



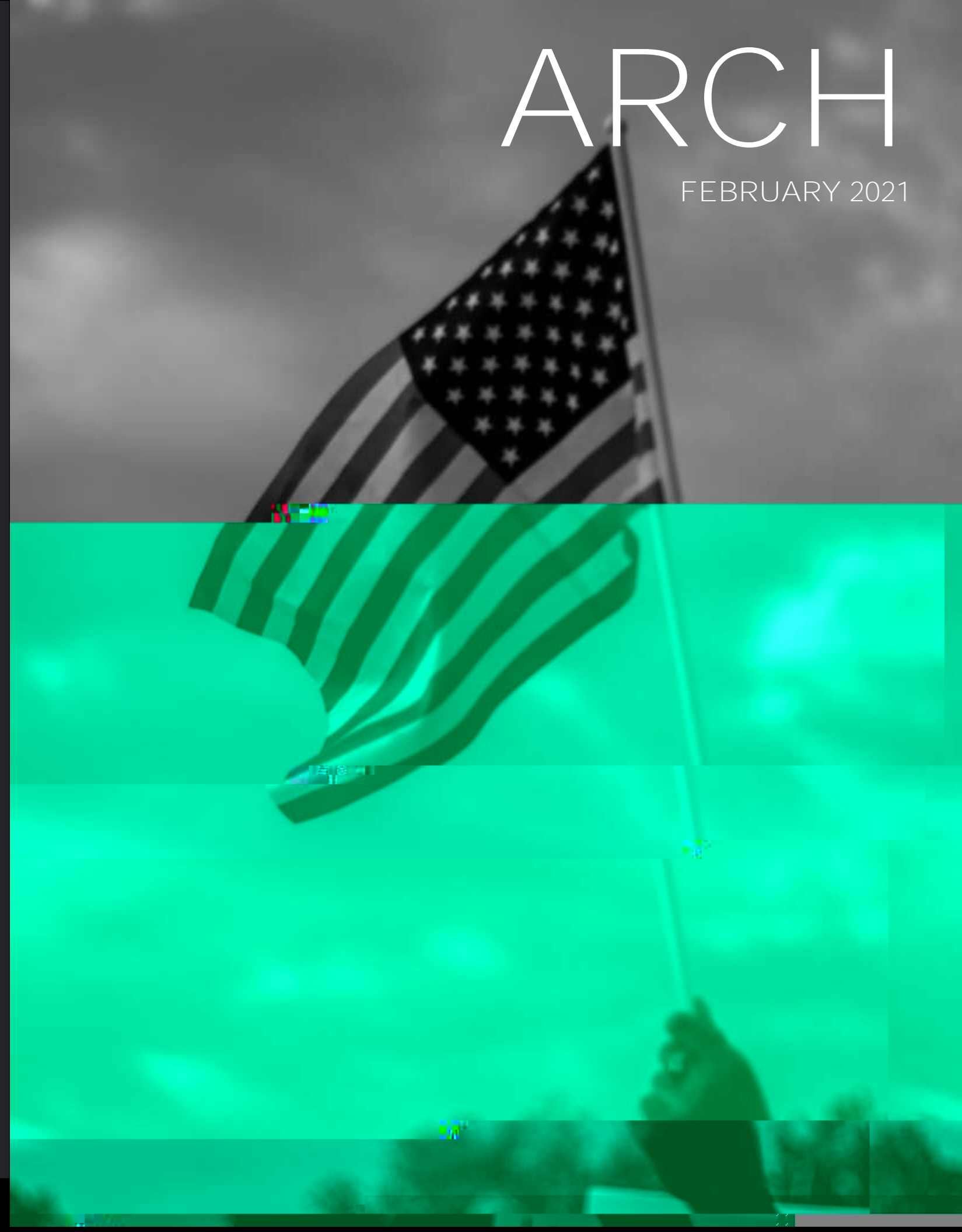
Stories of Reminiscence

- Black Rap

- FEBRUARY 2021

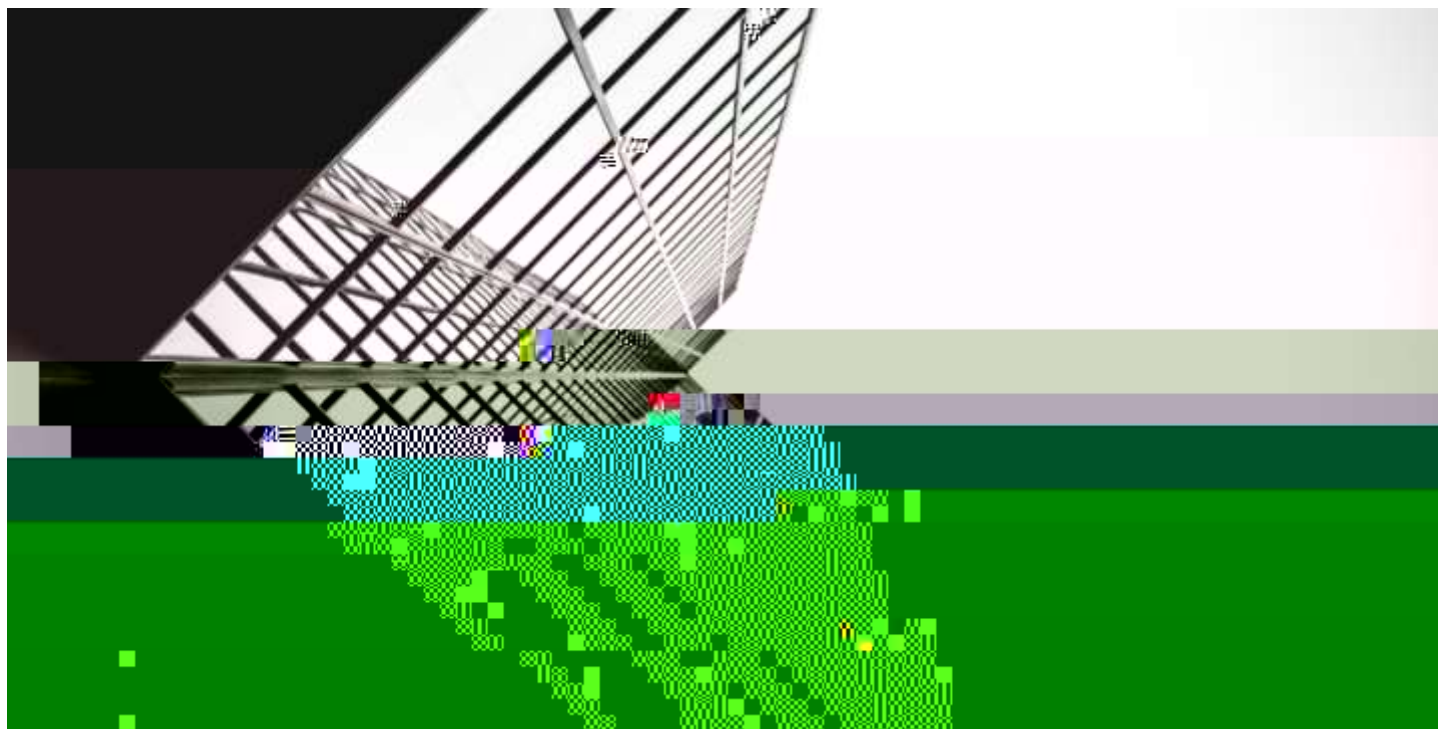
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Editor's Comments

New Foundations



The idea of restoring the publication became reality in the 2019-20 academic calendar year, under the initiative of Ellen Kazembe (Former Editor-In-Chief) and has ever since been successful. While I had not been involved in the first publication, my encounter with the chief editor at the time, Ellen Kazembe, inspired my association with the publication. It was through this association that in the

summer of 2020, Ellen contacted me to continue her line of work. I gladly accepted this responsibility and much has happened since then.

