

# REVOLUTION PUBLICATION

talk about it today in order  
to change tomorrow

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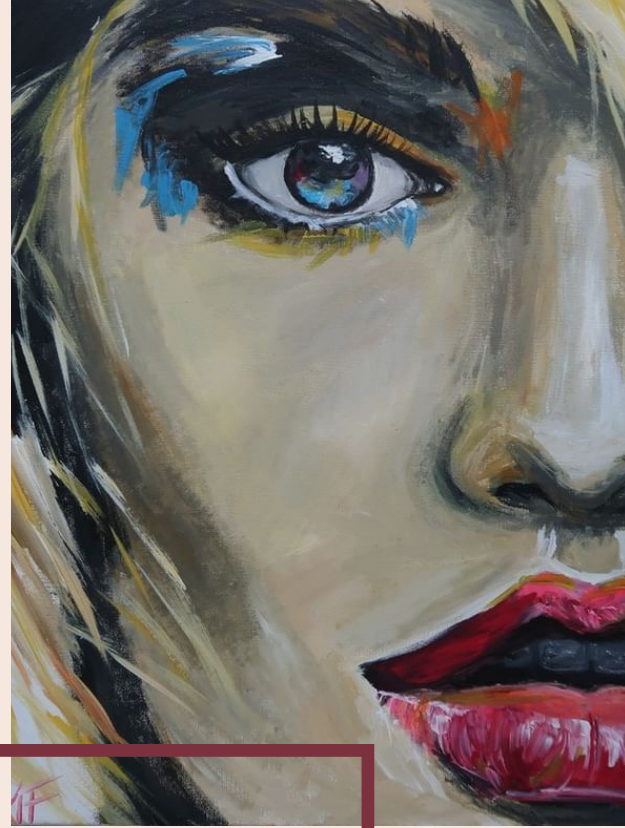
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# OUR MISSION

How we started and why this publication is so important!

MAKE SURE TO FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM  
@REVOLUTIONPUBLICATION

CHECK OUT OUR GOFUNDME ON OUR WEBSITE AND DONATE! IN ORDER TO KEEP PUBLISHING WE NEED YOUR HELP!

TELL EVERYONE YOU KNOW ABOUT US! WE WANT TO MAKE SURE WE ARE EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE!

Founded by two New York City high school students, Revolution Publication is a literary and educational magazine committed to expanding creativity, information, and innovation. We intend to re-evaluate social justice, environmental, and political issues through the power of student voices. With the help of art submissions, informative feature pieces, op-eds, and creative writing essays, students in the community will contribute to the spread of knowledge of societal reform. We are dedicated to informing and reforming the New York City community and beyond.

With the help of our team and contributors, we will be able to incite sustainable development to achieve an inclusive, equitable, creative, and safe future! Make sure to check out our instagram @revolutionpublication. We are looking for students to help lead Revolution Magazine; visit our Link tree for more details!

Talk about it today in order to change tomorrow!

# DR. GREG SKOMAL: CAPE COD'S REAL- LIFE MATT HOOPER

BY EMMA STARR

**You don't need to watch Jaws to see Matt Hooper face the shark; every week is Shark Week for the real-life Matt Hooper. Here on the Cape, we have our very own shark scientist, Dr. Greg Skomal. If you are an avid Shark Week and now Sharkfest watcher, you already know him and how cool he is!**

Growing up, Skomal became fascinated with the ocean and sharks from watching Jaws and Jacques Cousteau on National Geographic. For those reasons, he chose to study marine biology at the University of Rhode Island. He also has a Masters from URI and a PhD from Boston University. He has been working for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for over 31 years as the Recreational Fisheries Program Manager and is heading up the Massachusetts Shark Research Program. Since the rebounding seal population has drawn sharks to New England waters in recent years, Dr. Skomal now has many opportunities to spend more time studying them in these waters, rather than traveling to the Farallon Islands near San Francisco, or Guadalupe off the coast of Mexico.

Skomal and his colleague, John Chisholm, were the first people to successfully tag and track Great Whites in the Northwest Atlantic as part of the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. The conservancy is able to track local and long range movements, study behavior and ecology, and estimate the Great White population size in the area.

National Geographic Channels



Skomal had to start somewhere. His career as a technician for the National Marine Fisheries Service Apex Predators Investigation in Narragansett, RI, kickstarted his training to become a fisheries biologist. In an article for CapeCod.com, he said:



**"MY INTEREST IN SHARK RESEARCH, AS IT RELATES TO FISHERIES, IS DRIVEN BY MY DESIRE TO PRODUCE RESULTS THAT ARE DIRECTLY APPLICABLE TO SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THESE RESOURCES," HE SAID. "I LIKE ALL ASPECTS OF MY JOB, BUT OUR WHITE SHARK RESEARCH IS THE MOST RIVETING, AS WE ARE MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES ABOUT THESE FISH ALMOST EVERY DAY."**



Universal Pictures/Getty Pictures

Greg and his team have successfully tagged 200 sharks on the Cape and implanted tons of receivers on the waters. Now, anyone can track the Great Whites on the conservancy's app called Sharktivity. It is a helpful resource for planning safe beach and fishing excursions, as well as learning more about the sea's apex predator.

Skomal and his crew go out on their boat, leaving from Chatham twice a week, and sometimes go up as far as Provincetown. The boat that they tag off of has a long pulpit that Greg stands on to tag the sharks. He uses a long pole with a sharp point at the end to attach the tag to the fin. They have a spotter pilot, Wayne Davis (photo to the right), who provides coordinates of any shark he sees to the boat via radio. This gives them the opportunity to have 'eyes in the sky.' They are then able to go up right next to the shark to get Go-Pro footage, identifying special markings and a well-placed dorsal-fin tag. Once the tag is attached they are able to track the shark for as long as the tag is designed to track them for. Every time a shark passes by a receiver, it sends an electrical signal and we are notified on the Sharktivity app. Some shark scientists actually remove the shark from the water to tag it and get tissue samples but, I think that the way that Greg does it is safer for the animals.

I have been fortunate enough to hear Dr. Skomal speak at events about sharks/seals myths and ideas on how to make the beaches safer, and I am always captivated by the energy he brings when sharing what he does everyday and why he feels so passionately about shark conservancy. If you have not seen the video of a shark lunging at him, you should definitely click on the link above! When asked about what the experience was like and if it affected how he works with sharks since, he said, "What if I was a swimmer? We need a better understanding of the predator and prey relationship so people don't become collateral damage." It is important that we have people researching and studying this relationship to not only keep the marine ecosystem balanced but, to ensure that people and sharks can coexist.

Currently, Dr. Skomal and his team are taking it one step further than simply tracking the population of sharks on the Cape. They are focused on movement and behavior with an emphasis on public safety. Ever since Arthur Medici was bitten at Newcomb Hollow beach in Wellfleet, the conservancy has been working with town officials to make the beaches safer and inform the public on what they need to do to stay safe. While there are countless books and articles about how to dive and surf safely with sharks, we need to remember that whenever you mix two different predators in one environment, there is always room for misunderstandings to occur. There are many shark repellents and methods these books talk about but no singular thing has proven to be a 100% effective solution. Thankfully, we have people like Dr. Skomal working everyday to ensure our safety and our oceans safety.



Ocean Aerials

# UPSCIDE

**UPSCIDE IS STUDENT-RUN BLOG AND CHANNEL THAT AIMS TO EDUCATE IN THE SCIENCES AND PROVIDE A PLATFORM FOR THOSE WITH A PASSION FOR SCIENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS SHARED BY STUDENTS OFFER A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE TO LEARNING. OUR TEAM MEMBERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD CREATE EDUCATIONAL CONTENT IN THEIR FIELDS OF STRENGTH AND SHARE IT WITH THE IN THE HOPES OF HELPING OTHER STUDENTS. UPSCIDE AIMS TO BE A GREAT RESOURCE FOR BOTH THOSE WHO VISIT US TO STUDY AND THOSE SEEKING TO EXPLORE.**

TO CONTACT US, EMAIL THEM AT [UPSCIDE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:UPSCIDE@GMAIL.COM).

REVOLUTION PUBLICATION IS WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH UPSCIDE. WE HAVE FEATURED TWO OF THEIR BLOG PIECES ABOUT INNOVATION AND SCIENCE, SO MAKE SURE TO READ MORE!

**VISIT THEIR WEBSITE:  
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and follow them on instagram @upside

WHY INTELLECTUAL  
HUMILITY AND  
DUMBNESS SHOULD  
BE THE FOUNDATION  
OF YOUR ACADEMIC  
JOURNEY—  
ACCORDING TO A  
SCIENCE  
JOURNALIST.

BY ZIYING JIAN



Illustration by Ziyang Jian

As a student attending one of the most rigorous high schools in New York City, I frequently find myself leaving classes feeling incredibly disheartened, whether that is due to a Biology test grade, some Geometry problems I couldn't manage to complete, my sheer lack of comprehension in Global Studies, or my failed attempt to stay awake during class. Despite that, at the end of the day, I would shoulder on and climb to the seventh-floor library to undertake my biggest obstacle—homework. Then, I would realize that I had little to no recollection of what had been taught in my classes, stomping home every step of the way. When I got home, I would start beating a textbook over my head in the belief that passive diffusion will allow for text inscribed on paper to transfer into my brain cells.

Anyway, I digress. The point is, I certainly understand it's difficult to not compare yourself to your peers and keep your head high at the same time. And while we're all aware of the kind of toxicity this creates in our lives, many of us can't help it. It's the product of a high-pressure cooker environment that'll eventually leave a heavy mental or even physical toll on the student. Approaching anything in life with the intent to be better than someone else undermines the true meaning of a goal.

Latif Nasser produces work that I'm well acquainted with. Until recently, I knew nothing about him—his face, background, education, or what kind of person he was. He's a Harvard graduate and the lead researcher of the popular podcast Radiolab. Nasser is a science journalist who carries a natural affinity for the workings of everything and anything. His storytelling is known for helping listeners of Radiolab make sense of the world amidst the chaos, a statement that I can attest to following my loyalty to the show. In fact, Nasser says, "That's sort of my compass. Surprise and delight and wonder. Those are the things I gravitate towards."



This is the sort of approach he has taken with him into his recent new Netflix series, "Connected", which launched Aug. 2. Two days later, he had his second child. Add a pandemic to the mix and you have what Nasser called "the weirdest time on top of the weirdest time."

