. All right. So wave from wrestling. Something You Do. I feel like you brought up a few stories when you're telling me But I would not have believed. And I think there's something here where again, I want to come back to ignorance versus racism. Because I think oftentimes, I think as someone who believes there are race problems, but also believes that those are better than they have been in the past, I always get confused when people say I had someone tell me, about a year and a half ago, I was on a date, actually. And she told me that the the US is more racist now than it's ever been. And I was kind of surprised by that, because we used to have slavery, and we used to be able to own people. So the fact that right now we're more racist never is just not a it's not a it's not a fact. That's that's, but that's the impression a lot of people have, but I do think that these things are going down. But there are still issues. With that being said, what would you say you've given some examples of I mean, when people say, Ching Chong, like you said, when people are making the the motions, you see it, I mean, I see it as Okay, that's racism. And then there are some things where you talk about ignorance. And I think that's an interesting part for you to talk about. You mentioned before the show about the kids that came up to you recently. And one of your gyms that you work in, yes, people don't know, Andrew works with high school kids and athletic setting. So tell me about what

Gretchen Hurd 31:08

is racist anything from four year olds enough? So, so wide, right, but yeah, you know, I can think of when I think about ignorance versus sort of prejudice, and you know, there's ignorance is basically you just don't know. You know, I can remember when I was in college, and, you know, something happened on our campus and the Asian student association, like they use the word Oriental. And honestly, I had no idea that I was supposed to be offended by Oriental, you know, so I did some research I understood, you know, started to learn the origins of that word, and that this was definitely sort of an imperialistic European term. And I heard all that. And I'm like, okay, you know, yeah, I see it, I see it, but at the same time, you know, someone who was 75, or 80, you know, comes up to me and uses the term Oriental. And I know, this person genuinely has a good heart, I'm probably not gonna hold that against them. count that up for ignorance, you know, right. I might want to tell them, hey, you know, some Asians definitely find this word offensive. Here's why. So, you know, someone who isn't like me might take offense to that, you know, I think of kids who will come up to me, they don't know much Asian Americans. And they'll say, Hey, do you know karate, you know? Or, Hey, can you cook fried rice? I love fried rice. And this is, you know, kids are curious kids are curious. And, you know, they're not mocking me, but they're just their curiosity gets the best of them. Because, hey, they might have all these, you know, questions for Asian people, you know, they're watching Cobra Kai and, but they don't have any outlet to ask these questions to so, you know, again, when I get those questions, I usually use it as an educational moment for them. You know, I might tell them, you know, honestly, I don't know martial arts. I don't know karate, but maybe we can take lessons together one day, you know, maybe we can both learn. And they're like, Yeah, that would be cool. You know, so there's opportunity when when we face ignorance, to use that, to educate, you know, it's not again, you know, there has to be a

place for grace in our society. You know, I'm not gonna get all bent over backwards out of that. But I will say, hey, let's learn from this, and let's get to a better place. Flipside, you know, we talk about hatred, we talk about bigotry, we talk about, you know, views that are racist and actions that are racist, you know, I can think of in 2016, you know, I went to vote, I think probably a lot of people went to vote in 2016, hopefully 2018 in 2020. And I live in a community where we vote in a public housing project, and or public housing authority community, you know, I want to use the right terminology, you know, and they have it in the rec room, and I was walking up into this, this sort of complex of different apartment buildings, and I hear, you know, hey, China, man, Ching Chong, Ching Chong, speak Chinese speak Chinese, and I look to my right, and there's a man and a woman, you know, they're probably in their 30s or 40s. And, and at first, you're just shocked like, that someone would say that. And I you know, but again, you know, this is only because of Jesus. I said, Hey, guys, you know, I I can't speak Chinese either. You know, I only speak English. And you know, and they didn't really take that, but it was one of those things where it's just was so jarring, you know, and unfortunately, I didn't, you know, say I want to fight you, right? It's like, oh, my gosh, you know, this is really intense. You know, so I went inside of, you know, the housing community. And there were some community organizers and there was some poll workers, and I said, Hey, guys, I was just racially accosted, you know, right. As I was walking in here to vote, and, you know, the first woman, you know, I don't know, she was a community organizer. She was, you know, just a poll worker. She's like, I ain't one of us. They don't even vote. And I'm sort of thinking well, that's not all that reaffirming to me, what does that have to do with anything? You're Just trying to get people to vote, because you don't like Trump, obviously, but at the same time, like, you know, have some empathy for me. And then there's this other guy, who was a poll worker who's like, our, you know, our take care of this. So he goes outside, this is a really funny story, because it'll continue, you know, so I go, and I vote that day. And, you know, there was a really nice interracial couple there, you know, the husband was black, the wife was white, and they're like, hey, we want to give you a ride home. And, and I've walked a lot around my community, so I didn't need a ride home. But I really that I felt that, you know, when we talk about, you know, hashtag stop Beijing hate, you know, I appreciate it appreciated that they were willing to put themselves between me and people who were trying to racially accost me, you know, and say, Hey, he's with us, you know, we're gonna give you a ride home, like you're with us. And, and I appreciate that when I think about a model of just what that looks like to really be an ally. You know, I see that man, I see that woman. I haven't seen them since, you know, but I'm definitely so grateful, you know that I ran into him that day. And getting back to that, that poll worker, you know, his big dude, supposedly, and my wife tells me about this. And I didn't even remember it. A few years later, we go to vote again. And since then, they've actually torn down the housing project. And now we vote in another location. And he's like, Oh, it's you, man. I almost got into a fight for you. And I'm like, I feel that I feel that like, again, like, you're the man like, I don't hug you. This was before COVID I should have hugged him, you know, and I'm like, alright, you know, that I do was willing to get in a fight for me, because he said, that's just not right. So I think about allies, I think about you know, what does that look like to stop Asian hate and it's that intentionality there, you know, and saying, you know, I'm gonna, I'm gonna stand with you, you know, and even if that means someone wants to fight me now, you know, right.

