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of Harrisburg



2021 JOURNAL



BY THE SUMMER INTERNS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 02** WACH AMBASSADOR LEVEL MEMBERS
- 03** INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE
- 04** INTERN ARTICLES
- 26** OTHER INTERN BIOS
- 27** PROGRAM SPONSORS



WACH AMBASSADOR LEVEL MEMBERS



Sait Onal



Nathaniel Gadsen



Russell W. Goodman



Lindsay Bowman



Dr. Oralia Garcia Dominic



Pat Gadsen

2021 INTERNATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS CONFERENCE PANELISTS

- THE FUTURE OF COVID-19 -



David Saunders



Dr Melissa Brown



Dr Suresh Kuchipudi



Dr Nirmal Joshi



Dr Sergei Pond

- WHO'S PROTESTING WHAT? -



Guerline Laurore, Esq.



Dr Stephanie Jirard



Hafza Girdap

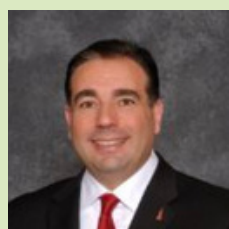


Cole Goodman

- GLOBAL UPDATE -



Dr Mehdi Noorkbash



Sait Onal



Hagir Elsheikh



Brian Katulis

A NEW JIM CROW ERA

AARON JOSEPH



Aaron Joseph, is a senior at Cumberland Valley High School. He comes from a very ethnic background. His story comes from making a difference in my life and other individual's lives. He and his family moved around a lot. From different parts in Florida to New York and finally settling in Pennsylvania. In school, he is in Mock Trial, a club that has a place in his heart. He is also in a club called FBLA(Future Business Leaders Of America), and one of his favorite hobbies is running. He also used to play soccer a good amount and was part of the FC team. He loves traveling, learning about different cultures and places.

We are living in a society where the color of our skin determines who we are and what we do.

There has always been a thin line between white and Black men and women in this world. Children of color often complain they are disrespected in predominantly white schools. And those in schools with majority Black and Brown students suffer from poor curricula, as well as lack of resources when compared to their white counterparts.

It's been over 67 years since the Brown V. Board of education and it feels like we haven't learned our lesson. We are living in a society where children of color are not getting the education they need to prepare them for the modern world. Instead, they are getting an education they can afford. And for many children of color; that isn't enough.

The fact is, if you live in a \$15,000 home, you will get an education worth \$15,000. For most Black and Brown families, poor schools make it harder and tougher for them to get a proper education. The quality of a school depends on funding, which is different if you live in the City of Harrisburg or in a suburban home worth over \$200,000.

The racial wealth gap has persisted for decades. The National Center for Education Statistics says African Americans and Latinos are more likely to attend high-poverty schools than Asian Americans and Caucasians. This is detrimental because our public schools should provide equal education for all students, not just for the rich and the wealthy.

Many Black families live in poor, urban housing; but does that make it right for their children to suffer the consequences?

High school dropout rates among Latinos and African-Americans remain the highest of all racial groups, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. The sad truth is that these kids could be the next Barack Obamas or Kamala HARRISES, and we are losing them because our education system is weak and racist.

We care more about the rich families that fund our school's swimming pools rather than the Black student who can't buy his own lunch.

Often, high-achieving African American students that strive to face academic challenges often have less rigorous curricula, attend schools with fewer resources, and have teachers who expect less of them academically.

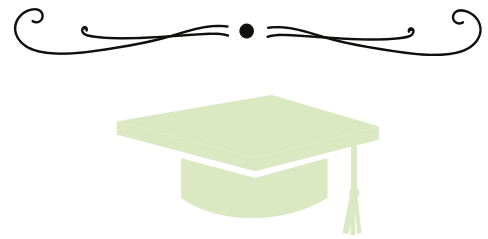
Many are unaware how our culture perpetuates systematic discrimination. We are living in a new Jim Crow era that continues to hurt the economy. And even today, we feel its effects. During quarantine, with schools closing in-person schooling, Black and Brown students were hurt worse. While some schools gave away free lunches and others gave away laptops and Ipads, some of the less funded schools were not able to help their students at all. And those were schools with primarily students of color.

Even without a pandemic, the unemployment rate is significantly higher for African Americans than for Caucasian Americans. In fact, recent statistics show African-American men working full-time earn only 72 percent of the average earnings of comparable Caucasian men and 85 percent of the earnings of Caucasian women.

Are African Americans being educated so to earn less than their white counterparts?

We need change. We need to start by advocating for equitable funding to all schools. Money is of the essence. With enough resources, schools can have proper supplies and rigorous curricula, as well as a better environment for all students and teachers. We cannot just let the overfunded schools be the top priority.

There should be quality among all students, school and social classes. We need to come together to address these issues, because it's the only way to finally stop living with Jim Crow, once and for all.



THE TICKING TIME BOMB: CLIMATE CHANGE

AARUSHI DEDHIYA



Hello! My name is Aarushi Dedhiya. I am going to Cumberland Valley High School. I play the violin in our local orchestra, The Junior Youth Symphony Orchestra. I play field hockey for my school, and I am a current black belt in Martial Arts. I was also a member of our student council.

