

THE HUCKLEBERRY

STUDENT VOICES



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Welcome!

Welcome back to our 2nd edition of The HuckleBerry! This month we focused on events that matter to us, so you'll get to see what each of our Journalists really care about and choose to investigate and choose to write about. We hope you enjoy it! Have an idea you wish our staff would write about?

Let us know! Send your email request to huckclasses@gmail.com with a subject line of "Journalism Request"!

Meet The Staff

Ronan Berger
Cora Burch
Antioch Cho
Bella Horn

Bailei Johnson
Maya Turin
Holden Wilbur

Advisor: Stephanie Berry

The Arc appears in each issue of The Huckleberry as a show of support for marginalized communities, featuring a story about the community in question.

In Our Blood

By Cora Burch

Malala told us once we
“realize the importance [the voice] when
we are silenced,”
feel the violence of our lives when
passion is stripped off our skin.
Passion is our skin—
it is our blood.

Lido Pimienta tapped out songs
behind her husband's watchful eye—
“I'm not scared, I'm a woman
and I carry...pain inside.”

Ida Wells kept on writing,
unafraid post-raid of her press.
“Eternal vigilance...the price of liberty.”
Kept on playing deadly chess.

RBG found glory in court—
beneath her wing the women's movement
grew—
beat men with no effort at their sport.
“[Fight] in a way that [leads] others to join
you.”

Creola Katherine Johnson let us fly,
counted miles,
brought man to the moon.
“Anything was possible” in her eyes.
She paved the way for women—
they'll be there soon.

Despite the trauma that we've undergone,
our hearts cracked and bleeding from this
strain,
a clear, unbroken pathway has been drawn
to take us far away from all this pain.

On the bright horizon we can see,
beyond the dark, cold hills like big black
swans,
a concept silenced long that we call free,
the new age of justice bid to dawn.

EPISODE 2: ZOOM & GLOOM FROM APRIL - JULY

By Ronan Berger

Towards the end of my amazing spring break in which I did absolutely nothing of interest except play soccer and procrastinate on homework assignments, I was notified that we'd be returning to Huckleberry Center for Creative Learning online. *Oh, ok, it looks like my reign of solitude is coming to a close-wait-Online? Like, on the computer?* I thought as the word "online" barred its ugly teeth at me

The following weeks were a testament as to why there need to be re-education programs for anyone over the age of 50: the number of technical issues that teachers faced on Zoom during the first few months was close to innumerable. As the final semester was coming to a close, I yearned for summer break just like everyone. Although difficult, I assumed that online education wouldn't persist until next semester and we'd be able to return to the premises.

I had no idea how barbaric the summer would be. Between struggling local businesses nationwide, doctors having to determine which patients live and die, mask shortages and quarantine, I had finally realized that Coronavirus was not a laughing matter. No longer would I ignorantly cackle at COVID memes and scoff at the probability of a prolonged shutdown; that time had passed, despite how I longed for its return (some of those memes were rather witty).

The 4th of July became a forgotten holiday for me, a relic of the past as a result of quarantine.



The Covid Chronicles: A Review of A Teenager's Experience Of The 21st Century Black Plague

Disclaimer: some of this information may or may not be factual. Some of the situations have been warped so that the story flows easily. I've tried my best to keep my facts straight, but I can't make any guarantees. The quotes are likely rough estimates of what I think that person said, which might be a good thing? I don't know. Well, uh, anyways, enjoy my satiric version of events. It's not meant to be taken seriously, and its purpose is to be offensive and humorous while telling a story.

Additionally, quarantine had not only robbed me of my sense of humor (which would be reincarnated in the future), my only outlet for all my stress and discontent had also been severed. Soccer. From late March through May, my team had been ruthlessly practicing five days a week in preparation for the season. Eventually, some entitled Karen decided to report our 32-player team to the City. Apparently, our enforced six-foot distancing wasn't enough for them. My only real-life social interaction had been destroyed, and our team wouldn't return until September.

