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Issue 03
Aug 2021



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ATXYZ

THE AUSTIN TEXAS YOUTH ZINE

Teen Talk

Dog and Friend: by Eshal Rehman



"This drawing is of one of my close friends. When I was presented with the opportunity to submit an art piece here, I thought it would be fun to share it!"

Like what you see/hear? We'd love to publish your work in the next issue of ATXyz!

Submission form:
tinyurl.com/atxyouthzine

Next Issue: January 2022

Questions about ATXyz or the Teen Editorial Board?

Email kathleen.houlihan@austintexas.gov

ATXyz

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from the editors

Hi!

Welcome to the third issue of the ATXyz (the ATX Youth Zine). In this issue, we are excited to showcase the art and creativity made by teenagers during the summer of 2021. While reading, viewing, (and listening!) to this magazine, we hope you enjoy as well as appreciate the art pieces and writing which are only small bits of the teen community in Austin during 2021.

ATXyz Summer 2021 Teen Editorial Board

Estella Zhao Samya Chauhan Amrutha C.Manoj Avaneesh Ramesh
Aairah Salam Justin Gao Yunoo Kim Mishree Narasaiah

FRIENDSHIP

By Skersey

Something that supports us
Feeds us many almost all emotions
Happiness, sadness
Jealously
Only the best of them live on forever
And only the worst of them bring out
Others true colors
Some of them come and go
But none of them are ever really fake
I love all of mine

Friendship is a
Relationship
Treat them with the utmost respect
And they reward you
With the best memories of your life

This Year

BY:

KATHRYN T

The year is 2021.

Online school consists of a rush of assignments, confusion, and a new grading system.

The life of a teenager in this age consists of online classes and never ending isolation.

Classwork piles up as motivation plunges down.

Boredom seeps into every aspect of daily routine.

I've cleaned every part of my room and the house.

Chores no longer seem dull, but rather a waste of time.

But nowadays everyone seeks to waste their time.

Days turn into nights which turn into weeks and very slowly months. No one knows what day it is and no one knows when days like this will end.

The search for normalcy continues as people fill their days trying to avoid the news and instead craft, draw, watch movies, and anything else to make the quarantine feel like a home vacation.

I feel blessed to be living with two siblings and two parents so that I still have social interactions. I feel blessed knowing that the situation we are in is only temporary and that it will be over soon. I feel blessed because I know that this time of crisis has brought the whole world together and unified us more than ever.

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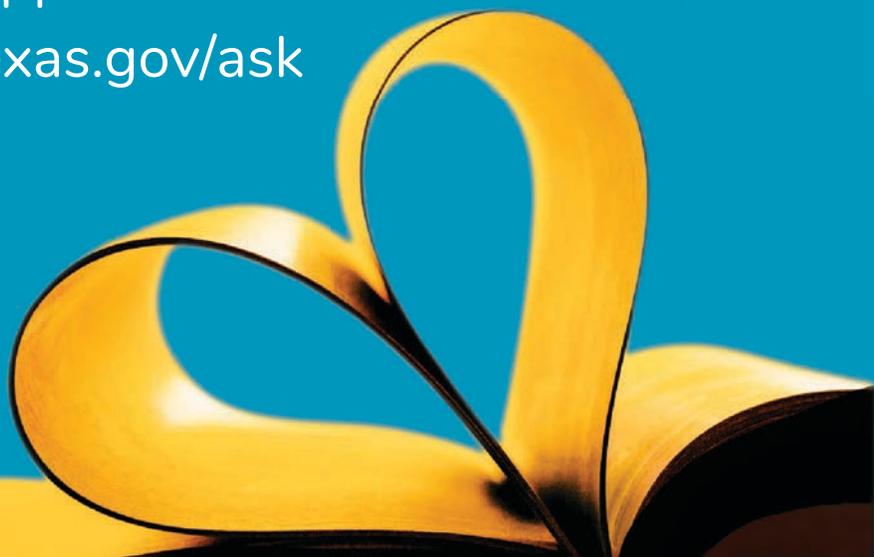
love

TEENS

How else can we support you?

Reach out for support:

<https://library.austintexas.gov/ask>



TEEN HUB

INFORMATION FOR TEENS

LIBRARY.AUSTINTEXAS.LIBGUIDES.COM/TEENS

ONLINE RESOURCES



Book Recommendations

Booklists and videos from library staff, as well as teen volunteers.



Learning Support Videos & Resources

Videos on research skills, homework help resources, and study tips.



ATXyz: The ATX Youth Zine

A teen-run literary and arts magazine, publishing diverse teen voices from across Austin.



Tools for Changemakers

Resources and information for teen changemakers, including local support organizations

VIRTUAL LIBRARY APPS

FOR TEENS

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brainfuse

Live Tutoring
Writing Lab
Language Lab
Mock interviews



Libby

eBooks
eAudiobooks
eMagazines
Videos



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eBooks
eAudiobooks
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TV shows



Mango

70 World Languages
20 ESL / ELL Courses

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Conspiracies and Centrism: How disinformation appeals to ideals

Jack Stampley

ATXYZine Issue 3





In the 1993 cartoon *2 Stupid Dogs*, one of the main protagonists, known as “The Big Dog”, says this to a woman holding a comical bomb, ready to throw it: *“You’ve clearly reshaped your external reality to justify your internal desire for conflict resolution.”* I’ve always heard my dad tell me that “things aren’t always as bad as they seem to be”, and it’s wisdom that’s become more important now than ever. We’ve all witnessed how conspiracy theories have spread throughout the spread of the virus. Everyone has watched the spread of the alt-right during this time. But contrary to what you may believe, the process of falling for disinformation isn’t strictly reserved to someone on the far-right going off the deep end. In fact, nearly everyone is subject to disinformation. It all just depends on the heartstrings that you pull.

The first step to radicalization, whether through conspiracy theories, the alt-right, or a combination of the two, is by emotional attraction. Let’s take the pandemic as an example. Throughout the last year or so, the vast majority of people have felt occasional surges of boredom, hopelessness, and aggression. Bored over the closing of many establishments, hopeless about their lack of control over the whole thing, and most dangerously, angry at that same lack of control as they watch things quickly change. And that anger and boredom, when not burned off productively, goes somewhere. People naturally want to be a part of something. And to feel involved, to feel like they’re a part of something bigger, disinformation provides an easy, illegitimate escape through emotional pleas of fear-mongering and irrational blame on groups such as Jews and rich families, giving the victim an adventurous sense of being part of some “secret resistance group”. After all, why read ten hours of pages on the complexities of the World Bank when you can just say that it’s an evil Jewish stronghold?

Here are some common main ideas within disinformative articles that pull people in:

- “People aren’t having babies as much as people used to, and it’s because of secret evil Zionist/Communist/Marxist/Satanic influences.”
- “It’s in the schools! The universities! The media! They’ve taken over the country!”



- “Our ‘traditional values’ are being swept away by Marxists!”
- “People have become dependent and weak on the media and big government/tech/pharma.”
- “‘1984/Brave New World reference’”
- “Politics is a lie made by George Soros/The Jews/-insert rich European family here- to distract the people from ‘The Truth’”
- “It’s a ‘technocracy’”
- “Technology/Transgender rights/Big Pharma is making people lose their identity and become less human”
- “Politics is being skewed and polarized to cause a civil war”
- “It’s all ‘liberal bias’”

