

Kaleb Seay (00:00):

Starting over. This is Kaleb Seay from Sewanee, the University of the South. It is currently November 17th, Friday, 3:27 PM and we're currently in the dorm Smith Hall on campus. All right. I'm here interviewing Decorian Bowers and John Luke Lasseter.

Speaker 2 (00:25):

Yep.

Kaleb Seay (00:26):

We're going to let them introduce themselves. Can you tell us where you're from and your classification? Just tell us where you're from actually. Alright, I got you. I'm Decorian Bowers. I'm from Nashville, Tennessee. I'll be a senior next semester. That's kind because you we mid way? Yeah, my turn.

JohnLuke (00:50):

My name's John Luke Lasseter. I'm from Delta, Alabama. I'm going to be, I'm a junior right now.

Kaleb Seay (00:56):

Okay. Okay. Well I appreciate y'all taking time. Well, I kind embarked on. Y'all just busted down in here. That's alright. But I appreciate you for taking time out today to do this interview with me. I was going to try something new. Normally did one interviewee, but now I'm going to do two of them at one time. Kind of make it more of a, see how the conversation goes. But let's start with, I'm just going to throw questions out there and y'all can respond. A natural conversation ain't got to be like class raise hands and shit. But where y'all originally from? Well, we just answered that, so I'm going skip past that one, but I'm going to start. What are y'all's favorite foods? I'm a big boy. So what kind of food?

Speaker 2 (01:45):

Everything

Kaleb Seay (01:47):

We talking about. You can choose Mexican, you can choose. Okay. Okay, that's a good one. So you can either can choose your, is it called, I'll say culture I guess, or ethnicity. You can choose that and you got to give me your favorite meal from that. Got you. Whatever you choose though, don't give me your favorite meal of American, Asian of, yeah, don't do that, please.

Decorian Bowers (02:14):

I don't know. Bru.

JohnLuke (02:16):

Yeah, I'm not much of a picky eater, so I really don't

Kaleb Seay (02:19):

Care. I really like pastas though. Pastas, Alfred, lasagna. Spaghetti.

Decorian Bowers (02:24):

Yeah,

Kaleb Seay (02:25):

Pastas. So you like Italian food? Well, would you say Italian food or just pasta? I like Italian food. You say anything, you'll eat through a drywall if you had to.

JohnLuke (02:36):

Yeah. Probably

Kaleb Seay (02:40):

Glad we not on video so I can see you, but okay. If you could travel, where have y'all been? Where have y'all been? What's been y'all's favorite destination so far where you've traveled to?

JohnLuke (02:55):

I've probably been out of the country once and I wasn't old enough to remember. So I've only been in the United States, but I went to New York over spring break and that was pretty fun.

Kaleb Seay (03:07):

You love in New York? Yeah.

JohnLuke (03:09):

Stayed in Harlem

Decorian Bowers (03:10):

For me. I mean, it wasn't really nowhere spectacular. It was just what we did down there. I guess the memories that we made down there, it was when, guess me and my family went to Orlando, went to all the music park and stuff, but it was real fun. That was one of my most memorable trips too.

Kaleb Seay (03:26):

Yeah. So you kind of set a place. Was it like your John Luke? Was it kind of your experience as well that made it a good time? Or was it just New York in itself?

JohnLuke (03:39):

The experiences and New York itself? I think it was kind of a little bit of both. And it was just me and one of my buddies. We was kind of on our own, so I didn't really travel that much without my parents back in the day until I got to college. So I think it was just kind of being on our own and just going around the city and

Kaleb Seay (04:02):

Doing what you wanted to do.

JohnLuke (04:03):

Doing what we wanted to do. Yeah.

Kaleb Seay ([04:06](#)):

I done been to Orlando too. Orlando, it is so much to do in Orlando though. You can't, that's what I'm saying. You can't not have a good time. The only thing not close, well, it's not there is the beach. The beach is close. It's like an hour and 30. I think we went to Clearwater.

Decorian Bowers ([04:18](#)):

That's what I was going to say. That beach is kind of, it's a good,

Kaleb Seay ([04:21](#)):

It is nice. It was straight.

JohnLuke ([04:23](#)):

I Panama City.

Kaleb Seay ([04:24](#)):

I like to Gulf though. That's what I'm saying. When you go to Panama City, bro,

Decorian Bowers ([04:27](#)):

I've never been to Panama. I have been. You

([04:29](#)):

You have been to Panama? I've been to Panama City Spring. Been to Panama this year. That was my first

([04:34](#)):

Time I found I had family in Panama, so that was my first time going.

Kaleb Seay ([04:37](#)):

Yeah.

Decorian Bowers ([04:39](#)):

Have you been to Miami?

Kaleb Seay ([04:41](#)):

No, I ain't never been to Miami. Oh no. I poured it out of Miami, but I didn't get the

Decorian Bowers ([04:44](#)):

Experience. Yeah, Miami's a good place to visit, but that ain't no family tripping. That's what I went, I

JohnLuke ([04:49](#)):

Went, yeah. You said you were kind of on your own,

Decorian Bowers ([04:52](#)):

But then again it was me and my brother, so we were kind of by ourselves. So we

Kaleb Seay ([04:58](#)):

Did what

Decorian Bowers ([04:58](#)):

You could. Did what we could. But still, that ain't no family trip. You got to go there with just, you feel

Kaleb Seay ([05:02](#)):

Me? Yeah, your friend. But you got to have man,

Decorian Bowers ([05:07](#)):

And don't go with friends that don't like to spend money neither. That's

Kaleb Seay ([05:10](#)):

What I say, you

JohnLuke ([05:11](#)):

Can't go with. That's how it is in New York

Kaleb Seay ([05:12](#)):

Too. Can't,

Decorian Bowers ([05:13](#)):

Don't go with friends that don't

Kaleb Seay ([05:14](#)):

Pocket watching friends.

Decorian Bowers ([05:15](#)):

Yeah. No pocket

Kaleb Seay ([05:16](#)):

Watching amount ball out.