I Initially, our coach tried to overcome the practice-ban by training in small groups of five to six. This was an absolute failure: between the blistering heat and mask mandate that we were forced to comply with, I'm henceforth referring to that period as "The Hell Weeks". After finally recognizing that The Hell Weeks were not only ineffective but also time-consuming, he resorted to Zoom training-this was also a failure, although we still do it. Basically, my teammates and I log on to a Zoom meeting while our coach screen-shares workout videos. It sounds as bland as it is. Every time one of my non-dedicated teammates collapses, starts the exercise late, or does it wrong, everyone starts over to make ourselves hate each other. But hey, it still isn't as atrocious as The Hell Weeks.

To Be Continued:
Stay tuned for the next
issue to read Episode 3!



**"Use your fear, it can take
you to the where you
store your courage"**
-Amelia Earhart

WOMEN ON CURRENCY: THE FIGHT TO BE VALUED

Opinion Piece By Cora Burch

It is critical to recognize the value in value itself. Since the United States was founded, US currency has forever been printed with pictures of our founding fathers and presidents, such as Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Ulysses S. Grant. Although these men were important figures in US history, there were plenty of founding mothers as well who shaped the country into what it is now, and they deserve a place on US currency. Most attempts to do this have fallen through or been set aside as unnecessary, but it is critical to understand that this is important. It is incredibly important. Thomas Jefferson's picture was placed on something valuable for a reason: he was essential in the founding of the United States. If the founding mothers of this country are not given their rightful place beside these men, then the message that the United States is sending out to its people is loud and clear: women are worthless.

This fight to place women on US currency has been going on for a while. During the Obama administration, an idea was proposed but never fully realized, and in 2016, Donald Trump was not in favor of Andrew Jackson's removal and replacement by Harriet Tubman (and nothing changed over the course of his presidency). But according to Nick Buckley of the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Biden administration recently announced that it intends to "speed up the effort" to place Harriet Tubman's portrait on the \$20 bill. In January, Biden's press secretary Jen Psaki said that "The Treasury Department is taking steps to resume efforts to put Harriet Tubman on the front of the new \$20 notes. It's important that our notes, our money... reflect the history and diversity of our country."

An article on WorldStrides.com shared a few key women who played pivotal roles in the nation's history, listing First Lady Martha Washington, poet Phillis Wheatley, American flag designer Betsy Ross, and a few women who fought in secret during the Revolutionary War. Some other figures who might be potential candidates for a place on US currency include abolitionist Sojourner Truth, Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Kamala Harris, the US's first female Vice President.

Hopefully the United States will see women on its currency sooner rather than later. Showing diversity on something as common as money is a simple and effective method of integrating ideas of acceptance into American culture. White men only represent white men, as opposed to the United States as a whole. The people the US puts on its currency should reflect the country's diversity; Caucasian males satisfy a group that no longer stand in the majority. It is time for change.

THE BATHROOM PROBLEM

By Bella Horn

Within his first few hours in the Oval Office, Joe Biden hit the ground running with an Executive Order titled “On Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.” This order seeks to eliminate discriminatory situations against transgender people specifically in schools and workplaces by allowing them to use and participate in facilities and activities that align with their current gender identity. Regarding schools, the EO states, “Children should be able to learn without worrying about whether they will be denied access to the restroom, the locker room, or school sports.” The Biden administration sends a clear message of support and alliance to the transgender community. This is a change from the legislation of the previous administration, which banned transgender individuals from the military, school sports, and described anti-LGBTQ discrimination efforts as “not a sufficient government interest”.

The Biden administration’s new law has already received a great deal of pushback, prominently from women and parents of school-age children. Some Americans fear the ramifications of removing binary gender separation in more intimate environments such as school bathrooms.

Mia Delgado, a 16-year-old cisgender female from Southern California, speaks on the multifaceted nature of these fears in our interview: “Having transgender people in the bathroom or locker room I use doesn’t make me uncomfortable,” she says. “I’m happy that this law is in motion because transgender women are real women and same with men, and they should be treated as such. But I won’t lie, if I saw anyone who appeared to be male in a private space like that, I would feel uncomfortable, regardless of if that person had good intentions.”

