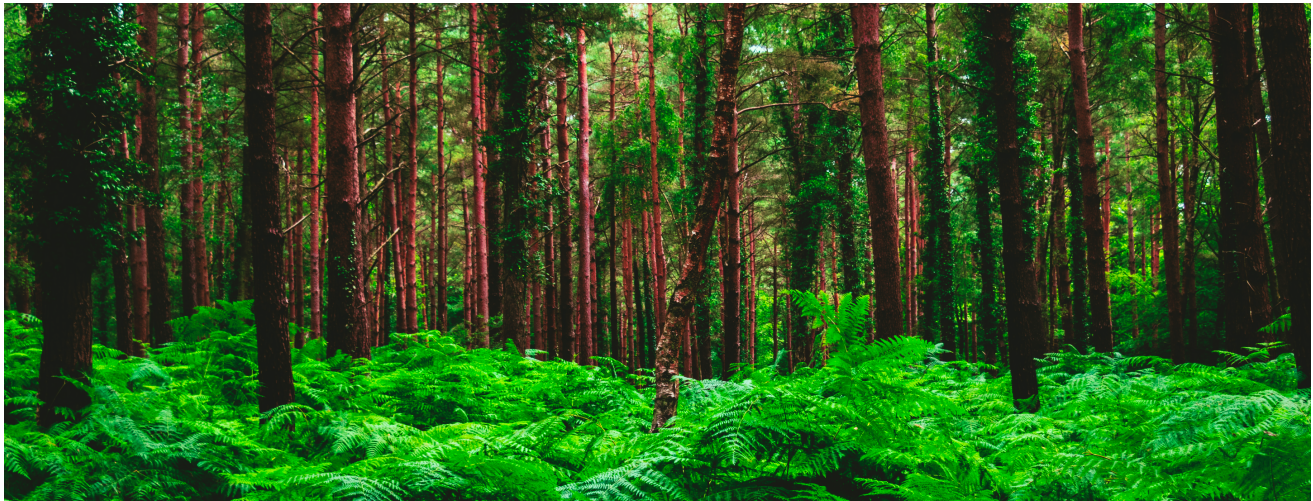


THE HUCKLEBERRY

STUDENT VOICES



IN THIS ISSUE

THE ARC

BIOGRAPHY - CLIMATE ACTIVITST

THE REAL COST OF POLLUTION

HYDROPONICS VS AQUAPONICS

THE COVID CHRONICLES: EP. 3

RECYCLE THAT!

Welcome!

Welcome back to our 3rd edition of The HuckleBerry! In this edition we focused on our planet and how we can take better care of it in honor of Earth Day! 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
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.

I am not a survivor, I am a witness.

By Cora Burch

In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day (April 8-11), this issue of the Arc is an interview with Holocaust survivor Philip Raucher. Born in Poland in 1927, not too long before World War II, he experienced the Holocaust starting at the young age of twelve and moved to America a few years after the end of the war. This is his story, in his own words.

CB: What was your life like before the Holocaust? Where were you living? What was your family like?

PR: It was nice. I had a younger brother and an older sister...and we lived on a plot of land in Europe...half of it belonged to Germany and half belonged to Poland... After the First World War...the German half was transferred to the Poles. The Polish half was called Zaglembie and the German half was called Obersleisien...Things were going pretty good. I lived in a city called Czeladz, which was on the German border.

CB: Was your family religious?

PR: They were not religious. There was no other religion but Orthodox, but they were not Orthodox. My father did not have a beard, we did not go to Temple every day...we only went once a week or on Jewish holidays.

CB: What was your community like? Do you remember experiencing antisemitism when you were growing up, or was that not an issue?

PR: When I was growing up, I was going to a Polish public school until I was 11 years old...and a Jewish religious school...We were having a real good time until 1938, the year before the war, when...the Germans plundered all the Jewish stores and houses...and that night is now called the Kristallnacht (Crystal Night)... The glass from the windows, because it was all shattered, it looked like crystals. And that's when everything changed at my school, when all the kids that I was friends with...turned against the Jews, and we started fighting. Eventually my parents had to take me out of the public school and I had to go to a private school another city called Bendzin.



Family Photo

CB: When did the Holocaust start to really affect your life? When did it become apparent that things were going to get very bad?