([05:25](#)):

See, I about to cutf

([05:28](#)):

John

([05:29](#)):

Luke of

([05:30](#)):

That's what we about to do. About to drop his ass. Man, that's messed up. But he said that.

JohnLuke ([05:38](#)):

It's just a joke, man.

Kaleb Seay ([05:43](#)):

How have you experienced, if you have international cultures? That could be through food, that could be, I mean you said you don't remember, but have you experienced international cultures here? Not even just in Sewanee, but in your lifetime.

Decorian Bowers ([05:56](#)):

We got an international buddy. Shout out Dolly.

Kaleb Seay ([05:58](#)):

We do do shout out Dolly. And that's d. That's a different culture

Decorian Bowers ([06:03](#)):

Over there.

Kaleb Seay ([06:04](#)):

That's different. She different. She been in America for four years,

Decorian Bowers ([06:10](#)):

You would think she's from here.

Kaleb Seay ([06:12](#)):

She different, man. You got any answers, Jonathan?

JohnLuke ([06:21](#)):

Not really. Yeah. Not really. Well

Decorian Bowers ([06:25](#)):

Since you said it could be food.

Kaleb Seay ([06:27](#)):

Yeah, it

JohnLuke ([06:27](#)):

Can be. Yeah. I mean, I've had also sports food.

Kaleb Seay ([06:29](#)):

What's been your favorite other food? That's in

Decorian Bowers ([06:31](#)):

Eighth grade. We had a potluck and stuff at the end of each what you call semester. I guess that would be each two quarters I guess. I went to Rose Park and it had a bunch of different cultures there, different culture kids and they had all types of stuff. And that was my first time trying tofu and food. Disgusting. Disgusting. Had flavor. But I also had, it was like baklava. It's from the Greek restaurants where they sell gyros. I

Kaleb Seay ([07:00](#)):

Thought that was the ski mask people was wearing. bva. A balog.

([07:07](#)):

That's what I thought it was.

([07:09](#)):

Okay.

Decorian Bowers ([07:10](#)):

Pastry dish. It's a pastry dish.

JohnLuke ([07:13](#)):

Was it

Decorian Bowers ([07:13](#)):

Good though? It was good. It was good.

Kaleb Seay ([07:14](#)):

It was

Decorian Bowers ([07:16](#)):

Not us,

Kaleb Seay ([07:19](#)):

Bro. I promise. It's a ski.

JohnLuke ([07:25](#)):

Well, Georgia, not Georgia. Luca's from Georgia. So I mean I've had a bunch of stuff from not the state, Georgia.

Decorian Bowers ([07:35](#)):

I was Chuffing the back

JohnLuke ([07:36](#)):

State. I'm country I country told, so I've had a bunch

Decorian Bowers ([07:43](#)):

Of stuff. Where is Georgia though?

JohnLuke ([07:47](#)):

And so there close to Russia. It's somewhere over there. I don't know the exact,

Kaleb Seay ([07:54](#)):

I ain't know that coordinates. I ain't know Luca was over

JohnLuke ([07:57](#)):

There. Oh yeah, he has a big old Georgia flag. He played on the Georgia National team. Oh,

Kaleb Seay ([08:01](#)):

That's hard

JohnLuke ([08:02](#)):

For basketball. And he was like 15. 60.

Kaleb Seay ([08:08](#)):

All right, so now I'm going to ask the question. What role does social media play in y'all's life? I mean, at least for me, I kind of get my news from social media. Certain, I guess everything social media broke. It's in our hands. It's right at our fingertips. But what effect has social media had in y'all's lifetime?

Decorian Bowers ([08:39](#)):

I feel like, well, I could say for us, because we all around the same age, but I don't feel like social media wasn't around when we were younger kids. So you feel me? We went outside, we played, we did all of that. But nowadays, I rarely see kids outside. That's very true. But that could be due to the fact of the world we live in. You feel me? A lot do be going on. But then again, social media does play a role in that. Everybody want to be on TikTok and Instagram. YouTube, all of that. But like you said, I do. I be on social media all the time. That's why I get my news from, I feel like I don't even want, I hate watching the regular news. It's depressing.

Kaleb Seay ([09:16](#)):

Yeah, that's literally what my mama said.

Decorian Bowers ([09:18](#)):

I hate, I never turn on the news.

JohnLuke ([09:22](#)):

I mean social media, it's a slippery slope. It can be good. It can be bad. I know for me, I kind of get glued to it and you kind of see what other people are doing. You're like, dang, why can't I do that? Or something like that. So I mean it kind of bad in that way, but then at the same time, you get to keep up with everybody. There's people from high school that I haven't talked to in a while, but I got 'em on social media and I kind of keep up with 'em and then man, the news, I don't even know. I haven't watched the news in a while.

Kaleb Seay ([09:59](#)):

I

JohnLuke ([09:59](#)):

Just don't know really what's the truth for real. Because I feel like everybody on different news channels, news stations, they're all saying different things about the same topic. So you really don't know who to believe. So it's kind of all about your perspective and stuff like

Kaleb Seay ([10:17](#)):

That. I agree with that. Especially on a perspective thing. It is all about how you see things and you don't really know until, I guess you go into it and do your research on whatever you, and that could be from social media. You know how many times I got on TikTok and went through somebody's page because they posted in part one, part two, part three. Oh, oh yeah. I've watched

JohnLuke ([10:35](#)):

Movies on

Kaleb Seay ([10:36](#)):

TikTok. No, for real. I've been going all the way

Decorian Bowers ([10:41](#)):

Back into where that part was, but I swear. I swear

Kaleb Seay ([10:45](#)):

Watched the whole movie.

Decorian Bowers ([10:46](#)):

Yeah.

Kaleb Seay ([10:48](#)):

What up, Joe?

JohnLuke ([10:50](#)):

Boy?