The hotter temperatures and destruction of our environment are proof that we can't ignore climate change. Scientists continue to warn us that immediate action is needed to save the earth from catastrophic destruction.

Climate change is not a deception that will disappear after a few years, but it is a ticking time bomb. It is crucial to resolve this issue since it is ruining the land, oceans and ecosystems.

After visiting Alaska, I witnessed glaciers calving and sinking into the blue ocean. It occurred to me that the warming of glaciers has rapidly increased. Scientists state it is melting approximately two times faster than decades before. The calving and melting of glaciers result in a new dilemma — the rise of sea levels. In 140 years, the sea level has risen 8 inches, and scientists believe that by 2100, the sea level will become 1-8 feet higher

High sea levels will have a drastic effect on coastal cities since more floods will be prominent. It will also erode coastlines by removing sediments. Based on these statistics, the arctic may disappear forever.

When I travelled to Hawaii, the ocean was filled with beautiful coral reefs and sea creatures, and I learned about the dangers of climate change on the ocean life. Oceans all around the world are warmer, which results in coral bleaching and endangering marine species. Scientists believe that 70% or more coral reefs will disappear in about 20 years. This can destroy many food chains and have countless other effects. In addition, oceans have become more acidic because of gasses like carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

The ocean absorbs 30% of carbon dioxide leading to the deaths of sea creatures like oysters and shellfish. This has resulted in the continuous demolishing of ecosystems, and climate change has already started destroying around 70% of our earth — the oceans.

The heatwave headlines on the news display that climate change is damaging our lands as easily as our oceans. The excessive heat has resulted in dozens of tragedies in the United States this year and has caused numerous droughts and wildfires throughout the planet.

The rising temperatures reduce soil moisture and precipitation, which intensifies droughts. Also, the lack of precipitation, hot weather conditions and intense winds create treacherous wildfires. In the previous year, forest fires destroyed approximately 10.3 million acres of U.S. land, destroying habitats and endangering species.

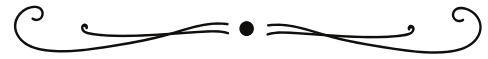
Countries began noticing the disastrous power climate change holds, so in 1992 the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed. By 1995, 197 countries had ratified the convention with a goal to eliminate human interference and reduce greenhouse gas emissions before climate change worsens. The convention endorsed the Kyoto Protocol that was replaced by the Paris Agreement on Dec. 12, 2015.

People disagree about the effectiveness of the Paris Agreement, but it has created global awareness of climate change and set a starting point to reduce it. But it will take centuries to stop climate change at the pace the treaty set. And we do not have that much time.

The United Nations Environment Programme states even if the goals of the Paris Agreement are met, earth's temperature will continue to rise. It's clear stronger actions must be taken to forestall catastrophe.

The Paris Agreement needs to set stronger restrictions on actions that contribute to climate change, and there should be strong penalties for countries that do not comply. Today, countries can emit colossal amounts of carbon dioxide without any punishments. And governments worldwide donate a total of \$5.2 trillion to subsidize industries that burn fossil fuels, a prime cause of global warming.

We need governments to end these subsidies, get serious about stopping climate change. It's the only way to defuse this ticking time bomb that threatens to destroy our world.



CYBER SECURITY

ANISHA PARIDA



Hi! My name is Anisha Parida and I'm from Lancaster, PA! I'm an upcoming senior and I'm a competitive swimmer and water polo player. I also lifeguard and teach swim lessons year round. I'm the opinion editor for our school newspaper, the Vice President of Student Council, and am a part of my school's Model United Nations and Mini-THON. I got interested in politics through both being a part of my school's newspaper as well as Model United Nations. I'm really excited for a fun Summer and I can't wait to learn from everyone and get to know you all!

According to ASIS International, in the year 2020, more than \$ 4.2 billion was lost to cybercrime and fraud in the United States. Purplesec, a veteran-led company that fights cybercrime, said that by 2025, cybercrime will cost the world an annual \$10.5 trillion.

With an increase in the usage of technology around the world comes an increased responsibility to stay informed of cyber threats and to take proper security measures to prevent attacks.

Cyber threats pose an issue not only to the individual, but also to the nation's economy. According to the Office of Advocacy, 44 percent of U.S. economic activity is connected to small businesses. However, they are falling victim to cybercrimes, and the attacks are only getting worse. In fact, CNBC claims that 43 percent of cyber attacks are aimed at small businesses, and many lack the resources to prevent such attacks.

Oftentimes, as a result, these businesses are forced to close. Small businesses and the nation will continue to suffer unless protective measures are taken to prevent cyber attacks.

Companies are vulnerable to attacks in part because it is difficult to fill positions for cyber security jobs. According to Cyber Seek, there are over 464,000 cyber security job openings in the United States. As the need for these job positions to be filled increases, cybercrime does, too. Individuals and companies alike are left to the vulnerabilities of cyber-attacks and will continue to suffer until these jobs are filled.