PR: Like I said, it started in 1938, but then a year later, 1939, that's when the war started. Because we lived so close to the border in Czeladz, we saw all the fortifications that the Poles were building. I had a grandfather that lived about fifty miles east of us, and so they took...me and my younger brother...to my grandfather to be... on the safe side...The city was called Wolbrom. When the war started, the Germans came into Wolbrom, and they picked up young men, and took them out to a sports field, and they beat them up so much, broke legs and ribs. When we saw what was happening, we got so scared, me and my brother. We decided we were going to go back home. We told my aunt, so she gave us a little money and bread, and we went down to the railroad station to go home.

CB: Did you and/or your family end up in a concentration camp?

PR: Well, when the Germans came in, the first thing they did was they made us move from where we lived to a side street...They made us wear white armbands with a yellow star, and all religious places like temples were burned down, and no kids could go to school, and we couldn't meet, and they started rations. They started coming into our houses and picking up people. Then it was hard to come by food because we didn't have any money, so everybody had a job in my family...For a while...when I was about twelve years old, I was working at the German police station...so I... brought home some food, and then my father and my sister worked, too. The only ones that stayed home were my mother and my younger brother.

From the side street that we lived, they made us move through a ghetto, and in the meantime, they were picking up people, beating up people, taking away people, so again my grandfather suggested to send me and my brother to go back to Wolbrom. My parents decided...we were all going to move to Wolbrom, but because we were in Germany, and there was a border between Germany and Poland. We couldn't cross the border. So my parents hired a smuggler. The smuggler could only take one person at a time and my brother was in the most danger, so my brother went...I was supposed to be the next. The day I was supposed to leave, we got word that the SS came in and picked up the whole city, including my brother, and took them to an...annihilation camp. So, obviously, I didn't go, and I lost my brother.

At that time, people had to work...but they kept coming out with new laws that only one person can stay home for five people to work, and so I had to work, and I got a job as a cabinet maker. One day, the police came into the cabinet maker shop...They picked up all the Jews including me and took us to another city called Sosnowice, which was where they brought all the Jews from the area and segregated who could work and who was sick, and now we know what they did with the sick people...They picked me as a healthy person, and they sent me to Markstadt, a labor camp. From there I was sent to the Funfteichen concentration camp. I was all on my own in the camp, and then after a while, they happened to pick up my father and brought him to the same camp. My sister was sent to a different camp. My mother was by herself in the ghetto. And then they...took my mother to the Bendzin ghetto, and then after a few months, they took the whole ghetto and liquidated it and took all the people directly into Auschwitz and they were killed. All my immediate family was killed except me and my sister.

CB: During the holocaust, how did you manage to maintain hope?

PR: We thought it was going to come to an end but it lasted almost forever for us. But everybody had hope that someday, this can't go on forever.

CB: Did you have any friends in the camp? Did anyone try to help you?

PR: No. Most of the people were from different countries, so we had a language problem, but it was also because nobody had any way to help you...Number one, there was not enough food, and number two, for every little joke they'd beat you up so bad that everybody just stayed away from everybody. Plus, you had to work.



CB: Were you liberated by allied troops?

PR: I was liberated by the Russians in Funfteichen, and just before the liberation, I got sick, and I was in...a separate area where the sick people lived. And when the Russians were coming closer, the Germans started to run away, and they took all the people with them. I didn't want to go...In the hospital, they had a pile of dead bodies, and I covered myself with the bodies...They left and we got out...Then we saw that the Russians were coming, so we broke the fence and got out. That's how I was liberated.

CB: And when you were liberated, how were you treated by the Russians?

PR: Bad...When I was liberated, they didn't ask questions. They just came in and kept going, so we were on our own. When I got out of the camp we went into the first village and got some civilian clothes...We got some food. When the Russians saw us, they thought I was a spy, because no sane person would be walking around in the street where all this fighting was going on. They would always grab me and keep me for the next day to be killed, and I kept running away.

SEE END OF NEWSPAPER FOR REMAINDER OF THIS INTERVIEW.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF LUISA NEUBAUER

By Ronan Berger

Luisa Neubauer, age 25, is a climate activist and organizer who is currently fighting for Earth. Born in 1996, Luisa grew up in Hamburg-Iserbrook, Germany. Motivated by her peers to continue her studies after high school, she received a Bachelor's degree in science at the University of Göttingen and the University College London. In addition to climate activism, she pursued the hunger crisis in Africa and is currently a part of a multitude of NGOs, including ONE, 350.org, FRFG, and The Hunger Project. Often called "The face of Germany's climate movement", In 2019 Luisa became a pivotal force in School Strikes For Climate (SS4C/Fridays For Future), a series of protests designed by Greta Thunberg for students to combat climate change. Millions of young people across the world took to the streets proposing four major demands:

1) We demand that the Government acknowledges the magnitude of the climate crisis by declaring a climate emergency. This move will set the narrative for the urgent pace at which we need to act on climate change but must uphold our democratic values and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

2) We demand that all parties in Parliament support passing an ambitious Zero Carbon Act into law that puts in place a legally enforceable plan to get to net zero carbon by 2040.