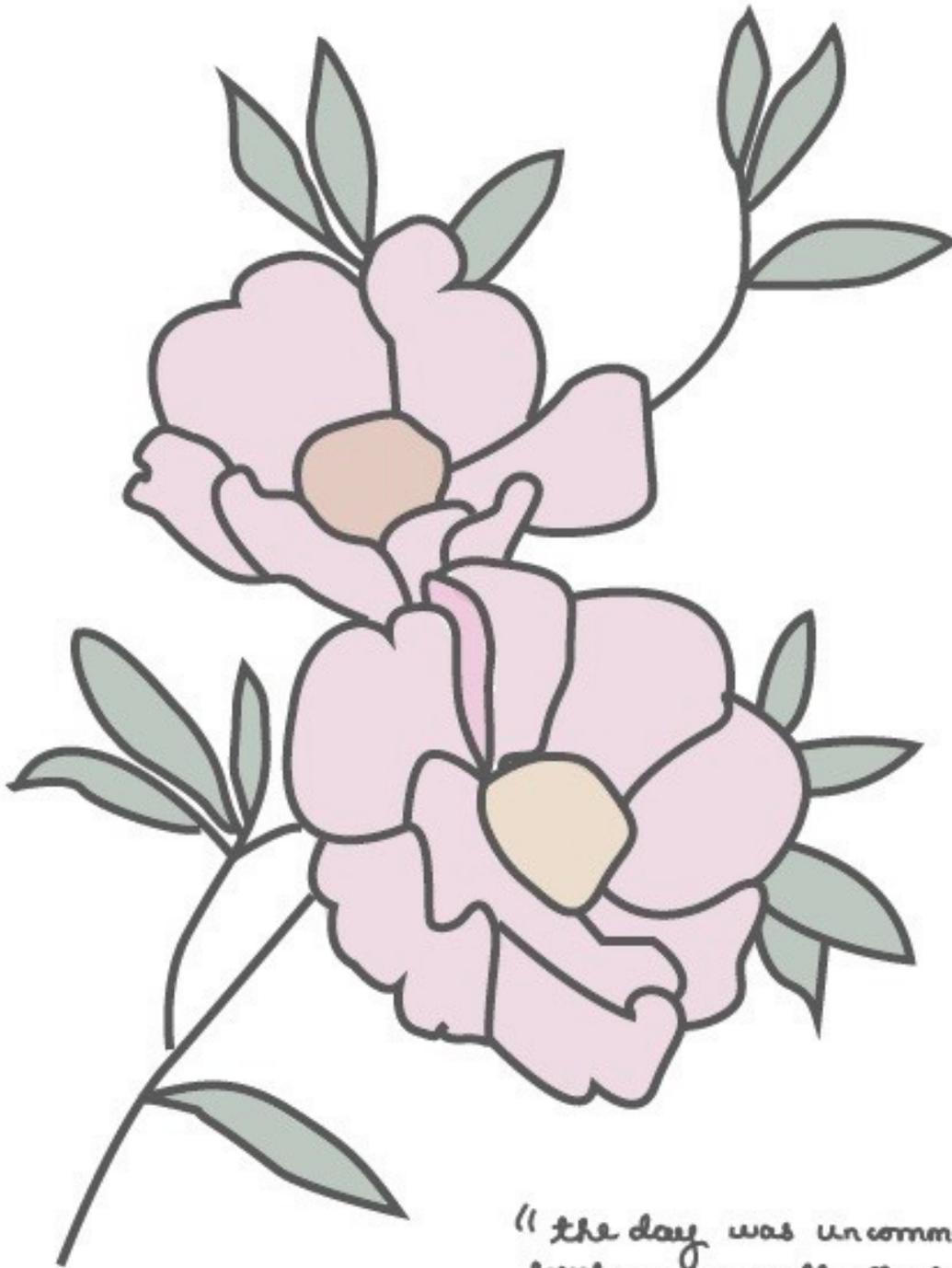
Anger plays a critical role here too, with insulting terms such as “sheeple” and aggressive calls to “wake up” can lead people to give in.

Secondly, disinformation appeals to beliefs as well. A good amount of people are aware of the “traditional values” argument used by many folks in the countryside, but not every victim will be someone that would be defined as “right” or “conservative”. A pipeline into the hole that’s just as large but noticed less is that at the same time, some left-leaning individuals, mainly those who are skeptical about businesses or NGOs, can be vulnerable to beliefs relating to companies such as Monsanto or “Big Tech”, rather than government-- although getting into one is often a gateway into the other. Another main input to disinformation based on belief is one trying to perceive themselves as “centrist” and claiming that nearly everything is biased. It’s because of this desire to say that both sides are equally bad that one disposes and willfully ignores the complex history and inner workings of the American political system, and this makes them extremely prone to conspiracies, believing that everyone’s perspective is skewed towards some sort of bias or that George Soros is controlling all of politics and is trying to cause a civil war. Finally, religion and race can also play a role in radicalization. People from minority groups that have a history of mistreatment from the government and businesses, such as African-Americans, may see otherwise beneficial actions with skepticism and may wander into non-trustworthy sources. Religion too plays a role, as being raised with and keeping strong religious beliefs has been known to make people less trustworthy of non-religious sources.

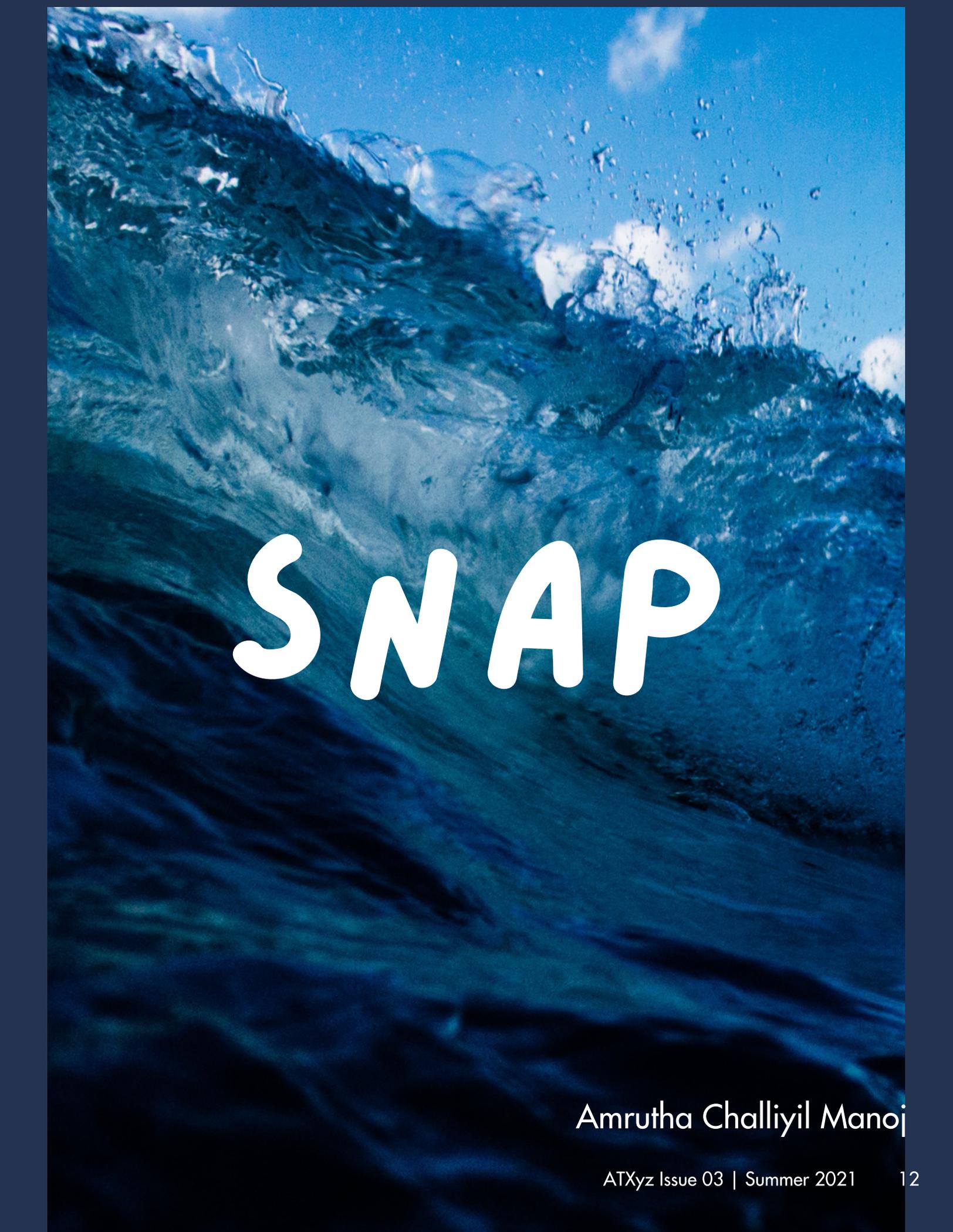
However, the most dangerous form of disinformation is disinformation with a speck of truth to it. Mainstream depictions of disinformation spreaders such as conspiracy theorists have always shown a frantic believer in aliens and bigfoot, but in reality, many conspiracy theories and theorists aren't like that. In fact, many far out individuals, such as David Icke, have often been disliked and even challenged by other theorists for extreme ideas, such as Icke's reptilian takeover theory or dispute about a flat Earth. The majority of victims fall for something that sounds believable. It's practically a combination of truth and falsehood, something that I like to call "fruth". And what makes fruth so dangerous is that it has *some truth* to it, whether said truth is misapplied or not. From there, believers have this basis that they can always turn back to and rub in the faces of skeptics. As an example, many 5G conspiracy theorists often pointed to the dangers of strong radiation, something that is true, to attempt to prove that 5G caused brain damage. Not true. This, on top of appeals to emotions and beliefs have made both conspiracy theorists and far-right radicalization a critical threat in the last few years.