Ray Abel 36:49

Wanna you know, and that's that I think it is beautiful. I think allies is a great term. Because I mean, I would, I would consider myself someone who, you know, I want to be an ally. I think that's a good word

for it. And I think there's a lot of I think it's a lot of education, though. I mean, there's things I look back. So Andrew and I we met in what 2009 or something? It's been 2000 8009 years. Yep. And

Gretchen Hurd 37:15

you took me on a two and a half hour lunch break?

Ray Abel 37:18

That's right. Wow. I forgot about that.

Gretchen Hurd 37:22

So much. Work, I guess. Yeah.

Ray Abel 37:25

No, I wanted to spend time with you. I feel like we have good conversation. No, that is

Gretchen Hurd 37:30

I remember, like in Tony's Yeah,

Ray Abel 37:33

I love my gyros. Yeah. So. But I think that's one of the things where when we were talking before the show, there were things that popped up. And we don't need to go down the list. But there were things that there was not any ill intent on my part. But there were things that I've done them, I go, Oh, man, like, I shouldn't have done those things. And there are even things that, you know, we talked about where, you know, we don't get into details, but I had a website that Andrew had an article for, like maybe, maybe I do things differently, looking at it, we all learn and grow and we all can hopefully, you know, understand each other more. And I think that's the important part. I mean, I will say this actually started coming up in my mind the Asian hate Part I and this goes back to what Gretchen was saying about her mom being more educated than she was on history. I was in Wyoming in September, and I went to the Heart Mountain relocation center. If you're not familiar with the relocation centers in the US, they were basically internment camps for Japanese people who were in the US during World War Two. So this is near Cody, Wyoming was near the airport there. It's a you know, beautiful area, just wonderful wild lands. And they had what looked like an internment camp you would see in Nazi Germany, where they took Japanese Americans and put them there because Franklin D Roosevelt, who on a side note is not one of my favorite presidents. It's probably the closest to a dictator we ever had. And this is a whole nother episode. But he was the original person who tried to pack the courts with for the New Deal. And luckily, at that point, people stood up Congress and the population said, No, that's an undemocratic power grab, although they elected him office four times. Anyway, side note of all that, FDR started these internment camps where they rounded up Japanese Americans and put them into these camps. And I mean, there are a lot of stains in our history in America. And I think that we have to talk about them and move on from them and hopefully, never do them again. But that's one that's, that's a big one for me. But so those things again, it's like I see that and I'm like, Okay, wow, that was a racist part of our history. And I look at that, when people say Ching Chong, like, wow, that's racist. But those little things that I may not even have known. I think it's so important to have these kinds of conversations and one of the ones you brought up, you were you were on a trip, not to bring up

all the hurts you've had in your life, Andrew, but you were on a trip recently, I guess about a year or so ago with your wife to where was the Bahamas?

Gretchen Hurd 39:53

Oh, yeah, we were actually in in Jamaica. And you know, we were so this is humourous, you know, you'll appreciate this. Like, it's one of those resorts that like they hound you for the first two days a few days with their timeshare presentation, right? But you know, you just sort of have to do it and you get a bag and Gogi goodie, so you just do it, and you're not really wanting to buy a timeshare, but it just like it gets them off your back shore, they pretty much have like, I'm sure, you know. I mean, I think about man, if we were all like as, like, honors them, like this world would be changed. Yeah. But they're, they're persistent. So you know, we're, we're walking around for this timeshare. And then this manager, you know, he's one of the hotel managers, you know, within earshot of me, he sees me and I hear Him say under under his breath, Jackie Chan. Oh, I hear that sometimes with kids, and I don't like it. And that's almost a little beyond ignorance. You know, but I explained to them why I don't like that. But this was like, an at least 40 year old man, you know, who's a hotel manager in a position of authority. He sees an Asian gas and says Jackie Chan, and that that made me boil. And you know, one thing, honestly, I love is that a lot of times, you know, the stereotype on Asians is that we're dismissive that we don't speak up. I love that my wife has changed that in me, you know that, you know, that she makes me so I spoke up, you know, I got I got his manager. And in pretty much said, This is unacceptable that I'm going to be treated like this here. And you know what, maybe you ask, well, I like Jackie Chan movies. Why is that offensive? Well, you know, growing up in America, as you know, an Asian man and Asian boy, there is two people that, you know, most people saw that were Asian, through the popular culture. One was Jackie Chan. And then the other was Bruce Lee. So growing up anywhere from the 70s, through the 90s, kids would see you and they say Jackie Chan, or Bruce Lee, or they do the little Hi, yeah, you know, martial arts, sort of, you know, mimicking, and when you knew that their intent was hurtful? Mm hmm. You definitely internalize that, that to hear the name Jackie Chan. That's hurtful. You know, so it triggers you. They're coming after you. You mocking you. And again, a 10 year old boy, one thing 45 year old man. Ah, no, your intentions are not pure. You're doing that to demean me? Yeah. And I'm not gonna have that, you know, I tolerate a lot. But let me speak to your manager. Well, Aaron, on him. I was carrying on this guy. Yeah. And there was a moment and again, and he lectured me that I need to be less sensitive. Because he said, I'm from Mexico. And, you know, we call everybody names. It's like, well, that doesn't make y'all right. No. So but there was a moment where he felt like, Man, I should have just not said that. I could see it because they, you know, he was sitting around, you know, waiting for the manager to come back. And I'm thinking, he's thinking, Man, I should have just held my tongue, you know, in that instance. And it's like, Alright, maybe he didn't learn anything, but that maybe the next Asian guests, you came to this resort in Jamaica? Didn't have to be called Jackie Chan, when they walked by? Yeah.