3) We demand that the Government ceases all new exploration and extraction of fossil fuels. This includes not granting any extensions of existing permits. This must be paired with the Government's investment in renewable energy production and sustainable transport systems to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

4) We demand that the Government invests in building a renewable and regenerative economy now. This means immediate investment in retraining and the provision of alternative jobs in clean, sustainable industries that don't harm the ecosystems on which we depend for survival. This must be done through meaningful partnerships with communities, Tangata Whenua and youth to ensure a just transition and that no one is left behind.



Despite this, Luisa believes that these goals shouldn't directly influence politics. The goal of SS4C was not to tell politicians what to do, it was instead designed to educate and inform students and show how much the Earth means to people worldwide; additionally, it provided an outlet for up-and-coming activists or simply anyone interested in global change to share their voice and opinion.

Today, Neubauer plans on remaining true to her beliefs and has turned down multiple business opportunities, including one for Joe Kaeser's Siemens Energy board. "If I were to take it up, I would be obliged to represent the company's interests and could never be an independent critic of Siemens...That is not compatible with my role as (a) climate activist." With dedication and passion by her side, it will be difficult for her to lose support--from TEDtalks to climate walks, Luisa Neubauer will keep fighting for what we all deserve: a healthier and brighter future.



Since the 19th-century, pollution has started to become a rising issue. In 2009, pollution levels started to drop but then picked up quickly around 2016, going up by six percent. There are many different things that add to the causes of pollution. Some of them are exhaust pipes, burning coal, and one of the biggest polluters, garbage and sewage being released into the ocean. Pollution is an issue that affects the entire world. Some regions are more polluted than others, but air pollution can spread. Pesticides and other harmful chemicals have been found in ice sheets in the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean, so even if certain areas have less pollution that does not mean that this will always be the case.

In the past visitors of Big Bend National Park were able to see about 290 Kilometers (180 miles) ahead of them, but recently that amount has dropped to only being able to see 50 Kilometers (30 miles). Air pollution is such a big issue that it's even fogged up skies and made it more and more difficult to see. There are 3 major types of pollution in the world. Air pollution, Water pollution, and Land pollution. Air pollution is very visible if it is looked at from certain areas. A lot of the time it is very easy to catch fogged-up areas but they aren't just caused by weather issues. It's also caused by heavy pollution in one area. Air pollution can be extremely dangerous. Even if it is invisible, it can make sensitive eyes hurt and in some cases, it causes difficulty breathing. In 1984 an accident at a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, released a toxic gas that killed 8,000 people in one day and left hundreds injured.

Natural disasters are also a big cause of air pollution. When volcanoes erupt, they project volcanic ash and gasses into the air. Volcanic ash can quickly change the color of the sky and the air quality for very long periods of time. Volcanic gasses like Sulfur Dioxide can release harmful chemicals which can kill people and damage soil. In 1986 a toxic cloud formed over Lake Nyos because the lake formed directly over a crater of a volcano. The volcano didn't erupt but it did dispose of many toxic gasses. Most air pollution does not occur naturally, however. Most of the causes are fossil fuels being burned. When fossil fuels like gas are burned to power cars they produce and let out

THE REAL COST OF POLLUTION

By Maya Turin

a large amount of Carbon Monoxide, which has no color or smell. This gas is incredibly harmful and when burned in big cities with a lot of vehicles, it pollutes the air very quickly. This is why a lot of larger places and cities are the places that are the most polluted.