Ultimately, disinformation is a threat that is both adaptive and charming. It's appealed to emotions. It's taken in people by their beliefs. And most dangerously, it can seem true. But there are things that one can do. Check on people you know who are going through hard times. Educate your family and friends. And most of all, confront your loved ones if you think that they're starting to fall into a falsehood hole. In the end, the infodemic is both a problem in itself and a symptom of much emotional uncertainty.





"The day was uncommonly lovely. It was really March; but it was April in its mild air, brisk soft wind, and bright sun, occasionally clouded for a minute; and everything looked so beautiful under the influence of such a sky!" - Jane Austen



SNAP

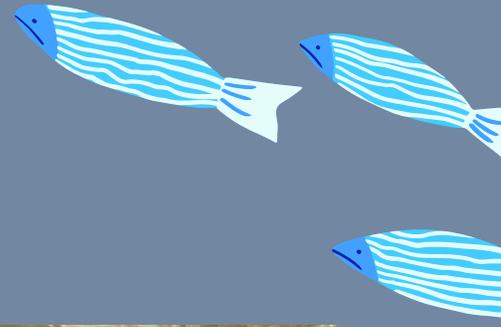
Amrutha Challiyil Manoj

BLUE



Photography started as a small hobby but soon I got many people telling me, how they liked the way I took pictures. These are pictures of sea creatures at the Texas State Aquarium taken this year 2021 start of June.

SEA



EVERY FLOWER IS UNIQUE





Annika Says:

Just like how every flower is different in some way or another, every teen is unique as well, and that is something to be proud of



Dissociation



ARTIST STATEMENT

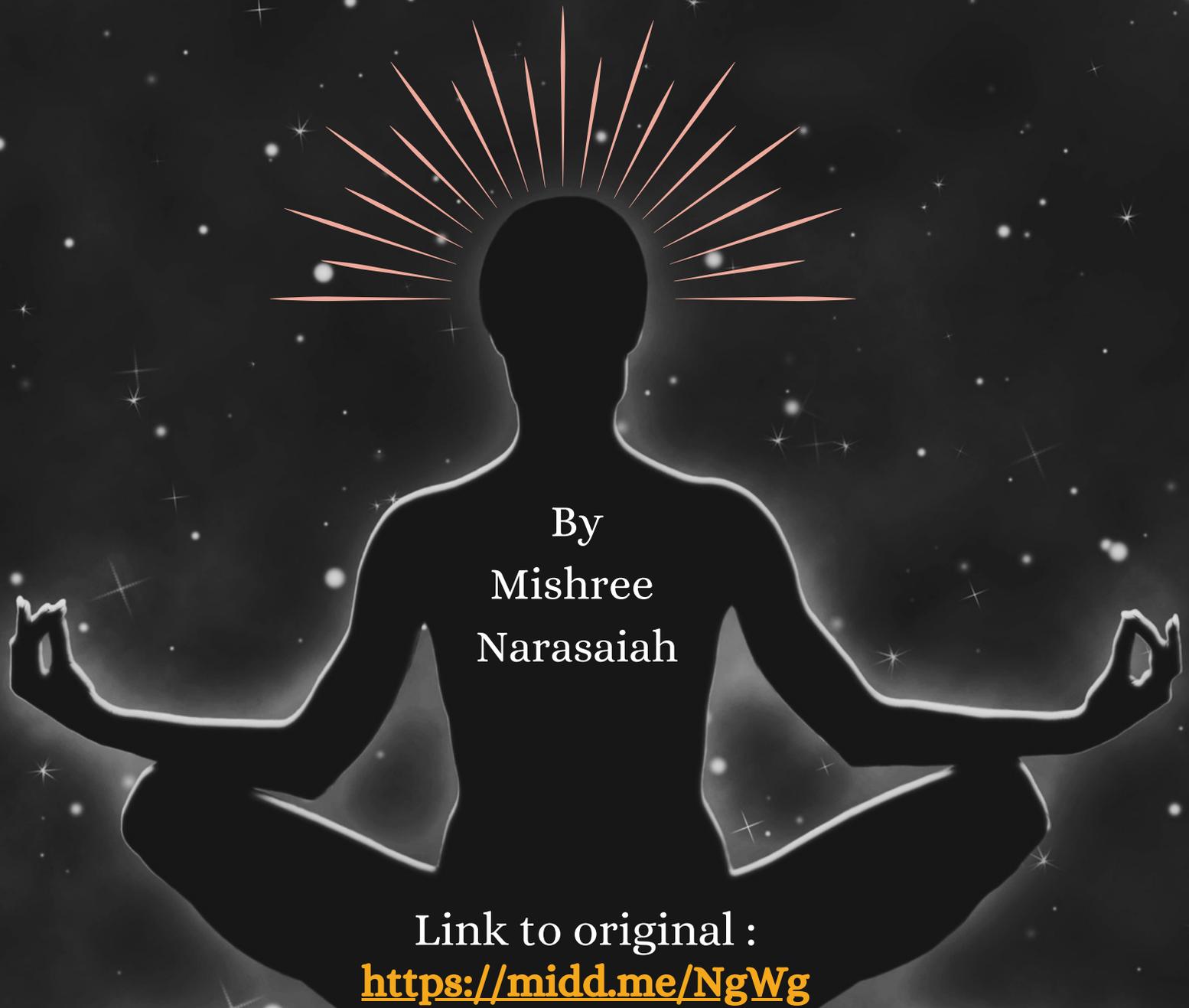
I'm a self taught painter who used her pieces to express the feelings that words cannot. This particular piece focuses on how it feels to have a dissociation disorder. I am constantly disconnected but fighting to stay together.

- Natalee Chu



An excerpt from :

Using the Power of your Infinite Mind



By
Mishree
Narasaiah

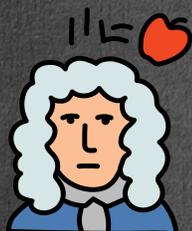
Link to original :

<https://midd.me/NgWg>

The law of attraction is a law of the universe which says that like attracts like. Basically, humans are magnets who attract the energy they send out. How do we send out energy? Through our thoughts and feelings of course! You attract to yourself the essence of your thoughts, beliefs and feelings.



So, if you think positive and are always happy, you will attract things that will make you happy and keep you positive. This works vice versa as well, which means that if your thoughts are negative, you will only be attracting more negativity into your life.



**All that we are is
the result of what
we have thought**



Just like gravity, the Law of Attraction is always working, whether you are aware of it or not. And since you're always thinking and feeling, you are also always creating! What you are creating goes on to become your own unique reality. So, once you do know about this Law, you can begin to think, feel and live intentionally to bring whatever reality you want into your life! This is when it gets really fun!

You must be thinking that you have to monitor your thoughts all the time now, but you don't because you have feelings! Feelings will tell you what you are thinking and they will help you figure out what your frequency is. Your frequency is the type of energy that you are sending out to the Universe (your vibe) and this determines what you are attracting into your life.