Ray Abel 43:04

Well, I think it's interesting, because I mean, that's one of those things that it gets difficult because I understand I'm number one, I kind of innately understood that that would be racist, even without hearing your explanation for it. But when you said specifically, there are only a few different people in the Asian culture that you're referred to, you kind of get narrowed down to this box. And that really impacted me when you told me about that. And also, it's I think it's difficult because as a white person, I

do get, you know, some do you look like this person, or, you know, there's all these comparisons. My best friend says, I look and for those not watching the video and listening to some podcast, don't look up pictures of me, you'll have a much better impression of than what I actually look like.

Gretchen Hurd 43:45

Very handsome man. Let me tell you that.

Ray Abel 43:49

Thank you again, Andrew. My best friend used to call me Chris Hemsworth, the floor guy. And I mean, he's much better looking than I am. But I don't take any offense that I immediately go, oh, well, thank you. It's great. Like keep bringing on it. And for example, when I was in, I remember talking to a friend of mine who was black after I came back from Colombia, the country. I most people there were shorter than me. I'm a six foot four white guy, I stood out, everyone was staring at me. I loved it, like I ate it up. And it's something though, a couple things. You've said that that hit me are, you know, that's you're comparing there's a lot of different comparisons. It's not I mean, it's Chris Hemsworth, because there might be a very vague resemblance to him. And when it comes to walking around and being recognized, that's not something that typically happens to me. So when it happens all the time, and that's the same thing that my friend who was black I told that about set you know, that's that's something that happens all the time and it gets really old. And you had talked about how you know, you like to have these learning moments where you can explain to people, you know, here's why what you said is wrong, but it really shouldn't be your job to have to do that. 10 1215 times A week, whatever it may be. But that's an extra burden that goes on you that I didn't really recognize before you, you and I started talking. And I think that's an important thing when, when you're having discussions about race, I think oftentimes that goes back to the ignorance versus prejudice conversation, because, you know, I, you see these things as a white guy, and it's like, well, people are looking at me great. Like, this is so cool, like, but you don't experience it the same way that someone who has a minority experiences and I think those are the things that are powerful and things that we can hopefully be able to start allowing people to understand that this is why they're important. So thank you for sharing that. I think that's a, I think that's an important thing. And I think one of the things you brought up in our conversations before as well, that it was just an interesting subject is that you mentioned that you were adopted, so you're raised by white parents, and we were talking about the shooting that happened in Atlanta. And I'm not gonna give away the ending here. But you said something that really struck me and made me think about that situation and ask because I asked you how you felt about that. And I'm just gonna let you take it from here and explain what what you told me.

Gretchen Hurd 46:09

Yeah, yeah, definitely Ray that, I think, for a lot of us who, you know, are Asian, but we were adopted to America and predominantly, were raised in white families. To see just a horrific crime, crime like that really left us a little bit in shock. But also just like, we it just was a reiteration of how out of place we feel, yes, here we have a situation where, you know, the victims were, were Asian American, many of the victims and, you know, especially for Asian American women, like that could have been me, that could have been me. But for those of us who are adopted, we have this extra strange tension that is just like, I don't know what to do with it, like, just drop it on the floor and run or something, not like we see the shooter. And we're like, that looks like our brother, you know, that looks like, you know, that's who we

see at family reunions, that's who we see at community events. Those are the people in our spaces, you know, in our church youth groups. And, you know, when anything that we've been to, like, that's the familiarity, the one who looks more foreign to us are the victims, whereas that shooter, you know, might as well be, you know, my cousin, or, you know, those, that's the guy I grew up playing baseball, you know, so it's just this conflicting feeling of, I don't know how I fit into, you know, this discussion at all. And then I think maybe that's good, because then the attention really goes to those who really suffered, you know, that tragic loss of life and their families. But it's like, yeah, what do I do with this? I don't know, we talked about even even how Asian women and the sexual over sexualization of them. And with that, I feel like that is a huge part that's not being talked about, at this point. How do you feel about that? Do you feel like any, that, you know, that's, that's a very, it's raw, you know, and I think it's wrong, a lot of senses, because you do have, you know, and you sort of have to understand the dynamics that a lot of the women of Asian descent, who are sort of working in, you know, these marginalized and to different degrees, sketchy positions, they're not out of desire choice, it's really an economic necessity is how they view that because they're just trying to provide, they're just trying to provide for a family for kids. And then you have the dynamic that for me, you know, and for, you know, men who grew up in America, just that our culture, really divided men and women in very different took us on different paths, where you have the popular culture, think about all the movies that we had growing up, you know, up till probably about five years ago that the Asian was scrawny, the Asian man could not talk was probably too shy to talk to a girl, you know, was just used for math, or let's copy the homework off of the Asian kid. And then, you know, throw them into a locker. And it's funny, everyone can laugh about that, you know, whereas they didn't necessarily always portray the Asian woman that way they were viewed or as exotic, or they were viewed as, you know, something to be fetish sized. And, you know, again, submissive, so we have the more dominant man being able to submit, you know, a foreign, you know, fetish sized woman of Asian descent, you know, so we have these, so different sort of mindsets that, you know, I think you would definitely get a much richer, different response, you know, from an Asian American woman, as opposed to me as an Asian American man, for