Kaleb Seay ([10:52](#)):

He said we in the podcast, I just say joke. Yeah, man, we out here just doing a little interview. Little interview, man. You don't got to be quiet though. Say what's up? What up? Podcast. All right. Do y'all feel like social media has had a negative or positive effect on y'all's life? I mean, jail. You just said that it was a slippery slope, which is true. But in your opinion, how is it, is it positive or negative to y'all? All?

Decorian Bowers ([11:24](#)):

To me. I mean, it's like a neutral zone for me. I don't see it having no benefit over my life. Really, really a good point that he said people do be on social media and a lot of people compare themselves to celebrities and stuff like that. There's really

JohnLuke ([11:42](#)):

Not a comparison

Decorian Bowers ([11:43](#)):

With that though. It's not. But people do compare themselves in a court. I always say comparison is a killer of joy. People compare their lots of people just look at what you have. And I feel like social media plays a role in that. Yeah,

Kaleb Seay ([11:55](#)):

That's fact. I do feel like we get lost, not lost, but caught up in the future almost. So then we kind of forget where we at right now. Especially with social media, looking to, I'm seeing somebody I just seen earlier, somebody that's 20 years old, younger than me that has his own everything. He's cool. He's set his mama's, set, everybody's set. So it is hard not to compare, but then you do got to come back into the present time and be like, comparison is the killer of joy. It's all right where you're at and what you do have. It could be worse, way worse. Won't be

JohnLuke ([12:29](#)):

Happy to you. Love yours

Kaleb Seay ([12:32](#)):

J Cole. It's a j Cole. Jermaine. Another question. Who inspires y'all? Where do y'all get y'all's drive from? What is something that keeps y'all going on the days that it's hard? Not every day, but on the days that it's hard, what keeps y'all going?

JohnLuke ([12:48](#)):

I think my family. That's probably my biggest driving force. I mean, just seeing how my parents did it. I mean, my mom, oh, we about to get deep. All of a sudden. My mom, my mom, she had a baby when she was a teenager, so she was still in high school when she had her baby. So I mean, she did it all. She had a baby while graduated and went to college, still had a kid. And I mean, she did it all. And then my dad, we was broke eating fish sticks and macaroni and cheese for a while. So I mean, just seeing that they can be at the bottom and then work their way up. It gives me a drive and be like, I might be at the low right now, but it can always get a lot worse.

Kaleb Seay ([13:46](#)):

It's

JohnLuke ([13:46](#)):

Factual. I'm laid up in a nice dorm, so yeah,

Kaleb Seay ([13:51](#)):

Until you go crazy.

JohnLuke ([13:53](#)):

Yeah, and then you end up,

Decorian Bowers ([13:54](#)):

That's how I feel too. I feel like mine is probably be my mother. I do with my mama, do everything. Me and my mama, we've been just me and my mama before she was married and everything, it was just been me and my mama. Our house done got broken into. We don't have to live with my granny and my aunt and all that stuff, but through it all, we have a nice house Now out in Ville, I'm in school. Could be worse. Like I said, it could be worse, could always be

Kaleb Seay ([14:22](#)):

Worse. Basically y'all story, just seeing where y'all came from and what y'all have been through, y'all's parents been through, it's like you have no reason not to go hard almost. They kind of defi the odd, so why not define, but my next question is going to be when you hear Black Lives Matter, what do you think of? And you can't say Black lives, I mean you can't just say Black Lives, period. It has to be some meaning behind it. What do you think of?

Decorian Bowers ([14:51](#)):

Well, my definition of Black Lives Matter is like I can't use black lives. See, you

Kaleb Seay ([15:04](#)):

Can use it in a sentence, but don't just say black lives. Okay, so I'm going to make that connection once I hear both of y'all answers.

Decorian Bowers ([15:12](#)):

Jay, you leave this one off because I got to think about my answer, bro.

JohnLuke ([15:15](#)):

When I hear Black Lives Matter, what do I think?

Kaleb Seay ([15:22](#)):

He appears white, but he got some soul

Decorian Bowers ([15:24](#)):

In him.

JohnLuke ([15:27](#)):

Man, I'm trying to think. You're going to have to answer before me because

Decorian Bowers ([15:41](#)):

I got you. I can say I think of it as a movement that focuses on, I guess blacks as a whole. I guess whether that'd be, for instance, police brutality, which is I guess one of his main focus, or just the lack of opportunities that African-Americans get or blacks get or whatever. Just that as a whole.

JohnLuke ([16:08](#)):

Yeah, I'll go along with that. It is like a movement and it's highlighting all the bad stuff that is being done and it's kind of shining the spotlight on it. So it's showing it to the world. And

Decorian Bowers ([16:25](#)):

Now this is just talking about black lives. This is talking about the movement.

Kaleb Seay ([16:28](#)):

It's talking about the movement. But then see you

Decorian Bowers ([16:30](#)):

Say that. Yeah, but then that's what I was going to say. That's what it means to me. But the movement, I can't speak too much on that because it's been a lot, you feel me, in the media talking about it's a scam and stuff and hey, it is adding up. I ain't going to lie. I be seeing more white people and other ethnicities than I do black people at Black Lives Matter movements. Yeah,

JohnLuke ([16:57](#)):

I mean I also can't speak that much. I don't really,

Kaleb Seay ([17:03](#)):

We also, we value the outside perspective on the movement. We outsiders too. But still, again, like I was saying when I said Black Lives Matter in other interviews, it was from the aspect of they didn't know how to answer that because all their life has been Black Lives Matter is a black life. It was what it was. We've been that. That's all we've known. So then now we get the perspective of what was it inside from the outside in and kind of think about it too. Think about it in a social media aspect too. Not just like a movement in itself. How has social media affected or how has Black Lives matter? No, no, no. First, how has social media affected the Black Lives Matter movement? You can say it's had a great influence. Some people call it a social media. It's a social media movement. That's what some people say. Instead of being a physical real movement in the past,

JohnLuke ([17:59](#)):

I feel like it's helped reach a lot more people.