In an edited excerpt from a conversation with the New York Times, Nasser talked about the new project, discussed what made him fall in love with science, and the importance of staying curious. In college and grad school, Nasser realized that there were shockingly simple questions that humanity didn't know the answers to, or we're still figuring out, contrary to the way science was taught in high school. He vividly recalls the time he tried to be an archaeologist, expecting to be doing some badass Indiana Jones kind of stuff. What did end up happening was not that. Nasser was brought in to clean rocks, which he really "hated it so much." But once he re-evaluated the big picture and realized it was part of figuring out "the fundamentals of the universe" or answering "the dynamic question about human history", cleaning rocks with a toothbrush suddenly seemed like the most interesting thing in the world.

In fact, Nasser regards his PhD as a license that allows him to be dumb. "I feel like I can walk into a room and I can just ask the actual question that is actually on my

dumbest guy in the room than the smartest because I think that's more intellectually honest." It's a gentle reminder to stay open-minded, humble, and to listen and think critically. There's little need to be concerned with how you others think of you because, at the end of the day, this is your educational journey, not theirs. This shift in understanding is a small but important one. "Intellectual humility is a core value for me."

Nasser's new approach to learning about the world leads with a question, not an answer. "It's about creating a little black hole inside people's minds so it has this gravitational pull — it wants the information, it's seeking out the information," he says. He thinks there is something deeply possessive yet satisfying in being awakened to a question people didn't even realize they had.

In the midst of outcry and "woke" culture, every person— young or old—is expected to stand out. Of course, that isn't a bad thing, but sometimes, it's best to take a step back, think introspectively, and question what you don't understand. Living during this cynical time, Nasser's hope is to pass on this grain of wisdom to viewers of "Connected", young and old. "Hopefully, this is in a beautiful and poetic way that will make kids' jaws drop, and adults' too, and serve as a way to remind us this is the way we're fingerprinting on each other's lives."



mind without fear of people thinking I'm an idiot. Because often I am! That's why I love this job." Nasser often uses this approach during his interviews.

But why would you ever want others to regard you as dumb? Surely not, surely never. Nasser answers this in a pretty compelling way: "I would much rather be the

And so, as I sit there in my room, I think about why I should be studying. Not just to finish my homework, not just to please my parents, not just to get into the uni of my dream, but most importantly, because I'm genuinely fascinated by the scope of the world.



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EXPLORING A WORLD WHERE OUR INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES ARE MATCHED.

# THE MULTIPLICATION OF INTELLIGENCE

BY CHRISTINE CHANG

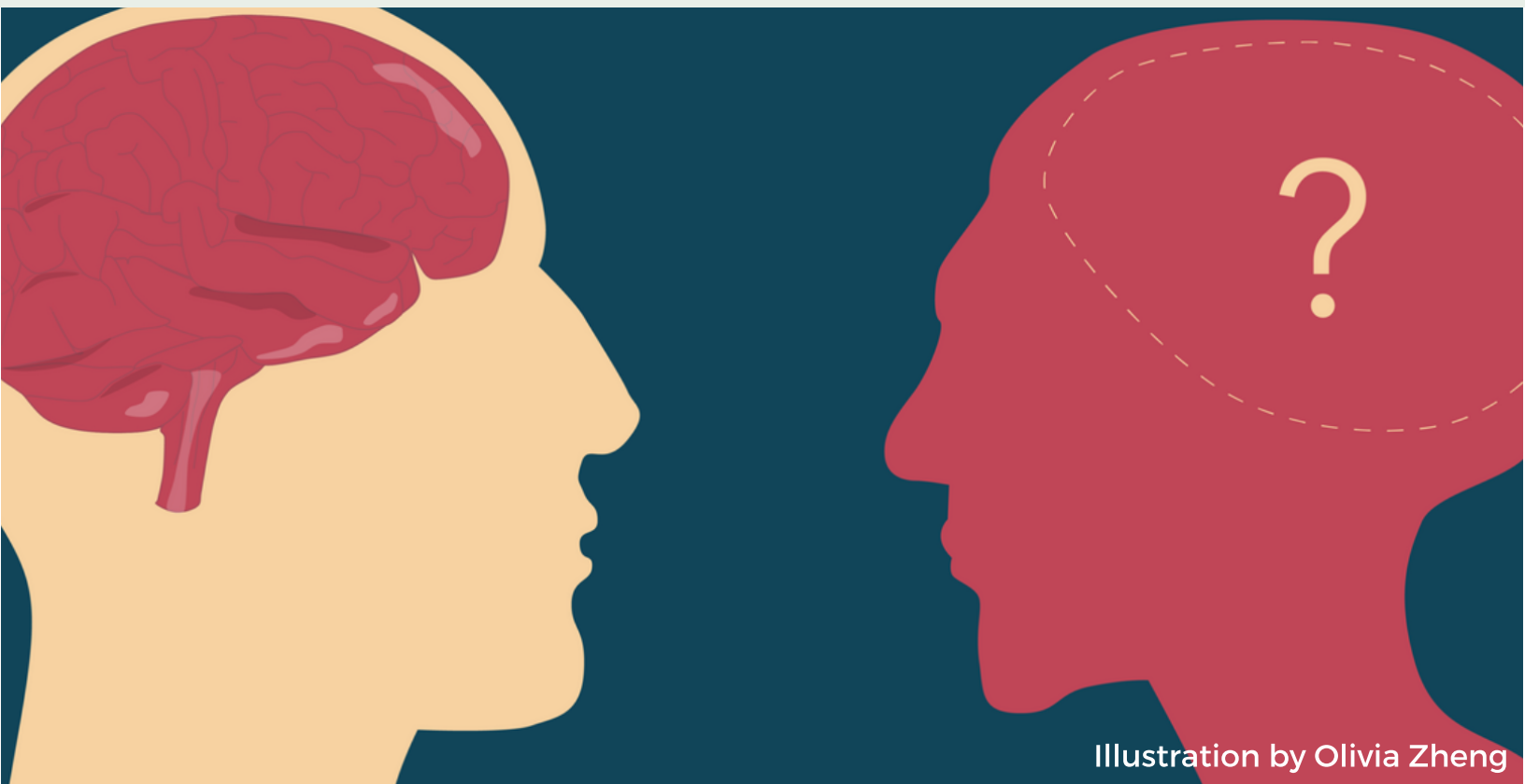


Illustration by Olivia Zheng

Something that most people take for granted is the intelligence we are inherently born with. Sure, we can't all be Hawking, or Einstein, or Newton. But as human beings, we have this cognitive ability that doesn't exist in other animals. Perhaps it is a conscious, or the ability to discern morals, or the complexity of our language. But it is indisputable that human beings as a species are on a different intellectual plane than other species.

But what if that weren't the case? What if there existed more than one intelligent species on this planet? What would it be like?

As this is mere speculation, we don't know for certain what would be different. For one, the responses, expression, and the overall psychology of a being would probably differ in this scenario as compared to now. So for the purposes of this post, we will be assuming similar instincts as we associate with humans now, as well as each level of intelligence being at a similar level. There will also be many references to the current world as we know it for comparison sake as well as clarity's sake. That said, let's jump in. Competition is unavoidable for survival. Whether you are looking at Charles Darwin's survival of the fittest,

or territorial behavior towards resources, or simply a basketball game at the local gym, competition is natural. Competition would only increase with additional intelligent species. This seems easy to calculate. More potential and capable people equal a lower probability that you would get a position. However, there are many caveats that complicate what seems like a simple concept much more, the main being the physical capabilities of new intelligent species.



Why would physicality matter? Think about the real world today. People with certain disabilities may be unable to work certain jobs or play certain sports and so on. It isn't set that new intelligent species would be physically similar to humans. They could all be ripped, 10 feet tall and so on, or they could be a literal blob. Intelligence doesn't have a strict correlation with physical features. Now how would this affect competition? Imagine a basketball team. Say that a particular species are naturally built like an NBA superstar. From a coach's point of view, it is much more beneficial to recruit them as opposed to what will be my favorite comparison, a literal blob. This means that there will be separations in various jobs, teams, and perhaps even schools, with certain qualifications (i.e. species) needing to be met to even apply.

This brings me to my next point: the strong sense of speciesism (an actual term). Differences spew opinions, which in turn have high negative potency. If you look at our society today, you might witness people discriminating against others based on one's skin color. You can argue that this is so ingrained because of the history of race elitism and a drastic power difference between the races. With this in mind, it seems almost inevitable that there would be some form of speciesism.

However, you could spin this in a more positive way, where you can argue that splitting opportunities based on species would lead to one flourishing in that field because the conditions are set to match their own species. Continuing with the basketball analogy, the compromise to biology by holding both an NBA and the WNBA is similar to this possibility. If the members of your own team and the opposing team have similar physical capabilities, it balances the playing field and makes it much fairer. Of course, this could go wrong. There could be a disparity in opportunities itself, where more would be available for the physically favorable than, once again, a literal blob.

Moving away from sports, a disparity in representation could also be brought up, whether it is in the media or the medical world. It is important to have a diverse crowd in all fields, but the focus will be on these two specifically. It's become increasingly clearer that representation in the media is important in the real world, where it has become known that being able to see yourself in a popular piece of media is inspiring and yearned for. Translating this to the situation—with perhaps favorable and less favorable physical traits—it is almost expected that the media would focus on species with more favorable traits, leaving those who are “less” starved of representation of their own species. This disparity is less obvious in the medical world, although still very prevalent. Most of the medical field is—still to this day—very centered around white men, with reports of being denied testing because of gender or race. Beyond this, many dermatology examples are portrayed on white skin... why is this a problem? It's simple—various skin conditions look different based on skin color. How would this transfer to different species? Besides the possibility of a completely different skin type (which is very fascinating to me), the potential physical differences would mean that there would be less visual representation between species, which could in turn imply that there would be a disparity in medical treatments, a sobering thought.

However, there are positives. Many of our greatest discoveries stem from collaboration, whether it is scientific, artistic, historical, and so on. The saying two heads are better than one comes to mind, where both the additional brain and separate experiences as different species could enhance products as well as

get more reach with the effectiveness. A collaboration that plays off of one's strength covering the other's weaknesses, adding and improving based on the strengths and weaknesses of each species, and moving together despite differences to find a solution that is applicable for all species involved, and perhaps further is nothing short of a symphony in my mind. While it is so easy to split in the differences, the potential that lies in collaboration is undeniable. The idea of multiple intelligent species is a fascinating idea, but at its core, it imitates our society today - whether it is because of the pre-set conditions that use the psychology and philosophies which we are used to and are simpler to manipulate. Despite this, based on current ideals, more intelligent species equates to discrimination and competition, but also would bring leaps and bounds into new discoveries and collaboration.