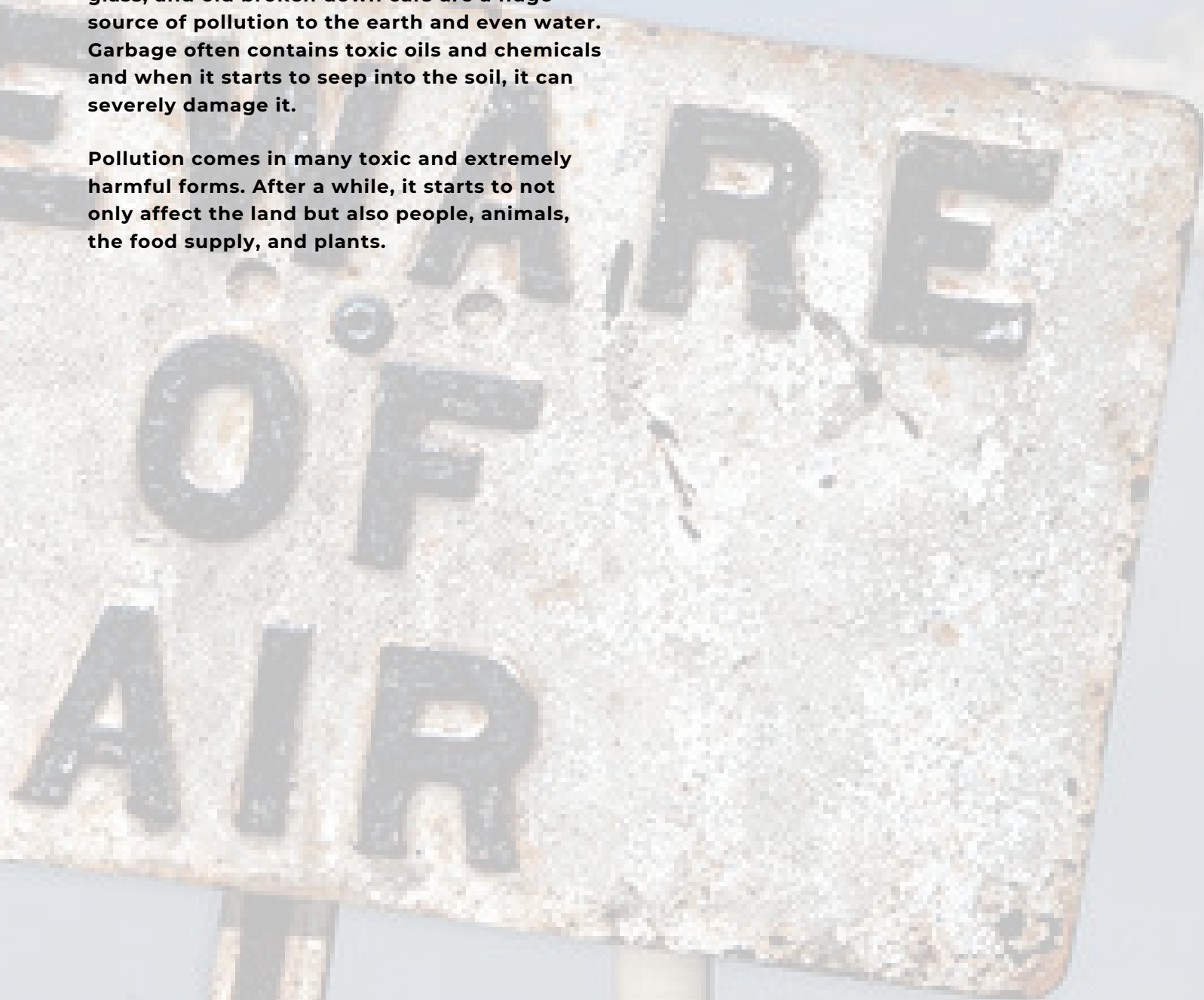
The second type of pollution is water pollution. With some polluted water, it is very easy to tell that it is polluted based on the color or amount of plastic or trash in the water, but in some cases, polluted water can look completely clear and normal but be infused with a lot of toxic chemicals that are not visible. Natural gas and oils can leak into oceans and lakes from underground sources and heavily pollute the water. Some of these oils and gasses can seep into watery areas and create a very toxic environment for all animals in the vicinity. Most of the time this harms almost all the living creatures in this water or drives them out and forces them to migrate to different areas.

The last type of pollution is land pollution. Many of the same things that damage water also damage the land. If fertilizers and pesticides are blown away from agricultural



fields, they can harm plants and animals. Some fruits and vegetables absorb the pesticides and when humans eat them, they can be incredibly toxic. Around the world, paper, cans, plastic, glass, and old broken down cars are a huge source of pollution to the earth and even water. Garbage often contains toxic oils and chemicals and when it starts to seep into the soil, it can severely damage it.

Pollution comes in many toxic and extremely harmful forms. After a while, it starts to not only affect the land but also people, animals, the food supply, and plants.