Decorian Bowers ([18:02](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. I think it has too. I can say that about that too, because before then we wasn't seeing no police brutality. What was it? Trayvon Martin. That was really the first police brutality incident that I can recall. I was old enough to recall at that, but I feel like after that stuff, social media played a big, big influence in

Kaleb Seay ([18:23](#)):

Lives matter. Yeah. And you say, oh

Decorian Bowers ([18:25](#)):

My bad. No, you good?

Kaleb Seay ([18:26](#)):

I said, and you said, damn my bad

Decorian Bowers ([18:30](#)):

Twice. Now I forgot. I was going to say, now you got it. That's funny.

Kaleb Seay ([18:37](#)):

But you say social media and bring up 2016. It was 2016, I think Trayv, I'm pretty sure it was. But you say social media, the only reason that was, I guess so much of an impact is because it was caught on social media. You feel me? It was a video. It was a form of getting it now and asap. So I always feel like too, just to state my little opinion, I always feel like too that the Black Lives Matter movement really, really with the social media and us being in Covid too, at that time where everything was at a pause, you had to sit down and you were endorsed in your phone and social media all the time. True. So when people had it at their hands, it got there faster than, let's say TMZ went to the police and got the report. It happened. It dropped right then. So people had the initial raw reaction of what was really going on. So I feel like that's that influence that social media had as well. Do you think Covid impacted the Black Lives Matter movement? Being able to, I guess, take time away from everything else and just sitting, just matter of fact, it started on level one. How was Covid for y'all?

JohnLuke ([19:44](#)):

I had Covid twice, and that ain't nothing

Decorian Bowers ([19:47](#)):

To play with. I think I had it before. You feel me? It was Covid. It was just a flute. It sucked being in the house and me not being able to work, but thinking to the government unemployment, that unemployment was hidden. Think about it. Not going, you ain't got to do nothing. You fresh out of high school, \$600, \$639 to be exact a week. 600. I'm living living nights and I

Kaleb Seay ([20:15](#)):

Was working

Decorian Bowers ([20:15](#)):

At Walgreens during, but you know what's so funny is without the stimulus check, the stimulus was \$600. I would've been getting \$39 a week. That's crazy. Yeah, that would've been rough

Kaleb Seay ([20:27](#)):

For people trying to support their families. Imagine just one

Decorian Bowers ([20:29](#)):

Person. They probably figured I ain't supporting no family. I was going through the government. I had to fill out applications online every week. I didn't even get a STEMI check. Did you have a job during Covid? Uhuh? That's why it went straight to my parents. I It was unemployment check. Yeah. Nah, it was unemployment check. So if you had a job and you lost it during the covid. So I was working at the movie theater and

JohnLuke ([20:52](#)):

Every time I worked at my family's company, so it was kind of like

Decorian Bowers ([20:55](#)):

A off

JohnLuke ([20:57](#)):

The books type of thing. That's why I stopped

Decorian Bowers ([21:01](#)):

Cutting grass. Got be real job.

Kaleb Seay ([21:04](#)):

I need something on

Decorian Bowers ([21:05](#)):

Paper. Yeah, I some for real.

Kaleb Seay ([21:08](#)):

Yeah. But dang, I just forgot my segue that I was going to go into. How was y'all's community's reaction to Black Lives Matter? I guess originally saying that it was what, 2016 when I guess it started? Yeah. How was y'all's community reaction?

Decorian Bowers ([21:32](#)):

I'm from Nashville and there were a bunch of protests in Nashville. I feel like for Black Lives Matter, I didn't particularly go to any, but my little sister did. I think. So that was nice. But I think our community reacted well with it. It was nice. I guess

JohnLuke ([21:52](#)):

You might have to bleed the field. Well, my community

Decorian Bowers ([21:57](#)):

Was Say what your community is. Yeah.

Kaleb Seay ([21:59](#)):

What's your community? My community.

JohnLuke ([22:03](#)):

It is something that's for sure. There was a protest or two at the courthouse, but I mean, it wasn't that big of a protest because I went to a high school that was predominantly black.

Decorian Bowers ([22:25](#)):

I just called myself guys. I was going to say something real. I'm not SL by still said now, Dale, we talking about Black Lives Matter, not the Selma movement.

JohnLuke ([22:40](#)):

Just I know that. I know that. I know. Come on, man. So I had a different perspective. I had a lot of friends that were deeply affected by the movement and were kind of involved in it. So I had a different perspective just from talking to them and everything. So I mean, I kind of understood. But then being white, I really don't know. Not in

Kaleb Seay ([23:14](#)):

Those shoes. Yeah, I feel that.

JohnLuke ([23:15](#)):

So I really don't know. So I only know what I've seen and heard and I don't know.

Kaleb Seay ([23:23](#)):

You can't trust what you're saying. Exactly. Exactly. I feel what you're saying.

Decorian Bowers ([23:26](#)):

Okay, so lemme say I'm going to say yet.

Kaleb Seay ([23:30](#)):

Alright, well I'm blanking too. Has it affected how you talk with family and friends? At least for me, it makes me think of being more open to an understanding of where you're coming from. I guess

Decorian Bowers ([23:56](#)):

The movement has making me,

Kaleb Seay ([23:59](#)):

I'm just going, alright, we're back. We had to take a little intermission break. I chopping screws. That's all I'm going to say. It's chopping screw. But we're here with John Luke Lasser, A KJL, and Dion Bowers. And I'm going to get right back into it with this question. We have

Decorian Bowers ([24:17](#)):

To pause for commercial break.

Kaleb Seay ([24:19](#)):

Yeah.

Decorian Bowers ([24:20](#)):

Insert ads

Kaleb Seay ([24:21](#)):

Here. Yeah, that's dreaming on a big scale. What generation was most affected by the Black Lives Matter movement? It could be our generation, your parents' generation or the younger kids. But I think we're doomed with the younger ones. But that's another conversation.