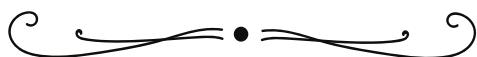
For some companies, it is simply easier to not comply with the cyber security mandates put in place; it costs less for them to bypass regulations and it saves them time to ignore measures that could ultimately save billions of dollars.

In May 2021, President Biden issued an executive order to improve the nation's cybersecurity. The order focuses on increased efforts to identify, detect, protect against, and deter against bad actors. But his order will not necessarily resolve this issue. Individuals and businesses need to take preventative measures on their own. The world of technology is so dynamic that by the time a cyber protective bill is passed, everything could change in the way these criminals attack. People must stay informed about the most efficient strategies to prevent attacks.

There are preventative measures anyone can take, including using firewalls, Data Loss Prevention (DLP), Virtual Private Networks, and Encryption. By utilizing such tools, more security is added to one's computer. It is more difficult for a bad actor to succeed.

In addition to utilizing tools that safeguard attacks, individuals must stay informed about cyber threats. For example, ransomware is a type of malware in which someone encrypts a victim's files and then demands payment for decrypting the files.

Phishing is a type of cyber threat where someone appears legitimate but actually has malicious intent and wants to steal pertinent information like credit card or login information. Other threats include social engineering, DDoS, and more. By becoming aware of the different types of cyber threats, people can become better equipped to protect themselves on the internet.



GUN CONTROL

ANTHONY CARTER



Anthony Carter is a rising 10th grader at the Haverford School and is 15 years old. He runs track, plays basketball, sings, and volunteers. He got into politics since learning about the different branches of government and watching political speeches on the news.

Parkland, Columbine, Sandy Hook, Red Lake, Marysville, Umpqua, Oikos, Santa Monica, Santa Fe, Marjory Jones Douglas, Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois, West Nickel: these are all 11 of the deadliest school shootings that have occurred, most less than 10 years ago.

According to the Cato Institute, since 2008, there have been over 288 school shootings, a steep incline from years prior and a huge contrast from other countries with much stricter gun laws. Besides school shootings, guns are increasingly becoming more accessible, and with that comes a lot of danger to the public.

A recent law enacted in Texas is an example of this, allowing citizens to carry pistols without permits. But here are other examples of lax gun laws that are threatening public safety:

- Allowing concealed guns on school property in a vehicle
- Prohibiting property lease agreements to restrict residents or their guests on their weapons
- Requiring only four hours of total training to get a license

Guns are out of control in our society, and they need stricter regulation.

The fact is gun violence has increased over the past few years as restrictions on guns loosened. According to the Gun Violence Archive, since 2014, deaths with guns have increased by the thousands as well as injuries related to gun violence. Deaths in children/teens have also increased by the hundreds as well as mass shootings. It's interesting to note many irresponsible gun laws, like the ones in Texas, were passed before an influx in gun crimes occurred.

For example, the training for a gun license was reduced from 10 to 4 hours in 2013, and statistics show since 2014, gun violence has increased by several thousand each year. This shows a significant relationship between loose gun laws and the crimes that result from them. In Texas, Gov. Greg Abbot has expanded permissions to carry concealed weapons and barred cities from gun/ammunition sales limits, even though the Center for Disease Control says gun violence is increasing in the state.

The CDC also notes states such as Missouri that have permit-less carry laws see more gun crimes/violence than states like New York with stricter regulations. This shows how looser laws directly tie into gun violence and harm to the overall population.

Despite the alarming statistics on gun violence, Congress has refused to pass stronger gun control laws. The U.S. Senate even struck down the assault weapons ban of 2013, passed in response to the Sandy Hook shooting a year before.

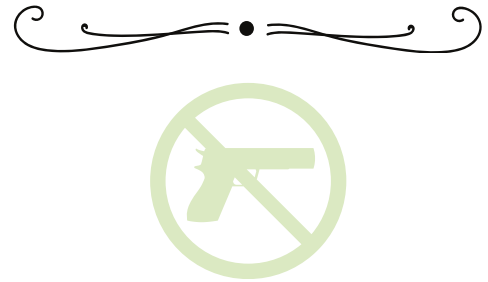
The bill was supposed to help regulate guns and make them safer for residents, as well as broadening background checks. Unfortunately, this striking down of gun laws, loose gun restrictions and inconsistency of gun policy in the United States is a recipe for more violence.

Mass shootings are a major reason we need stronger gun laws. In a June 2021 article, The Washington Post reported gun violence is increasing, with 2020 being the deadliest year for gun violence in decades, threatening schools, churches, nail salons, concerts, bus stops, trailer parks, offices, health care clinics, grocery stores, spas, and more. Background checks and stronger gun laws may have prevented some of these tragedies.

To help stop mass shootings, two steps should be taken: gun purchases should be documented in a database to keep track of them, and people who purchase firearms, even from private parties, should pass stringent criminal background checks before they can carry a weapon.

