

PPAS Voice

Celebrating diversity, promoting unity

“Stop Asian Hate” Must Become More Than a Slogan

By: Emma Tom

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at four-fifty PM: Robert Long, age 21, approached Youngs Asian Massage and opened fire on the women inside. He proceeded to do the same at two other spas nearby; the names of his victims were: Delaina Ashley Yahun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Elcias R. Hernández-Ortiz (wounded), Soon C. Park, Hyun J. Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong A. Yue.

Six out of the eight murdered were women of Asian descent, yet because of Long’s testimony claiming the assault was not “racially motivated,” a spokesman for the police department decided to repeat Long’s claim that his actions were due to him having a bad day. Long claimed to have been struggling with a “sex addiction” that prompted him to specifically target women.

This appalling act of misogyny and dehumanization of the victims has yet to be classified as a hate crime even though all the evidence points to one.

When will justice ever truly be served?

Anti-Asian sentiments in the United States are not new.



ERIK S LESSER/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

While recently the number of reported accounts of assault have skyrocketed by 150%, many people fail to see the root of the issue. Racism towards the AAPI community has become so normalized to the point that the victims are told

“just brush it off” or “it’s only a joke, calm down.” There is also a major misconception that Asians are submissive and will

not advocate for themselves when given the chance. However, many have been speaking out and pushing to have reforms made in our society; they have just been brushed aside and rarely brought up in the media. It was not until the

death of eight people that these hate crimes became a national outcry.

This is the case for many other movements where people of color are constantly struggling to climb this uphill battle against white supremacy. Anti-AAPI sentiments began long before the pandemic and BLM was fighting centuries before the death of George Floyd. The lack of coverage on the subject shows that there is a high possibility that “Stop Asian Hate” will simply become a trend that lasts for a couple of months before dissipating back into the shadows of the public attention.

Noel Quintana, a victim of a recent hate crime, retells the story of his assault, and the simple words that he said were: “I was scared because I thought I was gonna die and nobody helped me.” In the midst of turmoil will we remain as silent bystanders or will we take a step towards forming a society that is safe for all.

Women’s History Month

By: Maria Palagian

From March 1 to March 31, we celebrate National Women’s Month. This month celebrates and highlights the accomplishments women have made in society. At first, women’s accomplishments throughout history were celebrated only on February 28th, but in 1987 congress said that they should be celebrated throughout the month of March.

Major changes for women had started on March 3rd 1913, when Alice Paul led the first women’s suffrage parade. These powerful women longed for equality and wanted to take a stand. Soon after, the national

women’s party was founded on June 5th, 1916. Another amazing event we recognize throughout the month of

March was in 1984 when Mississippi ratified the 19th amendment allowing women to vote— a belated symbolic act, since the 19th amendment became law of the entire United States in 1920! Since we are in a pandemic, we also recognize some amazing

female medical pioneers such as Elizabeth Blackwell and Susan LaFlesche Picotte. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first

woman in the United States to be granted an MD degree. Susan LaFlesche Picotte was the first Native American woman in the United States to earn a medical degree. We also celebrate female musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald



Ella Fitzgerald

Photo: ABC Archives

and Selena Quintanilla. They spread joy and wonderful messages by performing and making music. Amelia Earhart was the first female aviator to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean.

All of these women are truly inspiring and hold so much power. They shaped women’s accomplishments today and pushed women to make a difference in the world.

Women in history will forever be remembered and this month is dedicated to all the amazing pioneers who have shaped our future for the better.

How the Land Down Under Lowered Its Covid-19 Numbers

By: Tanya Jaffe

Australia has been one of the only countries in the world to have beaten the coronavirus without the use of vaccinations. Unmasked residents have been able to do such things as having New Year's parties and opening a touring version of "Hamilton."

How was this possible? It starts with Australia's population, which at 25 million people is lower than that of Texas. With fewer people and more space, spreading out was much easier.