Decorian Bowers ([24:40](#)):

You said we're what? Doomed. Yeah. We're always so screwed. Oh my God. Oh, we're doomed and damns. Goddamn. Because what? Until

Kaleb Seay ([24:51](#)):

Kids come. Until our kids come. We'll teach you back into 'em. But

Decorian Bowers ([24:55](#)):

I feel like I was going to be screwed too. No,

Kaleb Seay ([24:57](#)):

Mine can't.

Decorian Bowers ([24:58](#)):

You are. That's another, see, that's for another day.

Kaleb Seay ([25:04](#)):

Just stop eating stuff, bro.

Decorian Bowers ([25:06](#)):

That's all I'm going to say. Just

Kaleb Seay ([25:08](#)):

Stop eating stuff. Got me. Alright, back to the question,

Decorian Bowers ([25:11](#)):

Man.

Kaleb Seay ([25:12](#)):

Which generation do you think was most affected by the Black Lives Matter movement?

Decorian Bowers ([25:16](#)):

I feel like, I mean ours. Yeah. What generation are we considering? That's We're Gen Z. We're Gen

Kaleb Seay ([25:25](#)):

Z. You're Gen Z.

Decorian Bowers ([25:26](#)):

Yeah. What's the name? Millennials. No, millennials isn't front of us, I think. Okay. I feel like it could affect them. Don't know Gen are anymore. I don't want to be considered good. I'm a millennial, by the way. I'm not Gen X. Baby boomers. Baby Boomers. No Baby Boomers. That was like a great, that was like, yeah, that free

Kaleb Seay ([25:57](#)):

Ben Franks

Decorian Bowers ([25:58](#)):

Freaks. Oh, they come out that night. They was happy that their people

Kaleb Seay ([26:02](#)):

Returned.

Decorian Bowers ([26:03](#)):

It was right after that war. Right after the war, bro. That's what the debate had Everybody back and we're back. Right.

Kaleb Seay ([26:14](#)):

We're back again.

Decorian Bowers ([26:15](#)):

This is the Caleb C Podcast. We're here with John Luke and Decor.

Kaleb Seay ([26:22](#)):

Yeah, man, that's a great introduction.

Decorian Bowers ([26:24](#)):

I got you.

Kaleb Seay ([26:27](#)):

What was the effect of Black Lives Matter in y'all's community? Do y'all see anything changing? Any monuments being changed? Was there any effect, if any effect in y'all's community

Decorian Bowers ([26:38](#)):

For the moment? I can actually, that was what I was going to say at first. I, I'll save it. But I recall a time, it was a girl that I went to high school with and her dad was shot by a police officer. And that was a really big, it was all over the news and Asheville and everything. But I was able to feel me go through high school with her. And I can see how that changed her significantly. She feel me, lashed out. Best fighter I know. Best Fighter. I know. Yeah. I don't know. I feel like, I don't know.

Kaleb Seay ([27:20](#)):

Yeah,

Decorian Bowers ([27:21](#)):

I don't feel like it's changed anything really.

JohnLuke ([27:24](#)):

Well, technically I'm not from Dothan. I'm from Ashford. So let me clarify that. And Ashford is a very small town. We don't even have a monument in Ashford. So no, not really much has changed with Ashford. But

Decorian Bowers ([27:47](#)):

I can also say that going into Franklin, it was like a Confederate flag that was right there and by those horses, and they took that down. It was also another statue that they ended up taking down,

Kaleb Seay ([28:01](#)):

Ended up changing. Franklin High School used to be the

Decorian Bowers ([28:04](#)):

Their mascot?

Kaleb Seay ([28:05](#)):

Yeah, their mascot got changed. There used to be the, I forgot what it was called. Not colonials.

Decorian Bowers ([28:13](#)):

We just had that conversation. Not

Kaleb Seay ([28:15](#)):

Admirals. I forgot what it was. It might've been the generalist.

JohnLuke ([28:20](#)):

We had a school that was called the Rehoboth

Kaleb Seay ([28:24](#)):

Rebels. Oh, the Rebels. The Franklin Rebels. They changed their names. So

JohnLuke ([28:28](#)):

They had to change that up and change up the mascot and everything.

Kaleb Seay ([28:34](#)):

Yeah, that's exactly what happened. Especially there was a lot of stuff going on in Franklin trying to get changed up. I mean it is, well I think it was the Battle of Franklin was in Franklin. But another question I was going to ask, I was, do you think the Black Lives Matter movement, well, if y'all could, what would be the, I know we asked this earlier, but just to lead up to my next question, what would be your

definition of Black Lives Matter movement? What would, I guess for me it would be a social movement highlighting police brutality or something to the extent, or I don't know. What is it to y'all?

JohnLuke ([29:20](#)):

Well, that's kind of how I kind of see it. I don't really know the ins and outs because I'm not really familiar with it, I guess. So I mean, I really don't have much of a perspective of

Kaleb Seay ([29:37](#)):

It. Yeah.

Decorian Bowers ([29:38](#)):

I feel like I ize it, like a sophisticated definition. I feel like my definition would be the empowerment and improvement of the black community as a whole. Whether that be police brutality, I guess small black owned businesses and stuff like that.

Speaker 7 ([29:38](#)):

Kaleb Seay ([30:00](#)):

Promoting black life on the black culture, I guess within America. Do y'all see for me too, I guess thinking, do y'all see Black Lives Matter making any, I guess, I don't know if this is the right word, congressional moves, stuff like that for me. You can see Frank. I mean not Franklin, Florida and Tennessee just passed laws to, they really get to control what the narrative is. And Black Lives wasn't a part of that

Decorian Bowers ([30:29](#)):

In the school system.

Kaleb Seay ([30:30](#)):

Yeah. So do you see anything being changed? I know I haven't seen anything being changed from a congressional sense. Yeah.