The second amendment justifies the “right to carry” but it has gone way beyond “right” and is abetting domestic terrorism. People like Dylan Roof, who killed nine people in a South Carolina church, shouldn’t be able to purchase guns, and governors shouldn’t be able to loosen gun laws and cause more harm to their communities.

We need to support strong gun laws and organizations like Everytown for Gun Violence that are working to stop such tragedies in our communities.



DISMANTLING DISINFORMATION SURROUNDING BLACK LIVES MATTER

ARIANA GENNA



Ariana Genna is a junior at Lebanon Valley College. She is a double major in political science and social justice. Her research and advocacy work are primarily focused on environmental racism and climate justice. In her free time, she is a part of the LVC swim team, serves as president of the Lebanon Valley College Democrats, and works as a Resident Assistant at her college.

In the past year, the Black Lives Matter movement has garnered both increasing support and large opposition. But why is Black Lives Matter so divisive? The Black Lives Matter movement's core purpose is to create a more equal society and to protect Black Americans from injustice. So why has this become so controversial? Disinformation, misinformation intended to deceive or mislead, is likely to have contributed to this.

To understand disinformation surrounding Black Lives Matter, we first need to unpack what BLM actually is and why it came about. The movement began in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer. Its current mission is to eradicate white supremacy, prevent violence on Black communities, and create equity. In 2020, despite making up only 13 percent of the population, Black people made up 28 percent of those killed by police. This is why Black Lives Matter exists, and what it is trying to combat.

This movement has been faced with lots of backlash, but much of it is rooted in misunderstanding and lack of communication; many think that BLM is a violent movement, when in fact, over 93 percent of the thousands of protests have remained completely peaceful. But a false narrative that BLM protests are solely violent and hateful has spread through disinformation.

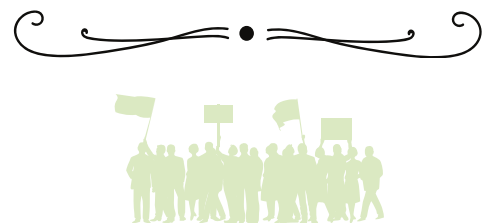
There have been various conspiracies about BLM, many falsely linking it to ANTIFA (an anti-fascist movement). It has been found that there have been various campaigns that attempt to portray activists who support BLM as violent extremists. These claims though, as largely false, as there have been no clear connections between the ANTIFA groups and Black Lives Matter as an organization. Moreover, there have been various bots and fake accounts pretending to be ANTIFA as a means of associating the two movements. By spewing this disinformation, it leads many to believe that BLM is extremely violent and dangerous when it is actually a largely peaceful movement.

This disinformation does not stop there though. Many have claimed that Black Lives Matter is organizing and targeting attacks on white suburban communities, but this is, of course, false. There is even propaganda that has been created by the opposition, impersonating BLM, calling for people to “Kill a White on Sight.” This was not made by nor connected to the movement, and BLM has never advocated for violence against white people. These are just a few of many disinformation campaigns used to villainize BLM activists and supporters. But why are people creating and spreading this disinformation? What is there to gain? And most importantly, who is doing it?

Disinformation has various sources. Much of it is from foreign entities, particularly those operating in Russia. They attempt to sow discord in the American public. According to experts, Russian tactics involve fueling conspiracy theories that already exist and creating even more disinformation to exacerbate paranoia and division within the US. These Russian narratives have gained popularity and credibility in American culture, even being circulated by mainstream news outlets like *Fox News*. By perpetuating this disinformation, Russian entities can achieve their goals of disrupting and dividing American society.

Disinformation does not solely stem from foreign entities though. Many white supremacist groups in the United States establish disinformation campaigns as a means of gaining more support. For example, in June 2020, on the online forum 4chan, white supremacists promoted the hashtag “#AllWhitesAreNazis,” with the hope of appearing as if the hashtags were created by BLM activists. The purpose of this was to further divide the American public and promote accelerationism, thus gaining the supremacist group’s more support. There are various tactics used by white supremacist groups to spread misinformation though. Another example is that many groups go into predominantly white communities and put up flyers, posing as BLM advocates, that say “kill all whites.” These flyers spark immediate disdain towards the BLM movement, and in some cases, cause people to begin researching and supporting white supremacist initiatives. There are many other motives for individuals and groups to spread and create disinformation, but white supremacists and foreign entities are prime examples.

Disinformation has created stark divisions in the American public. Foreign entities and domestic terrorists use these tactics to achieve their goals of further polarizing Americans. Specifically, these groups weaponize the Black Lives Matter movement, attempting to make the movement seem dangerous, violent, and unpatriotic. But, in reality, the BLM movement is largely peaceful and has an agenda of creating equality and preventing violence against Black communities. This demonstrates not only the importance of reading news and information critically but also of critically assessing our own beliefs and recognizing possible internalized disinformation.



ENDING RAPE CULTURE

CAMERA BAILEY



Camera Bailey is a rising senior at Cumberland Valley High School. She is in twelve clubs along with being a part of three ambassadorship programs.