Delgado continued on to explain her trepidation: “As a girl, I’ve always been taught to fear men in a way, and shield my body from men, and I unconsciously put these walls up when I’m around them. If I saw someone who looked like a man in the bathroom, even if they were a well-meaning person at the beginning of their transition, I know my conditioning would react before my empathy.”

Delgado makes a point that is most likely shared by many; for primarily girls and women, some degree of male/female separation in certain environments provides a level of comfort and a refuge from the possible threat of male presence. This is what psychologists call “social fear conditioning”, and it is defined as the cultural training of women to exercise high levels of awareness and caution around men, while simultaneously thinking of surrounding women as allies. “When I’m alone and see a person walking toward me, I always look to see if I can recognize their gender,” says Delgado, “and when it’s a woman I’m instantly relieved. We’ll usually make eye contact and smile, as if communicating ‘hi, I support you.’ I’ve never once had that type of exchange with a man or boy; I automatically perceive them as threats to me unless they’re with a child or another woman.”

But how do these types of social reflexes relate to the transgender community? Mia herself states that she feels that transgender women are real women, and doesn’t seem to perceive them as threats.

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“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.”

- Angela Davis

According to the Melbourne Faculty of Information Technology, trans women are far more likely to be the ones harmed and assaulted while using the bathroom than cisgender women are. Research from MFIT has shown that there is “...no correlation between allowing trans individuals to choose between bathrooms and safety risks for the cisgender”, but widespread trepidation still persists. Why?

MTFIT states that, in the case of women, “...we find that when expressing concern, cisgender females are around 4× as likely as cisgender males to assert that transgender women do not directly cause their safety and privacy concerns, and typically emphasize that their concerns are about ‘perverts’ *posing* as transgender females.” This statement doesn’t suggest a social fear of the gender non-conforming, but a social fear of men.

“Totally,” she says, “Like I said before, I’ve been trained to subconsciously think that women are friends and men are foes, and I think a lot of people see this new law as knocking down all the walls that help women feel safe. But it doesn’t have to be. I know what it’s like to be raised afraid of unfamiliar things: unfamiliar equals new possibilities, and people can’t stand change.” This fear of change has persisted in the public eye since 2016, when anti-discrimination policies for the transgender began appearing in state legislation. Governor of Massachusetts Charlie Baker famously repealed something similar to Biden’s policy in his own state, telling NBC News that the law would enable people with “evil intentions” to “prey on the vulnerable”. He then claimed his support for the organization Keep MA Safe, which clearly stated its opposition to the bill, stating, “This bill would endanger the privacy and safety of women and children in public bathrooms, locker rooms, dressing rooms, and other intimate places, opening them to whomever wants to be there at any given time, and also to sexual predators who claim confusion about their gender”.

The main question regarding this argument is whether or not the cons outweigh the pros. Research repeatedly shows that the probability of the aforementioned predatory incidents is low compared to the probability of

discrimination or violence towards transgender people. Mia Delgado concludes our interview with the following: “It probably will take me a minute to adjust to this new law, because I grew up believing that cisgender was the only option and that divides between men and women were necessary. But then I remember that the same divides that made me feel so safe have made countless transgender people feel victimized, and that’s never something I’d want.”

Cisgender: Refers to when a person identifies with the biological sex that was assigned to them at birth; is commonly abbreviated as “cis”.