POSITIVE
VIBES

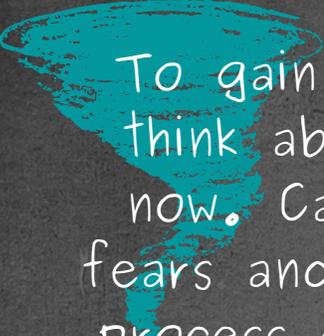
But how does this work? Is there a science behind it? Though it hasn't been scientifically proven, the theory behind this law is that everything in the Universe is energy and is constantly vibrating. So whatever frequency you are at is what you are receiving, just like what Newton's 3rd law of motion states. Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. What you give out is what you get. It's simply physics!



Everything is energy, and that's all there is to it. Match the frequency of the reality you want and you cannot help but get that reality. It can be no other way. This is not philosophy. This is physics.

~ Albert Einstein

$E=mc^2$



To gain a better understanding of this Law, think about the bad things in your life right now. Can you see how they connect to your fears and doubts? Understand your part in the process of its manifestation rather than being angry at yourself. Now that you see link, acknowledge that it isn't your fault, it's just the Law of Attraction responding to you, your thoughts, feelings and vibe.

Now, focus on all the good things in your life. Think about how your hopes, dreams, ambition, and positivity brought those things to you. Again, instead of being boastful, understand how the Law of Attraction has always been working throughout your life. Realize that when you believe something can happen, it does.



Who you are right now, is simply a result of all of your past decisions, thoughts, feelings and beliefs. And all of those things can change in any way you want them to! Now that you understand this Law, you can choose to create your life the way you want and you can choose to bring into your life whatever you desire! Read my whole flipbook here, to learn how you can do that, step-by-step :

<https://midd.me/NgWg>

TO PREY...OR BE THE PREY

He used to be the tyrant.

Exerting his seemingly infinite control onto all.

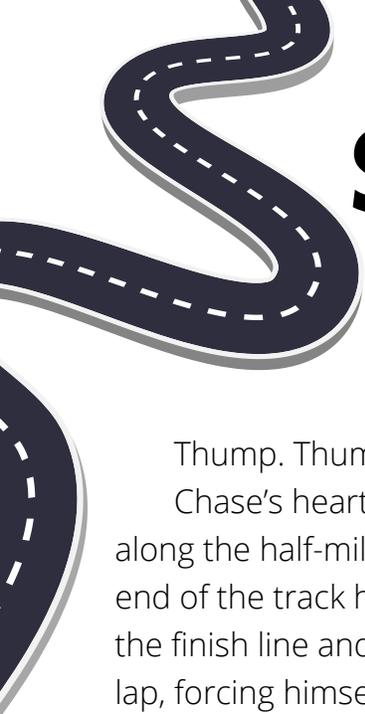
A single, effortless glance could intimidate even the fiercest,
and the sound of his footsteps set off alarms.

But the force now lies
in a different ruler's hands.

He has become the subject,
as power no longer lies in his devilish hands.
Looking to the heavens, his hands clench in prayer,
deep down knowing his soul is bound for hell.

No longer the predator,
he has been diminished to prey.

SAMYA CHAUHAN



STILL TOO SLOW

By Sanwi Sarode

Thump. Thump. Thump.

Chase's heart pounded as he raced along the half-mile track. As he neared the end of the track he touched the pole marking the finish line and started on his twenty-first lap, forcing himself to go faster and faster with every ragged breath. He'd been training everyday for three years now, trying to find a way to forgive himself what he'd lost.

Chase was fifteen, with tan skin, amber eyes, and fire-red hair, hair that reminded him too much of the fire that had taken everything. He was often described as stubborn, secretive, and unusual. Chase didn't always like how he had ended up, but it was still better than what he used to be. Innocent, small, weak, useless.

Not anymore, Chase thought, brushing a sweaty strand of red hair out of his eyes. He was strong now, and fast. And he was still getting faster.

Chase forced himself to speed up as he raced along the track. Each shuddering breath was worth it, each one reminding him that this was penance for what he'd done. Or rather, what he'd not done.

Chase remembered his sister. Standing there as the flames swarmed around her. Her frightened gaze, darting eyes, her soft red curls a tangled mess. She had been right

there, right in front of him, and he had let her go. He had been too slow, and he knew it.

Faster, faster, faster.

Chase felt as if his lungs would explode. His legs burned, his chest ached, and sweat was pouring down his forehead and into his eyes, blurring his vision. Chase felt an enormous wave of exhaustion wash over him, and his knees buckled.

You're almost there, Chase lied to himself for the millionth time.

When that didn't work he repeated something his sister used to tell him. *You've always been capable of anything, Chase, and you shine brightest when you struggle*. She had always been smarter than him, even though she had been two years younger.

Keep going Chase. You can get there.

But it was no use; Chase couldn't do it anymore. He felt his pulse slow down and his chest stop heaving as he neared the halfway point on the track. Panting, he collapsed onto the ground. He lay there for a long while, shaking, crying, and fighting for every breath as he turned his head to look at the quarter mile left in front of him.

Still too slow, he thought.

Muyuy

THE SUN WAS BRIGHT,
APU-PUNCHAU GAVE US HIS POWER
TO KEEP US WARM, TO GROW OUR PLANTS.

I WALK ON THE ROADS
THE 3 LAWS SOUNDED IN MY HEAD

AMA SUA.

AMA LLULLA.

AMA QUELLA.

NO ROBARAS.

NO MENTIRAS.

NO SEAS PEREZOSO.

DO NOT STEAL.

DO NOT LIE.

DO NOT BE LAZY.

AS THE SUN GOD SHINES ON US

I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND IMMEDIATELY BOW DOWN TO THE GROUND
BEFORE THE POWERFUL INCA.

HIS SHARP COFFEE EYES,

HIS LUSTROUS BLACK HAIR.

HIS LONG ROGUE ROBE,

AND THE SHINING GOLD ON HIS EARS, NECK, AND WRIST.

THE ALMIGHTY KING, THE EMPEROR, OUR JUST LEADER.

AS THE POWERFUL CONDOR CRIED AND DOVE,

I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND IMMEDIATELY SHUT THEM.
NO LONGER DID THE CHILDREN RUN ON THE STREETS.
NO LONGER DID THE ELDERLY TEACH THE YOUNG,
SHARING THEIR EXPERIENCE, NOT THEIR WISDOM.
AS THE STREETS RAN RED WITH BLOOD,
FRANCISCO PIZARRO LOOKED FOR HIS PRECIOUS TREASURE.
NOT FOR PEACE, BUT FOR THE GOLD.
I WATCHED AS ATAHUALPA,
OFFER THREE ROOMS OF GOLD
SO THE INCAN PEOPLE'S LIVES MAY BE SPARED.
I WATCHED AS THE CRUEL MAN ACCEPTED,
BUT EXECUTED THE LAST INCA
ALONG WITH HIS INNOCENT PEOPLE.
I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND MY STOMACH DROPS
AS I FLY THROUGH THE CLOUDS.
MY LARGE WINGS CARRYING ME HIGHER AND HIGHER,
CLOSER AND CLOSER TO APU-PUNCHAU.
I SWOOP DOWN,
AND SPOT THE ONCE POWERFUL INCAS
BEING FORCED TO WORK LIKE SLAVES IN THE MINES.
I TURN UP TOWARDS THE EVERLASTING SUN
AS I REALIZE I AM THE CONDOR,
THE LARGEST FLYING BIRD, AND
I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND JUMP AND MOVE MY HANDS
HOLDING THE PAÑUELOS,
WAVING THE RAGING FIRE.
MY RAGING FIRE.
I AM A CHINA DIABLADA,

AND AS I LOOK AT THE MAN
WEARING THE HIDEOUS, GIGANTIC DIABLADA MASK,
I SEE THE MURDEROUS GLEAM
OF PIZARRO WHEN HE MURDERED ATAHUALPA.
I USED MY RAGE, MY BURNING INFERNO,
AS I SPIN AND JUMP AND TURN AND
I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND WATCH AS MY EBONY BOOTS COVERED WITH GOLDEN BELLS
SLICE THROUGH THE AIR,
LIKE MY CONDOR WINGS.
I LEAP, I SPIN, I KICK, I YELL,
AND I CELEBRATE MY STRENGTH AND PROVE MYSELF WORTHY AS AN INCAN GIRL
TO THE SPANISH CONQUISTADORES
AS I DANCE CAPORALES AS MACHITA.
I SING AND SCREAM AND
I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND A FEELING OF EXCITEMENT RUSHES THROUGH MY HEART.
I AM 24 YEARS OLD
AND MOVING WITH MY MADRINA
FROM ICA TO LIMA, PERU.
I LOOK OUT THE WINDOW
AND I NO LONGER SEE THE PEOPLE OF MY PUEBLO
FAMILY AND FRIENDS.
I SEE BUILDINGS AND CARS AND PHONES.