Many of these programs, like CV Amnesty, Overcome Together, and Defenders of Wildlife are trying to institute a change from a local to an international level. Camera has career aspirations of becoming an activist or policymaker, so she wants to understand how people around the world face different challenges in order to better help both those here at home and communities around the globe. She is most passionate about women's rights and LGBTQ+ rights.

Every 68 seconds. The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) says every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted. In the time that it takes for you to read this article, it is likely someone in the United States will experience sexual violence. This is an issue that many people think does not affect them, but it may hit closer to home than you know.

Rape culture is fueling the fire of these actions. Rape culture happens when society's prevailing social attitudes have the effect of normalizing or trivializing sexual assault and abuse. It involves:

- Blaming the victim
- Trivializing sexual assault by saying things like boys will be boys
- Tolerance of sexual harassment
- Publicly scrutinizing a victim's dress, mental state, motives, and history
- Assuming only promiscuous women get raped
- Teaching women to avoid getting raped instead of teaching men not to rape

Rape culture makes sexual coercion seem so normal that people believe rape is inevitable.

This is happening in central Pennsylvania. Earlier this year, a student from Cumberland Valley High School published a post saying exactly that: "Rape is inevitable; just relax and enjoy it." It spread through social media and eventually was covered by some news outlets.

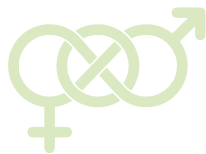
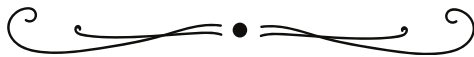
While this was a visible post and was screenshotted and reported, I have heard similar expressions from other people on the streets or in hallways.

Lines like, "What was she wearing" and "She didn't say no" are often used to place blame on the victim instead of the perpetrator. This is another strong aspect of rape culture. It makes victims feel as though this is normal, that they need to "cover up" so as to not be sexually assaulted or harassed.

Instead of teaching women how to avoid being raped, we should instead teach men not to rape. Teaching consent and proper bodily autonomy will help victims come forward at a younger age and help them understand the difference between appropriate and inappropriate touching.

These lessons start from the moment a child is born. Instead of forcing a child to give someone a hug or a kiss even when they feel uncomfortable, listen and ask if they would like to give a high five instead. Respect their boundaries. Parents should not only allow children to set their own boundaries, but they should be open and honest about sex education, answering questions and providing support as they grow up.

Stopping rape culture starts with each one of us setting new standards for behavior and refusing to tolerate the boys will be boys coverup of violence against women.



ABOLISH THE POLICE DOESN'T MEAN ALLOWING A LAWLESS SOCIETY

KENNEDY HOLT



Kennedy Holt is a student at Shippensburg University. She is a double major in Political Science & Sociology. Throughout Kennedy's career she aspires to become a Criminal Defense Attorney, policymaker, and hopefully expand into teaching and politics (congresswoman, mayor, etc.). She strives to dismantle the mass incarceration epidemic, inequalities within our educational systems (partnered with the infiltration of systemic racism within our schools). Abolishing (defunding) our policing systems-although incremental, it is possible and VERY Necessary. Lastly, she aspires to observe further resources for mental health awareness and coping mechanisms. Moreover, creating equitable change for all (e.g. ending slavery as permitted under the 13TH Amendment). During her leisure time, she serves as the president of the Harrisburg Youth City Council Commission, Volunteers within her community, partakes in Bible study, and loves listening to music, reading literature & essays as written by James Baldwin, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and many other impeccable authors/activists. Kennedy, hopes to leave an impact, rather than a legacy.

Abolish or "reform" the police is a controversial debate among Americans today. And it's natural to ask, why would anyone want to abolish police when they serve and protect? But that has not been the experience of all people, especially for people of color.

Many Black people see policing as built on a system designed to keep them enslaved. And a glance at history bears out that perception. In Southern slave-holding states, there is a history of police enforcing brutal Jim Crow laws that denied Black people rights.

The first police killings of Black men in America "can be traced back as early as 1619 when the first slave ship, a Dutch Man-of-war vessel landed in Point Comfort, Virginia," according to Professor Michael Robinson of the University of Georgia.

Robinson notes slave patrols developed into codes enforcers, who brought back runaway slaves, to today's police officers. Slave patrols can be traced back to the Southern United States, specifically the Carolina colony as early as the 1700's. The patrols were government-organized forces of armed white men tasked with recapturing slaves and returning them to their owners in southern states.

The patrollers used terror tactics to control slaves, including through beatings, lynchings and murder.

Modern policing has long been used to suppress marginalized communities, from the so-called war on drugs, to mass incarceration, to policing in schools, to racial profiling and modern-day lynchings like what happened to George Floyd.

Our nation has treated Black people as inferior and dangerous, to maintain white supremacy. These attitudes tolerate racism in policing and lead directly to police killing Black people. Let's be honest, our society has tolerated such abuse. There are numerous examples even before George Floyd died under the knee of a police officer.

While many saw the arrest and conviction of Officer Derek Chauvin as a step forward, we must continue to challenge the status quo and a system that continues to terrorize Black people. That's why there are calls to abolish the police. They are calling for abolition of systems and practices that have terrorized people of color.