Eleanora Fagan (widely known by her stage name Billie Holiday) was a jazz and swing musician in the industry for over 25 years. She revolutionized music in multiple ways; from her unique tempo and expression to improvisation and delivery, “Lady Day” is regarded as one of the most influential singers of the 20th century. Born April 7th, 1915, Elenora was the daughter of an unmarried couple (Sarah Fagan and Clarence Halliday) who would split soon after her birth. She would suffer from a very turbulent childhood: Sarah Fagan was left without her family’s and fiancé’s support and she had few options. Eventually settling on her half-sister Eva Miller, Sarah was often absent from Billie’s life. Billie would be mainly cared for by Eva and her mother-in-law. After kindergarten, Billie would be delivered to the House of the Good Shepherd, a Catholic re-education facility, for skipping primary school multiple times. IN 1925, nine months after being sent to the reform school, Holiday would be returned to her mother who had recently opened the East Side Grill to provide for her daughter. At only 11 years old, Elenora was forced to abandon school and work extensive shifts at the diner. The following year she was subject to attempted rape, and although her mother was able to fight back, Elenora would once again be transferred to House of the Good Shepherd. After the case was won in 1927, Elenora was forced to pick up a variety of odd jobs to sustain her family. From errand-running at brothels to doing chores at houses throughout her neighborhood, she had been forced into a reality which she had no control over. Her only outlet was music, and she became familiar with works by renowned jazz musicians like Louis Armstrong and James P. Johnson--it was the beginning of her interest in music.

Unfortunately, life would once again take a dark turn for Holiday. When she moved back to Harlem with her mother, they were in a poor financial situation and Sarah decided to become a prostitute in order to make ends meet. Renting a flat Elenora became subjected to sex trafficking, and eventually, the authorities raided the residence. Sarah and her daughter were both imprisoned. Upon her release in late 1929, Elenora began pursuing music and was a frequent singer at clubs

ALL, OR NOTHING AT ALL

By Ronan Berger

across Harlem. Her stage name, “Billie Holiday” was composed of the respelling of her father’s surname, “Halliday”, and Billie Dove, another jazz musician of the time. As her status accelerated, so did her opportunities. Initially collaborating with her neighbor Kenneth Hollan, she began to make a name for herself across New York and by 1932 she produced "Riffin' the Scotch" and “Your Mother’s Son-In-Law” with Benny Goodman as her studio debut. Collectively both songs sold over 5,000 copies, with “Riffin’ the Scotch” being the song that put Holiday on the scene for many Americans. Through the rest of the 1930s, Holiday would collaborate with the likes of Count Basie, Artie Shaw, Teddy Wilson, and even Louis Armstrong.

One of the defining moments of her career came with her performance of “Strange Fruit” in 1939. “Strange Fruit” in many ways is more a plead for change than an actual song-- although there are a mere three verses to the song, the lyrics tell a clear message: racism was continuing, and no one was doing anything about it.

“Southern trees bear a strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swingin' in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hangin' from the poplar trees”

In her autobiography, Billie explained her connotation to the song. *"It reminds me of how Pop died, but I have to keep singing it, not only because people ask for it, but because twenty years after Pop died the things that killed him are still happening in the South"* .

Despite mixed opinions by citizens across the U.S. the song nonetheless helped catapult her career even further.

Into 1947, Holiday had reached her peak. The past three years yielded \$250,000 (over 3.3 million today) in profit for Holiday and countless magazines reported on her. However, her life took a dark turn after she was arrested for narcotics possession; after an intense court case, she was sentenced to Alderson Federal Prison Camp, WV. Although she would be released the following year, she was wary of performing live after her arrest, believing that she would be judged and ridiculed. Her managers believed she could do it and she eventually agreed to sing at Carnegie Hall. It was an instant blowout, with over 2,700 tickets sold beforehand. Afterward, she performed at various clubs and bars once again. Unfortunately, numerous toxic relationships along with drugs meant her health was declining rapidly. In 1959 she was diagnosed with cirrhosis likely from heavy alcohol use, and in five months she had already lost 20 lbs. The police would arrest her once more for drug possession, but it was of no use since she was already dying. Handcuffed on the hospital bed, Billie Holiday died on July 17th.

Billie Holiday is remembered by many today for so many reasons. Her courage to stand up for African American rights by performing “Strange Fruit”, her tenacity and will during her childhood, her influential and pioneering vocals and tempo--the list goes on. Regardless if you’ve listened to her music or not, she was way more than a musician, and she transformed and inspired the world in new ways.