Illustration: Michelle Thompson



# TODAY'S LEADING THINKERS

TAKEN FROM PROSPECT MAGAZINE

## MARWA AL SABUNI

The Syrian architect's practice in Homs was bombed in the war, but this hasn't stopped her writing eloquently about how poor building design can plant the seed of social conflict. In her superb memoir-manifesto, *The Battle for Home*, she tells us how growing up in the 1990s there were no parks or cultural centres for mingling with different kinds of people; she felt "jailed behind the bars of nothingness." Her plan to rebuild her country once the civil war ends is both creative and meaningful. The philosopher Roger Scruton, one of her inspirations, wrote the foreword to her book praising her as a "profound thinker."

## KWAME ANTHONY APPIAH

Battles over identity seem to be getting more fearsome than ever—especially online. Step forward a philosopher with a culturally-mixed background and a cool intelligence to challenge some of the more excitable pronouncements. Appiah's book *The Lies That Bind* does not deny the importance of a grounded identity, and the necessity of protecting vulnerable groups. But as his title indicates, he reminds us that identities are inventions contingent on circumstances—and subject to change over time. A refreshing and authoritative voice, Appiah was the chair of judges for the 2018 Man Booker Prize.

## TA-NEHISI COATES

Few magazine essays have been as influential as Coates's "The Case for Reparations," published in the *Atlantic* five years ago, which sparked a debate across America about the debt owed to black Americans due to slavery and decades of discrimination. This June, that debate finally reached Congress. His book of essays on the Obama years, *We Were Eight Years in Power*—published after the election of Donald Trump—summed up the hopes and disappointments felt by one-time supporters of America's first black president. But Coates's influence is not limited to politics—he is also the author of the new Black Panther comic book series, and now a novelist.



Ernst Stewart

BY EMMA STARR

# 'SHARK GIRL' MADISON STEWART

There are many people in this world who love the ocean, however, not all of these people are doing their part to conserve it. But one woman, in particular, is doing her part and more in shark conservation. Her name is Madison Stewart AKA Shark Girl, and this is her story:

Madison grew up off the waters of Australia's Gold Coast, and lived on a yacht starting at the age of two. When she was twelve years old, she became a certified open-water diver in Byron Bay. Madison became so passionate about the Great Barrier Reef that she switched to homeschooling so that she could devote more time to making the reef her true classroom. There was one dive, in particular, that impacted Madison the most and shifted her priorities. One night, she decided to go diving where she had previously gone before and had encountered many sharks. However, this time, she only saw one shark, and it was too scared to come close to the boat. It swam off and left her in shock. She couldn't believe the change she was seeing in the oceans she knew: "Wild animals were just something you expect to see every day, to the point where they become as normal as a house pet she said in an interview with Oceanographic Magazine." She learned that the same sharks who had become like 'pets' to her had been caught and killed in legal shark fisheries. It was at this moment that fourteen-year-old Madison learned that the ocean was at risk, and she needed to do everything she could to protect it by bringing awareness to the declining shark population. This meant making other people see sharks the way she saw them.

Most people see sharks as merciless killers with bloodied and sharp serrated teeth. Thanks to movies like Jaws and TV shows like Shark Week and Sharkfest, people's misconceptions have grown even bigger and prevented them from admiring these beautiful and powerful creatures. People often find peace in their slaughter because of the fear that the media has instilled in them. But, it is impossible to understand how sharks really behave without seeing them in the wild.

This brings to mind the phrase 'shark-infested waters.' This term is used frequently by the media, especially in Cape Cod news. However, if you really think about the phrase, you'll realize that it doesn't make sense. If sharks infest the water, that means that humans must infest the earth. No, humans inhabit the earth, as sharks inhabit the water. Sharks live in the ocean, it is us humans who are the frequent visitors, sometimes even the infestation. Humans should worry less about being attacked by sharks, and more about how many sharks are killed by humans.



Vulture, Lionsgate, Columbia Pictures, and Warner Bros.



Inside the only legal shark fishery in the Great Barrier Reef, 100,000 sharks can legally be harvested per year. By comparison, in 2019, the International Shark Attack File recorded 64 unprovoked attacks of humans and two fatalities. Sharks do not seek out humans, nor can they leave their natural habitat to venture on land to hurt us. It is humans, not sharks, who cause the most harm to the other species. For this reason, Madison has started making films about the true nature of these beautiful creatures to lessen human fear and make greater human awe and respect.



Twitter

Madison primarily focuses her energy on stopping the shark-finning trade which is the gruesome practice of cutting off a live shark's fins and throwing them back to drown. Shark finning in Indonesia is legal and unregulated unlike places like the United States. They are known to kill more sharks than any other country in the world. According to David Lipson, 30% of the 117 known species of sharks in Indonesia are considered threatened/endangered. Often, the shark meat that is sold in Madison's homeland of Australia is not from their one legal fishery, but rather from unregulated fisheries in places like Indonesia. This is why she decided to go straight to the source, and ventured to Indonesia to try and protect their shark population.

Originally, she traveled to Indonesia, one of the leading shark producers in the world, to expose on film what is happening behind the fishing industries' closed doors, in the hopes of educating people and encouraging them to use their voices to advocate for sharks. In order to bring attention to these unregulated fisheries, Madison assumed a false identity as a 'dumb tourist.' Feigning ignorance enabled her to document footage of bloody shark carcasses and the identities of the fishermen who caught them. However, Madison learned something unexpected on her covert mission. She realized that the fishermen were not evil people rather, they were just people who were desperate to make a living, take care of their families, and had no viable alternative to shark fishing.

Madison started Project Hiu, which means 'Shark' in Indonesian, to provide alternate income to shark fishermen in Indonesia. Stewart hired the shark fishing boats and locals to engage the men in a tourist role. They educate the men and buyers about the critical importance of sharks and what would happen if they suddenly disappeared from our oceans. Instead of punishing the fishermen who didn't see another way to support their families, Madison's initiative is forging a new path forward to help them. Project Hiu's website states: "The goal of Project Hiu is to improve conditions above and below the surface, and enforce the idea that one person, and one shark fishermen, can make a difference."

Fish dishes are given many misleading names to hide the fact that they are shark meat. Stewart talks about "flake," and explains that it is commonly used by fishmongers and fish & chips shops. When she buys the "flake," she tests the meat to figure out which species of shark it belongs to. She often finds that it varies between bull, tiger, and other endangered species of shark. Because the Indonesian government only considers nine types of sharks to be endangered and only one of those, the whale shark, to be fully protected, there is truly no chance for the population to rebound from their mindless slaughter.



Famous diver, Ocean Ramsey came out with a new book last year called What You Should Know About Sharks. In the book, she lists the common names that shark meat can often be listed under in fish markets and restaurants. Here are some of the names she lists: Moki, Cazon, Huss, Catfish, Dogfish, Grayfish, Steakfish, Whitefish, Lemon Fish, Cape Steak, Rock Salmon, Rigg, Gummy, Sea Ham, Sokomoro, Tofu Shark, Ocean Fish/filet, Imitation Crab Meat. Many of these names are used in cosmetics, supplements, and pet foods. Its usage is even being considered in the coronavirus vaccine! It's important to be aware of this dishonest practice for personal dietary needs, but also because if these foods are not in high demand, it will help lessen the practice of shark-hunting.

As a fellow shark-lover, I appreciate the work of conservationists, but especially female conservationists. The scientific world is a very male-dominated industry, and to see a young, trailblazing woman heading up incredible projects like Project Hiu is inspiring. While I am in the education field and not the science field, I share incredible stories like Madison's with my students. I hope these stories inspire them and show them that no matter their gender or age, they too, can do anything they set their mind to. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from Madison's feature in Smithsonian magazine:

"The desire for change, a few small wins, and an ongoing supply of passion for sharks and the natural world is what drives me. I don't do anything out of hatred or anger, or because I hate the people fishing for sharks. I do it because I love these creatures. And I am lucky enough to be aware that one person can make a difference—something I had to prove to myself, and once didn't believe."

Don't forget to check out her Documentary called 'Shark Girl' on the Smithsonian Channel!

# the shark conservation fund

SHARKCONSERVATIONFUND.ORG

THE SHARK CONSERVATION FUND (SCF), FORMERLY THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SHARKS AND RAYS, IS A PHILANTHROPIC COLLABORATION FOCUSED ON HALTING THE OVEREXPLOITATION OF THE WORLD'S SHARKS AND RAYS, PREVENTING EXTINCTIONS, REVERSING DECLINES AND RESTORING POPULATIONS. THE SCF IS A SPONSORED PROJECT OF ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS, INC.

SHARKS AND RAYS REPRESENT ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST DIVERSE GROUP OF ANIMALS ON EARTH. THESE CARTILAGINOUS FISH PLAY IMPORTANT ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC ROLES IN OUR OCEANS AND COASTAL COMMUNITIES. MANY SHARK AND RAY SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION BECAUSE OF HUMAN DEMAND FOR THEIR FINS, MEAT, LEATHER, LIVER, AND GILLS. THIS CRISIS REPRESENTS A GROWING THREAT TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE OCEANS AND THE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT RELY ON IT FOR FOOD AND EMPLOYMENT.

## WHAT MAKES SCF UNIQUE?

THE SHARK CONSERVATION FUND IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO LEAD A COORDINATED, GLOBAL DEFENSE OF SHARKS AND RAYS. IT IS THE ONLY ORGANIZATION OF ITS KIND WITH A GLOBAL STRATEGY COMMITTED TO IMPACTING ALL MAJOR SHARK FISHING, PROCESSING, AND MARKETING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, BY HARNESSING AND SUPPORTING WORLD-LEADING EXPERTISE AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE. THIS INTERNATIONAL OPERATING MODEL IS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE THE GLOBAL TRACTION REQUIRED TO PROTECT SHARKS AND RAYS. WE POOL EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES TO RISE TO THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE. NO OTHER PROGRAM HAS SUCH WIDE INTERNATIONAL REACH COUPLED WITH A MULTI-PRONGED STRATEGY THAT FOCUSES ON THE STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES NEEDED TO ACHIEVE PROTECTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE SCF COLLABORATIVE FUNDING APPROACH MAKES INVESTMENTS WORK HARDER, GO FURTHER, AND HAVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE IMPACT AT A GLOBAL SCALE. WE AIM TO BE THE CRITICAL NEXUS FOR INVESTING IN SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION AROUND THE WORLD; THE GO-TO PLACE FOR SMART FUNDERS LOOKING TO MAKE A SUSTAINED IMPACT AND FOR EXEMPLARY GRANTEEES LOOKING FOR SUPPORT FOR THEIR CRUCIAL WORK.