Decorian Bowers ([30:38](#)):

Not at all. And that right there was a big mistake because me going to school all through middle school, my history teachers have been some of the most racist individuals I have met. And don't feel bad saying that at all. And then I'm sparing you, because I'm not saying your names and I remember your names, but I'll never forget, I stand by this to this day. My eighth grade social studies teacher told me that I was going to have numbers under my name after I told her she will see me on tv. She said, yeah, with numbers under your name. And I have lived by that. I've destined to prove that heifer wrong. And I was going to call some worse than

Kaleb Seay ([31:15](#)):

That. Thank you. Thank you. Kalu. I have to go to intermission

Decorian Bowers ([31:22](#)):

Changing that. And it already is bad enough. Well, I ain't going to say bad enough, but it's like, you feel me? I ain't going to say that neither. I'm going to bite my tongue.

Kaleb Seay ([31:31](#)):

Okay. Okay. Yeah,

([31:40](#)):

But that's okay. That's okay. You already answered didn't.

JohnLuke ([31:45](#)):

I'm going to need you to repeat the question. I kind of got lost up

Kaleb Seay ([31:48](#)):

In I did too. The whole,

JohnLuke ([31:50](#)):

The whole,

Decorian Bowers ([31:51](#)):

Sorry, I have to get that off my,

Kaleb Seay ([31:57](#)):

Do

([31:57](#)):

You think Black Lives Matter has made any congressional moves? Have they? I mean you talked about schools getting their name changed and monuments being changed, but anything.

JohnLuke ([32:08](#)):

Well, I mean I feel like the spotlight's kind of on Alabama.

Kaleb Seay ([32:13](#)):

Yeah, you are, right? I mean that is true. Kind of

JohnLuke ([32:15](#)):

Like the ground zero. That's the

Kaleb Seay ([32:18](#)):

Home.

([32:18](#)):

That's the holy mecca.

JohnLuke ([32:20](#)):

I feel like it's kind of all eyes on Alabama kind and just I feel like it's all eyes on the South in general.

Kaleb Seay ([32:31](#)):

Yeah.

JohnLuke ([32:32](#)):

I mean I could probably say the same for Tennessee. That's facts. Alabama, Georgia,

Kaleb Seay ([32:38](#)):

Speaking of you say that, it leads me right into the question of how was the response to Black Lives Matter in y'all's community? It could be. So for instance, at first in Franklin, bro, before they did the parade and stuff, they did a parade downtown Franklin. It was huge and stuff like that. But it was like a bunch of people protesting. Not anti, it was anti-Black Lives Matter, but through White Lives Matter or All Lives Matter or it'll be like the, what is it? Blue Lives Matter. That's what I started seeing. That's rebuttal to Black Lives Matter. I started seeing the little license plate. They have a little sticker. So how do you feel? And it is different too, like I said, I have friends that are officers, that's a family, that's officers, stuff like that. So how do you feel about that response? All lives matter. Blue Lives Matter. White lives Matter. I mean, to me personally, I feel like all lives matter. You feel me? I don't discriminate against nobody. Everybody feel me? I feel like everybody should be treated. That's just me. And like you said, I have an uncle who's a police officer. I have an aunt who works as a police dispatch. So feel me, I know they're not doing nothing. You feel me? Malicious or anything. But still,

JohnLuke ([33:48](#)):

Yeah, I mean, I agree with him and I agree that all lives matter, but I feel like with the Black Lives Matter movement, it was at the time that was what was going on. All the police brutality and all that. So it was kind of spotlighting that more than any other, and that's kind of what it needed.

Kaleb Seay ([34:19](#)):

Yeah, yeah. See, this is a conversation. I mean, at least in my household, my mom's household, not mine, but where it is a prominent conversation all the time, especially with me around 2016, turning the age to drive that fear in her heart as a mother and stuff like that. So we always conversate about Black Lives Matter, white Lives Matter. All lives matter. And at first, seeing it initially, and Franklin, when I first seen it, it was just like, dang. So you telling me that Black lives don't matter? I don't know. I don't know. I took it as negative at first. But now just hearing y'all response too, it's like all lives do matter. Why should it be? You feel me? They say if you go to, it was something with some soccer team, national soccer team, and they were saying the team was all black or something like that. But they were like, why do you say black soccer players? They're not black soccer players. They are. And it was the name of the country that they were in, they were playing for. It was like, we're all equal here. We don't see that. So how do you think Black Lives Matter has affected, do you think it has had an effect overseas in any other place? So we're kind speaking from a distance, because we're not, we're only here. We can only look so far. Yeah, that would be probably my,

Decorian Bowers ([35:37](#)):

I'm only looking here because this is where I reside. And plus I feel like America, we've been known, you feel me, for the racist. We've been known to have racist behavior for a long time before. You feel me, segregated slavery out there, they've been, you feel me?

Kaleb Seay ([35:55](#)):

Yeah. It's not the first instinct. Yeah,

Decorian Bowers ([35:57](#)):

This is not,

Kaleb Seay ([35:59](#)):

Yeah. It's just being put in front of everybody's face.

Decorian Bowers ([36:01](#)):

Yeah. And it is like people just getting tired of it, I guess now.

Kaleb Seay ([36:03](#)):

Yeah, I understand that. So what do you think, would you say Black Lives Matter is a successful movement? Or would you say not yet. Would you say it's a successful movement? And if you could, could you compare it to Nah, nah, I take the comparison thing out. But do you think it's a successful movement?

Decorian Bowers ([36:28](#)):

Well, it be a successful, I can't, ain't going to speak. I don't know if it's true or not, but was that a scam burn I ain't seen. Was she taking that money and was that house really? You feel me?

Kaleb Seay ([36:39](#)):

I ain't seen that. See, this is something new to me. I ain't seen nothing on it. I've been a scam.

Decorian Bowers ([36:44](#)):

I've

JohnLuke ([36:44](#)):

Only seen a couple of things and I really didn't read up on it.

Decorian Bowers ([36:48](#)):

I've seen that she was taking the money from the house and when she was taking money and she bought a house and was like Black Lives Matter, and she was living in it or something like that. But I don't know. Did

Kaleb Seay ([36:59](#)):

She start it though?

Decorian Bowers ([37:00](#)):

She started it. It doesn't matter. She was using money that people non, that's a nonprofit organization. I feel

JohnLuke ([37:06](#)):

Like you can't help Greed.