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“Southern trees bear a
strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and
blood at the root
Black bodies swingin' in
the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hangin'
from the poplar trees”

FRONTLINE HERO

By Maya Turin

Nurses' jobs during COVID have become much more difficult recently. Hospitals have had so many more patients due to the COVID crisis that in some cases, doctors are struggling to operate. Nurses' quality of work has diminished because when they have more patients to care for they are required to spend less time with each one so that they have enough time to get to everyone. The situation is so grim that some patients are getting rejected from hospitals if their health issues aren't extreme. Hospitals are prioritizing patients with near-death emergency issues and severe cases of COVID. Longer working hours make nurses more tired, which can cause them to pay less attention to each patient and they are drained by the end of the day. With nurses being required to work more hours, they are more likely to make errors in their work. This is especially important because, during this time, almost every nurse is required to work overtime.

Cynthia Hecox is a nurse who has been working at a small hospital in these complicated and uncertain times. She became a nurse in 1997 and has been helping many patients ever since. She says what got her into nursing is her enjoyment of helping people. She describes herself as a "helper" and says she thought that this was the perfect job for her to pursue. She works as an operating room nurse but that changed when COVID peaked. "When the Covid numbers were peaking, all surgeries (except emergency trauma) were canceled. At that point, I was asked to work on the COVID floor." This is happening all over the country; nurses are being moved to different categories of hospitals to do jobs they haven't been trained to do.

Hecox says at first it was very hard to work in an N95 mask and goggles, but now that it has been the new reality for everyone working in hospitals, she has gotten used to it. She mentioned that even though working hasn't been easy recently, she is very grateful that she's still able to help people on a daily basis, and she feels lucky to be able to keep her job. New patients are coming in day after day and many need a high level of care. This has complicated the entire care process; nurses are being given 15-20 patients to take care of at once when normally they would only be required to take care of 10.

These are some of the challenges that nurses working in hospitals are facing today and these amazing helpers should be appreciated and valued for the difficult and vital work that they do for so many who need them most. Hecox's job is already tough enough and it is only getting harder due to the rise of COVID cases right now. If everyone was more cautious, hospitals would be able to go back to normal again.

The entire LGBTQ+ community of the United States has been in the figurative “closet” for centuries, voluntarily or not. Despite the Stonewall riots of 1969 that protested homophobia, the AIDS crisis that motivated celebrities to come out and support the community, and the 2015 legalization of same-sex marriage, the door to justice is still being pushed shut by nonaccepting groups. LGBTQ+ kids, teens and adults hope for a future in which the right to self-identify is granted without question. For that to happen, this community would need to be given a stronger voice to speak out about the struggle that comes with their journey, and they would need to have support from other, more privileged communities.

In many states, the LGBTQ+ are forced into conversion therapy, a dangerous practice used to attempt to convert a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Most conversion therapists try to talk out the supposed issue, but according to The Trevor Project, some therapists “continue to use physical methods, including painful aversive conditioning.” Many therapists falsely claim that one’s sexual orientation and gender identity are a result of abuse, trauma or upbringing. Not only is conversion therapy scientifically useless, it is damaging to the mental health of both minors and adults. Calling the practice ‘therapy’ causes people to internalize the idea that being LGBTQ+ is a problem that must be fixed. Currently, 20 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico now have regulations and laws that protect minors from this practice, but there are many vulnerable kids and teens that are still affected. Studies from Human Rights Campaign indicate that not only does conversion therapy damage mental health, it is proven to have increased the suicide rate among LGBTQ+ youth. According to John Elflein of Statista, a poll taken in 2020 disclosed that roughly 28% of the United States’s LGBTQ+ youth who had undergone conversion therapy attempted suicide.

THE LGBTQ+ JOURNEY

By Cora Burch

The LGBTQ+ journey has been treacherous and painful for centuries, but the tide is beginning to turn. To provide insight on how this journey has improved over the last few decades are Christelle Snow, an openly LGBTQ+ married woman, and a closeted teen (Z) who’s gender and name will not be revealed, as they have not yet come out.