## HOW DOES SCF WORK?

SCF IS A COLLABORATIVE OF FUNDERS WORKING TOGETHER TO IDENTIFY AND SUPPORT IMPACTFUL PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD THAT CONTRIBUTE TO MEETING THE THREE CORE OBJECTIVES OF OUR GLOBAL SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION STRATEGY: REGULATING GLOBAL TRADE; PROTECTING THE MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES; AND COMBATING UNSUSTAINABLE FISHING.

OUR GRANTMAKING APPROACH COMBINES A STRATEGIC GLOBAL LENS AND COORDINATED STRATEGY. INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCF ARE LEVERAGED WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER MEMBERS, CREATING A SHARK AND RAY CONSERVATION FUND THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH TO BE GLOBALLY IMPACTFUL.

TWO TYPES OF GRANTS ARE PROVIDED. LARGER GRANTS RANGE FROM \$50,000 TO \$600,000 PER YEAR FOR PROJECTS LASTING ONE TO THREE YEARS. THE SMALL GRANT FUND SUPPORTS SCF PRIORITIES BY PROVIDING GRANTS OF UP TO \$25,000 AND A ONE-YEAR DURATION. UP TO 10 PROJECTS ARE SELECTED FOR SMALL GRANTS TWICE A YEAR THROUGH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS. THE SCF ADVISORY BOARD MAKES DECISIONS ON WHICH PROJECTS WILL BE SUPPORTED, FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SCF DIRECTOR AND ITS EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL (FOR SMALL GRANT PROPOSALS).

# My Virginity Grows Back

BY WOLF BAKER

You slide a plastic threaded noose off a Chelsea roof  
Your stench levitating a halo like an anvil wedding ring around each of  
my fingers  
Love poems crawl like anxious children under shag and tapestry to  
admire the hanging  
A knife toss game to which infant will break my fall  
A cruel setting

A rash of blue raspberry stacks with stiffened currents  
Along the knobs on my tongue  
You climb into my throat like a video game  
Like a free climb calamity  
My eyes swell as though sagging with pollen bouquets  
Pressed up like pearl buttons by the log in your mouth  
Mothers are whelping tears out of bee blazened lips below us  
For your white knuckle's taming me

Their cheers and cherry rosacea reverse a baby's purposeful paper cuts  
Too gay too young      embarrassing  
But the gnarls in my electric tree like to color erotica outside of the lines  
This infant isn't free until she can walk unwilted again  
My virginity grows back

It takes a year and two books  
Eight homemade prozac palisades  
Another hour sped past the cash register  
The thoughts you sell, each promise a million dollar lottery  
Every scratch and sniff unplates an illustration  
Of your hands stroking a tie dye square of skin  
My style in a homegrown organism





HALISIA HUBBARD/NPR

Loosening the cork in my acids and serums  
My tongue cupped bubbling clarity and flattened its flex down your  
windpipes  
It oozed like warm honey into all of your talents  
Your bone mass of a finger prodding  
You don't know how to hold a baby  
But like the supple child I used to be  
I clench my every chub adorned limb  
And forget to whine and squirm

Until a sporadic venom splinters out of me  
A humanoid weed killer  
Love me love me  
Like a bone marrow root under cerulean soils  
My virginity grows back  
Plant a needle in spindles  
Like a frankenstein gyroscope just drooling in my sensitive radius  
Awake to my own yellow sweat and vibrating palpitations  
Your smell is as deep as the fluid in my joints  
One so lovely should never be taught to dirty me

One day self love will be the steel rubble behind a fallen marquis  
One day self love will be my spark-dribbled world  
And you're just living in it



# ART COMEPITION

rev. pub X artruism



@mozzafiatoart



# WINNER

@mozzafiatoart

[www.mozzafiatoart.com](http://www.mozzafiatoart.com)



## **THE STORY OF MOZZAFIATOART**

STRONG FEMALE ROLE MODELS HAVE BEEN AN ONGOING THEME IN MOST OF MY PIECES. I WANT TO CREATE A SPACE THAT IS SAFE TO TALK ABOUT SENSITIVE SUBJECTS SUCH AS MENTAL HEALTH, WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE. THIS IS WHY I CREATED THE SERIES "BEAUTY IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY." I WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT IT'S OKAY TO OPEN UP IN A DEEP WAY ABOUT THESE ISSUES AND TO FACE THESE CHALLENGES TOGETHER IN A SAFE CREATIVE SPACE. EACH ONE OF MY PIECES HAS A STORY, AN INTENTION TO ALIGN WITH THE DIVINITY IN ALL OF US. EACH PIECE SPARKS A POWERFUL JOURNEY INTO THE SOUL AND MIND, A FABRICATION OF ONE'S FREE WILL.



## 1ST RUNNER UP

@zlyzab on instagram



## 2ND RUNNER UP

@khushii031 on instagram



## 3RD RUNNER UP

@by\_bmeiyeg  
on instagram



THANK YOU TO  
EVERYONE WHO  
SUBMITTED.  
KEEP AN EYE  
OUT FOR  
ANOTHER ART  
COMPETITION  
COMING SOON!



# ARTIST OF THE MONTH



Jeff Hong is changing the art of animation. He currently lives in Brooklyn, NY and is a professional animation storyboard stylist. His current works have largely focused on environmental issues and global issues currently plaguing our world. He created a project called "Unhappily Every After," where he portrays Disney princesses facing worldwide issues like global warming, pollution, gentrification, homelessness, political upheaval, racism, obsession with plastic surgery, drug addiction, and sexism among others. **Made in Shoreditch Magazine** conducted an interview with him, and this is what he said:

## Why did you decide to do this series?

I had earlier conceived an idea of putting Disney princesses into more photographic rough urban environments, something that is completely opposite of their fairy tale world. When I finally started researching images, the idea to put Mulan into a modern day polluted Chinese city was one of the first images to really change the original context of what I had in mind. In part, the work became even more powerful and engaging and I was able to quickly realize that many other Disney characters could be used to shed light on messages that are important.



### **What do you hope to achieve with this series?**

My main hope for this series is to virally spread the messages in my work using the power of the internet to garner views and hopefully change the way some people live their lives for the better of this planet. The response I have gotten throughout the world has been tremendous over the past few months since this work has been released and continues to thrive today with interest. I'm extremely happy that this isn't something that is a flash in the pan and has had a rather lengthy life on the internet.



### **What inspires you about Disney and their work?**

Walt Disney has had a profound impact on my life from my childhood watching all the movies to going to Disneyland growing up in Los Angeles to influencing what I want to do in life. It became my dream to work for Walt Disney Feature Animation once the Disney renaissance began with movies such as The Little Mermaid, Aladdin and Beauty and the Beast. It was an accomplishment I was able to achieve very early in my life as I was hired out of high school by Walt Disney to work on their movies starting with Hercules and continuing for four years on Mulan, Tarzan and the Emperor's New Groove. As an animation artist, I was extremely influenced by early Disney artists such as Freddie Moore, Mary Blair and the famed animators known as the Nine Old Men such as Milt Kahl, Ollie Johnston, Marc Davis and Frank Thomas. I am extremely proud of my years working there and continue to be a big fan of their movies including all the Pixar films.

### **And why did you decide to use them in this series?**

Disney characters are some of the most recognizable cartoons in the world, I wanted to use the emotional connection we all have with these characters to really bring to light some of the more serious issues we face living in this world from animal welfare to social and environmental issues. These are all extremely important to me and something I really want someone to give pause and think about about one's actions in daily life.



### **Finally, do you have any more images planned?**

The series will continue as long as new strong ideas come to me. For the most part I've been trying to do one for every major Disney movie, but finding social messages to impart that are relevant to my ideals and ethics to specific movies gets harder as I make my way through all the Disney movies.





## MORE OF JEFF HONG'S WORK



**TO SEE ALL OF HIS AMAZING WORK, VISIT:**  
[/DISNEYUNHAPPILYEVERAFTER.TUMBLR.COM](https://disneyunhappilyeverafter.tumblr.com)



## STUDENT ART SUBMISSIONS



### Rani Lakshmi Bai

RANI LAKSHMI BAI WAS AN INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER AND WAS THE QUEEN OF JHANSI, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA. SHE IS REMEMBERED FOR HER BRAVERY. SHE JUSTIFIED THAT WOMEN CAN DO EVERYTHING MEN CAN DO.

by Sameera Parveen

### George Floyd

THIS IS A PORTRAIT OF GEORGE FLOYD MADE WITH TURMERIC (NATURAL INDICATOR) AND WASHING POWDER. THERE ARE NO SYNTHETIC COLOURS USED.

by Sameera Parveen





# STUDENT ART SUBMISSIONS



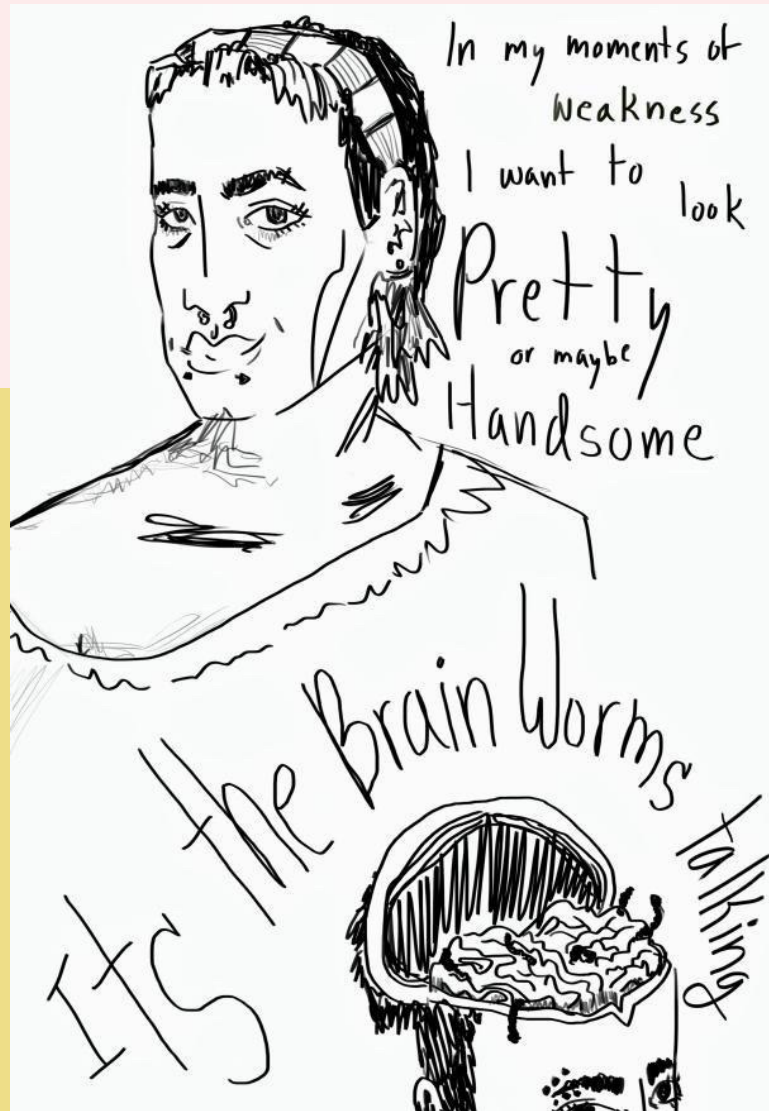
by Sanchi @sanchi021

"I NEVER PAINT  
DREAMS OR  
NIGHTMARES. I  
PAINT MY OWN  
REALITY."