So, when you hear "abolish" don't think destruction, think creativity. Abolition would allow a more creative approach to maintaining law and order. We would be free to reimagine policing and build a more equitable environment that serves and honors all communities. We are not calling for a "lawless" society, but one that respects and empowers all people.

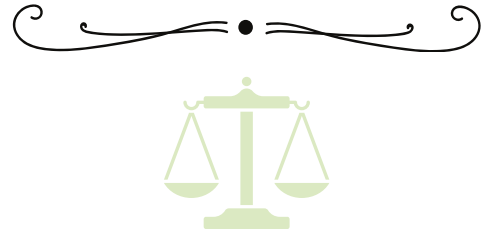
A good first step would be for Congress to pass the George Floyd Justice & Policing Act and protect the civil rights of millions of Black and Brown people in our country. It would set standards for police conduct and reassure people who have been victimized for centuries.

For those who value money over morality, here's another argument: racial injustice in the United States is costing us dearly. According to the Center for Popular Democracy, the United States spends \$100 billion a year on policing and an additional \$80 billion on incarceration. That money could be invested in creating a more equitable society. It could be used to improve housing, inner-city schools and to create vibrant youth programs to prevent crime.

That money could be used to invest in our crumbling infrastructure and to address mental health issues that are connected to the large numbers of people in jails throughout the country.

Most of all, Black folk need to be recognized as integral parts of this country and not simply dangerous people who need to be controlled.

We need to face the truth. Until the underlying racism in American society is addressed, any real reform in policing is impossible.



WHY FOOD WASTE IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE U.S.

LINDSEY BECKER



Lindsey Becker is currently a graduate student at Penn State University where she is pursuing a Masters in International Affairs with a concentration in African Development. Lindsey graduated magna cum laude from Kutztown University with a BA in anthropology and minors in international studies, history, and Pennsylvania German studies. Before beginning her studies as a graduate student, Lindsey served one year as a rural aquaculture promotion volunteer with the Peace Corps in Chinsali, Zambia. She was awarded the David and Charlotte Valuska Scholarship in 2018 and is a current recipient of the Paul D. Coverdell Fellowship for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers.

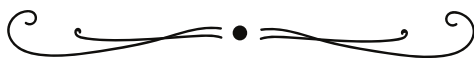
Up to 40% of food in the United States goes to waste each year. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that supermarkets alone generate 43 billion pounds of food waste each year and lose \$15 billion annually in unsold fruit and vegetables. The annual estimated cost of wasted food in the United States is \$218 billion.

Massive amounts of resources and energy go into growing, processing, and transporting all of this wasted food. This includes greenhouse gas emissions, water, fertilizer, packaging, and labor. In fact, food waste is the number one contributor to landfills in the United States today. Food that ends up in landfills then rots and generates methane, a greenhouse gas which is 86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, as well as nitrogen, which causes algae blooms and dead zones in the surrounding environment. Food waste is also responsible for more than 25% of freshwater consumption in the United States each year and is among the leading causes of freshwater pollution.

Despite the United States' recognition of an individual's right to food under Article 25 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 12.3% of Americans are considered food insecure and 1 in 8 Americans struggle to put food on the table. Reducing food waste by just 15% could provide enough sustenance to feed more than 25 million Americans annually. How then can companies, organizations, and individuals make a difference in the reduction of food waste?

On October 1, 1996, the Federal Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was signed by President Clinton. This act is meant to encourage companies and organizations to donate food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to individuals in need. The act protects donors from liability when donating to a non-profit organization and protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient. If more companies and organizations participated in the donation of unused foods, food waste across the United States would be significantly reduced and many Americans in need of food assistance would have their needs better met.

On an individual level, going to the grocery store with a predetermined list and meal plan for the week is just one of many ways to avoid contributing to food waste. Other examples include avoiding buying in bulk, learning how to properly store fruits and vegetables, freezing leftover foods for later consumption, and understanding the difference between “sell-by”, “use-by”, “best-by”, and expiration dates.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FORCED HUMAN MIGRATION

MAKENZIE KUHN



Makenzie Kuhn graduated from Penn State Harrisburg with a B.A. in Political Science. She plans to continue her education abroad and pursue international legal studies and a graduate program related to international relations. Her primary area of research focuses on the relationship between global governance and domestic policy. Through this internship program, she is most looking forward to learning and gaining new insights about international, national, and local affairs from a variety of individuals with diverse backgrounds.

At the end of 2020, over 80 million people were forcibly displaced across the world. This surpasses more than double the amount nearly a decade ago. To put this into perspective, this number is roughly equivalent to the populations of Spain and Canada, combined.

In recent years, we have seen some migration issues gain more traction in the media. One specific topic that comes to mind is the United States' immigration policy at its southern border. However, forced migration, specifically refugee movement, is not an issue that is often at the forefront of large-scale news cycles, and it is rarely covered by local news outlets. So, why should we care?

Forced human migration, specifically concerning refugee movement, continues to grow as a human rights issue. The United Nations defines a refugee as "someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war, or violence." This type of migration also includes people who are internally displaced in their home countries, and those who are seeking asylum. Rather than immediately jumping to vilify migrants, we should first consider the causes that force people from their home countries.

