

Talk about it today in order to change tomorrow

Revolution

Publication

Common Misconceptions

by Saira Rodriguez

Learn more about the common misconceptions that circulate the BLM movement

Building a Better Tomorrow

by Helena Baruch

Check out creative and innovative ways to approach BLM and our future!

Issue No. 1: Black Lives Matter

Revolution Publication's Mission

Founded by two New York City high school students, Revolution Publication is a literary and educational magazine committed to expanding knowledge, information, and innovation. We intend to re-evaluate social justice, environmental, and political issues through the power of youth voices. With the help of art submissions, informative feature pieces, op-eds, and creative writing essays, students will contribute to the spread of knowledge and 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 and equitable future! We are looking for students to help lead Revolution Magazine; visit our instagram and website for more details!

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In This Issue of Revolution Publication

Black Lives Matter and What It Means by Saira Rodriguez

The true meaning of the phrase Black Lives Matter (BLM), as well as the goal of the movement and why there should be no reason to dispute it.

Common Misconceptions by Saira Rodriguez

Debunking misinformed phrases/ statements about racism and the Black Lives matter movement.

Building a Better Tomorrow by Helena Baruch

The intersectionality of the Black Lives Matter movement and how we can creatively and innovatively challenge our racist institutions. Check out female Black inventors and student artwork!

Educational Resources

Our top picks to learn more about the Black Lives Matter Movement and common misconceptions!



by Saira Rodriguez
edited by Helena Baruch

Let's talk about the true meaning of the phrase Black Lives Matter (BLM), and why there should be no disputes against the resurfaced phrase. In this section, we explore the goal of the Black Lives Matter movement and the traction that they have gained over the years. Read more to learn about the movement's history and mission.

Black Lives Matter

All Lives Matter

VS

written by Saira Rodriguez



The Black Power fist, used as a symbol to highlight Black solidarity, defiance, and strength.

The phrase "Black Lives Matter" is a fact. The intention of the phrase is not to value Black lives more than other races, but instead to emphasize the discrimination and struggles Black lives continue to face, along with the immediate attention needed to ameliorate and eliminate these systemic hardships. In a country where Black lives are treated with disdain, oppression, and cruelty, the phrase highlights that all lives *are* created equal but are not valued equally. Do all lives matter? Yes, of course all lives matter. However, saying all lives matter to argue against the movement undermines and neglects the systemic oppression that Black people have endured for centuries.

Think About This Analogy:

Five kids climb a mountain. Four scrape their knees and one breaks their leg. Who needs more help getting down the mountain? Who is struggling more? This is analogous to our current society. Every race, ethnicity, religion, and gender experience struggles. But which ones are the most urgent? Which face oppression? Which lives must we address and help now?

What is the Black Lives Matter movement?

What does the BLM organization fight for?

written by Saira Rodriguez

The Black Lives Matter Movement originated in 2013 as a consequence of the acquittal of George Zimmerman who was responsible for the death of the unarmed Black teenager, Trayvon Martin [1]. In the recent murder of George Floyd, the movement has regained speed - with Americans in every state and people all over the world participating in BLM protests - to demand an end to police brutality and racial injustice. The Black Lives Matter organization and movement has continued to advocate for the liberation of all Black people who function under the unjust systemic targeting and demolition of Black lives.



Murals of Trayvon Martin (left) by artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh and George Floyd (right) by graffiti artist Akse.



by Saira Rodriguez
edited by Helena Baruch

Why is it important to address and debunk common misconceptions and phrases? Phrases such as "I don't see color" or "racism isn't real anymore" are toxic factors that propel misinformation, misconception, and institutional racism. In this section, let's talk about discrediting these misunderstandings and redressing how we see color, discrimination, and racism in modern day society.

"Racism doesn't exist anymore. We had a black president."

Systemic, overt, and implicit racism are very much alive. Here are some facts and statistics.

written by Saira Rodriguez

It is important to recognize and emphasize that slavery was the catalyst for institutionalized racism in America today. With that information, it is crucial to note the severity of modern day brutality against Black individuals by acknowledging those who were enslaved less than two centuries ago. Black humans with their own minds, personalities, fears, and emotions were captured, forced to work, beaten, and raped, which consequently engendered detrimental generational trauma. Black individuals faced centuries of brutal bondage, only to gain liberation in a country that then enforced laws to ensure they did not have the same rights as white people. Jim Crow laws that had thrived for nearly a century, ended only fifty-six years ago. Remnants of these discriminatory laws lie in policies we have today such as redlining*, the incarceration system*, and gerrymandering*.