- FRIDA KAHLO

"This is a piece about  
beauty standards and  
my relationship with  
gender."

drawn by  
@escaped\_enabler



# RAPE APOLOGISTS: HOW THEY PERPUTRATE RAPE AND RAPE CULTURE

BY SAIRA RODRIGUEZ

To fully dissect the correlation between rape apologists and rape culture it is vital to understand some terms and definitions.

**Rape** is the sexual assault of penetration of someone's body by someone else, without consent.

In the United States, **consent** laws vary across every state. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), there are three sectors in which consent is analyzed in each state- affirmative consent, freely given consent, and the capacity to consent.

The **capacity to consent** is an overarching term that includes many factors such as, the age a person has to be to give consent (varies across the states), if the person has a developmental/mental or a physical different-ability, if the person is intoxicated (what qualifies as "intoxicated" varies across the states), whether one party is in a position of authority in relation to the other (such as a teacher), unconsciousness, if one party is a vulnerable adult due to illness or other inhibitors.

Now, let's delve deeper into the subject of rape apologists.

Oftentimes, rape apologists promote the notion that the survivor of sexual assault in a specific situation is most likely lying. This is a fundamentally flawed mindset. According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), only between 2%-10% of all reports of sexual assault are false allegations. NSVRC's overview of False Reporting also states that, "rates of false reporting are frequently inflated, in part because of inconsistent definitions and protocols, or a weak understanding of sexual assault." By perpetuating this false narrative, rape apologists contribute to the 63% of sexual assault cases that are not reported.

Not only do rape apologists, dehumanize survivors in their disbelief, but some often defend the perpetrator of a sexual assault case. Have you ever heard the notorious comment - "This allegation could ruin (his/her/their) life," - or the question - "But what about (his/her/their) family, job, and livelihood"? With the evidently low rates of false reports, these statements and questions undermine and ignore the truths and feelings of the survivor, neglect their struggle, and demoralize them. Additionally, some know a sexual assault case is proven to be true yet continue to promote these notions.

Sympathizing with a rapist or caring more about the well being of a rapist rather than the life of a survivor is a huge contributor to the rape culture we have today. In the discussion of a case of sexual assault, rape apologists frequently find ways to blame the survivor. Popular forms of blame include criticizing the way the survivor dressed, their inattentiveness in their environment, or their level of intoxication. None of said subjects constitute justifications for the non consensual invasion of someone else's body. "Victim blaming" is an extremely harmful tool used by rape apologists to implicitly or explicitly further the flourishing of rape culture.

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Resources for Help: Call 800.656.HOPE (4673) to be connected with a trained staff member from a sexual assault service provider in your area, or visit [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org) for more information.



Photo by good info net

# RAPE APOLOGISTS: HOW THEY PERPUTRATE RAPE AND RAPE CULTURE

BY SAIRA RODRIGUEZ

Now for the big picture, the subject of rape culture.

Rape culture is the culture in which a society accepts sexual assault, and harassment as the norm. Under this umbrella are subjects such as jokes about sexual violence, "victim blaming", trivializing sexual assault, and teaching people how to "not be victims" to sexual assault rather than teaching others to not rape. Rape culture is an extremely dangerous notion that has unfortunately been ingrained and imbedded in our society. Under the pernicious weight of this culture, people are subjected to not only the increase of sexual violence and harassment, but afterward the invalidation of their experiences, and overall the loss of control to govern their own bodies. In order to combat against rape culture, action must be taken by the government to create uniform sexual violence laws and regulations, and by individuals to remedy cultural immoralities.

## Here are some ways you can help:

Respect others' boundaries and physical spaces. Communication is key; always ask for consent from the other party. Be supportive of survivors of sexual assault. Think critically and challenge society's stereotypes. Call-out rape apologists, and notions that are not supportive to survivors. Stop making and condoning jokes about sexual assault, and sexual harassment. Join one of the multitude of activism groups and movements that fight against rape culture, or start a (student) organization of your own.



Photo by Dame Magazine



# WHAT'S WRONG WITH UNCLE JOE?: REASONS WHY THE YOUNGER GENERATION HAS TO TAKE INITIATIVE AND VOTE FOR BIDEN.

BY HELENA BARUCH

**This article was written prior to the election, but please enjoy nonetheless! Young Bernie supporters faced the burdensome decision of the democratic ticket, as their preferable candidate was nowhere to be seen.**

As I peruse social media, most notably Tik Tok, I see an overwhelming majority of the younger generation refusing to vote out of their disapproval of the two standing Presidential candidates: Joe Biden and He Who Shall Not Be Named. But why does the younger liberal generation champion such a large hostility towards Biden? What's wrong with Uncle Joe? Voters forty-five years and younger have the ability to sway this election. They hold the omnipotent power to control this election's outcome right at their disposal. So why, oh why, do young democrats, particularly white democrats, hold such a grudge towards Joe Biden, and why, oh why, are they not comprehending the ramifications of a refusal to vote?

As I peruse social media, most notably Tik Tok, I see an overwhelming majority of the younger generation refusing to vote out of their disapproval of the two standing Presidential candidates: Joe Biden and He Who Shall Not Be Named. But why does the younger liberal generation champion such a large hostility towards Biden? What's wrong with Uncle Joe? Voters forty-five years and younger have the ability to sway this election. They hold the omnipotent power to control this election's outcome right at their disposal. So why, oh why, do young democrats, particularly white democrats, hold such a grudge towards Joe Biden, and why, oh why, are they not comprehending the ramifications of a refusal to vote?



According to entrance polls, Biden floundered during the forty-five and under voter approval in Iowa, swimming into only single digit territory. While the crowd favorite, Bernie Sanders, concluded with a whopping 41% approval, Biden staggered behind with a discouraging 4% voter approval. But now that Bernie is sadly out of the picture, many young voters are hesitant to vote for Uncle Joe or even consider him as a viable option.

There are many things that I recognize about Biden that make him a tentative democratic candidate. Most notably, Biden's sexual assault allegations and inappropriate behavior have been unearthed from various resources. Women such as Tara Reade, a former Senate aide, recently alleged that Biden assaulted her in 1993. On top of that, Biden gave a deplorable and half-hearted apology for these allegations. While Biden may not be the ideal Presidential Candidate, he would certainly excel in the arena of YouTuber apology videos.

There are various other reasons why Biden has received heightened scrutiny over the past few months. While most young democrats lean more liberally, Biden has been known to staunchly stand by the moderate spectrum of the democratic party. He has also done a disreputable job in reeling young voters in. While both Bernie and Biden are, for lack of a better word, old men, Bernie has publicly done a remarkable job in commiserating with the younger generation.

The overpowering polling data suggests that Democrats this year are prioritizing a candidate who is simply not an angry orange cheeto, regardless if they wholeheartedly agree with the other candidate or not. However, this polling also shows that the younger democratic generation may choose to neglect the aforementioned option. While many young voters prefer Biden over the incumbent, who's to say if all these voters will take the initiative to actually vote. According to a fairly recent CNN poll, "only about 10% of those who did not have a favorable opinion of either candidate said they were enthusiastic about casting a ballot in the fall elections. Among those who had a favorable view of at least one of the candidates, about 60% were enthusiastic about voting in the fall." If my calculations and mathematical competency are correct, that would mean that around 30% of voters are "not enthusiastic" to vote.

USA TODAY Network



But this is not an election about likeability, people! This is an election about electability. I am reluctant to contour the whole of Biden's campaign agenda, but I will throw out some policy reform changes that he plans on implementing as President (just for you all to get a grasp of what's really at hand here): minimum wage increase, more college scholarships for minorities and accessible access to free colleges, enhancing the affordable care act, reforming federal housing policies, addressing climate change as a serious threat and solidifying a climate political agenda, and so much more. I almost feel out of breath writing about this. Look, I get it. I don't love Biden either, but to be a responsible global citizen, you must not act out of selfishness and ignorance.

While we can't definitively say what this enthusiasm entails, this poll is indicative of uninterested voters, which could consequently develop into a refusal to vote. So c'mon guys. As much as you may dislike both candidates, think about the policies that each is attempting to achieve in American society. In this particular moment in time, Biden is a great political transition between a republican leaning government to a more moderate democratic government. Taper your focus in on the electability of the candidate rather than the likeability. Maybe, hopefully, some day in the future (if we even have one because of climate change... yet another reason to vote for Biden) America may appoint and cherish an incumbent who hasn't been accused of sexual assault or who isn't an old white man.