Both Snow and Z agreed that their LGBTQ+ experiences in the United States have been relatively peaceful. “You say the United States and that reminds me off the bat that I’m really lucky to be in a country where there’s no death penalty...for being LGBTQ+” Snow said. “And...I never felt like I was isolated...once I came out. So in that sense...I feel just pretty lucky.” “I would say it’s been fairly positive,” Z said, adding quietly that although they haven’t experience any anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination, they have “still remained closeted out of safety, because...there are a lot of cases where...people have faced discrimination.”



When asked how she came out, Snow said that “you’re always coming out when you’re queer,” because of the assumed heteronormativity. I asked Z their opinion on this matter. “I don’t like the idea of there being a default,” Z said. “I think...the question... should just be ‘do you like anyone?’”

Matthew Birkhold of the Washington Post writes that “Continuing to use the rhetoric of ‘coming out’ reinforces a view that heterosexuality is the norm...implicitly [announcing]...that gay people are aberrant.” Snow said, “I don’t assume for the most part that people are straight. In fact, I think it’s more fun to assume that they’re gay...and kind of make a joke about it that way. But it’s definitely safer to...[ask] things in an open-ended way to give people room to be themselves.”

Z mentioned during their interview that they feel as though they live something of a double life. “I feel like I’m constantly watching the way I talk, act, [and] dress around people who don’t know that I am [queer].” Z said that they felt like they would feel vulnerable were they to come out to everyone. “Although I do suspect that a lot of people know instinctively,” they said with a laugh. “A lot of peoples’ ‘gaydars’ go off when they’re around me.” I asked Snow this question as well, and she said that although she has had moments where she felt uncomfortable being honest about her sexuality, she was never really closeted.



“I went to high school in Lebanon, where I did not know any openly gay people. I didn’t...have a reference point, so I didn’t really know that I was gay...until I started actually dating girls.” Her parents were skeptical, she said, but because Snow has never been the kind of person to second-guess herself, “they really didn’t have much of a choice.”

I asked Z if they planned on fully coming out in the future. “I don’t feel like I’m waiting for the day where I can be out,” they said. “I feel like I can be myself without being fully out. If it makes any sense, I feel like I wouldn’t be me...but...I may come out to my grandparents eventually, like if I bring a [significant other] home or something.” I asked them when they think that might happen. “Not for another couple of years,” they said with a laugh. “I don’t want to date anyone until college, if not after college, because I’m like that.”

Z made a comment about how they feel that certain religious upbringing tends to sway peoples’ views of the LGBTQ+ community, and pointed something out about the argument against homosexuality. “There’s a story,” Z said, “very late in the new testament...[in which] this Roman soldier comes to [Jesus] and is like, ‘hey, can you heal my friend?’ but he doesn’t actually say friend...he says ‘beloved.’ And Jesus is like, ‘sure!’ and he does heal him, so if that’s not like ‘bible is pro-homosexuality,’ then I don’t know what is.” Although there are many who still condemn homosexuality, many progressive religious groups have recently become supportive of the LGBTQ+. All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena has always been particularly outspoken, having married forty-six same sex couples even before the official law was passed to legalize same sex marriage. Their Former Rector, Ed Bacon, said that political activism was “in the DNA of the church.”

Same-sex marriage was legalized around the same time that Snow was fighting for marriage equality, but she said that “None of [her] friends who were actively fighting for [it] believed that [they] would see it in [their] lifetime.” Snow explained that it wasn’t until US Supreme Court case *Lawrence v. Texas* that the doorway to marriage equality opened. According to Oyez.org, “the Court held that...making it a crime for two persons of the same sex to engage in certain intimate sexual conduct [violated] the Due Process Clause.” “Once that was struck down,” Snow said, “there was hope...and it was good timing for [me and my wife’s] relationship because...marriage equality happened around the time that I was seriously considering marriage.”