In Syria, some people's only hope for survival is to seek asylum or refugee status. The civil war has left hospitals, schools, homes, and utilities destroyed. In Yemen, conflict fuels the poverty and famine that plague its people, many of whom are displaced from their homes but remain in the country. Across the world, we are seeing more and more people left with no choice but to become immigrants because of the adverse effects of climate change.

Forced human migration contributes to an overall sense of global unrest. Violence, genocide, and extremism are perpetuated by the displacement they create. This displacement further fuels conflict, like wars and terrorism, which when sustained have the potential to envelop us all.

This also inherently leads to domestic unrest, as people flee to other country's borders for survival. Mass influxes of migration strain the capacity of available resources, especially when attempting to navigate the legal system. There are also tensions that arise between migrants and those who already reside in a given place. In the United States, we are currently witnessing President Biden grapple with the administration's strategy for developing its southern border policy and easing any tensions between various groups involved. The main issue here lies with the administration's goal of creating a system that deters illegal immigration but lives up to his promises of being humane and just, all while the numbers of migrants who arrive at the border continue to rise.

Even more, the adverse effects of forced human migration have only been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. As the issue of global health has taken a place at the forefront of media attention, we have been shown firsthand how sickness spreads more easily when people are physically uprooted from their homes.

The conditions that occur in countries like Syria and Yemen that contribute to forced human migration, such as extreme violence and famine, are not problems that most of the United States population is directly familiar with. Even then, it becomes easy to distance oneself from such atrocities against humanity when they occur across the world and are only being shown in photographs or through a screen. However, while there are a handful of international organizations and institutions that function to address refugee crises, local communities, and we as individuals, are not immune from the implications.

The Biden administration should uphold its commitment to rebuild the United States Refugee Admissions Program and expand refugee resettlement. It should also continue to align itself with the human rights standards that are widely accepted internationally. One country alone cannot end the scale of human displacement and suffering and eliminate all the root causes of migration. However, in a collective international effort, we can address these causes and create strategies to alleviate conditions like poverty and malnutrition in the long-term.

Local communities can also become involved in raising awareness about refugee crises and promoting human rights. We have witnessed this firsthand in Central Pennsylvania, where there is a willingness to help resettle those who are unfortunately affected by crisis. In 2017, Lancaster, Pennsylvania was dubbed 'America's Refugee Capital' by the BBC. It was calculated that between 2013 and 2017, Lancaster had received more than "20 times more refugees per capita than the rest of the US."

We can also make a difference individually. We can research and support organizations that protect refugees - there are many groups that are based across the state of Pennsylvania! We can contact our elected officials, push for a path to citizenship, and hold them accountable for the political commitments they make. We can educate ourselves and others about current global affairs, specifically regarding the migration issues that occur outside our country's borders.

The number of forcibly displaced persons continues to increase. The number of migrants at the United States' southern border has reached record highs. If we are not working to address the problem then we are contributing to the problem. Not only that, but those who are able to distance themselves from the problem now will soon face its direct consequences.



HOW COVID-19 IMPACTED SOCIETY AND WHY WE SHOULD HOLD OFF ON LIFTING THE MASK MANDATE

SAHITI KULKARNI



Sahiti Kulkarni is going to be an upcoming Freshman at Cumberland Valley High School. She is passionate about learning about world affairs and crucial issues that impact the world as well as her community. Activism is also a major part of her life and she is always trying to make the world a better place. She is very ardent on gender equality, racial equality, as well as the betterment of the environment. In her free time, she likes to dance: Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Indian Classical dance. She also enjoys singing and making art. One day she hopes to pursue a career in Law or Government.

The Covid-19 pandemic has forever changed the world. This unexpected and deadly disease caught all of humanity off guard and has impacted the economy, businesses, families, and most importantly, lives. To be exact, 185,698,074 lives.

Ever since the first case was recorded in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019, the world has taken a hard hit. Local businesses had no choice but to shut down, unfortunately, leaving many without jobs and money. Many people were unable to visit small local businesses due to quarantine, and the result-- thousands of businesses closed worldwide.

On the other hand, another damaging outcome from this horrific pandemic was its impact on the economy. With unemployment rates skyrocketing, our world's economy took a hard hit. Everything stable in our society was shaken to the core.

However, with the mandate on masks and with everyone put in quarantine across the world, a difference was starting to be seen. Additionally, schools were shut down and unessential workers were forced to work from home. Fortunately, these actions helped in lowering the covid cases around the globe.

And over a year later, after the creation of different Covid-19 vaccines, when there was finally hope to see an end to this pandemic, the mask mandate was lifted in many states across the country.

I strongly believe that we are still not ready to lift the mask mandate. With new variants taking over our communities and with only 48.5% of American's fully vaccinated, society is not in a state to let go of something that has helped us so much during the Coronavirus pandemic.