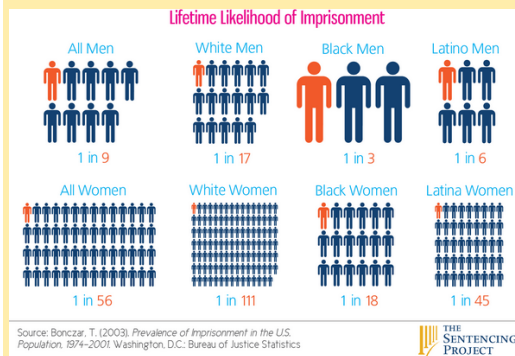


Photo: Getty Images

The residue of centuries of slavery has had a lasting impact on the lives of Black people. One visible example of these infringements can be seen in the American incarceration system. According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, Black men account for a staggering 34% of the male prison population [3]. These same statistics show that 1 in 3 Black men have faced time in prison, of which are also 50% more likely to be falsely convicted as compared to a white male.

An example of ongoing-overt racism is transparent in an experiment conducted by research fellows from the National Bureau of Economic Research. It was discovered that people with "white sounding names" were two times more likely to get a callback for a job than a person with a "Black sounding name" with the same credentials [2]. Implicit racism in America is when words such as "ghetto" or "ratchet" are used to describe underfunded neighborhoods/schools, or the Black culture (fashion, hairstyles, music, etc) that was built in perseverance through the cruelty of this nation. Ignoring these systemic issues, or saying "I don't see color" is detrimental to the Black community because, not only are you denying a significant part of their identity, but without recognizing the present day discrimination Black people face, we can never achieve an equitable society.

**"Police brutality
has nothing to do
with race."**

**Black people are
disproportionately targeted
and killed by police. Here are
some facts and statistics.**

Written by Saira Rodriguez

The police force was originally created with the intention of controlling slave rebellions [4]; similar to the original Jim Crow laws that left behind discriminatory policies in its wake. Because the police force was founded on the institution of racism, remains of its racist policies such as stop and frisk* and the War on Drugs* still linger to this day. The facts paint a clear picture: African Americans are more likely to live in impoverished urban areas and live minimum wage, due to systemically racist policies such as redlining*, school-to-prison pipelines*, and police immunity*. Said neighborhoods are additionally over-policed*, and Black and brown residents are dehumanized for low level misdemeanor crimes, such as drug possession; whereas, in suburban areas, identical crimes tend to go unnoticed and ignored in the eyes of the law and law enforcement officers. In fact, African Americans are 3 times more likely to be killed by police than white people, even when Black people are 1.3 times more likely to be unarmed than white people [4].

**"Where is the Black
community and allies
when there's Black-
on-Black crime?"**

**Crime in impoverished Black
neighborhoods is a serious issue
and people are addressing it
profusely. Here are some facts and
statistics.**

In order to reduce violence and crime in African American communities, programs such as "Scared Straight" aid and guide at-risk youth with counseling, as well as managing neighborhood watches and intervention expertise. Additionally, "Stop the Violence" campaigns and protests, along with "unity rallies and peace picnics" take place more frequently than marches against police brutality [5]. Furthermore, Black-on-Black crime is simply not an accurate phrase. Black-on-Black crime is merely crime. Statistics show that similar to black people killing other black people, white people are also predominantly victims of their own race [5]. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports, the vast majority of crimes are committed by a person of the same race as the victim, due to various psychological factors [6]. Manipulating these statistics in order to derail a conversation away from police brutality explicitly promotes misinformation. The same BJS study also demonstrates that some 57 percent of crimes involving white victims were committed by white perpetrators, while only 15 percent were committed by blacks, and 11 percent by Hispanics [6].

"The protests are out of hand. The riots are unwarranted, and useless."