When asked how involved she is in LGBTQ+ activism, Snow said “I take this view that the personal is political.” She said that before getting married and starting a family, she tabled at pride festivals and phone banked for the Human Rights Campaign. Now a married woman with children, she said that her family attends pride parades and actively supports the LGBTQ+. “We want our kids to grow up really confident in who they are and never feel like there’s this family secret or something they have to be ashamed about,” she said. “I feel like that’s part of living as a same-sex couple now.” Z said they were less outspoken about their support for other members of the LGBTQ+ community. “There’s a gender and sexualities alliance at my school,” they said. “I have not joined that, I haven’t gone to any pride parades or marches or anything. I’m just not that sort of person... who likes being so out about everything.”

I asked them both what they hoped the world would look like in the future for LGBTQ+ youth, and if they had a message for those who do not support the LGBTQ+. “There are other really tough issues that people have to deal with while they grow up,” Snow said. “Who they love or the freedom to love should just one day not be one of them. I don’t



know if I’m spending any time on [people who oppose the LGBTQ+]...but I will say that usually once you make some real connections...with queer people, you realize that we’re just as boring as you are.” Sexuality or gender identity has never changed demeanor, personality, or chances of getting a decent afterlife, as it is impossible to control. In the same way that conversion therapy doesn’t work on heterosexual and cisgender people, it has never worked on the LGBTQ+. “Hopefully there will come a point where people won’t necessarily feel the need to stay closeted,” Z said. “I understand how...‘hate for the other’ develops. I understand that people assign a moral judgment to what they do not know...What needs to be done is just more education on what homosexuality means, because there’s whole swaths of this country where you could go for miles and not run into a single gay person because no [queer person] wants to live in Chugwater, Wyoming.”

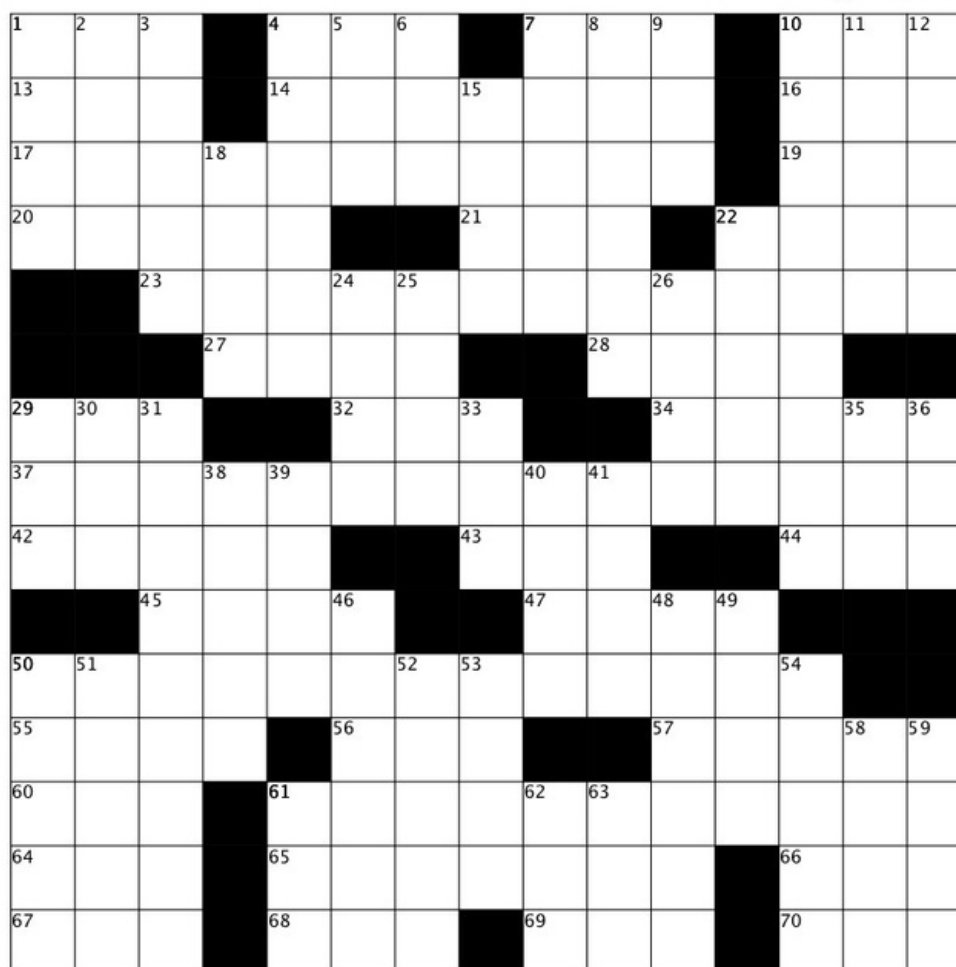
“We’re harmless,” Snow said with a laugh. “We’re just as nice. We’re just as mean. There’s really not a lot that divides us.” “I guess my real message is, we’re people, too,” Z said. “We’re not asking you to befriend all the gays in the world, dress up as a queen and go to drag shows. We just want us to be able to be [queer] while you can remain straight and have a perfectly happy heterosexual relationship. We want the best for you just so long as you also want the best for us, because I do...So, boom. Mic drop. Very gay mic drop with confetti and glitter.”