Ray Abel 49:40

sure. Yeah. I mean, there's there's so much to unpack there. And I think when we talk about the media that I think that's something now Gretchen, you said it doesn't sound like we're talking about that, and I would say that I've heard a lot about that. And so I think that's one of the the issues I have with with research. Relations. When I say race relations, it's not race relations themselves. It's that the way the media covers them, it only matches certain narratives. And this is completely off topic. But obviously it was a white person who did the shooting it with these these Asian women, and it immediately went to a racist white guy. And when the shooting happened in Colorado this week, when you look through Twitter, it was I actually I think it was Mina I forget her name. But Mina Harris, I think, is her name. She's the niece of Kamala Harris tweeted out that white men are the biggest threat to America, because they are shooting people. And then when they found out that it was a man who was Muslim, who was a Syrian descent, then it became about mental health. And it talked about the racism that he faced growing up, which caused him to do that. Whereas if you say anything about white people who shoot then it's off limits. So there's all these narratives and it's kind of like when the media gets itself in a bind, where it's like, oh, there's a white guy shooting. Good. We can go and we got him. And then it's like, oh, it's a Syrian Muslim man. What do we do here? And then it's, well, let's still make it about race. And I think that's one of the issues. And I think going back, that's the idea of ignorance versus racism. I

mean, there's a lot of things that I just like I said, I do have a bias. I did not know that things that you mentioned, Andrew, those things that you talk about him. Now, that's when I hear things like that, it's probably not real. So there's real issues out there, we need to address but then the media just kind of jumps and steers things. And I just want your thoughts as someone who's watching all of this Asian hate play out so quickly. How do you feel about the media coverage in general, and even with what's happened recently? Do you feel like it's it's it's good, and not just from the when I say media, what I've talked about, there was typically the liberal media, but also, I mean, really, the only conservative media is Fox News, but how to how do you feel

Gretchen Hurd 51:45

oh, there's other conservative media's but they're you they go beyond Fox News? Yeah,

Ray Abel 51:50

that's the

Gretchen Hurd 51:52

news. My other concern? Right, but that's yeah, that's a that's a great question. You know, our, our be honest, that, you know, it, it cuts both ways. You know, I will say that there is a side of me that appreciates that there is a tension that this is a real thing, you know, that Asians, Americans, and again, very different, that's a broad range of people, but that, you know, we do face situations that we see prejudice, you know, where have bigoted statements and actions that are hurled at us, and that that's not new. You know, it's definitely not something I mean, Google Vincent Chen 1982. Gone, that was also see a similar situation where, you know, oh, you know, the white man that killed him. The judge in the jury, oh, he was having a bad year, he lost his job as an auto worker. I could see him doing that. Heck, I would do it. You know, so you have this view that it's nothing new. And just to

Ray Abel 52:45

be clear, there is a link to that on the website. And Vincent Chen was, it was in Detroit, he was not aware. And there was an auto was out. And he was not, but they were all out at a bachelor party. And there were two white guys who accosted him, because he said, they said that, you know, Asian Americans were taking their jobs. And the judge actually, in that case, because I did look this up, the judge was actually a POW. And I think it was the Vietnam War. So there was some bias there from the judge. And that became a big thing. So yeah, there is a link to the research that he has to work to take a look at that article. But sorry to interrupt, I just want to make sure that that's okay. Yeah, stories we talked about. Yeah, super helpful. Right. But yeah, sorry. The last part was he got three sorry, the three years probation, that's what he got for baseball bat in the middle of

Gretchen Hurd 53:31

three years of probation? Yeah, it's that's ridiculous. Terrible. But, you know, just continuing on. So in one sense, you know, there's a, you know, I appreciate that they're drawing attention that this stuff happens, you know, because I think, without any attention to it, you know, how were the How will there be changed? Right? No, but I, I will say that, yes, it's, it's opportunistic, that, you know, where have they been in the last, you know, 36 years? You know, right. A lot of times, you know, honestly, crimes against Asians don't necessarily fit the narratives? You know, I think there is, I would say, you know, I

see a narrative that we like to see, you know, if it's more to the left media, we like to see white perpetrators. If it is, you know, more to the right media, we like to see, like, a minority or Muslim perpetrator, you know, but here a lot of Asian crimes over the years, you know, especially those a major metro areas have just been, I would say, reflective of the spaces where Asians were congregating. You know, so you think about the West Coast, you have, you know, Asians and predominantly black and, you know, Latino communities, you know, in New York City, the same thing, you know, so you had these crimes that were happening, but the perpetrators were not white. They were not the white man. You know, that these days. The mainstream media likes to highlight as these are perpetrators. So the media looks at that they're like, We don't know what to do with this. This doesn't really fit an agenda. This doesn't really drive forward anything we want to see accomplished legislation. right away, you know, so this isn't our cause. So we'll just bury this as if it doesn't happen. But it has been happening it isn't. It's almost like we've hit this plateau where everything has kind of culminated. My mom was saying, when I was talking to earlier, she's like, I just feel like the whole country is about to explode. And I was like, I feel like we've hit a point where we're boiling. And now everybody's really talking about the things that we've should have been talking about this whole time. We just keep pushing things behind. Oh, well, it's not. It's not happening right now. So we don't have to deal with it. And then it pops back up. And no, you're being opportunistic. Okay. Well, when are we going to talk about it? When are we going to deal with it? You know, and it just feels like after George, George Floyd, and then Breanna Taylor, and then this, so it's like, then we're just kind of hitting this. Now we're at this plateau. It feels to me like, I feel like change is happening. But I don't I don't know how long it's gonna take. But I don't know, I almost feel optimistic. In a little weird way.

Ray Abel 55:59

So I think I think it is. I mean, I think it's great to have these conversations. And I think that when bad things happen, it's good to have good conversations. And I think that's the problem I have with the media. And again, this is both sides. When we look at the conversations that happened a great going, you brought up George Floyd, I often heard this summer, whether it was George Floyd or some other situations that happened. People on the right would say things like, well, you know, he was passing bad money, or there are all these reasons why he was a criminal. And they'd look up their past and well, this person did this in the past. And the left would say things like, Well, why don't you just have a less lethal shot? Let's just shoot them in the kneecap or something? Or don't you use a taser? And the idea of both those things, the person's background does not matter at all. When the situations happen. It doesn't it situations live it only matters what's happening then. And the whole idea if anyone's ever shot a gun, I think oftentimes, when you hear things like why didn't use a less lethal shot, that person I can pretty clearly understand has never shot a gun before because it's not like what you see in the movies, where you can pick off a toe, and it's Jack Bauer, just kind of, you know, shooting wherever he wants. And so that was the narrative. But then when you flip the narrative, when you saw what happened at the Capitol, there was that woman, Ashley Babbitt that was shot. And when I looked at Twitter, and I looked at the media afterwards, the write was saying things like, why didn't you use a less lethal shot, you didn't have to shoot her. She was trying to climb through a window and try to get into Congress and a person warned her and then shot her and it was Why didn't use less lethal shots. And then the flip side, people who would tend to be liberal or pulling up things that she had, you know, her record or criminal record of Yeah, what she'd done her past is like, do y'all realize you're saying the exact same things just different times, because that's what the media is pushing you. And so when you say things