# The Conflicting Interpretations of Statues of Historical Figures

BY SAIRA RODRIGUEZ

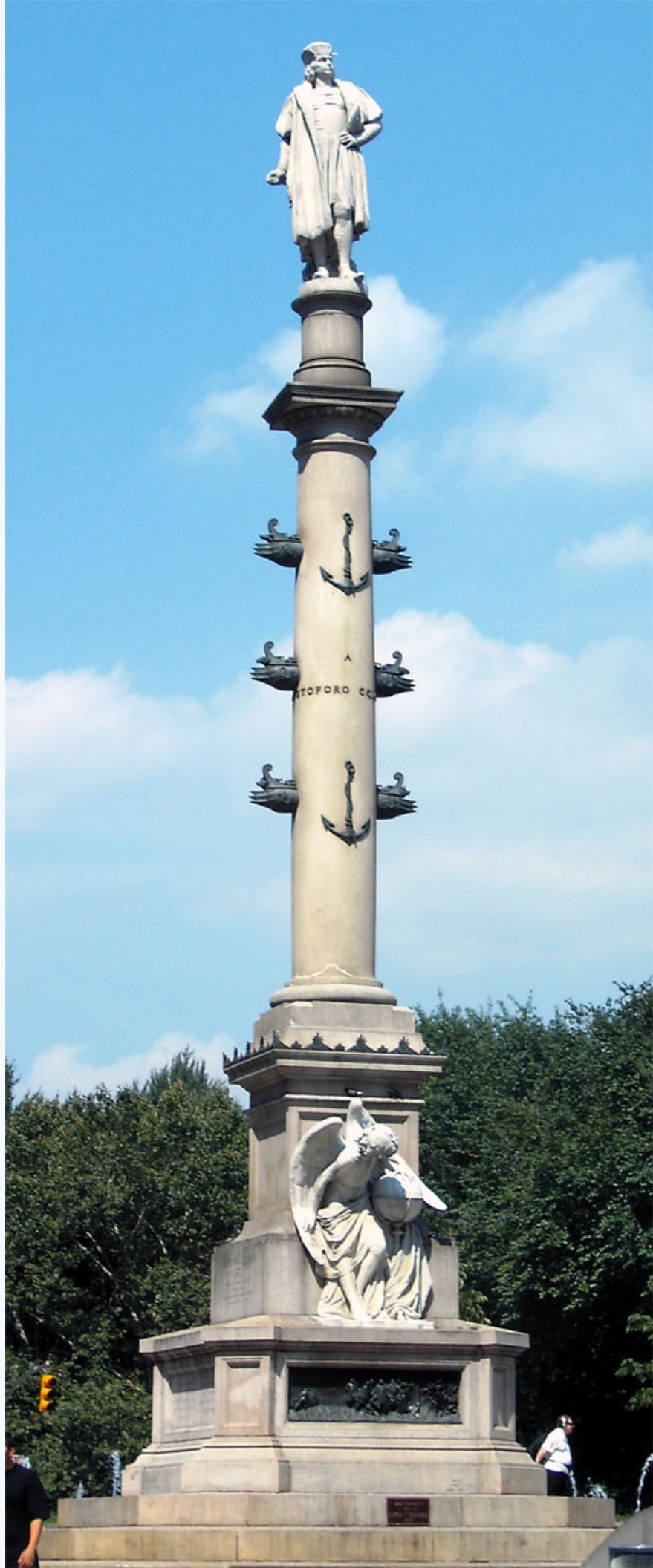


The epitaph on the statue only addressed Christopher Columbus' achievements. The glorification of Columbus, via this As I got out of my car and observed Columbus Circle, the prominence of Christopher Columbus' statue jolted me awake. I had visited Columbus Circle only a handful of times prior to my journey into Manhattan, but never had I fully grasped the overwhelming stance Columbus has within his architectural circle. I walked up to the statue, that was placed in the center of the circle, like an ant walks up to a stem of grass. I stood under the statue that towered over me, as if I was inferior to the monument of stone. I shrank looking up at it, like I was meant to worship it, to praise it. Then I took a look at one of the engravings that said, "To Christopher Columbus the Italians, resident in America, scoffed at before, during the voyage, menaced, after it, chained, as generous as oppressed, to the world he gave a world." prominent monument, ignored Columbus' atrocities against the Native Americans, and his introduction of the slave trade in the Americas. Not only did Columbus capture and rape women from the Caribbean Islands, but he also enslaved thousands of people. Columbus and his crew transmitted diseases to the Native Americans from Europe. The Indigenous peoples did not have any immunity to the diseases Columbus gave them, inducing a genocide of Native Americans. Christopher Columbus' accomplishments do not surpass his heinous crimes against masses of people and their land that Columbus slapped his name on and took as if it was his own, as if no one had resided there before he mystically discovered it. Christopher Columbus should not be eternalized in the form of an impressionable statue that deserves reverence, where his contemptible acts against people of color are disregarded and forgotten.



Why do we idolize historical figures like Christopher Columbus, in the form of fossilized statues? Why do we maintain the prominent standing of these statues when they don't reflect the present ideologies we hold today?

The murder of George Floyd on May 25th, served as a catalyst for a global reckoning of racist policies, traditions, colloquial norms, and histories. As awareness of injustices increases, more people are committed to enact change. There has been a recent uproar in questioning the prominent placement of statues of historical figures who promoted racist ideals and policies. In Britain, a statue of Winston Churchill was tagged, in graffiti, with the word "racist". This led to controversy over Britain's idolization of Winston Churchill. Andrew Roberts has defended Churchill in saying that "Churchill was 'the greatest anti-fascist in history, and that without him, a true racist, Adolf Hitler, might have killed many more people on racial grounds than he did anyhow'". This quote implies that we should value the moral and just things a person has done more than we value their discriminatory actions. One should not take precedence over the other, rather a person's history should reflect the ways they contributed to the growth of society along with their beliefs that perpetuated harmful social norms. Many of the statues we have today were created to glorify people such as Churchill, and commemorate the benefits they had on society. However, Churchill's racism should not be ignored solely because he was committed to anti-facism and in turn did great things such as expelling the Nazis from Britain. Monuments of historical figures, specifically the physicality of having to look up at a statue, imply the idolization of those figures without emphasis on their wrong-doings. There should not be statues of any historical figure in a prominent place if said figure's ideals do not align with the current goals or ideologies of society as a whole. Instead, the helpful and harmful acts of historical figures should be incorporated into the education system. Whether it be in textbooks, a website, or a series of novels, a source of information should explain the positive and negative impacts, on civilization, of the figures we currently encapsulate in statues. To eliminate the variety of interpretations of monuments of historical figures, we must cut to the root of the problem and replace the statues with solutions that reflect dedication to anti-racism.



# LAND OF THE FREE: TRAFFICKING IN THE USA

BY KALANI DUNN

(TRIGGER WARNINGS: SEXUAL  
ASSAULT/VIOLENCE, ABUSE)

HUMAN TRAFFICKING. SEX TRAFFICKING. CHILD TRAFFICKING. LABOR TRAFFICKING.

HOW OFTEN IS IT THAT YOU HEAR THOSE FOUR PHRASES? DO YOU HEAR THEM WHEN YOU TURN ON YOUR LOCAL NEWS EACH DAY? DO YOU READ THEM WHEN YOU SCROLL DOWN YOUR TWITTER TIMELINE? I'M HERE TO TELL YOU RIGHT NOW: HOWEVER OFTEN YOU MAY BE HEARING THOSE FOUR PHRASES, YOU'RE PROBABLY STILL NOT HEARING THEM ENOUGH.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE PRACTICE OF EXPLOITING ADULTS AND CHILDREN FOR USE AS COMMODITIES, OR OBJECTS, IN CONDITIONS OF SEXUAL AND LABOR SERVITUDE, AKA A MODERN SLAVERY. THIS ISSUE AFFECTS NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY THE UNITED STATES, SO WHY IS IT SPOKEN ABOUT SO LITTLE?

THIS QUESTION SEEMS TO GO UNANSWERED. DESPITE LITTLE MEDIA COVERAGE, TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES REMAINS A HUGE ISSUE. OVER 50,000 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN ARE TRAFFICKED EACH YEAR, AND OVER 71 PERCENT OF THOSE VICTIMS ARE WOMEN. AN ASTOUNDING 51% OF ALL OPEN CASES IN THE US LAST YEAR INVOLVED CHILDREN. ACCORDING TO THE FBI, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS THE 3RD LARGEST CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THE WORLD.

LET'S PAUSE FOR SECOND: I JUST GAVE YOU A BUNCH OF SCARY NUMBERS WITH A BUNCH OF SCARY WORDS LIKE MODERN SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION NEXT TO THEM. BUT WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS MEAN? DOES ANY OF THIS AFFECT YOU, THE PERSON READING THIS MAGAZINE?

THE ANSWER IS YES. IT'S A LOT CLOSER AND WAY MORE COMMON THAN YOU PROBABLY THINK IT IS.

THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, BUT THE MOST COMMON TYPES ARE SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING. CHILD TRAFFICKING IS ALSO A HUGE ISSUE, BUT CASES OFTEN FIT UNDER THE TERMS SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING WHEN CHILDREN ARE FORCED TO PERFORM SEXUAL ACTS OR LABOR. TRAFFICKERS OFTEN LURE VICTIMS IN WITH PROMISES OF MONEY, SHELTER, DRUGS, A SENSE OF "FAMILY", AND OTHER THINGS THAT VICTIMS MAY NOT HAVE HAD ACCESS TO BEFORE. BUT ONCE TRAFFICKERS GET THEIR VICTIMS UNDER THEIR SPELL, THEY DEPRIVE THEM OF FREEDOM, COMMUNICATION WITH LOVED ONES, AND BASIC NECESSITIES LIKE FOOD AND WATER.

SEX TRAFFICKING CAN BE THINGS LIKE HUGE PROSTITUTION RINGS, WHERE A PIMP LURES IN, KIDNAPS, AND FORCES A PERSON OR CHILD TO PERFORM SEXUAL ACTS FOR MONEY. THEY MAKE THEM BELIEVE THEY MUST KEEP DOING THE ACTS IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. TRAFFICKING HAPPENS ON SMALLER SCALES TOO, FROM RURAL AMERICA TO HUGE METROPOLITAN CITIES. IT COULD BE THAT ONE GUY WHO LIVES ON THE CORNER, WHO'S BEEN GETTING NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS TO SELL DRUGS FOR HIM AND GETS A CUT FROM WHATEVER THE KIDS SELL. IT COULD



RACHEL LA CORTE/AP PHOTO



BE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS BEING FORCED TO WORK IN AGRICULTURE FIELDS UNDER INHUMANE CONDITIONS WITH LITTLE TO NO PAY. OFTENTIMES, ALL OF THESE SCENARIOS INCLUDE SOME FORM OF EITHER PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, OR EMOTIONAL ABUSE.

IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO BRING AWARENESS TO TRAFFICKING BECAUSE IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANY OF US, REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, OR AGE. LET'S GO OVER A FEW WAYS YOU CAN KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES SAFE AND FIGHT FOR THE END OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- CALL THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (1-888-373-7888) IF YOU ARE ANYONE YOU KNOW ARE EVER IN DANGER OF TRAFFICKING

- BE CAREFUL WITH SOCIAL MEDIA: BE INFORMED ON WHO EXACTLY YOU'RE TALKING TO AND NEVER SHARE PERSONAL LOCATION/INFORMATION WITH STRANGERS.

- BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS: WHEN WALKING ALONE, TRY NOT TO GET DISTRACTED BY YOUR PHONE OR HEADPHONES. IF YOU NOTICE SOMEONE FOLLOWING YOU, ALERT SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY. AVOID WALKING ALONE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

- KNOW WHO YOU'RE GIVING YOUR MONEY TO: WHO PICKED THOSE STRAWBERRIES YOU JUST BOUGHT AT THE GROCERY STORE? CHECK [RESPONSIBLESOURCING.ORG](https://responsiblesourcing.org) TO ENSURE YOU'RE INFORMED ON WHO EXACTLY IS PRODUCING THE FOOD YOU EAT. - CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

AND ASK WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS TRAFFICKING.

- BE CAUTIOUS OF CONSPIRACY THEORIES (I.E "PIZZAGATE"). THESE CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE SIMPLY WHAT THE NAME IMPLIES: CONSPIRACIES, MEANING THEY ARE NOT CREDIBLE, NOR ARE THEY BACKED BY FACTUAL EVIDENCE. LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS, THE STATISTICS, AND THE FACTS.



BY JACOB SMITH

# WINTER BOY

## Four

When I was four years old, my grandmother locked me in a January stare, pounding an icepick into my muddled mind that love could never exist between two boys. As we pulled into her driveway, I bit off a piece of the Blue Raspberry Airhead that she always had waiting when my mom needed her to babysit.

"Does your dad have a girlfriend?" She killed the ignition and turned in her seat to face me. She always let me ride upfront, as long as I promised not to tell.

I traced the outline of my hand with my finger. "No." The edges of my palm were sticky from the candy.

"Well, as long as he doesn't have a boyfriend." Her gaze narrowed, expectancy frosting her irises.

I looked up from my hands, eyebrows furrowed. "Why?"

"Why! What do you mean why?" She lowered her head, frosty eyes turning to a hailstorm. "Boys can only like girls, they can't like other boys that way. Hasn't anybody ever told you that?"

"No." I refocused my attention to my hands clenched in my lap, Airhead between them.

The usual May flowers of her eyes wilted as they stared at my small frame. Perhaps she caught a glimpse of an unholy force of desire residing in my candy-stained lips. Maybe she had heard somewhere that broken families led to broken sexualities, and she was only trying to prevent excess wreckage from my parents' divorce. Whatever the cause, her seasons shifted from the gentle showers of spring to the blunt frostbite of winter, and she set the ball and chain standard of my small town world. At four years old, I learned love came with a rulebook scripture, highlighting all of the forbidden fruits of passion to avoid.

My grandmother's words rested uneasy in my head. How was the brain of a young boy to simply accept this without question? I stuck the last bit of candy into my mouth as her words chiseled at the pieces of me I didn't know needed removed.

## Six

In a cloud of late August heat, I started my kindergarten year at six years old. On that first day of school, a film of sweat scribbled a million chaotic question marks across my body. My curious eyes stopped wandering once they fell upon a particular classmate. Something about the way my heart quickened, tapping a little harder against my ribs, made it hard to peel my gaze away from him. When I looked at a girl, anyone that noticed would dive into asking if I liked her. I had seen many beautiful girls, but this sensation that pulsed through my veins while looking at him was new.

My grandmother's words hung like icicles in the back of my mind. Did I like this boy? The thought brought a December breeze into August, forcing goosebumps on my arms and a shiver down my spine. I think that if I had told anyone I liked that boy, they would have said that I was too young, that I didn't know what I was saying, that I didn't understand my own heart. That's strange, though, because my best friend was a girl, and everyone thought that I was in love with her.

I think it's odd when adults believe they know children better than children know themselves. I wonder if the adults know that there are elementary-aged kids starting flames to try to weather the snowstorm of preconceived expectations hailing down onto them.

## Ten

By the time I was ten, the snowflake fears that fell when I was six had piled up to be five and a half feet deep. This nightmare of being what I only knew as a forbidden word started to become too real. In an effort to hide a truth that I couldn't even face myself, I started wearing masks. I gave up color and dressed like a bruise, wearing only black or blue. My music library lost its pop anthems to quieter synth beats. My rather ambitious creativity occupied midnight shadows of pencil striking paper where nobody could

see.

I mastered blanketing the parts of me that were not worthy of the public eye, the way snow covered the yard outside. A picture perfect front to cover the dull, dead ground beneath. The ground that nobody would really like to see. That's the way this word, this title that I so greatly feared, made me feel. Dull. Dead. Unwanted. Who was I without the approval of my friends and family? At ten years old, all that I knew about this word was that nobody seemed to care for the people who were infected by it. I began to lose hope that it was a sickness I would eventually recover from. I began to believe I was terminal.

In search of solace, I took to the internet. I wanted to learn what it meant about a person to feel the way that I did. I wanted to know if I had to wear different clothes, or if my voice would start to get higher. I wondered, if I really was different, if I didn't like girls, could I still be happy?

My searches warranted bountiful results, but scarce comfort. Numbers told me enough to know that I wasn't alone, but statistics told me nothing about the individuals behind the data. I stumbled across YouTube videos of people preaching about the importance of staying true to yourself, but it was difficult to accept I could someday reach what they had. As a ten-year-old living in middle-of-nowhere Pennsylvania, I was universes away from the twenty-two-year-old YouTuber living in Los Angeles. He had no need to chase the sun.

That night around dinner time, my mom pointed her steak knife at me, stabbing my chest with the realization that I forgot to clear the computer's search history.

"Were you looking this up? Are you gay?"

The stress on that word. The disgust clinging to her tongue like saliva. Her accusation struck me into a state of permafrost. My heart snapped in the bitter cold. She must not have read my silence or seen the blizzard winds behind my eyes, because she pressed further.

"It's okay if you are. Well, not okay, but we'll deal with it."

I burrowed myself away, six feet beneath the surface of the snow. The wind filled in my footprints on the tundra. "No. I'm not."





## Twelve

The seasons shifted in me at twelve years old. I had spent each day of middle school recreating myself a little bit, and each night begging God to let me become who I was trying to be. I wanted to chisel the black ice of my sinful thoughts away. I wanted to believe the words that my grandmother once spoke to me. I never wanted my mother to have to deal with who I was. I wanted to be the boy that everyone else wanted to see, so I put all of my energy into reaching him. The thing was, I didn't like that boy nearly as much as everyone else did.

At the end of the year party that May, however, my facade melted away. That night, my eyes opened. For the first time, the sun touched my skin.

As the boys I'd spent all day with began settling down to sleep, I claimed a recliner as my territory for the night. Just as I sat, my friend slipped into the chair beside me, pulling a comforter all the way up to our necks.

The heat of his body next to me made the air hard to swallow. I tried to focus my attention anywhere else in the room, anywhere except on him. I thought about getting up to go and sleep on the floor, but feared that would be too obvious. Even more than that, I really didn't want to leave. A flicker tapped at the back of my ribs, and I didn't want it to go out.

He ripped my train of thought from its tracks as he took my hand into his own in one swift movement. His fingertips felt the same as mine. Frost. He had winter living in him, too. I was frozen there, fingers laced with his, but I didn't feel anything like snow. The flickering in my ribcage burst into an inferno. Icicles hanging from my heart began to drip. I was lost someplace that felt like spring. I had never been more alive. I had never been more terrified.

As time went on, the fire he fueled in me never became enough to change the seasons. He and I were both boys of winter, after all. We could only ever offer the heat of a moment to each other. Never enough to treat the frostbite damage. We couldn't save each other, and so we weren't able to hold on to each other either. What he did do was show me that somewhere under the snow, I had an ember in me. He showed me everything frozen in me had potential to thaw.

## Fifteen

"Momma, I have to tell you something." I didn't move my eyes from my hands, locked together in my lap, as she sat on the edge of my bed.

"I'm-" Tears began to brim over my lower eyelids. For most of my life, I lived in the waters of a frozen lake. Floating beneath the sheet of ice, sometimes pressing my hands against the lower surface but never hitting at it so that I may cause it to break. Every day I would try to feel at home in the frigid waters. I would pretend I belonged there. I would ignore the world above, careful to never have hope I could someday live in the air on the other side. Hope always felt dangerous. Hope only really led to heartbreak. The water was never home but it was safe. Safe was never comfortable but I had always believed my discomfort was better than everyone else's. Especially my mom's. I bled into the water and I tried to speak but I couldn't.

She put her hand on my knee. Sobs broke through me. The thing about living that way, believing you're a disappointment in disguise, fighting to change yourself everyday, it's a suffocating existence. Your lungs will eventually demand you breathe.

"Do you know?" I choked through my last breath of air.

"I know." Her voice was softer than it had ever been. "It's okay." She wrapped her arms around me and I couldn't stop apologizing. I inhaled the icy water into my lungs, and the primal instinct in the back of my brain kicked in. Survive. I thrashed my legs, hurled myself against the ice. I threw fists and cut my hands on the rigid surface. My mother held me and whispered, "It's okay." And it was. We were.

At fifteen, I broke through the ice.



CREDIT: ILLUSTRATION BY YEJI KIM

## Sixteen

My phone lit up to reveal my best friend's message. "Leaving now." Anticipation crystalized along my spine. His coming over to spend the night was a common occurrence, but that night my family was away. That night, we would be alone.

I sprang up from my bed and raced out to the living room. Okay, okay. I flipped on the lights, moved the dimmer all the way down, back up again, down again, and eventually opted to just turn them off. To keep the room from being totally consumed in darkness, I clicked the fireplace on. The glow that filled the space turned out to be the perfect lighting. Soft, warm, no harsh edges or definitive lines.

Does everyone think this much about how to make a room look before his best friend comes over? I tucked the thought away as I placed my speaker behind the garland on the mantle and put on a background music playlist, just loud enough to fill the silence. After fishing the lighter from the junk drawer in the laundry room, I lit the candle on the coffee table, but worried it would be too much. I blew it out, watched the smoke rise from the lifeless wick for a moment, and decided to relight it. He probably wouldn't even notice.

Did I want him to notice?