For proof of just how important wearing a mask is, in an article by the "University of California", an experiment held by The University of Pennsylvania showed that "...using high-speed video found that hundreds of droplets ranging from 20 to 500 micrometers were generated when saying a simple phrase, but that nearly all these droplets were blocked when the mouth was covered by a damp washcloth."

This is just one out of many pieces of evidence that show the effectiveness of wearing a mask and how well it can protect us from the harm of different diseases.

I can understand how hard it is to have to wear a mask every time one goes out to shop, hang out with friends, etc., but we've done it for over a year now, and we are just going to have to continue to do so until we are sure that we are ready.

Once all of our population is fully vaccinated and society has taken the responsibility to keep themselves safe, then only can we pack our masks up.



DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR BLACK STUDENTS: CHALLENGE US

XAVIER HUMPHREY



Xavier Humphrey is a Senior at Susquehanna Township High School.

Xavier Participates in Key Club and spectrum for his school. He is also a part of a non-profit organization called GLO that specializes in the outreach of LGBTQ people of color. In his free time, he enjoys reading manga, history books, and novels. In the future, Xavier wants to double major in Economics and Political Science. Xavier considers himself bad at communication, but still gets frustrated at misinformation spread through bad communication. He hopes that he can become good enough to express complex ideas that the average person can easily understand and not misinterpret.

According to The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th edition, challenging means, "requiring the full application of one's abilities, attention, or resources." This word and its synonyms are connected to schools and learning intrinsically.

Schools are meant to be challenging, and that is how people learn. This explains why the word is often used to describe the hardships of school. And in life, people will experience many challenging situations, but just because something is challenging does not mean it is impossible to do.

A few weeks ago, I received the opportunity to meet State Rep. Patty Kim. During the roundtable meeting organized as part of my internship with PennLive and the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg, I asked her a two-part question: "How can you keep good teachers; and how can you ensure students get a quality education."

Her response impressed me. She said often white teachers feel sympathy for Black and Brown children who they think are struggling through many challenges in life. But they don't feel empathy.

That leads some teachers to avoid pushing and challenging Black and Brown students. This may seem like a good thing, but it is not. It doesn't help the student in the long run.

As Rep. Kim also mentioned, we need teachers who have empathy and who push students because they understand their lives might be hard, but they also know the students are capable of high achievement.

Rep. Kim's words had special meaning for me. In fifth grade, I received the opportunity to take a more advanced math class. I was excited because I enjoyed learning. However, before I was able to take the class, a teacher pulled me aside. She asked if I was sure that I could handle the class. She said it would be a struggle. I assured her I could handle it, but she continued to question my abilities.

I started to doubt myself. But my mother had confidence in me, so I decided to go forward. I struggled in the class, but I worked hard and succeeded.

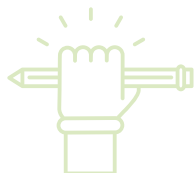
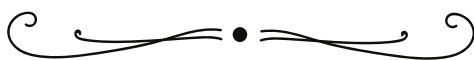
Another Black student had a similar experience with the same teacher, but she withdrew after just one hard day, also affected by the teacher's doubts in her abilities. She now regrets that decision. She regrets not staying in the class, despite how hard the work was.

Even though teachers may have the best intentions, they may be using the wrong approach with Black and Brown children. Their pity may do more harm than good.

Teachers hold special power when it comes to the development of the students they teach, especially when the parent may not be as involved. This is why teachers must push students to be the best they can be instead of trying to protect them from struggles.

Schools and teachers hurt students by discouraging them from taking advanced classes. Grades often decide whether a student can take an advanced class, but this may hurt students from achieving their full potential. Many students don't do well every year, but it doesn't mean they aren't capable of hard work if they are supported.

I have experienced all types of teachers, but the best made me love learning and treated me as someone equal and capable. They didn't feel sorry for me but expected me to work hard and to overcome whatever challenges I faced.



OTHER INTERNS

OTHER STUDENTS WHO JOINED US
FOR THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
WHO DID NOT SUBMIT AN ARTICLE



SANDHYA KONAR

I am a rising sophomore at Conestoga High School. I am involved with various activities such as mock trial, speech and debate, peer mediation, and I am part of the science olympiad and math competition teams at our school. As far as sports are concerned, I play badminton, tennis, and I swim. I have also pursued a yellow belt in martial arts. Finally, I have been professionally trained in Indian classical dance. I am interested in pursuing medicine through which I hope to develop the healthcare system in the country and around the world



DEEPTI RAO

Hi, my name is Deepti Rao. I'm an incoming freshman at Cumberland Valley High School. I'm interested in learning about world affairs.



MEGHAA SHANMUGAM

Hi, my name is Meghaa Shanmugam, and I'm a Junior attending Cumberland Valley. I'm very passionate about learning about the world, different cultures, and issues that are happening around the world. In my school, I'm part of the Board of CV UNICEF Club, CV Asian Culture Club, and HOSA. I am also part of my school's Girls Tennis team. Some of my interests and hobbies are playing tennis, baking, singing, painting/drawing, and traveling. In future, I aspire to go into Medicine as I want to make an impact and help others all around the world.

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