like, you're hopeful, that's hopeful for me, because when I look at what how bad this world is right now, and I look at all the problems we have, they're not unique problems. There's, there's this thing I haven't talked about in the show yet, there's this image right up here that if you're watching on the podcast, you won't be able to see my finger where it's pointing. But it's a autograph from a guy named Charles Sumner. Also a really cool story. I was listening to podcast about the Haitian Revolution. And Charles Sumner was an anti abolitionist. Congressman, back in the 1800s 1840s 1850s, he was beaten on the Senate floor with a cane by a southern Democrat who was for slavery at the time, almost beat him to death. He was out of Congress for two years. And they both came back to Congress after the Civil War. So Charles Sumner recovered and came back to serve. And the southern Democrat Congressman that hit him, came back and also became anti slavery. And so when you look at things in history, I mean, the Capitol right was absolutely terrible. It was disgusting. What happened there. But we also had senators beating each other near death in the past. So I think we are there's every the media turns everything into the end of the world, all sides, and it becomes this, this issue where we feel like the world's falling in around us, but I actually have a lot of hope. Because, I mean, we're having conversations here, I see a lot of people having real conversations, I see a lot of I mean, in general with society, I don't see people on the streets, having the problems that you see in the media. And I know there are real issues like what Andrew brought up here, things that I never experienced as a white man. And things that I want to be aware of. And that's why we have these conversations. And Andrew, what I love about this is, Andrew is not calling me a racist or telling me because I'm white, I wouldn't understand and I shouldn't I should just be quiet. He's having a conversation with me. And that's what's gonna get us to move forward. And I think this is again, this is one of my soap boxes. But I watched a video this week that was talking about kind of the history of media. And right now, there's like five major corporations that are in charge of 90% of the media that's out there. And that's not including things like Jeff Bezos, one of the richest men in the world owning the Washington Post one of the most influential newspapers in the world that's still an independent one newspaper owner. So the idea that we have the ability now to make a change, I think there are things that are happening but if we let them Media direct that narrative into let's hate each other more and hear here, if you listen to Fox News, it's well, you know, if you just, if you just wouldn't get in trouble, there's no issues. That's not a real thing. There's no racial issues, we got to talk. And if you look at the, you know, the liberal media, it's well, all white people are racist. And if it fits our narrative, we're going to air it. And it becomes this whole self hatred, even for you know, I joke around with my white liberal friends, it's I don't understand how you wake up every day hating yourselves. It's, it's tough, like, there are real issues we need to face. But that doesn't help things, we have to be able to talk and we have to be an ally, like Andrew talked about. And I think it's important to be able to say, Hey, these are the things that are really offensive. And these are the things and you know, and we're gonna go into one thing, there's this is this is one thing that I did that I just it's so stupid. It's so dumb, and it's, it's the reality of it. I there was a picture that I actually deleted from Instagram this week of Andrew, he was in my car trunk. And we realize he was he was an early one into race car into my car drunk. And that was weird to say, but

Gretchen Hurd 1:01:06

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Ray Abel 1:01:08

Something like that. Yeah. We were not really we weren't. We weren't. We weren't that young. We were old enough to know better. Yeah. 30 ish. But we are recreating the hangover. And in hindsight, that is such a terrible well, it makes sense. But it's also like, oh, man, I can't believe I just made Andrew. And look, I didn't make Andrew we thought it was funny. And but it was. Yeah, I was unintentionally. Taking Andrew down to I think the Ken Jong right is his name. Kenjon. Yep. Now he's not only now and something Andrew said, when we're talking off air, he mentioned that Ken Jong is is not healthy, because he takes a caricature of Asian and maybe you can talk about this more, but not only did I put you

Gretchen Hurd 1:01:47

debatable, you know, I think he's he's, he has, you know, his acting repertoire actually has increased and I think he's recognized some things. Yeah. You know, that he did that did characterize Asians and Asian American men, you know, so I, again, you know, this is about grace. It's, you know, Kim Jong can can grow, you know, I can't join Kim. Right.

Ray Abel 1:02:08

Did you say Ken Jong or Kim Jong John's? If we're talking about Kim Jong? Sorry, Kim Jong. Okay.

Gretchen Hurd 1:02:17

Yeah, right. Yeah, looking at an artist, they're growing, and they're learning and they're perfecting their craft. And yeah. And again, you know, I think it does reflect that it was there wasn't much rose for right Asian American man even, you know, 10 years ago. So he was tight, taking roles that he would get getting a foot in the door. And now, you know, he has a career that allows him to not do that, you know, I'm curious again, what his thought is on some of those earlier roles that he did take. But again, you know, my thing with, you know, you stuffing me in the trunk, you know, and again, it made me just

Ray Abel 1:02:49

make sure that I didn't physically, Chuck. Yeah, we talked about it.