When my phone buzzed again, I didn't have to look to know he'd arrived. I went back to the living room and sat on the rug in front of the fireplace, hugging my knees to my chest. I shook as if the house was subzero. Breathe. I'm surprised I couldn't see my breath in the air. I focused on where my hands locked around my legs, careful not to look up until I heard the door open. When I first saw him step in, my mouth curled into a half smile, but I didn't greet him otherwise. He met my gaze across the room and stopped for a beat in the doorway, his eyes not leaving mine, before turning to shut the door.

Why hasn't he said anything yet? Why haven't I? He dropped his bag inside the front door and faced me again. I breathed in the familiar salty scent of his deodorant as he crossed the room, and something flurried in my chest. An energy, a surge between us that had never been there before. A lump grew in my throat with each step he took until he stood over me. He dropped to his knees, and I forgot to breathe. His eyes, so dark in that lighting, flickered with a reflection of the flames behind me. His cinnamon skin, so close I feared if I breathed too deep I'd choke. He moved forward still, closing the inches separating us until his

forehead met mine. Until the distance was no more.

One beat. Two. The fire in the fireplace threw a spark.

With a heavy sigh, he tore himself from me, falling back onto the carpet. "Hi," he breathed.

Air rushed in against the skin he abandoned on my forehead, frosting over without him there.

He had never felt so far away.

## Seventeen

My eyes rested on the horizon where the land and night sky began to curve together, interrupted by the glow of firefly-sized city lights. I thought about the space between the two of us and the people in their apartments there, miles away, separated by an expanse of murky nowhere. I thought about him, the boy who a year ago I called my best friend, the one who now hated "labels", and the inches between us. His heat brushed against my neck, painting it in shades unspoken. The city had never felt so close.

We sat on a mountainside where people often came during the day to see the hawks that nest nearby. The rocks at the peak were hidden beneath early January snow. I shivered, imagining how much warmer it'd be if I moved closer to him.

He leaned back, turning his body away from me. "Who's idea was this, anyway?" He tried to laugh, but it fell clumsily to the snow.

I stared at the ground where it hit. It was his idea. He'd texted me. "What do you mean? I'm having a blast." Sarcasm dripped from my words, froze against my chin. Sometimes silence was easier than pretending.

I tilted my head up, allowed myself to steal a glance at him for a moment. I wasn't sure I knew him anymore. He looked the same but felt so different to my eyes. Maybe I didn't know myself anymore, either. Maybe we were more dead than broken.

I thought about the hawks, and how they're opportunity feeders - scavengers. I wondered if we sat here long enough, we'd become their prey. They'd swarm the cliff, ghostly feathers fluttering in the space between the moon and the rocks. They would dive, sinking black ice talons into our inhibition. They'd peck at the words I never let slip through my prison bar teeth. They'd shred the questions from where they stuck in my throat, about the girl he'd abandoned me for, about the silence he couldn't explain, about why he held me in the rain and choked out an apology for making such a horrible mistake. A mistake he



didn't know how to name. They would feast on the death of two boys that never allowed themselves to love. To be in love. I thought of the people that would come to see the hawks the next day. What a mess we'd be, nothing more than bones and scarlet snow.

I stood, keeping my eyes on the lights. "I'm cold. Maybe we should go."

### **Eighteen & Counting**

My bedroom is lit entirely by Christmas lights. Every few minutes I look up from my laptop to see them. I count seconds between their pulses. I search for a pattern. The light reflects off of the Polaroids hanging in my window. I think about the snapshots of memory held there, boxed in by the white frame, and wonder if my friends feel most themselves when they're alone, too.

"Back To December" by Taylor Swift comes on my holiday playlist. It's a song from ten years ago. Does she ever think about the person she wrote it for? A stack of journals on my dresser stands full of my own thoughts and poems for boys. I wonder if I'll think of them ten years from now. Will they think of me? Will I find the sort of love that doesn't thrive in choking back truths or whispers of secrecy? Will it shine like Christmas lights?

I watch the lights again. Small, each tiny bulb bringing only a flicker of light on its own. But strung together and stretched before me, they give vision. They illuminate everything.

There's snow in the forecast for tonight. If it comes, it will be the first real snowfall of the season. I hope it does.

I hope I wake to see the snow.





# OUR NEXT PRESIDENT: WHAT WILL AMERICA LOOK LIKE?

BY HELENA BARUCH

On January 20th, President Elect Joe Biden will officially become America's 46th incumbent. Who's to say if Donald Trump will willingly concede power or possibly be forcefully dragged out of the West Wing. But what is to expect from Joe Biden? What is he planning to do in office for the next four or eight years?

## Healthcare

Biden has already gained traction on his plan to rebuild America's healthcare system. Given the near quarter million deaths in the U.S. this year due to COVID-19, healthcare is arguably one of the most pressing issues plaguing America. Biden hopes to rebuild and strengthen the Affordable Care Act, a plan enacted during Barack Obama's presidency, that aims to make affordable health insurance accessible to more people. President Trump has been a public adversary of the act, and has attempted to sabotage and undermine the healthcare plan throughout his four years in office. He repeatedly attempted to cut the ACA's subsidies, reduce outreach and exchanges, and discourage people from utilizing the plan. Biden has said throughout his campaign that he hopes to bolster the Affordable Care Act to achieve an effective and accessible health outlet in the U.S. He has similarly pledged to expand Medicare eligibility and broaden coverage of lower income Americans.

## COVID-19 and the Economy

The coronavirus has not only posed health boundaries but also social and economic deterrents. Biden has emphasized that his campaign values science, accuracy, and fact - a contradictory sentiment to the current administration, which has repeatedly neglected health experts and discouraged CDC guidelines.



**Joe Biden** ✓  
 @JoeBiden

You have my word: if I have the honor of serving as your president, I will do everything in my power to defeat COVID-19.

Here's my plan to get it done:



Notes from Joe: Together, We Will Defeat COVID-19 | Joe Biden for Pr...  
 Just last week, on the debate stage, President Trump said, "We're rounding the corner, it's going away ... We're learning to live with ..."  
[joebiden.com](https://joebiden.com)

6:31 PM · Oct 29, 2020

37.5K ⚡ See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

"That plan will be built on a bedrock of science. It will be constructed out of compassion, empathy, and concern," he stated. Biden hopes to work in conjunction with the states, and said during a speech, "I'll reach out to every governor in every state, red and blue, as well as mayors and local officials, during the transition, to find out what support they need and how much of it they need." He similarly plans on passing legislation to tighten coronavirus guidelines and make testing more accessible.

Biden plans to revitalize the economy, which has floundered because of the coronavirus pandemic and the current administration's lack of action. Biden says that he will strive to subsidize and support small businesses, administer a relief plan to supply funds for families in need, and oversee workers' compensation.

## Women's Rights

Biden ensures that he will address the gender wage gap, which, in 2020, women are only making \$0.81 for every dollar a man makes. He plans to support the Paycheck Fairness Act in order to incorporate procedural layers and protections to the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and reduce the gender wage gap. This act also requires employers to provide legitimate proof for disparities in income gaps. He has also mentioned that he hopes to restore the Equal Rights Amendment, which protects equal legal rights for all American citizens. Biden has also voiced that he plans to reinforce Planned Parenthood funding and revive the contraception mandate outlined in the Affordable Care Act.



PHOTO: YASIN OZTURK/ANADOLU AGENCY VIA GETTY IMAGES

## LGBTQ+ Rights

Biden has vowed to support the Equality Act, which would ultimately make any discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in employment, housing, public accommodations, jury service, education, and federal programs illegal and punishable. "This is essential," he said, "to ensuring that no future president can ever again roll back civil rights and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, including when it comes to housing." Biden also plans to incorporate LGBTQ+ representation and policies in other branches of government. He says he will nominate and appoint federal judges who aim to protect LGBTQ+ civil rights and reverse homophobic policies that obstruct the rights of queer people, such as the transgender military.

## Criminal Justice System

Joe Biden and Vice-President elect Kamala Harris have had a contentious criminal justice campaign. Harris, who had previously been a prosecutor, was known to be a non-progressive, harsh, and tendentious judge. However, both Biden and Harris have expressed their disapproval of defunding the police. As President, Biden plans to establish a \$20 billion competitive grant program for states to address the root of common crimes and utilize these grants for social service programs. Biden will presumably collaborate with the U.S. Department of Justice to "address systemic misconduct in police departments and prosecutors' offices." Biden will also decriminalize the use of cannabis and expunge prior convictions. He similarly plans to mitigate drug offense punishments.

## Environment

Climate change has been a large focus of Biden's campaign. His campaign focuses on clean energy, environmentally friendly legislation, and incentivizing greener energy and material uses. He revisited the Paris Agreement, a global pact set to combat global warming.



Joe Biden ✓  
@JoeBiden



Today, the Trump Administration officially left the Paris Climate Agreement. And in exactly 77 days, a Biden Administration will rejoin it.



The U.S. has officially left the Paris Agreement, three years after Pres. Trump announced he would leave the international climate change forum. [abcn.ws/2I2fMKq](https://abcn.ws/2I2fMKq)

8:18 PM · Nov 4, 2020



## Immigration

Biden has expressed strong disapproval of the current immigration policies and system under the current administration. He intends to ameliorate the current border mismanagement and cease federal immigration malfeasance. He has promised to end "prolonged detention" and make green cards and visas more accessible. Biden plans to reinstate DACA, which gave deportation protection to the children of undocumented immigrants.



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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED!

WE ARE COMMITTED TO REPRESENTING EVERY YOUNG PERSON'S VOICE. DURING THIS TIME OF COVID-19, POLITICAL POLARIZATION, AND MORE, IT CAN SEEM AS THOUGH OUR VOICES GET LOST IN THE CROWD. AS A PUBLICATION, AND AS STUDENTS RUNNING THIS PUBLICATION, WE STRIVE FOR REPRESENTATION FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS!

MAKE SURE TO KEEP SUBMITTING ANY OLD OR NEW WORK YOU HAVE. WE WELCOME EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING! IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR, WRITER, OR TEAM MEMBER AT REVOLUTION PUBLICATION, FILL OUT THE FORM ON OUR WEBSITE (LINK IN OUR INSTAGRAM BIO).

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR READING!

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BEST,  
THE EDITORS

The logo for Revolution Publication is centered on a background of large, overlapping circles in shades of pink, teal, yellow, and light purple. The word "Revolution" is written in a large, bold, brown sans-serif font, and the word "Publication" is written below it in a slightly smaller, bold, brown sans-serif font.

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