Uprisings Explained

Opinion Piece

Written By Saira Rodriguez

I can't breathe. George Floyd was a human, a son, a brother, a father, a friend, a black man, a life. Police officers Derek Chauvin, Thomas Lane, J Alexander Kueng, Tou Thao all took his life without reason. He was handcuffed, no possible threat to anyone, yet pinned to the ground flat on his stomach. Derek Chauvin saw his skin as a weapon, and acted as such. He strangled George Floyd. Stomped his knee on Floyd's neck as Floyd narrated his murder. "I can't breathe". "My neck hurts". "Everything hurts". "I'm going to die". As he wept and exclaimed through the pain, "Momma I love you", "Tell my kids I love them", and as bystanders shouted, "I want to see a pulse check his pulse", Derek Chauvin put all of his weight on his neck for a straight eight minutes and forty-six seconds. He stood there two minutes and fifty-three seconds after Floyd was declared unconscious by one of the officers who finally checked his pulse.

Peaceful protests all over the country in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Portland, New York City, Dallas are taking place, seeking justice for George Floyd, and systemic change. These protests started in Minneapolis. They escalated quickly, with the police force throwing tear gas canisters, pepper spray, and shooting rubber bullets at the peaceful protesters. The intended way for rubber bullets to be used is aimed at the ground. From the ground, the rubber bullet would ricochet and cause minor injury to the victim. However, these weapons were used at close range, seriously injuring the protesters. The protesters proceeded to loot a target first for milk to dilute the tear gas, and later for various amenities. The target has openly supported the Minneapolis Police Department, and declared after the looting that they will not be selling milk to protesters. The Minneapolis 3rd Police Precinct was set on fire later. In Atlanta, the CNN News Center, where a police precinct is located, was vandalized with graffiti. Eventually, the police had to step in. The protesters tried to break the glass and threw a "flame bam" into the building. The police barricaded the building, and continued to throw tear gas canisters, flame bams, and shoot rubber bullets. The protesters, in response, threw the canisters back at the police and created blockades to defend themselves. In all cities, the protests were turning into hostile uprisings. These escalated protests do not go unwarranted. People are infuriated by the deeply rooted discrimination of Black people, within the police system that, they claim, is designed to protect all people. Protesters are annoyed at the lack of logic, reason, humanity, and effective training within the police force. We are fed up with a Black life becoming yet another victim to police brutality, and their name being mutated into yet another hashtag. Remembered, never forgotten, but not here, not good enough.

Uprisings Explained

Opinion Piece

Written By Saira Rodriguez

How many Black people have to die, at the hands of those “meant to protect them” for change to be made? Police officers see Black people’s skin color as a threat, and treat it as such. Evaluate, calculate, and execute. “But, you don’t know what a police officer is thinking in a precarious situation. Their job is very dangerous, they have to protect civilians and themselves. Not all cops are racist, and they don’t wake up thinking today they should harm a Black person.” The problem in this statement is obvious in the first sentence, the fact that civilians don’t know what the police are thinking is the problem. In their short training, police are taught de-escalation tactics to defuse said precarious situations. However, when they see a Black man selling loose cigarettes (Eric Garner), or a Black teenager walking down the street with his hood on and a bag of skittles (Trayvon Martin), or a Black woman committing a minor traffic violation (Sandra Bland), or a Black man with a broken taillight with his family in the car (Philando Castile), immediately these de-escalation tactics are forgotten.

The police act on impulse. And no, not all police, but it doesn’t take every police officer to kill a black person for the system of officers, supposedly meant to serve and protect all people, to be deemed corrupt. If you fail to give food to a hungry-crying baby, they will kick and they will smash. If justice continues to be denied when civilians demand it peacefully, drastic measures are bound to be taken. “A riot is the voice of the unheard.” - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We will raise the volume until you hear our cry, and take action for systemic change. When Colin Kaepernick



peacefully kneeled during the Star-Spangled Banner, in protest of police brutality, he was met with censorious remarks. He was condemned, and lost his job. Peaceful protests have strived toward justice, yet more Black people are killed by police. What is the right way to seek change? Is it worth exhausting every option in order to reform the racist and oppressive system? If you feel uncomfortable, you should. If you feel heartbroken, you should. If you feel infuriated, you should. These feelings are necessary to spread awareness and ignite progress. We need change, and it won’t happen with your silence and indifference. No justice, no peace. Prosecute the police. Black lives matter.





by Helena Baruch
edited by Saira Rodriguez

In this section we delve deeper into the interrelationship of the Black Lives Matter Movement, poverty, and climate change. We explore ways in which we can approach the climate crises in pragmatic, effective, and innovative ways. Also on display in this section are powerful murals and works of art in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement, Black female innovators, and more.