Gretchen Hurd 1:02:57

What if somebody who's just a boy in life, regardless of, you know, their background, saw Ray's picture on Instagram said, whoa, whoa, I'm gonna do that too. Right? They grab some, you know, right is your boy or man who really didn't want to go into a chocolate for them? I would hate to be a part of that. The thing that I hoped instigate that,

Ray Abel 1:03:16

but see, I think that's the thing where I mean, you I'm not a I'm not, I don't consider you a friend, because you're Asian, I don't care that you're Asian, I consider you a friend. Because you're brutally honest, you're intelligent. You're a good guy. And I like you as a person. And through that, I've learned that I've had some things that are again, looking back on it. Now, I would never do that. Well, I hope so. And let me just be clear, too, because I think going back to what you said, you know, we should we should have some grace. Like, I would hope that you wouldn't think that I'm a terrible person because of something I did when I was younger and didn't know any better. But

Gretchen Hurd 1:03:49

that kid cancer we all I think every person, regardless of any, you know, political ideology could be canceled in a second. Yes, somebody said, Mr. Right. My goal today is to cancel them. Mr. Rogers,

Ray Abel 1:04:03

I'm so glad he hasn't been canceled yet. But I'm so glad that we have grace. And we've learned and we've grown and I think that's so important. I think that comes through conversation and through dialogue. And I mean, I've talked about this in the first episode. But growing up, I mean, I went to I went to Penn Hills Elementary School in Pittsburgh, which is actually very diverse. But when I went to high school, I went to, I went to three different elementary schools, my junior high was almost all white, my senior high was 99%. White, so it wasn't very diverse. And when I started working with Andrew, and that inner city nonprofit, that was the first time I was really exposed to a culture that was primarily black, and that was as an adult, and I learned so much there. And it just when you when you get to know people, it's it's really good to hear these things. And I think that's where I go back to ignorance versus racism. And I think the more conversations we have, the better will be and I just hope that as we kind of wrap up this week, we want to talk about what's next or what people learned. And I mean, I really can't pick one thing that I like So that's what I'm going to start out with is what I learned. And there's just a lot that I've learned not just today, but throughout knowing you, Andrew. But there, there are things that are clearly racist, there are things that are clearly bigoted, there's things you can just understand neatly. And then there's a lot that you just don't understand. And I think what I've learned through you is that when you say things to people in a real way, and honest way, but not attacking them, they can really grow. And we as people who aren't, when I'm saying, as a white man, I'm not a minority. We need to listen when minorities are talking, and I feel like about their experiences. And I so appreciate you not telling me to be quiet, because I'm not a minority, but actually sharing with me and growing with me. And I think that's how we're gonna get through all this. And Gretchen, like you said, I think there is a lot of hope for me as we move forward. But that hope comes from conversations like this, and just, you know, not from the media, not from those narratives, but from real conversations with real people that I see encouraging things happening. So that's what I learned this week. Yeah. Gretchen, do you want to go next with what you learned?

Gretchen Hurd 1:06:03

Yeah, it's really similar to what you just said, right? I, I feel that go, just going even through this process of doing this podcast, I've grown so much in the last month. I feel like I am more open to listen to people that I have differences with. I feel like it's it's helping me understand my own bias. We've talked about that every week. But it really listening, listening to people that you don't necessarily have a lot in common with me helps you grow. So the thing that I've learned, even in this episode, is that allowing myself to be told that I've done something wrong, is not a bad thing. And I know it's hard for a lot of people to it almost feels like an attack when someone says please don't say that. It's offensive to me. And then they're automatically who's who fooders, no snowflake, whatever, but it's it, their response. I'm trying never to act like that anymore. I don't want to act like if someone's telling me that they are offended by something. Or if I'm doing something that is offensive, I want to change that. In myself. It's the empathy, right? It's that empathetic person inside. That's, I hate making people feel any kind of way that is not good about themselves. So I'm a teacher. So it's it. I'm sure that's where that comes from, too. But even in this things that I didn't know about Asian Americans, their history in this country, has

opened my eyes to their plight every day and the things that they go through every day. And it is really heartbreaking to me. And I hope that I mean, I hope that I've never made anybody feel like that. I don't think I have I don't think I've ever really said anything that would be offensive, but I mean, oh my gosh, fingers on, I was like, No, I think no.

Ray Abel 1:08:09

100% you have nerve we all have said, and that's why

Gretchen Hurd 1:08:13

it's so it's so it makes me sad. Do you know what I mean? Like I really am it makes there's like a little voice in the back of my head going, oh my gosh, you could have said something and didn't mean anything. But and you know, and that. But I think we all need to be aware of that. It's not that you're policing your your speech, or you're, you're growing and we should all be okay with growing and wanting people to have a good experience in their lives because we only get one. Why would you purposefully make someone else's life horrible and make someone feel bad for the way they look or the way they talk? Or that you know, it just is crazy to me, but that's really what I'm taking from this week. Heavier than most?

Ray Abel 1:08:53

Well, and I think when we talk about minorities to look, going back to the question, something else I learned when you talked earlier, Andrew about the percentage of the world who was Asian it's actually 55 one so it's actually Oh, wow. Minorities. So from population. Also one real quick thing before I pass to Andrew to wrap up his his comments today, something else I learned my co founder and his wife, they texted me while I was doing this when I was talking about looking like Chris Hemsworth and his wife's response was, Oh, come on, and I can only assume it came right around the time of Chris Hemsworth. So just to be clear, I learned that I look nothing like Chris Hemsworth but maybe I'll pull up some younger photos or something but that's that's one thing I clearly learned I do not look like I actually was

Gretchen Hurd 1:09:36

forgot that people are like literally watching us right now. Hi, everybody. Yeah,

Ray Abel 1:09:41

hey, everyone watching so getting that. Andrew? I feel I'm gonna leave this up to you there if there's anything I you want to cover that I didn't cover. If there's something that you want to talk about, you learn but most importantly, what I want to hear from you is what's next. So how do you I did my little soapbox rant of how we can move forward from this. Now we can learn but I would lose love to hear from you on what you think we can do moving forward as a society that can help. Yeah, we talked Yes, it.

