

Ripple turned Wave  
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"I've had enough of someone else's propaganda. I'm for truth, no matter who tells it. I'm for justice, no matter who it's for or against. I'm a human being first and foremost, and as such, I am for whoever or whatever benefits humanity as a whole."-Malcolm X. How many times have we thought about or acted on these words? Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in trying to do or say what others do or say. And sometimes we are afraid to step out of line, and state what we believe to be the truth. It is a concept of fear and control. When one-or in this case four-stand up to the world, it is a case of pure bravery. The Greensboro Four was a small group of courageous young men that stood up to the cruelty of segregation. The Greensboro Four consisted of Erell Blair, Joseph McNeil, David Richmond, and Franklin McCain. What they did was a simple yet well thought out tactic. A way to extinguish segregation peacefully. The Greensboro Four inspired sit-ins throughout many cities and counties. While the Greensboro Four may not have completely ended segregation, their efforts to change what was wrong, were definitely right.

Has it ever occurred to us that maybe segregation does not just hurt the people who are being segregated, but the people who are segregating? It gives some the false idea that they are better than other people, other humans. The Greensboro Four were in the midst of unequal treatment, and they needed to do something. The four hatched a plan. On February 1, 1960, they went into the local Woolworth store, bought some small things, and kept the receipts to prove that they actually bought the items. Then they sat down at the lunch counter. While African Americans were allowed to stand at a standing snack bar, they were not, however, allowed to sit. The boys remained sitting, politely requesting service. The store manager called the police, but to no avail. The police said that they could not do anything because the boys were paying customers. And the next day the Greensboro Four came back with twenty other protesters.

Have you ever done something that became a national trend, or an instant hit? Most likely if you did, the Greensboro Fours actions topped it. The Greensboro Four encouraged sit-ins throughout the country. The media responded to this seemingly insignificant gesture almost immediately, the coverage leading to a mass amount of sit-ins throughout the country by spreading the story. I also believe that sit-ins gained momentum because people liked the idea of peaceful protests, as well as the fact that the Greensboro Four were encouraging young individuals. It has also been stated that most of the protesters were college students, just as the four boys were. This just proves that anyone, of any age, can do anything.

How do we support the people that make a difference? Taking the time to do extra is vital. If we want to make the world a better place, we have to be willing to make sacrifices. If I was alive when the Greensboro Four were alive, I would have tried to stop segregation and inequality among Americans. I would have wanted to participate in sit-ins and encourage them. Sit-ins are excellent silent protests. When the Greensboro Four made their move, they rallied many others to stand up to segregation. This influenced people to take action and help African Americans. When we try by ourselves, it doesn't always show. But when we work together we can make a difference.

When the Greensboro Four did what they did, life began changing for all African Americans. This was one of the many causes of integration. On February 1, the Greensboro Four stood up to segregation with a sit-in. Despite threats, they sat and waited politely, until they were served. That one sit-in caused a rapid increase in the number of sit-ins throughout the country. I myself would have supported the sit-ins and the Greensboro Four. When we do what we want to do the world doesn't always change, but when we do what we need to do the world becomes a better place.