The Links Between BLM and Sustainability

written by Helena Baruch

Sustainability plays a dominant role in eliminating and suppressing the effects of racism. Historically, Black people and minorities have been salient victims of environmental degradation and climate change, pushing them deeper into the systematic cycle of poverty. So, what does Black Lives Matter have to do with climate change? And how do we challenge these barriers? It should be noted that with the coexistence of climate change and an exponentially growing human race, the most vulnerable and poorest communities are hit the hardest. Patrisse Cullors and Nyeusi Nguvu, leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement, explained that “racism is endemic to global inequality [6]. This means that those most affected – and killed – by climate change are Black and poor people.”

In the United States specifically, communities with high percentages of residents of color are inflicted by copious quantities of lethal toxic waste; consequently, this sparks health issues such as asthma, cancer, and high blood pressure, thus feeding into the ruinous cycle of poverty [7]. This is no accident; it is no innocent coincidence that just by chance or fate, communities of color are burdened with the repercussions of pollutants. According to Climate Analytics, “polluters not only site their activities in low income areas, but in some cases are actively selecting locations where there are high percentages of Black people in particular” [7]. Black communities not only face polluter’s obstacles, but they face demographic disadvantages when facing the climate crisis. Black communities are disproportionately located in areas that are more prone and vulnerable to climate hazards such as hurricanes and flooding. And on top of that, these communities are not provided with sufficient relief aid. It is imperative that we inculcate climate recognition and accountability into the Black Lives Matter movement. The linkages between race and climate disparities are pressing and damaging. In order to reverse these possibly irreparable inflictions, it will take wholehearted action from communities all over the world. The answer lies in diversity and inclusion. In order to eliminate climate disparities, we must seek solutions in a culturally diverse future.

The Links Between BLM and Sustainability

written by Helena Baruch

Cont.

A study in Nigeria proved that sustainable development relies on cultural diversity, stating that “culture can be used as a stabilizing agent and an effective tool for arresting the tide of poverty, unemployment and misery” [8]. When tackling the detriments of global warming, the coalition and collaboration of all countries is essential. If successful in solidifying a path towards sustainable development, we could effectively ameliorate certain racial disparities. The same study found that “sustainable development suggests an enduring, remarkable, non-terminal improvement in the quality of life, standard of living and life chances of the people...such development must be capable of surviving generations over a prolonged period of time...culture creates green jobs, it reduces poverty. It makes cities more sustainable, it provides safe access to water and food. It preserves the resources of oceans and forest, it strengthens the resilience of communities in the face of disasters, is truly major and irreplaceable” [8].

Two things are clear: climate change and Black Lives Matter are vastly intersectional, and the answer to this problem lies in diversity and cooperation. The Nigerian study concluded, “respecting and promoting cultural diversity facilitates intercultural dialogue, prevents conflicts and protects the rights of marginalized groups within and between nations, thus creating optimal conditions for achieving development goals” [8]. Let us jointly, as a nation and world, examine innovative and creative ways to resolve racial disparities that are embedded in the effects of this enduring climate crisis.



Photo: Getty Images

The word intersectionality was coined in 1989 by Kimberlé Crenshaw to explain the oppression of African American women. Today, the word is used to describe the incorporation of race, gender, class, religion, environmental issues, ability, and sexuality in the fight toward justice and an equitable future.

In order to create a just and sustainable society, our activism has to span across the spectrum of all minority issues and the things that propel these problems. By intertwining these issues, fighting for Black lives becomes fighting for black women's lives, queer lives, disabled lives, climate change, immigrant lives and more. Amplifying this interconnectedness within our activism is crucial in achieving an inclusive future and accessing the path that leads to this narrative.