Women of Note

Jem Burch

ACROSS

1. "Notorious" Supreme Court justice
4. Boxer Muhammad ____
7. Relaxing retreat
10. Covid-19 strain (abbr.)
13. One of a pair on a boat
14. Sticky stuff found on baseball bats
16. Words heard at a wedding
17. Inventor of the first computer program (140 years before the invention of the computer)
19. ____-mo
20. Put a new price on, perhaps
21. Social justice acronym
22. Brings to court
23. First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
27. Ray of light
28. English : Christmas :: French : ____
29. Country with the second-largest economy in the world
32. Catch, as a criminal
34. Like a snail or a slug
37. Youngest person to win a Nobel Peace Prize
42. Suspect's defense
43. Human relative
44. Telepathic power (abbr.)
45. English : house :: Spanish : ____
47. Approximately
50. Skolstrejk för Klimatet organizer
55. Like edible fruits
56. Laugh syllable
57. Not right
60. DuVernay who directed A Wrinkle in Time
61. Author and activist who wrote "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"
64. Greek letter between Sigma and Upsilon
65. Like some highways
66. Wifi issue



67. Letter before em
68. YouTube video interruptions
69. She/____
70. Musical genre that was the precursor to reggae

DOWN

1. Den sound
2. Wished, as a farewell
3. Persona non ____ (unwelcome individual)
4. Point at which the moon is furthest from the Earth
5. Actress Tyler
6. Suffix with fluor- or chlor-
7. Old, as food
8. Video game character with a big mouth
9. You ____ here
10. Imagine

11. Irene ____ (character who outwits Sherlock Holmes)
12. Settle down for the night, as a bird
15. Island where Napoleon was exiled
18. Baby sheep
22. Elf on a ____
24. Actress Turner
25. "If ____..."
26. Parks of Civil Rights Era fame
29. Actress Thurman
30. "Blueberries for ____" (classic children's book)
31. Suffragist who campaigned for the passing of the 19th Amendment
33. Snake whose name rhymes with 61 down
35. More, in Mexico
36. Chihuahua sound
38. Subside

39. Actress Bonet
40. "Once ____ a time..."
41. Inhabitant of Belgrade
46. Easily within reach
48. Dodgers shortstop Corey
49. "It has to be you ____"
50. Slice into small pieces, as cheese
51. Nemesis
52. U.S. President Rutherford B. ____
53. ____ Mountains (Russian range)
54. Fish breathe through them
58. Sop (up)
59. BTS member also called Agust D
61. Extinct bird whose name rhymes with 33 down
62. Ooh and ____
63. Direction opposite SSW

Check out our next issue for the answer key!