Does Hollywood portray historical events accurately in movies? Let’s take a look at some parts of “Remember the Titans” as an example. After reading the following facts and watching the film, you’ll be ready to complete these Reflection Questions that are due next class. **20 points**

**In real life, did Coach Herman Boone integrate the buses before leaving for football camp?**
Yes. This really happened. “I forced them on each other,” Herman Boone says. “I forced them to learn each other's culture. I forced them to be a part of each other's lives.”
-ESPN.com

**Did the 1971 T.C. Williams Titans really go to camp at Gettysburg College?**
Yes. This part of the film is true. The team spent a week at Gettysburg College where they practiced up to three times a day, as depicted in the movie Remember the Titans.
-ESPN.com

**Was the racial tension at training camp depicted accurately in the film?**
No. Coach Boone, Coach Yoast, and many players have said that there was tension at camp, but it existed primarily because of competition for positions on the team. "I wanted to make the team," Ronnie Bass says in an interview. "I think that's where most of the kids' minds were. We were just trying to play football." In a 2000 USA Today article, Remember the Titans screenwriter Gregory Allen Howard rejects the current position of the players, “Yeah, right,” Howard says. “Who wants to say, 'I hated (black people)?' Who wants to say, 'I hated white people?' Who wants to say, 'We hated each other.'”
-ESPN.com

**Did Herman Boone really wake the team up at 3 a.m. and make them run to the Gettysburg Cemetary?**
No. This did not happen. The team did tour the battlefields on the Sunday they were at camp. The guide did most of the talking though, not Herman Boone. This isn't to say that Coach Boone never gave motivational speeches to his team. In fact, he delivered many speeches to inspire them. Often, his speeches were not about the importance of winning, but about the importance of playing your best.
-'71 Titans Website

**Did Gerry Bertier and Julius Campbell become best friends in real life?**
They were friends, but their relationship was not such a pivotal example of integration like it is in the movie Remember the Titans. Gerry and Julius were friends just like many of the other players were friends. Theirs was not the only new friendship.
-'71 Titans Website

**Was Gerry Bertier’s girlfriend Emma (Kate Bosworth) based on a real person?**
No. The character of Emma Hoyt (Kate Bosworth) is purely fictional. She was created to demonstrate some of the negative traits and beliefs instilled in the youth of that time.
-'71 Titans Website
Was Ronnie "Sunshine" Bass really a long haired hippie from California?
Titan quarterback Ronnie Bass did come from California, but portraying him as a long haired hippie is a bit of an exaggeration. "I was never quite like that," Bass told the Greenville (SC) News. "But that's Hollywood. I'll say for the record my hair was never that long." Also for the record, Ron never did Tai Chi outside the school.

Did protesters stand outside of T.C. Williams on the first day of school?
Unlike what is seen in the movie, there were no protestors outside of the high school on the first day. Nearby George Washington Junior High School did have some fights and a rock-throwing incident. -'71 Titans Website

Was the racial tension in the community depicted accurately in the film?
No. Although racial tension did exist in Alexandria, Virginia in 1971, it was significantly embellished for the movie. For example, T.C. Williams High School saw the integration of black and white students when it opened in the fall of 1965, not in 1971. Former students state that many of the racial barriers had been broken down by 1971, when federal pressure resulted in the consolidation of three high schools, one of which was T.C. Williams. In an interview with the Greenville News, the real Ronnie "Sunshine" Bass said, "They (the movie) had a community divided down black and white, and it really wasn't like that in 1971 Alexandria." In a Washington Post article, Bill Yoast's friend Patrick Welsh commented on the movie's position, "My friend Bill Yoast ... told me Disney had taken liberties with the facts, suggesting an overheated atmosphere of racial animosities and fears at the school and in the community that just hadn't existed." Yet, it was clear that the Titans championship run did help the community to further come together.

ESPN.com

Before the first game, Herman Boone (Denzel Washington) tells his players, "Like all the other schools in this conference, they're all white. They don't have to worry about race. We do."
In reality, all of the other schools that the Titans faced during the 1971 season were integrated schools. -ESPN.com

Did the racial incident in the restaurant actually happen?
No. In the film we see Petey Jones (Donald Faison) and Ronnie Bass (Kip Pardue) enter a restaurant where they are refused service. As reported on the '71 Titans Web Site, this did not actually happen. Even though the attitude portrayed by the restaurant may have been similar to existing establishments in the United States at that time, this scene was a fictional device created to help emphasize the racial tension in the movie's storyline.

Did someone really throw a brick through Coach Herman Boone's window?
No, it was actually much worse than a brick. It was a toilet commode. Boone spoke about this during the Remember the Titans DVD commentary, "There wasn't a brick thrown through my window," Herman Boone says. "It was something far more devastating to any human being than a brick could be. I guess Disney, being the family movie production company that it is, felt that to depict a toilet stool coming through your window was a bit much ... I've never gotten over that incident that particular night, because I could never understand how anybody could feel so bad about another human being as to throw a toilet commode through a window."

Thanks to the following website for this information. http://www.chasingthefrog.com/reelfaces/rememberthetitans.php

Reflection Questions (Please complete on a sheet of notebook paper.) Due next class. – 20 pts

1. How does it make you feel to learn that many parts of a movie are not true, especially when the movie is billed as "based on a real-life drama."? (from the movie packaging) Why do you think you feel that way?
2. Why do you think the screen writers (Hollywood) add or exaggerate elements that did not really take place?
3. In your opinion, is it acceptable that facts were changed?
4. What positive results might come from a story with a stronger, clearer, although untrue, theme? What negative results might there be?