Gretchen Hurd 1:10:07

I appreciate that. And, you know, it's just been awesome to be able to come and share with you guys, you know, in a very loving civil environment, you know, that's seems to be in short supply these days. But I think one thing that you know I when I hear you guys like I don't think anyone in America once

people of the majority culture to be walking around on eggshells thinking, oh my gosh, am I gonna offend someone who is you know, like that's just that makes all of us uncomfortable. You know I think of this story in college where no one was willing to say that. Like, they were so scared to utter the word black like, please like, I don't want to live in that world either. Like, in that moment, I'm like, oh, man, I'm glad I'm not white, you know. And that's a lot of pressure. Like, you guys have a lot of pressure, like, anything you could say, to get you canceled. Anything you can say is like, oh my gosh, like, they're racist. You know, he, once you get labeled with racists, these days, you're gone, you know, shuffled off to the side, you know, so, please, like don't, you know, majority culture, don't walk around on eggshells, but I do think there's value and let's all listen to each other. You know, let's be willing to listen and hear different perspectives. You know, I think it is a troubling, you know, sign that it seems like there are circles in our country, where we have these polarized two sides, and no one is willing to listen to the other side, and just shut down, like, we listened to correct, we listened to shut you down. But let's listen to understand, let's listen to gain new perspectives, because it's those new perspectives that enrich us and allow us to gain a greater understanding. And at the end of the day, you know, I think about this, that, you know, when we were growing up, and all of us are, you know, older than millennials, that, you know, like, you didn't interact with people first on social media, like that's backwards, like somebody friends me, and then the first thing I know about them is their most controversial, sort of like, aggressive tendencies, my gosh, like my back in the day, you got to know people based on you know, first spending a little bit of time with them, and maybe hearing Oh, we have a common interest, you know, whether it was at the watercooler or on the playground, or in the lunchroom, you know, and then you you like, if you wanted to, you can learn more about them and see what else you had in common. But we've lost that we've lost that as a society, you know, all around the world. And it's like, let's get back to relationships, let's get back to intentionality, relationships with maybe people who might look different than us, or might have different backgrounds, or different beliefs or different, you know, dare I say, political ideologies, because there's something we can learn there. You know, I mean, honestly, you know, you know, you always have to give credit to your spouse, and my wife has taught me so much that I never knew before, you know, just she's from such a different background, I'm Asian, cross culturally adopted Asian by white people, you know, she's, you know, black and my have I learned stuff that I'm like, Oh, my gosh, I never knew that. And that changed how I deal with things that changes my perspective, like, I've had to correct myself on a lot of things. But that's been a process that I've really thoroughly enjoyed. Because now I know that I'm better off than where I was before. So let's take that approach, you know, let's say, what can I learn? Who can I listen to? And honestly, that doesn't mean we don't have an opinion, it doesn't mean that we don't, you know, have things that we firmly believe our foundational, because I think there's strength in having a strong foundation, but we need to learn again, how to communicate that in a civil manner. And really start with that, you know, legitimate, intentional relationship and then go from there. You know, you know, I think a good point that, you know, we discussed a little bit, you know, a few days ago, Ray is that, you know, as an Asian American I have at different times received hate hateful actions and words from people of all different races, all different ethnicities. But because of my relationships with people of that same ethnicities, I know that not every fill in the blank is like this, that not every fill in the blank, you know, treats people like this, because my relationships completely nullify the fact that there's a few people who, whether for their insecurities, or whether through, you know, unprocessed hate, that are going to lash out and the ways that the people that I've experienced have lashed out, I know that that's not the norm. I know that, you

know, I won't hold that against your whole group or your whole, you know, whole people because of the example of a few. Yeah,

Ray Abel 1:14:21

I love it. I love it. Andrew, thank you so much for being on here. I love I'll always love talking to you. That's that's and again, I've said this before, but I'm not someone who can be fake so when I would just avoid saying that I enjoy talking to you if I didn't enjoy talking to my favorite people. I'm not going to get in on the air about how you didn't invite me to your wedding and I found out afterwards. We don't we are running. Now. There's a lot

Gretchen Hurd 1:14:50

of factors there. Eat people away. I hear it. I'm frustrated because there's at least three people who RSVPs and didn't show up show up every weekend. Name Dashers, who were only there for like 25 minutes at the reception, once they got that they were out if I would have known that I would have had you out in the parking lot at three lakes golf course ready to take their seat like that. I would have had you in there.

Ray Abel 1:15:14

Oh my I wish we would have had something that really got you fired up. I love fired up Andrew as well. But I'm taking what you just said, I'm actually gonna wrap up with some bad media and some some good politicians this week. So I we, we want to talk about researching the news, Asian American hates in the news. But I also want to talk about a few other things that are happening really quickly. If you haven't dug deeper, please dig deeper into these things. Number one, if you're not familiar, what's happening in Myanmar, please look up what's happening there, I just saw there was something like 114 people that were killed over the past few days by the military that overthrew Myanmar, it used to be called Burma now, Myanmar, I actually looked at potentially traveling there because I wanted to find out more about them a couple years ago. But there's a military coup and it's shocking how little I'm hearing about it, you hear some things, but there's it's really crazy what's happening there. And it's, it's, it's scary. And we should be doing what we can to learn about it and find out how we can help my good politician of the week, which is isn't a normal thing we're doing I just picked it as a title. Bernie Sanders this week really impressed me. And here's the thing about Bernie Sanders, I would love to have a beer with Bernie Sanders and hang out with him. And I think he's a kook in some ways. But like, in a good way, like he, the thing I love about Bernie Sanders is that he really hasn't changed. And I was talking to Gretchen about this earlier. I don't like the fact that if you change your opinion, you're a flip flopper, because just like we talked about today, as you grow and learn things, you can change your mind. But his principles from the very beginning have been very consistent, and he hasn't changed his mind because he wants to gain something politically, he's always been Bernie Sanders, and whether he was 20 years old, or way is now so I appreciate that about him. And one of the things, I feel like if you're a principled person, you're gonna have to defend people and actions you don't like. And this week, they were talking to him about Donald Trump's Twitter banned. And he said he wasn't comfortable with it, and basically said, That was that was something that he couldn't he didn't come out and say it should be overturned, but it was something he felt uncomfortable about. And it was really good to see someone because, you know, I feel like when we start breaking down these barriers where people are getting kicked off of these, these private platforms that are just so powerful. It's first off, to be clear, it's