Art & Innovation

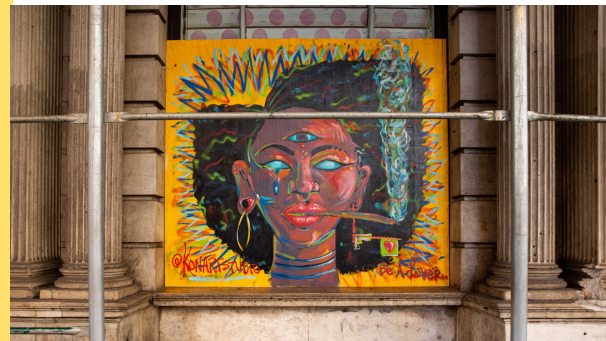


*Black Girls Deserve Better by
Gaia WXYZ*

MURALS OF THE MONTH



Mural made by Helena Baruch of the BLM fist



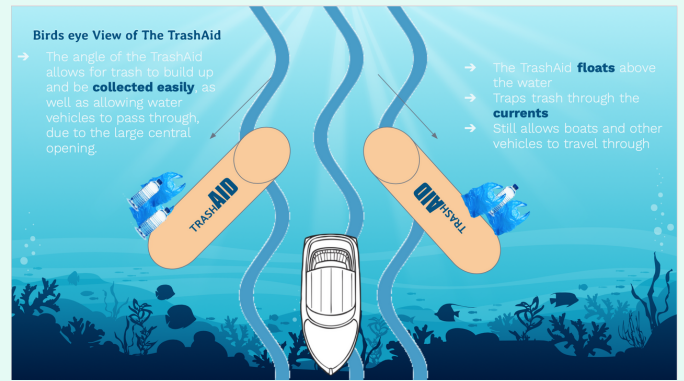
A mural by Konstance Patton



Artist(s) unknown, Oakland,
CA.

THE TRASH AID

This innovation, made by an anonymous student, outlines an invention that could potential stop trash flow in rivers.



4

THE BENEFITS: Saving Sea Life



We want to keep our rivers clean and safe for animals and people. Rivers are the main source of ocean plastic pollution. They are arteries of waste. Every year, over a million ocean animals die due to plastic pollution. The solution starts with rivers. Believe it or not, approximately 1000 rivers are the cause for 80% of plastic pollution in our oceans. Our answer in resolving this issue is in cheap and efficient ways to reduce this waste.