Decorian Bowers ([37:11](#)):

You can't. That's another thing. I'm like, that movement don't reflect. It's not a reflection of that movement.

Kaleb Seay ([37:17](#)):

She's not. That's one

Decorian Bowers ([37:19](#)):

Person. Yeah, that's what I'm saying,

Kaleb Seay ([37:21](#)):

That's, it's real activists out here that's really black.

Decorian Bowers ([37:24](#)):

That's why I don't like the Black Lives Matter. People do other things besides that

Kaleb Seay ([37:29](#)):

Too.

Decorian Bowers ([37:30](#)):

But I feel like it successful. It's been successful. I'll give it. It's been successful. It is highlighted. You feel me? What needed to be highlighted that's been going on in

Kaleb Seay ([37:38](#)):

America? Yeah. Do you think it's od? Did you ever think it was overdoing it? Sometimes. I mean from the basketball court, now everybody's posting it now. It's like, is it a true movement? What is that?

Decorian Bowers ([37:52](#)):

I'm not even going, well, at first, I guess I could say I was a part of the Kaepernick when he took me and everything. My high school, we all did that. We was on the front page of the Tennessee and newspaper and everything. But now I do feel like it's overplayed. Like I said before, I seen there was a protest or whatever and I was seeing more, you feel me, whites and feel me, Mexicans and stuff than I did see black people out there. And I'm like, you feel me? How

Kaleb Seay ([38:29](#)):

Maybe they lives. I mean they lives,

Decorian Bowers ([38:32](#)):

I can't say how because I'm not doubting them for doing that. But I'm just like,

Kaleb Seay ([38:38](#)):

They're

Decorian Bowers ([38:38](#)):

Supposed to be benefiting us. We supposed to be out

Kaleb Seay ([38:39](#)):

There. I think when you say that, I think, dang, I kind of think of, I don't know. We've always been black, so why should I go protest with something I've been fighting for all my life? Why would I be protesting? So I understand kind of why people out. I was in the house, I was like, I ain't going

Decorian Bowers ([38:58](#)):

Out protesting. Yeah, no. But I guess if MLK and them had that mindset, we

Kaleb Seay ([39:02](#)):

Wouldn't be here. You wouldn't be. That's what I'm saying. So

Decorian Bowers ([39:07](#)):

I ain't saying what I did was right, but I ain't ready

Kaleb Seay ([39:10](#)):

Either. Yeah, that's all good. Do you see Black Lives Matter anymore right now in social media, media at all? No.

JohnLuke ([39:29](#)):

Yeah, I feel like since that whole whatever, I feel like since that article or whatever came up, it's kind of almost kind of disappeared. But I wouldn't say disappeared. It's kind of fell back, I guess. You don't really see it as much as you used to.

Kaleb Seay ([40:06](#)):

It is true. I feel that. I understand that. Would you say, I think I asked this earlier, but I just want to clarify. Would you say it's a physical movement, things are going on, people are really in the field? Or is it more of a social media movement?

JohnLuke ([40:22](#)):

I feel like at the very beginning it was more of a movement. Movement and a little bit of social media. But now it's more of a social media. Yeah,

Kaleb Seay ([40:29](#)):

Because I go see

Decorian Bowers ([40:31](#)):

Black Lives Matter protests.

JohnLuke ([40:32](#)):

I don't see

Kaleb Seay ([40:32](#)):

It anymore. No. And that's not saying, we're not discrediting anybody that's working behind the scenes and stuff don't discredit. It's just not seeing you. I ain't

Decorian Bowers ([40:41](#)):

Seen it. That's all I'm

Kaleb Seay ([40:42](#)):

Seeing.

Speaker 2 ([40:43](#)):

I have not

Kaleb Seay ([40:46](#)):

Seen. Yeah. Yeah. What do you think the goals of, I mean we already kind of talked about that. So

Speaker 9 ([40:46](#)):

Kaleb Seay ([40:59](#)):

Yeah, man, give me just one second. Through the acting up

JohnLuke ([41:12](#)):

Technical

Kaleb Seay ([41:13](#)):

Difficulties. Yeah. Oh, there it goes. Why is it doing this? Oh, okay. There we go. So would y'all say that the Black Lives Matter movement has impacted y'all's life? That can be from being more aware of things to, I don't know. Has it impacted your life in any way?

JohnLuke ([41:39](#)):

Yeah, I feel like it's opened my eyes a little bit more to see, listen to people and see what they got to say and kind of try to put my myself into their shoes. I really can't do that really. But I can only imagine or try to listen to 'em and understand where they're coming from.

Kaleb Seay ([42:05](#)):

The effort to understand, I mean, effort means a lot.

JohnLuke ([42:08](#)):

I feel like that's another thing that could really help. It's just people listening to anybody when they have something to say. I feel like a lot of people just don't listen.

Kaleb Seay ([42:20](#)):

Yeah, that's what I've been saying.

JohnLuke ([42:23](#)):

Ain't nothing going to change if you don't listen. It's facts.

Decorian Bowers ([42:26](#)):

It's like I gave you two ears and one mouth.

Kaleb Seay ([42:28](#)):

Communication solves problems, but people forget that communicating is somebody actively speaking and somebody actively listening.

JohnLuke ([42:35](#)):

Yeah, shout out Coach Matt over-Communicate. Yeah,

Kaleb Seay ([42:37](#)):

Over-Communicate.

Decorian Bowers ([42:38](#)):

It just can't be you listening to God dang, get here. You got to listen to understand.

Kaleb Seay ([42:42](#)):

You got to listen to understand. And when you understand or try to tap into that perspective, it's like it makes it even the effort. That's what I'm saying, even effort matters because you see something, but you got to make that effort. What do you think the state relations, what is the state of, oh Lord,

JohnLuke ([43:02](#)):

Come on.

Kaleb Seay ([43:03](#)):

What is the state of race relations in the United States right now?

Decorian Bowers ([43:09](#)):

What did you say

JohnLuke ([43:12](#)):

That again?