not the First Amendment, it's not the right to free speech. It's a private company, but they have so much power now that so outsized that when you start kicking people off, it becomes an issue, especially when there's someone that's a president, I think a lot of what Donald Trump said on Twitter was just embarrassing, and sometimes borderline, it was just, it was bad. But he's also someone who was present in the United States when that was taken down. And that's a huge issue when you're silencing someone like that. And I think if that was a, you know, it was Bernie Sanders that had his Twitter taken down. I don't necessarily agree with his platform, but he's also seems like a nice guy, I wouldn't I would never want to see his platform taken down even if he tweeted the wrong thing. And I think that's where we got to be careful. Anytime I look at it as anytime our rights are being taken away or where people are being silenced. I don't care what political party, I don't care how bad really what you're saying is I want to hear I want you to be able to say it, because who is the one that's going to distinguish in the future? What's actually bad speech and what's not. That's a whole nother topic that goes into my constitutionalism. I'm not gonna bore anyone else with more of it. But when you look at someone like Bernie Sanders, I think the core values even with Bernie and I, we have totally different ways of getting there. And Andrew and I talked about this. It's kind of like a water park, we have all these different pipes that can lead to an exit and that exit is the same. We don't I don't want war. I don't want poverty. I want people getting opportunities. Bernie wants the same things. We have different ways of getting there. Yeah, these kinds of conversations are how we come together. And whether it's something like Bernie Sanders idea of socialism or whether it's talking about race relations, we need to learn from each other and grow with each other. And realize just because there are different ways of getting to a place it doesn't mean that destination is different. And thank you Andrew for sharing your journey on to this destination. I tried to make it really like impactful at the end and that was a stupid way to end it. I feel like me but it was the same destination was beautiful. In the same pool Gretchen I'm sorry but together as Andrew I mean every time I talk to Andrew just makes me feel so good about myself. So I think we're gonna have to replay when I talked earlier about you having to do some other things. Andrew is gonna be the new co host just so you can be my height man. I feel like that's Ray But moving forward. I will say this

Gretchen Hurd 1:19:42
history of the world.

Ray Abel 1:19:45

Okay, way too much way to dial it back. Here's a challenge for our listeners though. We are looking for some guests to talk about gun control. And also I'm looking for someone who has some real experience with vaccines and I'm Not talking about researching on the Internet or being a doctor not in the field. I'm talking about someone who's me, you know? Me? Oh, my, I'm so glad I was just whatever. Y'all know what we're talking about? Yeah. But I want to actually, I wanna have a discussion about that, because I think that I actually have a vaccine appointment scheduled. And I'm also still a little bit concerned, because there's been no long term testing. And I think that's another topic where we have a lot of people that are picking sides politically, but not having real discussion. So if you want to talk about gun control vaccines, feel free to reach out. And also feel free to share this podcast, I see some people watching live, you'll be listening to this on the podcast tomorrow, but feel free to tweet it out, share it. I think we have done some interesting conversations. And I look forward to more of them. But we want to get it out to more people. So we can have these wonderful conversations, and everyone can listen to

how Andrew talked about how great I am. That's the that's the key. That's the takeaway today. So out, we wrapped if we wrap up, we always say one good thing. And this has actually been a tough week regression. Because we actually said earlier, what's one good thing that happened this week? And we both went, huh? I'm not sure. Andrew, do you want to wrap us up with one good thing that's happened to you this week? That's an encouraging story as people go through the rest of their weeks,

Gretchen Hurd 1:21:17

you know, thank you. Yeah, there's, you know, you didn't ask me this question beforehand. So you put me on the spot, but that's all right. No, I would say, you know, one, one good thing is just my daughter is 13 months old now. And she's, uh, she's walking around a lot more, she's babbling a lot more. And for the first time yesterday, you know, we're, we're more cautious with COVID. You know, but everybody does things a little differently. So I'm not going to argue someone over that they do what they do, we'll do what we do. But we took her to a public park, and she got to ride in the baby swim. You know, we got the video on the picture. And, you know, at first she was very, like, she's usually very adventurous. But like the little like, the thing you hold in, I guess, a little bigger than her way. So she like, sort of like, flew forward, you know, obviously, her legs still were in there, potentially, oh, my gosh, she's like that she was she was she had to grab my hand the whole time. We sort of like rocked her back and forth. She was grabbing my hand. But it was her first time at a public park in the swing. So that is

Ray Abel 1:22:27

such a good story. I'm so glad I threw you under the bus to just say it right there. And I will say that when I asked Andrew for a picture this week of for the promotional clip, I put on Facebook, he sent me a really cute picture of him with his daughter, they were in the snow and she was in a laundry basket. And I told him watch her up on the website, I probably am going to print that out and hang on. I might take down that Charles Sumner photograph, I talked about him. But that picture in honor of Andrew, so thank you for that as well, Andrew, but All right. Well, thank you again for being on the show. Andrew. Gretchen, thank you, as always, and we're going to wrap up this week. But feel free to check in next week. As of now, it's going to be Gretchen and I talking about how we can disagree because even you know, she said that she's learning and an open and we've already had some issues where we've interpreted each other slightly differently. So what does it mean to actually have disagreements and be able to talk through them and I think that's an important thing. And if there's any psychologists out there that want to talk us through, yeah, reach out as well. So gun control, vaccines, psychology, feel free to reach out. So thank you again for listening to research the news. We look forward to coming back soon. Again, share it. Thanks. Have a great rest of the week.