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**Some 43 percent of the United States' 1.3 million active service members are people of color, but there are only two African-Americans among the 41 most senior military commanders. In a survey last year, more than a third of active-duty soldiers said they had encountered white nationalism or ideologically driven racism, up from 22 percent the previous year. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 5, 2020)***

**The epidermis is a very thin outer layer of our skin. It is only 1 millimeter in thickness, but it contains one of the few things that seems to justify millennia of oppression between human pigmentation. Were it not for this tiny layer of our skin, we would all appear very similar. Thus, at its core, racism is bigotry against the epidermis, and yet this minute human difference was enough for many of our nation's historical leaders to enable beliefs in racial superiority. The justification for racism in America is thin indeed, but it continues even now to restrain us from moving forward as a society. *(Dr. Haywood Brown, in Tampa Bay Times)***

**Many Americans were surprised last week to discover racism n the grocery store, said Michael Twitty in NBCNews.com. In this "season of racial reassessment" ignited by George Floyd's death, several major food companies agreed to rebrand iconic products whose smiling, submissive black mascots are meant to evoke "formerly enslaved black cooks." Quaker Oats will rebrand Aunt Jemina's pancake mixes, syrups, and other products, named in 1889 after a mammy-like character from a minstrel song. Gone, too, is the white-haired, bow-tied Uncle Ben (of Uncle Ben's Plantation Rice, named in 1937), along with the black mascots for Cream of Wheat and Mrs. Butterworth. To some Americans, those logos were just "friendly faces." But to many black people, they represented "ghosts" from a time when "slaves were happy and our pain had no consequence." *(The Week magazine, July 3, 2020)***

**Society has discovered discrimination as the great social weapon by which one may kill men without any bloodshed. *(Hannah Arendt)***

**New York City officials have agreed to remove a statue of President Theodore Roosevelt from outside the American Museum of Natural History. The statue show Roosevelt riding a horse flanked by a Native American and an African man who officials say are depicted "as subjugated and racially inferior." *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appears in The Week magazine, July 3, 2020)***

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