Kaleb Seay ([43:12](#)):

What is the state?

Decorian Bowers ([43:13](#)):

Take your time.

Kaleb Seay ([43:16](#)):

Shut over bro.

([43:17](#)):

What is the state of race relations in the United States?

JohnLuke ([43:22](#)):

What is the state?

Kaleb Seay ([43:23](#)):

So how, okay, I'm going to Yeah,

Decorian Bowers ([43:25](#)):

Please dumb it down

JohnLuke ([43:27](#)):

A little bit.

Kaleb Seay ([43:28](#)):

Okay. So how is the relationship between black and whites or even all races being in the United States, how's that being recently? Because you really don't, I mean it is really not how dang, it's really not highlighted right now. Just because of the war going on in Russia, about to be in Russia and Palestine. Yeah, Israel.

Speaker 2 ([44:01](#)):

I dunno.

Decorian Bowers ([44:09](#)):

That's how I feel on my politics test. I just sat there. Yeah,

Kaleb Seay ([44:15](#)):

I brought in racial

Decorian Bowers ([44:16](#)):

Relationships. That's why I said come here and say what

Kaleb Seay ([44:23](#)):

Do you think the future for the Black Lives Matter movement, what do you think is the future of the Black Lives Matter movement? Do you think it'll kind of and kind of fall down or do you think it'll, I don't know, the election's coming up. What do you think

Decorian Bowers ([44:36](#)):

About? Well hopefully you feel me. The world will get they act together so we can just in the movement. So there ain't got to be no movement. Ain't got to be no movement. Everybody getting treated the same. That's what I hope. But we live in planet Earth, so that ain't happening.

JohnLuke ([44:52](#)):

Yeah.

Decorian Bowers ([44:54](#)):

I dunno. I feel like, I

JohnLuke ([44:55](#)):

Don't know. I mean I feel like a lot is riding on whatever this So-called Scam is for a lot of people.

Kaleb Seay ([45:07](#)):

I'm going to look into it. The two of the first people that brought up a scam in the interviews.

JohnLuke ([45:12](#)):

Yeah, well that's just what I've seen. Bring it back up to social media and you don't know if it's true or not. Yeah,

Decorian Bowers ([45:19](#)):

Literally. Exactly. Trusting the news on social media,

JohnLuke ([45:23](#)):

Just bringing it up what we boast

Kaleb Seay ([45:25](#)):

Seen, what're saying that's true. That's true.

JohnLuke ([45:27](#)):

So I mean, we can be totally wrong, but

Decorian Bowers ([45:32](#)):

I feel like that, let's say this now I can say this because I did see this before this date, but as of June 29th, 2023, it was a fraud lawsuit that I guess that was against the Black Lives Matter movement and it was dismissed. So I guess it wasn't true.

JohnLuke ([45:47](#)):

Okay. So I mean I feel like especially with the election coming up, I feel like, I don't know, it's kind of

Kaleb Seay ([45:58](#)):

Do you think it's going to be people that endorse Black Lives Matter versus people that don't? I mean it's always two sides, so Yeah, I

JohnLuke ([46:05](#)):

Guess mean there's always two sides. I mean it's even like that with,

Decorian Bowers ([46:08](#)):

Well I

Kaleb Seay ([46:08](#)):

Feel politic.

Decorian Bowers ([46:10](#)):

Another thing we didn't talk about with the Black Lives Matter is, you feel me, the rides, the Lootings and all of that. Yeah, it is. That was coming from that though.

JohnLuke ([46:20](#)):

I feel like there's also kind of a,

Decorian Bowers ([46:24](#)):

We were saying with the lady, we can't put that

JohnLuke ([46:27](#)):

Exactly. If one

Decorian Bowers ([46:29](#)):

Group wasn't, it wasn't just one group that was

Kaleb Seay ([46:34](#)):

Still the Antioch today.

Decorian Bowers ([46:36](#)):

That ain't looting. That's just boosting that. I

JohnLuke ([46:40](#)):

Mean I feel like with social media, if one group does something and it's bad, the whole movement gets a negative connotation and you can't really put that on the whole group if it's, what would you say? Like a hundred people.

Kaleb Seay ([47:03](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

JohnLuke (47:05):

And I mean it's millions of people.

Kaleb Seay (47:07):

It is facts.

JohnLuke (47:09):

So a hundred people to the million that are actually doing some good, but then a hundred people going to do something bad, you can't label. The whole movement is bad. Yeah,

Kaleb Seay (47:19):

That's facts. I also heard something they was trying to say, they said some people was dressing up and acting as Black Lives Matter and looting.

Decorian Bowers (47:27):

Yeah, I did see

Kaleb Seay (47:28):

That. I did see that too. Which is very valid. Bad rep maybe. That's very valid. I think when we think movements and Black Lives Matter, at least for me, I can't speak for we, but I kind of think of, I don't know, more of a social movement. And it is gaining traction. It had traction too, especially during Covid and marches and stuff like that after Covid. But compared to the movements we've studied, the prominent movements, even Malcolm X, black Panthers, Martin Luther King, you had these people and I forgot the pastor's name, but we've stayed them before class. But he's starting to seem as if anytime it's Black Lives Matter, he comes up, says a speech, and then it's done with. It's like, I don't know, it just seems real repetitive. So I would like to see something happen, not something bigger, but something impactful.

(48:20):

Go on with the Black Lives Matter movement. And I'm not saying it's not the worst, but something that could be put in textbooks. Yeah, something. Yeah, something. And I feel like right now we are living in some crazy stuff, bro. It was been covid then we got certain elections and stuff going on. What it's been first black president, it's all this stuff. So it is going to be in history books. Most definitely. It is just, I wonder are we doing the right thing so we don't look back on history and be like, dang, that's a bad part of history. Just like we look on slavery. It's a bad part. But Alright, we coming in? Do y'all have anything else to say? I just thank you for having us man. Thank Appreciate for, appreciate you. I appreciate short. But we're good. Appreciate y'all.