Furthermore, Australia had one of, if not the world's strictest lockdowns at the start of the pandemic. On March 20, 2020, Australia recorded an increase in cases and immediately put preventive measures into place.

First, the country closed itself off to nonresidents, and peo-

ple returning to Australia had to quarantine for two weeks. On March 21, nonessential businesses started closing and social-distancing rules took effect. At that time, the aver-



age daily number of new cases was about 350. By the end of April, it was less than 20.

After reopening for a few months, there was an outbreak of about 7,000 cases in Melbourne. The whole coun-

try went into a second strict lockdown. By October, no new cases were reported.

The Australian government has aimed to suppress the pandemic, bringing the num-



ber of cases down, but understanding that outbreaks might occur. Even now, travel borders are still closed, and some restrictions remain in place.

All in all, Australia has had about 29,000 cases, and 1,000

deaths. Compare that to the U.S., which has had 30 million cases and 550,000 deaths. Even with a bigger population, a bigger percentage of Americans have had Covid-19.

"I look at it this way," said Deborah Birx, who was the White House coronavirus-response coordinator during the pandemic's early months, "The first time we have an excuse. There were about a hundred thousand deaths that came from that original surge. All of the rest of them, in my mind, could have been mitigated or decreased substantially."

In better news, as of April 7, all New Yorkers age 16 and up are eligible to be vaccinated! Click here to schedule an appointment.

When Will It Stop?

By: Joelle Leopold

Happy Women's History month! Ever since 1981, we have been celebrating this exciting month celebrating women! We are celebrating the fact that women have the same rights as men. Although women may have the same rights as men, toxic masculinity still takes over.

On March 3rd, 2021, Sarah Everard died at the age of 33. Sarah Everard vanished at 9:30 p.m. walking home from work. She was later found dead. A male police officer did get arrested for being very suspicious about this incident. Sarah Everard was an artist, introvert, silly, adventurous, a friend, a daughter. This happened thirty years after the first women's history month. When are women going to stop getting taken advantage of by men?

No woman should have to be scared to walk home in the dark. No woman should have

to take a back route home. No woman should need to keep their keys in between her knuckle for self-defense. No woman should have to look a certain way for the pleasure of a man.

No woman should get called names because they do not want to do anything with a man.

According to Merriam Webster, the definition of sexual harassment as "uninvited and unwelcome verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature especially by a person in authority toward a subordinate." Women are not subordinate; they are and should be equal.

Ninety-seven percent of women have been sexually harassed in their life. Out of this percentage, twenty-five percent will get raped, and only four percent will report it. Many women get sexually harassed by their male friends.

Many women think that it will never even happen to them. Most women do not even realize when they are getting sexually harassed, so they will not report it. This only gives a chance for men to sexually harass them or other women even more without getting called out about their behavior.

The phrase "not all men" is

pretty stupid because all men do have the capability to harass a woman sexually. The problem is murder, rape, and molesters, but it is also catcallers, spiking drinks, jokes, stalkers, those who do not listen to women's words, and most importantly, the men who stay quiet. However, there are ways for men to help. Men can stand up for women if they see them getting harassed. If a woman is walking alone, cross the street so that they know you are not following them. Lastly, if a woman ever opens up about being sexually harassed, do not blame them for it. It is scary to go to a school close to Times Square, a tourist capital. Many of us live in boroughs other than Manhattan and have to take public transportation at dark to get home. Nobody should ever be scared to go home from school!



Memorial for Sarah Everard

Governor Cuomo Must Resign

By: John Powers

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, Andrew Cuomo was heralded by the mainstream liberal press. Michelle Collins sums up how Andrew Cuomo was seen one year ago, writing, "the moment his Pacino-like accent fills my living room with its mafia-like authority, my blood pressure drops, ... a tingly feeling of optimism washes over my imprisoned body as I think to myself... I think we're gonna be okay. Also: I think I'm in love with New York Governor Andrew Cuomo."