HYDROPONICS VS. AQUAPONICS

By Antioch Cho

Chittering sparrows flit from branch to branch, angling for a better view as you toil under the blistering sun, planting seedlings that will one day grow into a cleaner Earth for all of us. Millions of Americans have experiences just like this as they plant gardens to do their part on Earth Day; however, some wonder if there could be a better way. A system in which anyone could use, no matter how much space they have to utilize, a method that allows us to grow our own produce even in the cold of winter. As arable farmland decreases globally, and as traditional agriculture comes under scrutiny for its many negative environmental impacts, such as runoff and pesticides, growers are constantly searching for new, more sustainable techniques to grow crops; while lessening the amount of space used. Therefore, there has been a rise in soilless growing systems within the agricultural community, with hydroponics and aquaponics as the leading prospects to replace traditional growing. Some, however, wonder which system is objectively superior, and while that may be an impossible question to answer, at the very least, we can list the various benefits and pitfalls of both techniques.

Hydroponics is one form of soilless agriculture, which has been in use for thousands of years and examples have been found in history, such as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon. This system of agriculture replaces soil with water as the growing medium and delivers essential nutrients, usually found in soil, straight to the roots; using water to deliver it. Therefore, in hydroponics, according to Hightechgardening.com, "the plant is suspended in a net pot which allows for the plant to grow above the water, while the roots go down through the netting and into the water solution." Some benefits of using a hydroponics system are: vast areas of fertile land is not required, it is less resource intensive, it has a longer growing season than

normal, and plants grow faster, have higher yields, and the crops are higher quality than crops which use traditional methods. Numerous benefits like these have expanded not only the popularity of hydroponics but also sparked a rise in urban gardening.



Hydroponic System

Aquaponics is a newer and competing system combining aquaculture (raising fish) and hydroponics in a soilless medium. The primary difference is that instead of plants obtaining their essential nutrients from fertilizer solutions dosed into the water, these nutrients are acquired by naturally converting fish waste into usable fertilizer for the plants; thus, creating an extremely efficient ecosystem. This works because the fish provide a naturally occurring source of essential nutrients with their excrement. According to trees.com:

Beneficial microbes convert the waste into usable nutrient sources for plants; the plants in turn naturally filter the water, providing a clean living environment for the fish and microbes. In aquaponics, the microbes convert the ammonia from the fish waste into nitrites and then into nitrates. Plants then take in the nitrates through their roots using them as a source for plant essential nitrogen. This mixture of both aquaculture and hydroponics should allow aquaponic systems to not only gain the benefits of both, but also reduce the problems of each.

Daniel Cho is an aquarium hobbyist of 30 years who breeds and maintains critically endangered loricariidae fish under the CARES Preservation Program. He also designed

windmills, hydrogen generators, and chlorine generators for a company called E2 (Environmental Energies Limited) to purify container ship ballasts to prevent invasives species, revive dead zones in stagnant bodies of water, and designed and prototyped aquaponics units for schools and the private market. When asked why some would prefer the hydroponic system, he answered, “the reason people use hydroponics over aquaponics is because it’s a technology that’s been around for quite a long time,” implying that since it is an older system, it is more well-known and therefore more widely utilized. Cho highlighted that, “Additionally, it has measurable and predictable results since every aspect is controlled. This includes: duration (photoperiod) and color (Kelvin) of light, water and ambient temperature, nutrients, ventilation, and oxygenation.” He later expanded on the premise that some would be more comfortable with a more controlled environment, stating that, “Hydroponics is usually performed indoors, in order to control all aspects of the growth process, specific nutrients are dosed for the vegetative and fruiting stages, there are no animals to take care of, and there is no ecosystem to maintain.”

However, these aforementioned comforts can also be the cause of some problems and comes at a price. Cho emphasized that, “Hydroponics requires a dedicated indoor space, and uses a lot of electricity and expensive additives and chemicals,” expressing that the very things that make the hydroponic system a predictable, controlled environment can make it extremely costly. He later expanded on environmental cost, saying, “Unfortunately, many of these

fertilizers and chemicals are man-made and petroleum-based; and dosing and testing daily for various nutrients and minerals is tedious and expensive.” Cho emphasized not only the cost here, but also the artificiality of many of the nutrients used in the system.