I REMEMBER LIFE IN ICA,
CELEBRATING AN EVENT EVERY WEEK,
WAVING TO EVERYONE I KNEW WALKING DOWN THE STREET.
AS I REMEMBER MY OLD, COMFORTABLE LIFE,
I LOOK FORWARD TO LIMA,

A DIFFERENT LIFE FOR A DIFFERENT INCAN GIRL AND
I CLOSE MY EYES

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND TAKE IN MY NEW SURROUNDINGS.
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE HAS
COLD, STRICT WORDS THAT FREEZE IN MY EARS.
SPANISH IS A LANGUAGE WITH INFLUENCES,
IT COMES FROM THE HEART AND DISPLAYS OUR PROUD HERITAGE.
I VOW TO STAY TRUE TO MYSELF,
AND TO MY IDENTITY,
AND TO BRING MY CULTURE TO TEXAS.
NOT JUST FOR ME AND MY SUPPORTIVE HUSBAND
BUT FOR MY FUTURE CHILDREN.
MY FUNKY, SHARP-EYED SON,
WITH MUSIC AND RHYTHM AND TEMPO RUNNING THROUGH HIS BLOOD,
AND MY THOUGHTFUL, OPTIMISTIC DAUGHTER,
WITH BEAUTY IN HER HEART AND SOUL.
AS I REACH MY HAND OUT TO MY BLUE AND GREEN EYED HUSBAND,
I CLOSE MY EYES.

I OPEN MY EYES,
AND LOOK AT MY HANDS.
LIGHT SKIN, WARM HAZEL EYES, AND BURNT SIENNA HAIR
ARE NOT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MY INCAN ANCESTORS.
BUT I LOOK AT MY SHIRT,
PERUANITA BONITA.
I LOOK IN THE MIRROR,
AND SEE A TRUE INCAN HEART
AND PERUVIAN SOUL.
I SMILE AND REMEMBER MY ANCESTORS.
AND THIS TIME,
I DON'T CLOSE MY EYES.

Meaning of my poem, Muyuy

BY ANNIKA L. DAWSON



I WROTE THIS POEM USING SPANISH, QUECHUA, AND ENGLISH WORDS. THE TITLE OF THIS POEM IS MUYUY, WHICH MEANS TRANSFORM IN QUECHUA. IN THE FIRST STANZA, I MENTION APUPUNCHAU, WHO IS THE INCAN SUN GOD. THIS WAS A VERY IMPORTANT GOD, BECAUSE WITHOUT HIS SUNLIGHT, THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT HAVE FOOD TO EAT OR HEAT TO STAY ALIVE. THE INCANS LIVED BY THREE MAIN RULES. AMA SUA, AMA LLULLA, AND AMA QUELLA ARE QUECHUA. NO ROBARAS, NO MENTIRAS, AND NO SEAS PEREZOSO ARE SPANISH. THEY TRANSLATE TO DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT LIE, AND DO NOT BE LAZY. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT IF THE INCANS FOLLOWED THESE RULES, THEN THEY WOULD LIVE HAPPY LIVES. THOSE WHO DID NOT FOLLOW THESE RULES WERE SEVERELY PUNISHED.

IN THE SECOND STANZA, I TALK ABOUT THE INCA, AND HIS PHYSICAL FEATURES. THE INCA WAS THE KING OR EMPEROR OR LEADER OF THE INCAS. HE HAD FOURTEEN ADVISORS THAT STAYED WITH HIM. HE WORE ELABORATE CLOTHES, AND HE WORE THE GOLD THAT THEY FOUND.

IN THE THIRD STANZA I RECOUNT THE STORY OF THE FALL OF THE INCAN EMPIRE. THE LAST INCA EMPEROR, ATAHUALPA, OFFERED THE SPANISH CONQUISTADOR FRANCISCO PIZARRO THREE ROOMS FILLED WITH GOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR SPARING THE LIVES OF HIS PEOPLE. PIZARRO AGREED BUT EXECUTED THE LAST INCA. AFTER HE CONQUERED THE INCAS, THE KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN ALLOWED THE SPANISH PEOPLE TO MOVE TO PERU. THIS LED TO THE CULTURAL CHANGE. THE SPANISH BROUGHT THEIR CULTURE AND TRIED TO ERASE THE PERUVIAN CULTURE. BUT THE INCANS REMAINED STRONG AND PRESERVED THEIR CULTURE USING THEIR DANCES. IN FACT, SOME OF THE DANCES ARE THE PERUVIANS MAKING FUN OF THE SPANISH CULTURES!

IN THE FOURTH STANZA, I USE THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE CONDOR. THE CONDOR IS THE NATIONAL BIRD OF PERU AND IS THE LARGEST FLYING BIRD. THE CONDOR IS KNOWN FOR FLYING AND SOARING IN THE PERUVIAN SKY ABOVE MACHU PICCHU.

IN THE FIFTH AND SIXTH STANZAS, I WRITE ABOUT THE TWO OF THE MANY PERUVIAN DANCES I DANCE AND LOVE. DIABLADA IS A DANCE WITH MANY CHARACTERS. THERE IS AN ANGEL FIGHTING THE DEVIL WHO HAS HIS SEVEN DEADLY SINS. THE DEVIL HAS A GIANT HIDEOUS MASK. THE DEVIL FIGHTS WITH HIS ARMY OF CHINA DIABLADAS, WHO HAVE RED SKIRTS AND PAÑUELOS, WHICH ARE SIMILAR TO HANDKERCHIEFS, WHICH REPRESENT FIRE. THIS IS AN EXCITING DANCE, A PORTRAYAL OF THE FIGHT BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL. THIS IS ALSO THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE CONQUISTADORES, THE DEVIL, AND THE INCANS, THE ANGEL. CAPORALES IS A VERY ENERGETIC DANCE WITH JUMPS AND SPINS. THE MEN, OR HOMBRES, AND THE LADIES, MACHITAS, WEAR ELABORATE COSTUMES WITH DIFFERENT COLOR BOOTS AND BIG BELLS THAT RING EVERY TIME THEY SHIFT THEIR WEIGHT. THEY EVEN HAVE A HAT, OR SOMBRERO, THAT HAS THEIR NAME AND AN ANIMAL. I HAVE TWO SOMBREROS, ONE PURPLE SOMBRERO WITH TWO SILVER DRAGONS, AND ONE BLACK SOMBRERO WITH A GOLD AND TEAL SERPENT. THE POLLERAS ARE THE LADIES WHO DANCE WITH BEAUTIFUL AND COLORFUL SKIRTS AND HEELS. CAPORALES IS A STRONG DANCE THAT SHOWCASES THE DANCER'S STRENGTH. THIS DANCE SHOWED OFF THE POWER OF THE INCAS TO THE CONQUISTADORS AND SHOWED THAT THEY WERE NOT AFRAID TO WORK.

IN THE SEVENTH STANZA, I USE THE POINT OF VIEW OF MY GRANDMOTHER WHEN SHE MOVED FROM ICA TO LIMA, PERU. SHE WAS 24 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE MOVED. SHE MOVED IN WITH HER MADRINA, HER GODMOTHER. IN LIMA, SHE LEARNED HOW TO USE APPLIANCES, SUCH AS AN OVEN AND TELEPHONE. SHE FOUND MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN LIMA AND MARRIED MY GRANDFATHER THERE. SHE HAD FOUR CHILDREN. SHE HAD THREE DAUGHTERS, MY MOTHER MARIELA, AND MY AUNTS CECILIA AND MAGALY. SHE ALSO HAD A SON, MY UNCLE NAMED ALBERTO.