It's quite ironic that Cuomo now has 10 allegations of sexual misconduct mounted against him. Of course, Cuomo should be considered innocent pending an investigation by Attorney General Letitia James, but can one really feel that Cuomo is following precedent? When Al Franken was accused of similar acts of sexual misconduct

in 2017, a coordinated effort by senators such as Kirsten Gillibrand pressured him to resign and Hollywood celebrities called for his resignation. In a matter of three weeks, Frankenstein had left the senate. Similarly, today, many, including Senator Gillibrand, have called on Cuomo to resign, yet he remains adamant in that he will not. Even if one believes that Cuomo should remain in office regardless of the precedent Democrats

have established, sexual misconduct is one of three scandals Cuomo faces, the others being the nursing homes and nepotism. In fact, according to Letitia James, the Cuomo administration undercounted nursing home deaths and the New York Times concluded that top aides rewrote reports in an apparent coverup. On top of this, Cuomo harassed Assemblyman Ron Kim during a private phone call in response to

Kim's criticism of Cuomo's handling of the nursing homes. Indeed, Kim claims that by forcing nursing homes to take in residents that may or may not have had COVID-19, too many seniors died. If that's not enough, when New York was suffering the brunt of the pandemic and average New Yorkers wondered how they could get a COVID-19 test, Cuomo made sure that his close family got special access to COVID-19 tests and staff at the testing lab were instructed to stay overnight to process the results, according to the New York Times. Andrew Cuomo should resign because of his disgraceful acts as Governor of New York, but also to show that the morals of the Democratic Party are not slanted. After all, how can one party attack former President Trump for corruption when their once rising star engages in similar behavior?



Photo-illustration by Ivana Cruz. Photo: Getty

In the News: Ever Given Disrupted Shipping For 6 Days in March

Ten percent of world trade moves through the Suez Canal. The incident resulted in an estimated \$57 billion in losses.



The name of the ship is Ever Given. Evergreen is the corporate owner of the ship.

Getty image

Eric Adams: The Provocateur's Candidate

By: Ellis Rubin

In a mayoral race packed with progressives, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is a maverick. Adams, a former police captain, has described himself as "extremely conservative on crime" and used to be a registered Republican. Yet, he was also an early proponent of same-sex marriage, has consistently advocated for tenant rights, and has sought to make two-year CUNY colleges free again.

Adams, a Black man, is largely banking on working and middle-class Black people to fuel his campaign, but has admitted he needs to court white voters outside of Brooklyn to win. Adams has more name recognition than much of his competition. This helps explain why he has maintained a second-place showing, behind Andrew Yang, in the Democratic primary polling conducted so far. Adams was elected

to the State Senate in 2006 and elected Brooklyn borough president in 2013. His political ambitions, however, stretch back further and have attracted controversy. For example, during his unsuccessful run for Congress in 1994, he defended Louis Farrah Khan, the Nation of Islam leader who once said Hitler was a "very great man."

A year before that, Adams had accused a Hispanic politician of "insulting the Hispanic community" by marrying a white, Jewish woman instead of a Hispanic one. Right before announcing his campaign for mayor, Adams accused some



Eric Adams.

AP Photo

of New Yorkers of being gentrifiers, telling them to "go back to Iowa." Adams also hosted several indoor fundraisers despite indoor gatherings being shown to promote the spread of the coronavirus.

Moreover, Adams has come under fire from his Black constituency for certain opinions. While he supported protests after the killings of Trayvon Martin and George Floyd, he also led a billboard campaign telling young Black men to stop sagging their pants, suggesting they were responsible for the negative stereotypes about them. Additionally, Adams has supported preserving soli-

itary confinement in prisons despite it disproportionately targeting Black and Latino men.

Adams also faces competition for the Black vote from another Black candidate: Ray McGuire. McGuire, a former Citigroup executive, is a moderate like Adams, but has garnered only a few percentage points in polls. Nevertheless, McGuire's Wall Street fundraising has proven a thorn in Adams's side.