ART OF THE MONTH

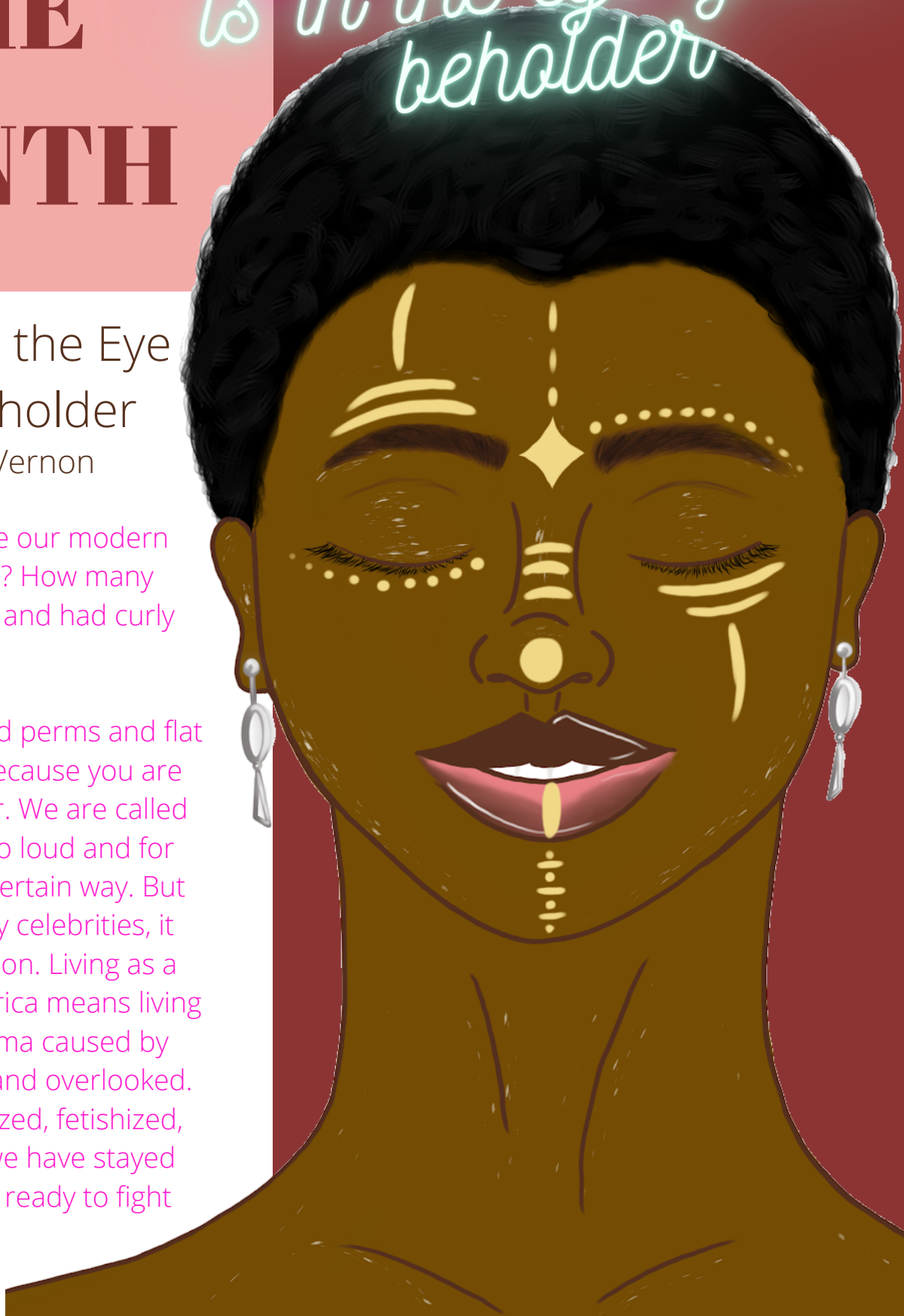
*Beauty
is in the eye of the
beholder*

Beauty is In the Eye of the Beholder

by Krystal Vernon

Does this resemble our modern
beauty standards? How many
barbies were black and had curly
hair?

We are hidden behind perms and flat
irons. We are pet because you are
intrigued by our hair. We are called
ghetto for being too loud and for
wearing our hair a certain way. But
when it is copied by celebrities, it
becomes high fashion. Living as a
black woman in America means living
with a certain trauma caused by
being disrespected and overlooked.
We are over sexualized, fetishized,
and silenced. But we have stayed
strong, and we are ready to fight
back.



WOMEN

AND THEIR IMPACT

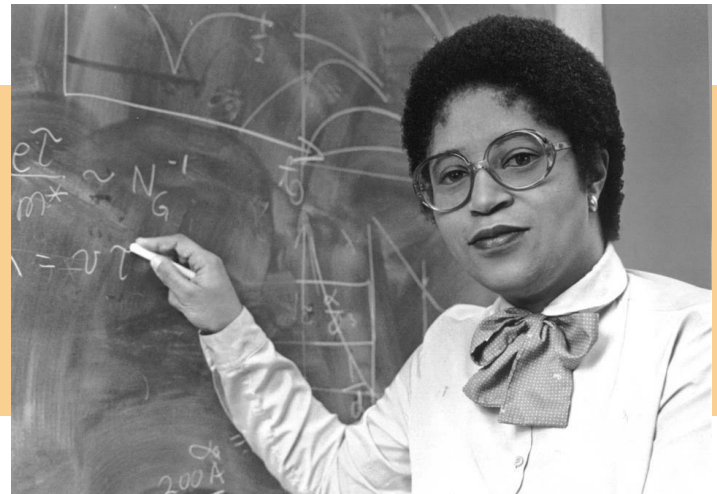


PATRISSE CULLORS

Cullors is an artist and activist who is one of the co-founders of the BLM movement, founder of Dignity and Power Now, and founder/chair of Reform L.A. Jails. To learn more, visit her website: patrissecullors.com

DR. SHIRLEY JACKSON

Dr. Shirley Jackson's work led to various technological innovations such as the touch-tone phones, portable fax machines, and the fiber optic cables that make your long-distance phone calls come in crystal clear.



SISTER ROSETTA THARPE

In the early 1940s, Sister Rosetta Tharpe was the first to combine gospel music with urban blues. Today, she is known to be one of the most notable forerunners of Rock and Roll.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe

THE FORERUNNER OF ROCK N' ROLL

On January 27th, 1956, Elvis Presley released his first single "Heartbreak Hotel." The singer quickly rose to international stardom, and became one of the many emblems of the music genre Rock and Roll, and he was often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll." He was known to be one of the first cultural icons to test the waters of this novel musical classification.

Twenty years prior, Sister Rosetta Tharpe rose to prominence with her first hits, "Rock Me," and "That's All." Sister Rosetta Tharpe has been recognized as the forbearer and forerunner of Rock and Roll, and has been long considered to be the "grandmother" of the musical genre. But why has no one heard of her? Why has she been lost in the history of this iconic music?