Aquaponics has very different upsides and downsides as expressed by the longtime aquarium hobbyist. Some upsides he referred to were that, “Aquaponics is cheaper to set up and easier to maintain in the long term. This is because it replicates a riverine system.” The system he is referring to is the aforementioned ecosystem of aquaponics. He elaborated on how it worked, explaining that, “Toxic ammonia from fish waste and leftover food is converted into nitrogen byproducts such as nitrites and nitrates, which are essential nutrients for vegetative growth.” Because of this fact, he affirms that, “It is cheaper since there are no expensive chemicals involved, it can be set up outdoors negating the need for costly indoor grow space, and very little electricity is used since we harness the natural energy of the sun, wind, and rain.” He later highlights how the ecosystem is not always an easy thing to recreate, stating that, “Aquaponics is more complicated since the operator must understand the intricacies of replicating a riverine system; however, once a balance is achieved, it takes far less work to maintain this sort of a system and it will literally run on its own without daily intervention.” He expanded on the self-running quality of aquaponics, stating that, “All of the nitrogen for the plants will be provided by the fish, and leftover fish food releases enough of the essential micronutrients for the plants.” He also highlighted the natural aspect of aquaponics saying, “Occasionally, the operator will add potassium in the form of Epsom salt or iron through seaweed extract, but all of these additives are natural.” The final positive facet of the aquaponic system he mentioned was that, “Aquaponics is able to produce both vegetable matter and protein such as: tilapia, shrimp, crayfish, catfish, perch, and so on.” Stating that it can be a source of multiple forms of nourishment, making it more versatile than its elder brother, hydroponics. This means that the fish you grow with your vegetables can be used as food as well as vegetables, and with only an



Aquaponics System

aquaponics system one could make multitudes of different recipes, such as fish salad. Also, another way the aquaponics system can practically run itself is the way that the fish breed with each other naturally, reducing the cost of buying new fish.

There are reasons people may avoid using aquaponics over hydroponics, some being that, according to Cho, “people are fearful of having to maintain living creatures such as fish or invertebrates, and feel much more comfortable with a dosing regimen. They are also afraid of pests on the vegetables, as the growth space is outdoors.” Again, the positive natural qualities of an aquaponic system can lead to issues for some as well. He would also explain that some of those fears may be fairly unfounded, saying that:

Healthy plants rarely get attacked by pests, and even if they do, there are as many natural predators as there are pests, controlling the problem. Once again, this is about recreating nature, and it's all about creating a balanced ecosystem, if that is achieved, aquaponics is a cost effective and low-maintenance system.

He also highlights that it is not always ideal to use this system for some, explaining, “For some, the task of caring for living creatures along with plants may feel too unpredictable and chaotic; those people may feel more comfortable with a predictable dosing regimen and controlled environment.” Cho is saying that there is always the possibility of a family of raccoons eating all of your fish, or bugs decimating your vegetables. However there are ways to prevent this, and in the end it's just preference and how comfortable one is with the unpredictability. As visible here, there are two sides to every coin, and every benefit will have a matching downside. Because of this, it is always necessary to consider which is the best system for the particular situation at hand.

In the end, neither system can be the definitive better option, as both are suitable alternatives to traditional gardening. However having the knowledge of why and when to use either system should help people decide which is best in each specific situation. Whether one decides on hydroponics or

aquaponics, they are still making a difference in their community. Unfortunately, many shy away, afraid of the learning curve or the financial burden of starting such systems. Luckily, both systems are easily scalable, and one can simply grow a few heads of lettuce in a small hydroponics or aquaponics unit for a relatively small sum of money. In fact, if inclined, one weekend and several clicks on YouTube would yield all the information needed for one to start a system.

THE ARC - CONTINUED

CB: Once the war was over, what was life like?

PR: There were complications, because when I got back to [Czeladz], I was the first Jew in my city, and nobody was anxious to help me. There was one guy who we knew real good...He gave me a room to sleep, but I was on my own...After a while I decided, I'm alive, and I know my sister was taken to a camp too, and maybe she's still alive but needs help. So I went back to Germany to look for my sister. After a while, I couldn't find her and came back, but it was just as bad, so I went back to look some more. When I couldn't find her again, I came back, and by that time, my sister actually came back to my city, too. And that's how I met my sister after the war. We stayed a few days in the city, and other Jews came back, and [my friend's] parents owned a baker's shop, and one had a hardware store, so they took back the stores and started operating the business. Then one day, the antisemites came in, and while they were in the store they killed them both. So, obviously we didn't feel safe in the city, so we took off and left my city. Eventually we wound up going to Munich, Germany, and we had to smuggle ourselves through the Carpathian mountains into Czechoslovakia, and from Czechoslovakia to Austria, and Austria to Germany, and we finally wound up in Munich.