The more McGuire spends on advertising his campaign and increasing his name recognition, the more votes he will likely siphon away from Adams. Adams has already qualified for the city's matching funds program, which matches donations eightfold, but he'll need more than that to fight off McGuire and compete with Yang.

NY PopsUp: The Free Trial Of A New Broadway

By: Rosabella Procaro-Soler

A limited amount of Broadway theatres will be turning their lights back on in April when they will host the NY PopsUp program, a 100 day arts festival which will span throughout New York State. A program of chance, the festival will be hosting 300, free to watch, different programs in undisclosed locations each day. Though this festival was already announced, on March 3rd Gov. Cuomo declared select Broadway theatres will be among the venues to hold the festival this April. The PopsUp program has already begun outdoor performances, having their first performances February 20th, but indoor performances will begin as soon as April 2nd.

The chosen venues will follow CoVid-19 safety precautions in coordination with the New

York State Council On the Arts and the Empire State Development. According to NY PopsUp, both of these programs will also be employed when Broadway makes a somewhat full recovery.

Since the CoVid-19 vaccine is becoming more widely available, theatre workers and anyone else older than the age of 30 are eligible for their first dose as of Tuesday, March 30th. In addition to this, according to the mobile app Citizen, people as young

as 16 are able to acquire the vaccine as soon as Tuesday, April 6th. It has even been announced that there will be a specific vaccination station on Broadway for theatre workers and other respective parties of the like.



The Music Box Theatre seen above, formerly home to Dear Evan Hansen, is one of the first theatres to be included in the program.

As we explore this road of recovery, it is said that Broadway could possibly make a reappearance as soon as the summer of 2021. This return would include patrons continuing to

wear face coverings, socially distancing, and following all normal safety precautions. To members of the theatre community, this is the light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. For many people, this is the chance to regain steady work and gather together once more to create and perform arts of all kinds. The live performance industry has been one section of work to suffer the most, as it is extremely challenging to continue "normally" with these set guidelines. This has left many performers and creatives out of work, and many had to sacrifice pieces of their lives or find new job opportunities. So as these bright lights start to shine again, the theatre industry will rise again, stronger and braver than we've ever been.

Mental Health & Suicide Awareness Importance During the Pandemic

Article and illustration by: Alyssa Sosa

I believe that it is time to shed some light on mental health. Behind the scenes at home, some of us are going through rough/rougher times thanks to the pandemic. Some of our situations have gotten worse due to our current condition. Of course, some of us may enjoy this or feel happier at home 24/7. But some of us are going through immensely hard times right now. Whether that be single hard working mothers working more time to care for their children and for themselves at home, health care workers who have to be separated from their family and work more longer overwhelming shifts, those who have lost their jobs, married couples going through domestic abuse at home, children & teens going through abuse at home, those with mental illnesses, those who are missing the life they had before the pandemic, those who are living in poor conditions, and so many people who have their own situations in general.

No matter what current condition in our lives whether it be good or bad, we are all somehow affected by the pandemic. We must strive to raise awareness and spread the news so we can help those in need during these difficult times. Multiple have their heads down, and feel hopeless. An important matter from these struggles result in not only coronavirus death rates remaining apparent, but so are suicide rates. These tragedies deserve more awareness because our loved ones, friends, and community can be going through some-



thing and we may not even know it. The more we are aware of these deadly risks, the more we can lend our ears to our loved ones or community who could be at risk of suicide. Research shows that ever since the pandemic started, suicide rates have spiked up tremendously and sadly it isn't reaching the ears of those who need to hear. Whatever our loved ones are going through, it is always good to check up on each other because depending on the situa-

tion it is not always easy for us to open up. One of many examples that is one of the most highest occurring mental disorders is depression. Research shows that those suffering with depression can struggle immensely with speaking up about their emotions, and some are very good at concealing these emotions. This is one of the many reasons why there are so many in danger of suicide because they cannot reach an outlet to help with their depression or struggle.