Born in a small town in Arkansas, Tharpe conquered the art of guitar playing at just the age of six. Tharpe, then named Rosetta Nubin, would attend religious conventions and sing in streets and churches with her mother. Her tremendous talent and familiarity with music landed her various jobs in New York City, where she eventually moved. She swiftly made her way through the industry and released her first song in 1938. In no time, she was dubbed the "originator of pop gospel" and the epitome of "rock and roll spiritual singing," by Billboard Magazine.

Sister Rosetta Tharpe became a token figure of Rock and Roll, and "Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash were also all inspired by Tharpe. So was Little Walter, whose 1955 No.1 R&B hit, 'My Babe', owed everything to one of her biggest hits, 'This Train'," according to Discover Music [9]. Tharpe would often proclaim that "Can't no man play like me. I play better than a man." And there was certainly no doubt about that.

Born with a distinctive voice, undeniable talent, and an incomparable stage presence, Tharpe was a unique musician. She was also one of the first queer artists. After dueting the popular gospel singer, Marie Knight, the two eventually became romantic partners. When the two performed, "for homosexuals in her audiences, rumors about Rosetta's sexuality might have been liberating, an invitation to look for tell-tale signs of affirmation of their own veiled existence," Gayle Wald wrote in a biography about Tharpe [10].

Soon after, though, Rosetta married her manager, Russel Morrison. It was then that her career began to dwindle. It was then that white men began to monopolize and dominate the Rock and Roll industry.

She began to fade away from the music scene, and white male singers began to experiment with her own unique music technique. One of America's biggest, most notable, and unmissable stars eventually disappeared. However, her legacy still lived on, and in 2018 she was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, a long overdue celebration and acknowledgement of one of the world's greatest - yet overlooked - stars.



Brittany Howard, Questlove and Felicia Collins pay tribute to Sister Rosetta Tharpe during the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in 2018.

Theo Wargo/Getty Images For The Rock and Ro

**"NOW WON'T YOU
HEAR ME SINGIN',
HEAR THE WORDS
THAT I'M SAYING"**

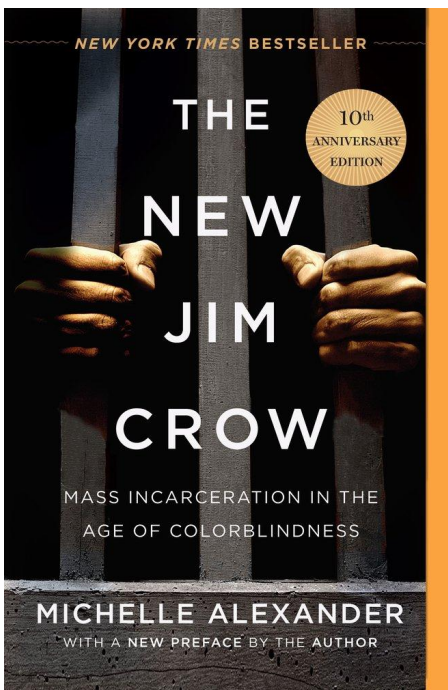


Educational Resources

Learn More!

Our top picks to learn more about the Black Lives Matter Movement and common misconceptions.

Books:



So You Want To Talk About Race, by Ijeoma Oluo
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander
White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism, by Robin DiAngelo
Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower, by Brittney Cooper
Passing, by Nella Larsen
Invisible Man, by Ralph Ellison

Movies/Documentaries/TV Shows:

13th, Available on Netflix

The Hate U Give, Available on Hulu

Selma, Available on Amazon Prime

When They See Us, Available on Netflix



Learn More!

Cont.

Articles:

Racist Drug Laws Lead to Racist Enforcement in Cities Across the Country | ACLU

Why We Never Talk About Black-on-Black Crime: An Answer to White America's Most Pressing Question | The Root [4]

White supremacists' favorite myths about black crime rates take another hit from BJS study [5]

*Policies mentioned to read more about:

Redlining - The Color of Law, by Richard Rothstein

School-To-Prison Pipeline - The School to Prison Pipeline, Explained | Justice Policy Institute

Police Immunity - Qualified Immunity Protection for Police Emerges as Flash Point Amid Protests | The New York Times

Gerrymandering - How racial gerrymandering deprives black people of political power | The Washington Post

Stop and Frisk - Why 'Stop-and-Frisk' Inflamed Black and Hispanic Neighborhoods | The New York Times

War on Drugs - Race and the Drug War | Drug Policy Alliance

Over Policing - Interview: How Policing in One US City Hurts Black and Poor Communities | Human Rights Watch

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