

Mayonnaise: A comprehensive look into American media

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In one of the most classic episodes of SpongeBob SquarePants, SpongeBob's buddy Patrick Star asked the question, "Is mayonnaise an instrument?" Squidward then silences Patrick and replies, "No Patrick, mayonnaise is not an instrument." In response to this, a YouTuber named Flamp made a viral video creating a beat made only from one substance... mayonnaise. Making mayonnaise an instrument initially seems impossible, but Flamp proved that with an open mind, anything is achievable. Today, the media severely lacks a sense of bipartisanship and cooperation. Just like how Squidward shunned Patrick for asking if mayonnaise was an instrument, voices of polarization in the media stifle voices echoing cooperation. However, if people become less unilateral in their way of thinking and a sense of complexity is introduced to issues; just like making mayonnaise an instrument, bipartisanship may not seem so impossible.

Today, everything is either black or white, left or right. There never seems to be a middle. That grey area is the voice that is so wrongfully subdued. Former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang had ideas that didn't fully align with the left or right, but instead, probed the gray areas of policy. Unfortunately, Yang was quickly silenced. Writer Ed Kilgore stated Yang had "No plausible path to the Democratic presidential nomination." This is solely because Yang didn't get the acceptance he needed from the public, and polarization trumped bipartisanship. However, acceptance of the gray area isn't the only problem with people and the media. Last January, conservative political commentator Tomi Lahren stated that the US should lock its borders the same way people lock their doors to their houses. Suffice it to say, it is blasphemous that the overarching complexity of border security be reduced to such a facile analogy. Journalist Byron Williams articulates, "We seek the simplistic answer when only the difficult response will suffice." This attitude is precisely what journalists can stray away from to bring less noise to politics. By including a sense of complexity to intrinsically convoluted issues, people will cooperate to find solutions rather than pining for instant gratification. If this barrier is broken down, new voices will emerge, and bipartisanship will ensue. Instead of only black or white, left or right, there can also be a grey and a center.

It is said that sharks kept in fish tanks won't grow to their full size. A shark in a fish tank will grow eight inches, but in the ocean, it will grow to eight feet or more. The same thing can be said about everyone's mindset today. Unfortunately, in a world where simplicity reigns supreme, oversimplification transcends harsh realities. However, if a sense of complexity and acceptance can be adopted in the media, today's leaders can be chosen on the platform of not what side they align with, but rather on a bipartisan level. Nobody will be silenced for their ideals. This time, if someone figures out how to make mustard an instrument in the future, their voices will be heard loud and clear.