This is important because those we care about could be struggling and we may not even know it. No matter how a person may seem on the outside, we never know what is going on inside of their head.

How can we do the best we can to help those we know who are struggling mentally, and or going through something difficult in their lives? Lend out ears to them, let them know or show them we love them endlessly and will always be there for them, ask them how they are doing, pay attention to how they are acting, if you cannot understand their issue research and read about it there are plenty of articles that have information about it, let them know that they can count on us to hold their hand and walk them towards happiness, continue to have mental health check-ins, be empathetic of their negative emotions: if they are acting negatively it is probably for a reason

and the best thing to do is take a gentle approach to it if we want to create a safe environment. Even suggesting professional help, therapists could be useful to some who need to vent their emotions. Empathy is the key start to fighting to help our loved ones.

Editor's note: Since this article was written, data have emerged that show suicide rates actually declined during the pandemic, even though other mental health indicators have risen. Research continues.

Perseverance Joins Curiosity on Mars! And also ... Elon Musk May be Joining the Party?

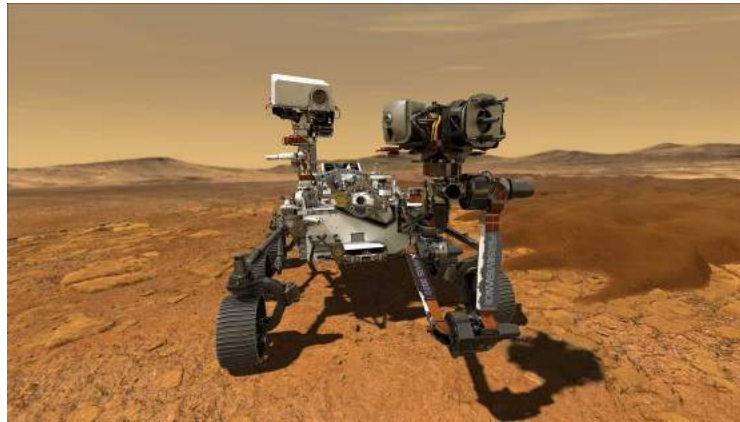
By: Lucian Zanes

Just over a month ago, NASA's Perseverance Rover successfully joined its buddy Curiosity (the rover that NASA has had on Mars since 2012) on Mars. Perseverance's mission is to seek out the possibility of past life, and determine the possibility of human survival on Mars. As you all probably know- we weren't too good to our first planet, and we might need to find a new one. Not to worry- that wouldn't happen for... well... hopefully not to soon.

Perseverance landed in the lowest point of the "Jezero Crater". This landing spot was very specific and significant, as this crater appears to display the remnants of a massive lake.

After the landing, Perseverance moved to flat terrain, to deploy Ingenuity, a mini helicopter. Ingenuity is currently

planned for five flights around Mars' atmosphere. Unlike Perseverance, who will be collecting rock and soil samples to bring back to Earth, Ingenuity



Perseverance Rover

NASA Image

won't be collecting anything. This helicopter is simply being used to prove that flight is possible within the atmosphere. Nonetheless, NASA has promised some breathtaking aerial footage.

Over the past eight years, Curiosity has uncovered some pretty amazing stuff- my personal favorite being minerals left behind that leave scientists

to believe that there was quite possibly usable water. The minerals have aged in a way that alludes to the water not being very acidic. It's incredible the things that we can uncover from just a rock sample.

As much as NASA is very much significant in this race to build life on Mars, Elon Musk and his company SpaceX may beat them to it. SpaceX has developed "Starship", a ship promising to be able to bring roughly a hundred people at a time to Mars.

The estimated travel time is calculated to be six months, but Musk is claiming to be able to reduce it to four months. "Starship" is also reusable, sustainable, and will be cost effective. Rich CEOs have already booked this ship for trips to the moon in 2023. SpaceX has also planned its first crewed trip to Mars for 2026, but Musk also stated that this trip could be moved up to 2024. We may be seeing people on Mars far sooner than we thought.