CB: What was your life like there?

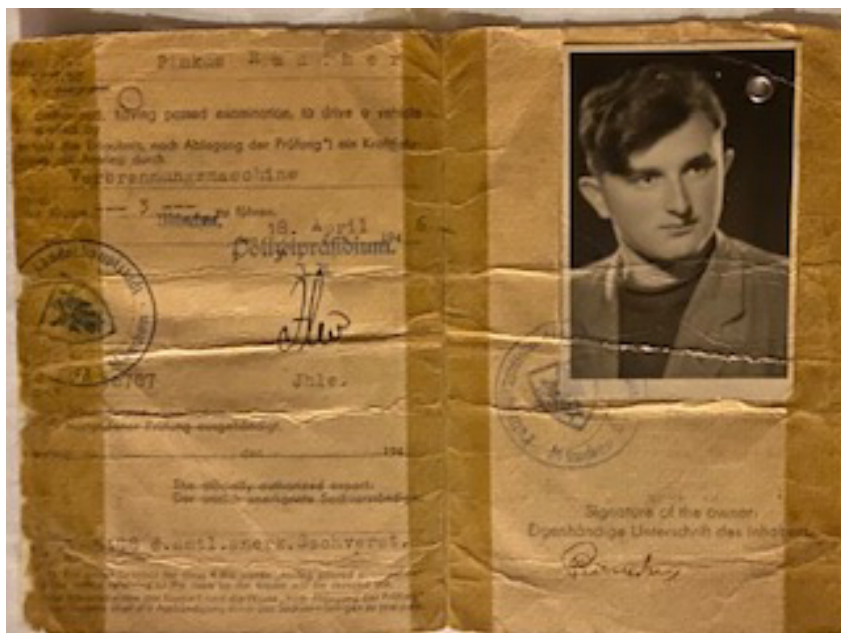
PR: Well, most people were taken to a DP camp, a displaced persons camp. It was a camp that helped people to live there, to feed them, but me and my sister and her boyfriend decided that we were not going to live in a camp anymore. So we did some blackmarketing, and that's how we lived, in blackmarketing.

CB: When did you come to America?

PR: I came to the United States in 1951...There was a quota on how many from different countries can come to the US. Because I was born in Poland, I was under the Polish quota, and the Polish quota was taken up, so there would be no chance for me to come. But because they passed a law in the US that orphans are exempt from all those laws...I was able to come to the US.

CB: What was life like here?

PR: We landed in New York and I didn't like it there, because it was too big. So I asked people, because when I lived in Munchen there were about a half a million people...is there a city in the United States with about half a million people? And one said yes, and it's Akron Ohio. so I moved to Akron Ohio...Then I became sick...it turned out it was hayfever. I found out that in Los Angeles, there's no hayfever. Next year, when it came back...I packed up my car and took off for Los Angeles.



His new drivers license!



THE ARC - CONTINUED

CB: How do you feel about Germany today? Do you believe that they have redeemed themselves as much as possible, or do you think that there is still work that has to be done on their part? In what way do you think they could improve themselves?

PR: There is still work that has to be done on their part. To not be antisemitic. To regard Jews as humans. And that applies in other countries, too, even to the United States.

CB: What do you believe we can do to fight indifference and hatred today?

PR: Well, as far as I'm concerned, everybody must learn to have a moral obligation. From my experience, I will add, be nice, but carry a big stick.

CB: I know that you've spoken at some schools about the Holocaust. What has this been like?

PR: Well, for a long time, I did not talk about it, because I felt like there was something wrong with me...I didn't want to talk about it; I wanted to become normal. Until not too long ago, about two or three years ago...I heard a guy, he was an author, Eli Weisel, who was in a concentration camp, too...he commented, "I am not a survivor, I am a witness." When he said that...I said, well, you know, he's right. And that's when I started telling my story.

CB: Would you say that you're optimistic about the future?

PR: You can never give up hope, but there's a lot of problems. I always told my kids, giver-uppers never succeed. You have to hope that it's gonna get better.