IN THE EIGHTH STANZA, I TALK ABOUT MY MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE IN MOVING FROM LIMA, PERU TO AUSTIN, TEXAS IN THE UNITED STATES WHEN SHE WAS 29 YEARS OLD. NOT ONLY WERE THEIR LANGUAGE BARRIERS, BUT MY MOTHER HAD TO ADJUST TO SOCIETY. SHE LEARNED HOW TO LIVE AWAY FROM FAMILY. SHE LOVED MY DAD, AND MY DAD SUPPORTED HER EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. HE HELPED HER BRING HER PERUVIAN CULTURE TO AUSTIN, AND HELPED HER INTRODUCE THOSE SPECIAL CUSTOMS TO THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR OLDER DAUGHTER, ME, AND THEIR SON, MY YOUNGER BROTHER, HENRIK. DURING THIS PANDEMIC, WE HAVE BEEN TAKING PERUVIAN DANCE CLASSES. THIS HAS NOT ONLY HELPED IMPROVE OUR SPANISH AND LEARN QUECHUA, BUT WE HAVE ALL CONNECTED MORE AS A FAMILY, AND HENRIK AND I HAVE LEARNED MORE ABOUT OUR HERITAGE.

THIS POEM IS A TIMELINE, STARTING OFF IN THE LIFE OF AN INCAN GIRL BEFORE THE CONQUISTADORS CAME, AND ENDING WITH AN INCAN GIRL LIVING IN AUSTIN, TEXAS IN THE UNITED STATES

ORIGAMI TRIAKIS MODULE

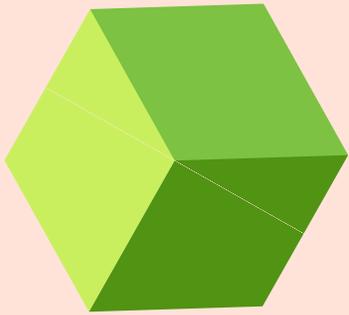
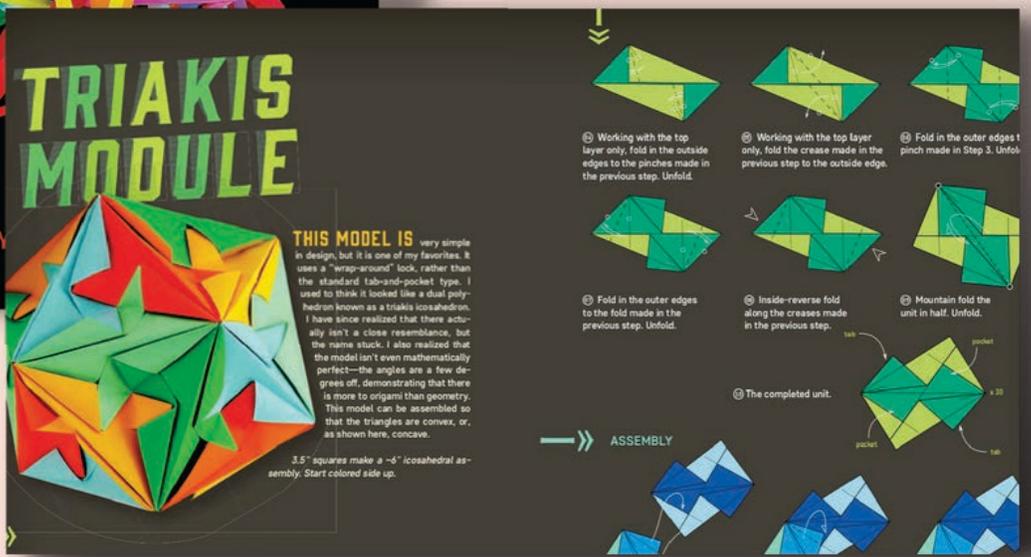
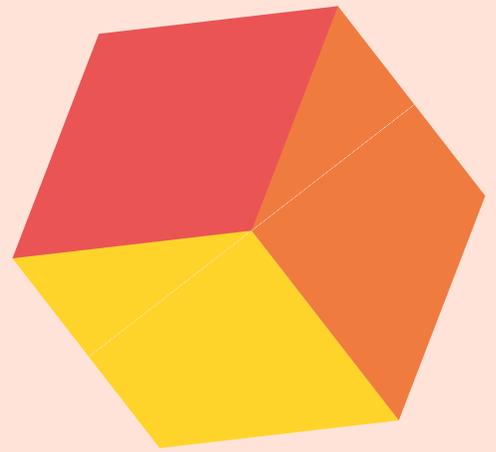
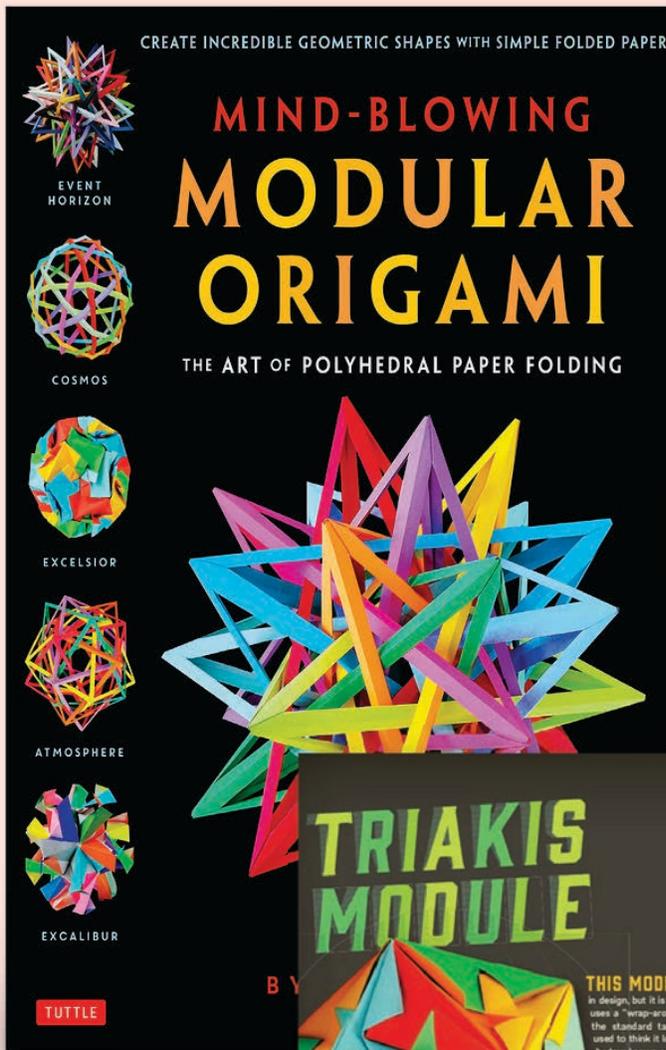
by Riya Shah



ARTIST STATEMENT

This piece of origami was created from a book that I received from a close friend. Origami is something I enjoy and love to create.

- Riya Shah



WHAT IS PROPOSITION B SIMPLIFIED

Editors Note:

This piece was submitted before Proposition B was passed.

If you live in Austin, Texas, it is likely that you have seen several signs and campaigns urging you to vote “yes” or “no” for Prop. B, but what is Prop. B, and why is this election so important? According to ballotpedia.org, Prop. B enforces lying, sitting down, sleeping, or public sidewalks as a criminal offense, more specifically, a class C misdemeanor. According to shouselaw.com, other examples of class C misdemeanors include Public Intoxication and Assault by Contact. Additionally, if caught asking for money or other goods, under Prop. B such peoples would be penalized. While this proposition is created for the sole purpose of keeping Austin streets safer, this plan does not fix the underlying problem of homelessness in Austin, Texas. When class C misdemeanors are committed, they go on your criminal record, making it even harder for homeless individuals to get employed, housing, medical aid, etc.