How Sleep Affects Physical and Mental Health

By: Shannon Donohue

For years, not getting enough sleep has been linked to poor physical and mental health. While you may just feel dazed and tired for your morning (or your day), inadequate sleep can cause some serious health problems in the long run.

During rest, your body produces several antibodies needed by your immune system to fight off infection. When you don't get this crucial sleep, your body cannot fight off viruses and bacteria as well as it is able to.

Not getting a good night's rest consistently can also lead to weight gain and obesity. When you sleep, your body produces two hormones that are responsible for satiety- leptin, and ghrelin. Leptin is what tells you you're full, while ghrelin tells you you're hungry. Not getting proper

bed rest increases the amount of ghrelin and decreases the amount of leptin, which may be responsible for late-night snacking.

Additionally, sleep deprivation decreases the excretion of insulin- the hormone that aids in lowering blood sugar levels. This drop in insulin levels can increase your risk of type 2 diabetes and obesity.

A deficiency of sleep not only affects your physical health but also affects your mental health. Ever noticed you are less able to concentrate or remember information when you haven't gotten sufficient sleep? According to Healthline, The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Your Body, "During sleep, pathways form between nerve cells (neurons) in your brain that help you remember new information you've learned. Sleep deprivation

leaves your brain exhausted, so it can't perform its duties as well." This may bring about the incapacity to concentrate and take in new information.

It is advised for those 18 and over to get 7-9 hours of sleep each night, and 8-10 hours for those from ages 14 to 17. Sleep is important, and getting enough of it can improve your physical and mental wellbeing. So instead of watching another episode of that Netflix show



you can't stop watching, or scrolling through Instagram reels for another hour, give your body what it needs to function efficiently with a good night's sleep.

AI: For Better or for Worse?

By: Serena Cheng

What comes to mind when you think of Artificial Intelligence or A.I.? Perhaps you think of Vision, the synthetic android married to Wanda in Marvel. Or Disney's Baymax, the lovable soft robot designed to meet your medical needs. Science fiction often portrays A.I. as robots with human-like characteristics. However, A.I. can encompass anything from voice assistants like Alexa to the email filters that categorize your messages as spam or essential. A.I. is becoming more and more ubiquitous.

What Exactly is A.I.?

Artificial intelligence refers to a computer system's ability to mimic human cognitive functions such as learning and problem-solving. The A.I. we know today is narrow A.I., or systems designed to perform a narrow set of tasks (e.g. A.I. in self-driving cars is narrow because they can only drive cars). Strong A.I., on the other

hand, is the theoretical capability of computer intelligence to do any set of tasks that humans can do. The idea that strong A.I. could be achieved was long thought of as science fiction. But with recent breakthroughs, some experts seriously take the possibility of superintelligence in our lifetime.

The Pervading Influence of A.I.

The growth of Artificial Intelligence is undeniable as it is integrated into a myriad of fields such as sustainability, health, and humanitarian action: The Ocean Cleanup uses A.I. to identify plastic pollution in rivers; Business Data Evolution uses this technology to identify retinopathy in premature infants; and Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team (HOT) uses A.I. Assistance as a resource in open map building, enabling vulnerable communities to receive aid efficiently.



Nevertheless, unprecedented technology generates a new set of ethical issues that are necessary to address. Even tech companies such as Microsoft and Google call out the potential dangers of A.I. For instance, racial bias in facial recognition technology makes it essential to strictly monitor the use of such technology in law enforcement. To name a few more potential dangers, A.I. could be maliciously utilized in automated weapons or

used as tools in creating alternate sets of reality through fake news, voices, and images. All in all, the development of A.I. creates opportunities to improve lives but raises questions about the best way to build transparency, fairness, and safety into these systems. These questions are far from solved, and so it is the responsibility of those who build these systems to implement ethical practices.

Social Media: Good or Bad?

