

## **“Move along ... not much here.”**

The 2012 NCAA Basketball Tournament, watched by tens of millions of Americans on television, was the audience for the racist chant by some members of the University of Southern Mississippi band. Can Mississippians and USM alums make it worse? You bet they can, and did. Consider one of the many thoughtless comments by Southern Miss and Hattiesburg folks to excuse and/or defend the racist chant:

“Kids and adults make stupid remarks at most, if not all, sports events. Move along...not much here.”

This is the attitude of far too many Mississippi and Southern Miss adults/alums who perpetuate that racism is no big deal. The message is “Get over it (Hispanics, in this case) and move on.” Mississippi and Southern Miss might want to be sensitive—more so than most others—to racial slurs and acts before they glibly advise “Move along...not much here.” Mississippi’s and Southern Miss’ [history of racism](#) and racist behavior — past and [recent history](#)—should be front and center in our daily thoughts and actions. We, parents and educators, should guide our children to understand that our words and actions—and their words and actions—have meaning and effect.

If we don’t, who will? If not now, when?

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