After reading the ordinance no. 20210209-003 document, the city's plan contains no alternative plan or aid to go to Austin's homeless community. Proposition B will ultimately allow Austin less regulation on the homeless population as people will, likely, go in backs of parks or less populated areas. Making census calculations, safety of pedestrians and the homeless community much harder to track. Ultimately, people's feelings of being uncomfortable or unsafe are valid, though, criminalizing and restricting where the Austin homeless population can reside without creating alternative plans or aid is not a long term, effective solution.



C H L O E L E G E R E



Josh Hiller

Piano

My name is Josh, and I've been playing piano for about 9 years. These are some of my favorite pieces that I've learned throughout my childhood.

**Shinzou wo Sasageyo -
Linked Horizon**

**Love Like You - Rebecca
Sugar**

**Für Elise - Ludwig van
Beethoven**



Performance by Josh Hiller



[Scan or Click to listen](#)

Nandini Ravi

Flute

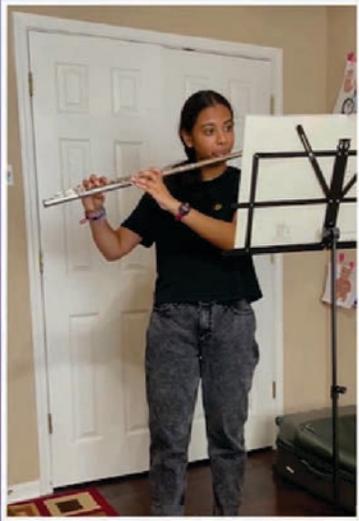
Pan, Joueurs de Flute - Albert Roussel

Pan was composed by French composer, Albert Roussel. It is based on the Greek god of the wild, Pan, expressing different aspects of Pan's character throughout the piece.



Performance by Nandini Ravi

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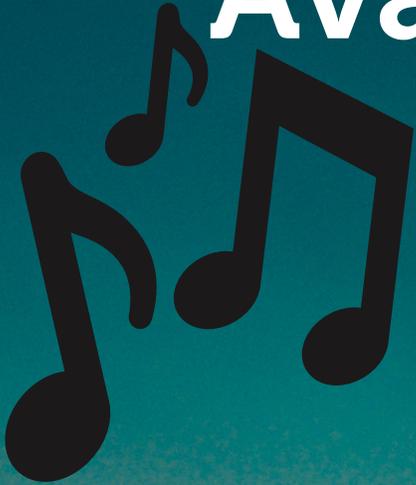
PAN, JOUEURS DE FLUTE
ALBERT ROUSSEL
PERFORMED BY NANDINI RAVI



[Scan or Click to listen](#)

Avaneesh Ramesh

Guitar



Bourrée in E Minor - Johann Sebastian Bach

This piece is called Bourrée in E Minor, and it was composed by the German composer, Johann Sebastian Bach, between the years of 1708 and 1717. This is one of the most fun pieces for me to play on classical guitar.

Guárdame las vacas - Luis de Narváez

Guárdame las vacas was composed by Luis de Narváez. Luis de Narváez was a Spanish composer who lived during the 16th century. This is a really fun piece to play on guitar.



Performance by Avaneesh Ramesh

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GUÁRDAME DE VACAS
LUIS DE NARVÁEZ
PERFORMED BY AVANEESH RAMESH

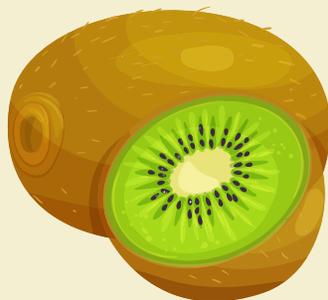
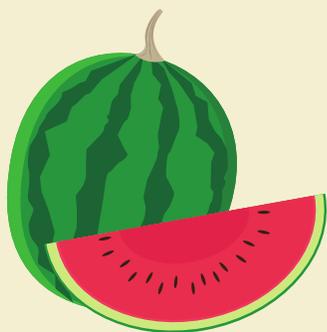


Scan or Click to listen

SUMMER!

Oh Summer!

**How I never thought you would arrive,
your elusive spirit is a good runner.
When you finally did come like a beehive,
sweet, sticky, and too good to be true.
I missed you through the cold winter,
and yearned for your presence in fall.
Oh how I waited in spring, and
when you finally graced us this year,
summer never felt better.**



ARTIST STATEMENT

This a piece of free verse poetry that I wrote to convey my warm feelings about summer. This year specifically felt like summer would never arrive. I enjoy expressing myself through poetry, and this piece is one in particular that I really enjoy.

-Justin Gao

Why America Fails, and what is necessary to end it

BY
ZANE
WOLF

First of all I'd like to say that this is not meant to be stated as fact, nor fiction. This is my statement on how I see our country's cultural message and international stance. I aim to deliver a message that history is not something to be taught; but something everyone must learn, that news shouldn't be an analysis or a message; but a piece of information that one must interpret on their own. I'm a guy who tries to notice the flaws of our government and looks for improvement. This is my commentary on how people are shown information, and why.

There's a central value for all leftists groups, serve the people as a whole and do such in an equitable manner. This is something that isn't seen in any significant American political party. There's a reason why that's true throughout every bit of American politics. I do not support the DNC because I like what they aim to do, or because I like most of their members. I do so because I know that they're the only group that will make it possible to end the two party system within America.

After the longest period in history without an increase, the federal minimum wage today is worth 17% less than 10 years ago—and 31% less than in 1968

Real value of the minimum wage (adjusted for inflation)



Note: All values are in June 2019 dollars, adjusted using the CPI-U-RS.

Source: EPI analysis of historical minimum wage data in the Fair Labor Standards Act and amendments

Economic Policy Institute

This graph is not here just to show the difference in wage between years. More than anything else it is to show the issues in the way that we view the idea of wage and payment

THEMATIC FOCUS

Economics Systems **ECN**

As societies develop, they affect and are affected by the ways that they produce, exchange, and consume goods and services.

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Unit 8: Learning Objective D

Explain the causes and consequences of China's adoption of communism.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS

KC-6.2.I.i

As a result of internal tension and Japanese aggression, Chinese communists seized power. These changes in China eventually led to communist revolution.

KC-6.3.I.A.ii

In communist China, the government controlled the national economy through the Great Leap Forward, often implementing repressive policies, with negative repercussions for the population.

Rather than the "cause and effect" CollegeBoard slants the idea through exclusively referencing consequences.

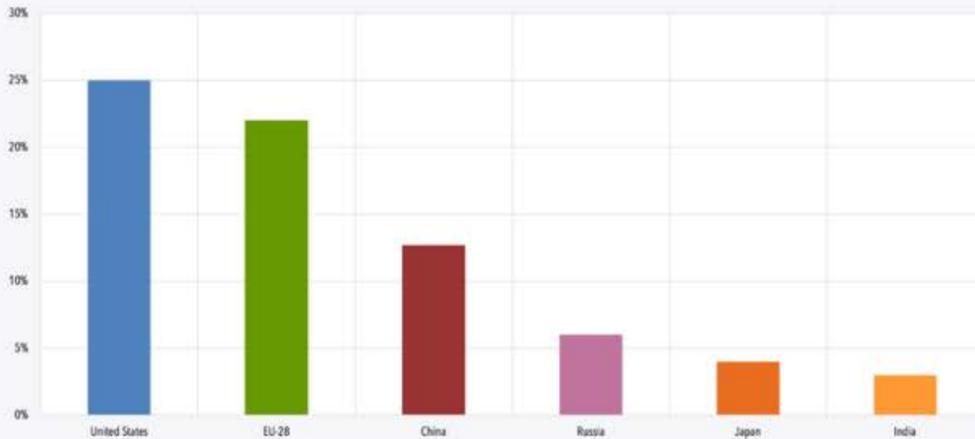
e all know why America is still stuck with such an old, corrupt, nationalistic, and conservative mindset; even if some of us still refuse to truly acknowledge it. This is because we have a system with institutionalized propaganda. There's not a single (large) news source that doesn't follow the CIA's requests toward foreign perspective, there's not a single state education system that truly acknowledges and denounces American imperialism, honestly most promote American exceptionalism. This is emphasized through the way we teach economics and world history. There's no talk about American flaws, or the issues of our treatment of developing countries, there's only FrEE MArKeT GOOD, COmmUnIsm BAD*.