By: Audrey Cross

Since the very start of the pandemic, social media use has become a much bigger and more significant part of all of our lives. A study by Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago reports that 63% of parents believe their children use social media more now than ever before. So what does this mean? Let's start off with how social media can benefit youth. Social media can act as a strong support system for those who may need it. It allows you to meet new people or easily connect with those you may have seen frequently before the pandemic. In addition to this, social media is a wonderful way to explore new ideas and express yourself. I'm sure those of you who spend time on an app like TikTok know that it's perfect for self expression and creativity. It has a wide variety of content including recipes, poli-

tics, humor, dancing, art, and more. Anyone on this platform can explore their own interests and share them with others.

One very important thing to remember about social media is the educational aspect. Social media is a significant part of every student's life when it comes to virtual learning. It allows them to easily access and share information. In addition to school, social media can help educate young people about real life events. As long as you make sure to check your sources, it can teach a lot about everything from politics to human rights.

However, social media is far

from perfect. According to a recent study by Common Sense Media, 38% of teens and young adults have experienced symptoms of moderate

to severe depression. This statistic is up 13% since 2018. Since

smartphone use has increased, there's been a rise in depressive symptoms in teens and young adults. There's a clear correlation between the two. Many experts say that communicating over social media leaves people feeling more isolated and alone than talking in person does. Aside from being stuck inside due to the pandemic, many younger people would choose communicating

online over talking in person.

Anyone who has been on the receiving end of a hate comment or even opened a TikTok comment section would know how much strong words can hurt. Approximately 1 in every 4 teens and young adults frequently see body shaming, sexist, homophobic, or racist comments on different social media platforms. This can really take a toll on the mental health of a younger person, especially at an age where they're easily influenced by what they see in the media.

So what's the final verdict? Social media, like everything else, has both pros and cons. It's bound to be a different experience for everyone, no two people are going to feel the same after spending time on the internet. In the end, it's up to you to decide what's best for you personally.



The Woman

By Clara Young

I don't have to be overly kind to strangers who hit on me.

You see, I don't owe them anything.

The men that cat called me when I was young got the recognition of my awkward smiles

But now I know I don't owe them anything.

It's hard to grow up being taught that you're gross or weird

Or being judged for what you wear.

Like, I'm sorry I have a body, is that what you want to hear?

It's so upsetting.

I don't have to be overly kind to strangers who hit on me.

And if they're a man and I feel uncomfortable it's my prerogative to leave.

I didn't mean to bruise your ego bud but don't you think you've done enough.

Saying "I see you girl" on the street

And you think you're flattering me

You don't know all the history

I don't have to be overly kind to strangers who hit on me.

Turpitude

By: Gregory Papadopoulos

The ones who mocked and those who bathed in turpitude
 Did not render well on the long voyage.
 Many a day went whilst the pernicious crewmates dug into their skin
 With chalk, tallying the days until mercy.
 I would not say the tables turned,
 But the frail and delicate of the lot were spared after a number of weeks.
 When one is ridden with hunger
 Lust
 Indolence
 The inferior seem to escape one's presence unscathed.

Time no longer seemed relevant.
 Humanity was washed away as swiftly as the sweat of Man's brow
 when waves
 Overwhelm the ship.
 Savagery was the rooted backbone who remained.

Savagery was growing defiant.
 Uncooperative with a brain
 Lacking morality.
 The men knew that Savagery was the inevitable, final
 Step of human evolution...
 Or de-evolution.
 Regardless, there were no efforts made to
 Avoid this fate.

Flag at full-mast.
 An image of resilience.
 But an artificial one.
 Primitive bite marks left over bodies.
 Skin crisping, peeling.
 Those who bathed in turpitude now bathe in their
 Blood as
 The Frail
 And Delicate
 Arise as victors.

Their guns and swords, thrown into the sea.
 A choice.
 Now, the bones serve as
 Arms.
 Savagery:
 Not inevitable,
 But a choice.

PHOTOGRAPHY: *Profile Pic*

By: Olivia Lopez



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