Covid Chronicles

The Covid Chronicles: Episode 3, The Unlikely and the Expected
Ronan Berger

~August-October~

The remainder of the summer consisted of preparation for Algebra 1, which proved to be a cure to my loneliness whilst simultaneously reinforcing ancient math concepts, methodically unearthed from the ashes of the last trimester by the dedicated mathmagician Ms. Stephanie, the fabled an--Ok, so maybe I'm taking this a bit too far, but I'm actually quite thankful my Mom enrolled me in that summer class. It helped a lot since I got to see my old classmates and learn math. Pretty good combo. I'm getting way off topic here. Not much else happened during the summer, although I did pay extra attention to the news for any hope of quarantine ending, sort of like those fourth-graders who eagerly awaited their triangle-shaped-type-two-diabetes that I served some 6 months prior. Despite knowing that it probably wouldn't end any time soon, I think I can speak for many when I say that we all clung to an ounce of hope that COVID would end.

By the start of September, Coronavirus cases reached 300,000 worldwide. My hopes of a quarantine-free-fall had been crushed, and the next semester was staring me in the face. September 14th. The date was looming in front of me, and my only goal was to level-up all my videogame characters by the end of the break; even that pathetic goal had little constraint on my life, as my self-motivation skills are about as small as an atom. The start of the semester was filled with highs and lows: firstly, I had a packed schedule that I still to this day have no idea how I effectively manage, a new math teacher (which I don't know if he hates me, thinks I'm condescending, or actually likes me, it's very hard to tell), and relentless homework assignments that assaulted me each and every day. Now that I think about it, probably a few more lows than highs, but regardless, I was still able to enjoy the controlled chaos. Call me weird, but I honestly love the stimulation that procrastination creates-some of my best essays have come from procrastinating. While I did yearn for the day I'd be able to ~~eat~~ serve Domino's pizza, I knew that wouldn't likely ever happen anytime soon.

By mid-October, I pitifully basked in the idea of scarring toddlers for life in a plague-doctor costume on Halloween, a dream I still yearn to achieve hopefully next fall. Oh, how I wish Halloween wasn't canceled-I really wanted to load up on free candy (aka wrapped diabetes). Thankfully I was able to adjust to my schedule, and my life got back on track once more. Granted, I still had few friends I stayed in contact with, but that would change sooner than I thought.

during the first week of November, I decided it would be a phenomenal idea to create a group chat on Google Hangouts for "studying". Huh, I thought. I mean, I don't really care about any of these people, but like, I guess it's cool. My dull-witted brain had no comprehension of the unlikely friendships I'd create.

RECYCLE THAT!

Holden Wilbur

In Los Angeles people regularly dispose of plastics, glass, and cans in recycle bins that are picked up by local waste management. What cities do with the recycled items is where recycling becomes unclear.

Many cities end up packing up odd recyclables such as plastic wrap and selling them to China. These items are transported in empty shipping containers, and many times end up as landfill.

The U.S. is the number one waste manufacturer,

Many of our recyclables end up in the ocean or landfills because we don't process them correctly. When plastic items are recycled, they are sent to a facility where they are made into small little balls. The balls can then be formed into whatever they need to be. While companies push the recycling of their bottles, few bottles actually use recycled plastic.

Only 25% of all plastic produced in the US is recycled.

Plastic takes 1,000 years to degrade in a landfill, so more of our plastic needs to be recycled. Much of our plastic is currently being made from non-renewable elements such as crude oil. If we recycled all plastic, we could save 1 billion gallons of oil annually.

But many people don't clean recyclables so they get sorted into landfills. Half of all Americans have curbside recyclables pickup, but they often don't recycle properly. The following will show some easy tips to get your recyclables to be recycled.

TIPS

#1: Although it's technically OK to recycle broken glass, it will usually be thrown out as the glass gets sorted. If it's broken, just throw it into the trash.

#2: Plastic bags ARE recyclable, but just a singular plastic bag by itself can get caught in the conveyor belts in the recycling facilities. Create a "bag of bags" where you have one large garbage bag with assorted smaller plastic bags accumulated over time. Keeping all the bags in a bag helps the waste sorter save time and allows the bags to be recycled faster.

#3: Learn what can be recycled in your neighborhood. Many cities have different policies and standards, You might even recycle something you didn't realize was recyclable before.

#4: Empty cans and bottles before recycling them. This helps to keep moisture from contaminating the other recyclables. papers and such.

#5: Bundle paper and wrap it so that other wet recyclables don't get the paper soggy!

Although these tips will improve the recycling situation, it is important for all of us to use less plastic and recycle properly. Make sure to do the basics of recycling, such as buying recycled plastic and reusing things yourself.