*I in no way am saying that the opposite is inherently true, simply that this one-sided mindset is an issue.

Yet there's a reason behind that, businesses own America. Almost every elected official prioritizes businesses over people, and plenty refuse to acknowledge the flaws of the modern American economic system, or the fact that trickle down economics is a lie that's been disproven over the last 35 years. All because this mindset is what lets the 1%, the big businesses, the various American monopolies, stay in power.

That's why we're taught that it's the citizens that produce all of the waste, all of the pollution, and why we still have the lie that is "pull yourself up by the bootstraps" or "you fail because you didn't try." We provide pollution and waste data in statistics that make China the big bad enemy, never in per capita, where it shows that we're the real enemy when it comes to pollutants.

Cumulative Emissions, 1751-2017



NOTES

Notes: Includes production-based CO2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement

SOURCE

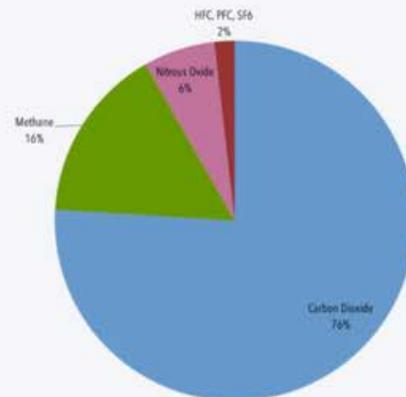
Our World in Data (2019)

While this graph specifically targets CO2, I would like to make clear that there are other Green House gas emissions

Within America we act as if we are a symbol of purity; a symbol of perfection. This is denial of the war crimes we've committed, a denial of the coup d'etats we've forced upon foreign nations, and above all a denial of the power and possibility of improvement. As people who live in the world, consider the news' "takes" on what an event means, or why it happened with a cynical approach, particularly those directed towards foreign states.

So as a country it is our duty to allow our mistakes to be seen, to accept them as a fact of reality; because all real improvement doesn't come from perfection, it comes from learning from the mistakes that are made.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas, 2015



NOTES

CO2 accounts for about 76 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions. Methane, primarily from agriculture, contributes 16 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and nitrous oxide, mostly from industry and agriculture, contributes 6 percent to global emissions. All figures here are expressed in CO2-equivalents.

SOURCE

Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-2015 (EPA, 2017)

interview with the author

PERSONAL MOTIVATIONS AND A
DISCUSSION ON TEEN ACTIVISM

BY ESTELLA ZHAO



Why did you want to write this piece?

- The biggest reason I wanted to write this is because, just a week ago I was thinking through my mind and wanted another, a little bit of self-expression. I originally wrote this just for a group of friends I worked with and decided hey, this is something that I actually want to get out there and now that ...took advantage of that

Did you have a specific feeling in mind that you wanted to express?

- It's a combination of both moral expression and; how should I put it; expression in a lot of ways. I have this mindset of being optimistic towards options of hope and cynical towards the things that I'm taught and that really affects how I see opportunity in a lot of ways.

Do you feel that when you specifically talked about WHAP curriculum, do you feel that school doesn't prepare you enough for that method of self inquiry?

- I think that's heavily true of a lot of American curriculums and the reason why I think that is because we are more set on teaching than having the student learn, if you can get the difference between that.

Would you agree that there is more of a focus on rote memorization than learning for learnings sake?

- Yes, that's the general message I'm trying to convey. It teaches you an analysis in itself instead of having you think through it and analyze it according to your own views on it.

Do you think that is a purely American education system problem or a global education system problem?

- I'm not going to deny that it is also a factor in a lot of other places, but I think the most significant symbol of how that is and how notable it is within the American education system. I think we have a lot of the issues that are globally present on a completely different scale than a lot of other developed nations.

Shifting away from education, what is a major takeaway that you want readers to walk away with after they've read your piece?

- The biggest thing I want all of you to 'see' let's say, is that I'm not trying to tell you that my viewpoint on various events are inherently right. I'm trying to tell you that the way you are taught to look at things and the perspective on right and wrong you are inherently given isn't necessarily right in itself, there's no...hmm how should I put this. A quote that I like to look at is that "perfection is itself imperfection" and that means that nothing is perfectly right or perfectly wrong, it's not a black and white thing..it's just various tones of gray.
- The biggest thing that I'm trying to create is a criticism of American culture, particularly American exceptionalism.

As a teenager, what avenues of advocacy for government change have you personally pursued and can recommend to others?

- I'd like to state first of all that my biggest aim towards changing the government is rebuilding it from within. I may not go to a ton of protests, and

that's for a reason because I want to build a platform where I am significant and can directly affect what we are doing in the world. I am, to this day a member of the AISD district advisory council as well as the ESAC Environmentary check discord for link stewardship advisory committee.

Do you have any thoughts on student engagement?

- A crucial point that I'd let to get across is that no matter how small your platform may be, no matter how little you feel affected by this, you really do have an opportunity to share your views, to keep being someone who matters. It took me years to get that through to myself and I think that's something very useful to develop on your own

Sentiment: not enough young people, specifically HS students and teens actively participate in politics, community engagement, or outreach.

- I think that's a very specific example of what I want to convey, which isn't just that teens or students or people in general aren't doing enough towards change or having an effect on what's happening. Above all, we as students as children in the sense of legality aren't fully represented in the way that we act and in the way that the government is designed. We have to stand up to be represented and to be a group that people care about whether or not we can vote because if the minority is not represented than their opinions are no longer significant.
- I have a core idea: that it's not someone's political opinion that determines whether they're valid or a good person or anything of the sort...it's their morals that back it. I feel that because of the internet more young people, particularly students have access and information about politics. The

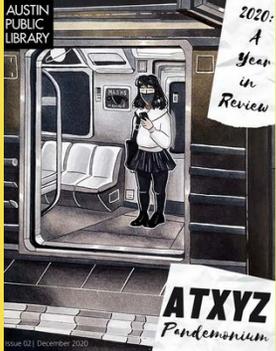
thing is, they don't participate in a way that is productive for society. I guess that's a bit harsh, but I feel like a lot of the discourse going on is through social media and tbh there isn't going to be any significant change behind that. That's just how I feel. I don't think social media activism or making your opinions heard on social media is the best way to go about seeking change. Like, if you do that it's perfectly fine but if you want to actually make a difference you have to find channels through...like what you do with community engagement and participating in councils and your local community environment not just social media....screaming into the void. I don't know if that made sense, like that's just how I personally feel. Like, if you're angry about something channel that anger. Don't allow it to consume your friend group. I just don't think social media advocacy is effective and I actually think that it makes people lose friends but that's just my personal experience with my group of friends.

I have a very significant concept of how you should use feelings within your life and I can't overemphasize how much work that's taken me because I was originally a total jerk who did not care about other people. A big thing that I would like to say is that I rarely see someone as a person that I cannot connect with or a person that is the 'enemy.' I more commonly see someone as a person that's let themselves become controlled by their feelings or limits themselves due to judgements and ideas that they've created.

Anger is a significant thing that you can let control you. And you can control it to become what - a fuel for what you want to change. Become a fuel for fixing the issues that you've seen and that you've noticed. I'm just as angry as so many of you but I don't use that purely to get attention or to get lots of views on social media like plenty of other people. I do that to try and have an affect, sometimes through social media, but never taking it out on others or saying that they should be canceled or something of the sort. I simply say, hey this action is wrong. This, thing that we're doing needs to be improved upon. This isn't to make others wrong or make others fix themselves or anything like that. It's to help people see 'hey, maybe I should work on this' and maybe I can change in a way that is better for other people"" NOT so that they feel bad about themselves.

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CREATIVE?
SUBMIT TO
ATXyzine



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WHAT?

Call for Teens to submit original work to ATXyz - the Austin Public Library's youth-led magazine. All works are welcome!

THEME

TeenTalk - Focuses on the essence of teenage life.

WHERE

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Questions? Email: kathleen.houlihan@austintexas.gov

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