This is the first version of the publication ever since I took responsibility of it and it would be evident some modifications have been made. To some extent, these revisions have been resultant of natural processes as I became more involved with this time-consuming project. To another extent, the revisions made have been a result of the influences (direct or indirect) of Ms. Tasha Otenti (my advisor) and Ms. Malinda Polk (my high school English Teacher). To both, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude.

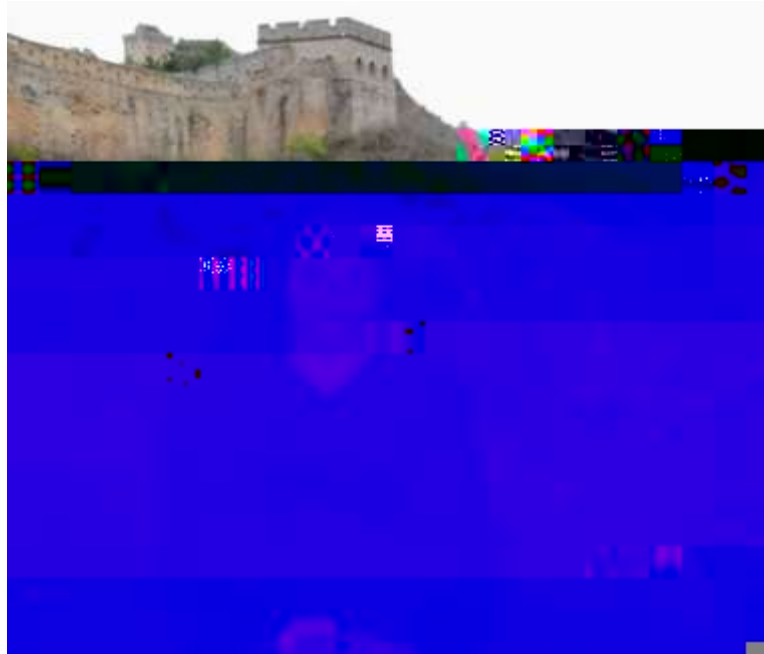
Beyond that, I would specifically like to thank Ms. Otenti. It was through her conversations that I became more intrigued and started working with the publication. I would also like to thank my colleague and managing editor Denzel Marufu for his work and endearing support in turning this publication to what it is now. I would also extend my gratitude to Professor Elizabeth Benacka and Professor Desmond Odugu for their tremendous support. And lastly, of course, I would like to thank Mr. Craig Marchbanks for his support.

This edition is a continuation of the

ideas and interactions I had with all these people. Whatever the changes made between this edition and the previous, the purpose remains the same: documenting the black experience at the Lake Forest C

Formative Experiences: Rec8nDr. Richard

In Conversation with Rosalin Walcott



I actually studied litigation. (Loyola University of Chicago). Banks were being taken to task for the 2008 Banking Crisis, so my work on those matters led me to handling commercial litigation and then real estate work. This culminated

self

I'm also excited about what type of job I find next. I am staying open and I'm looking at paralegal positions. At some point, I would like to do Educational Psychology, exploring the ways, and developing cultural sensitive curriculum to teach and educate youth.

6. What gives you a sense of hope? What makes you concerned or worried?

I would say in making my decision to resign from my job and doing it, a lot of what helped me was the rising of so many Black voices. There were a lot of black women that were tweeting, posting, writing articles and talking about their actual experiences in corporate America. I was like, "I'm not alone." Not only were we talking about it, they were being unapologetically honest, and that turned into, "What are we gonna do about it?" I suddenly had the vocabulary, and when you can formulate the problem you can find resolutions.

That's made available coaching or made apparent that coaching is for US (Black people) to get to the next level. Same with therapy. There's so many support groups now geared to help people organize, mobilize and heal. Entrepreneurship is rising within the black community. We are really figuring out and finding out ways to be vocal together. So I feel pretty unified in that.

That kinda stuff gives me hope.

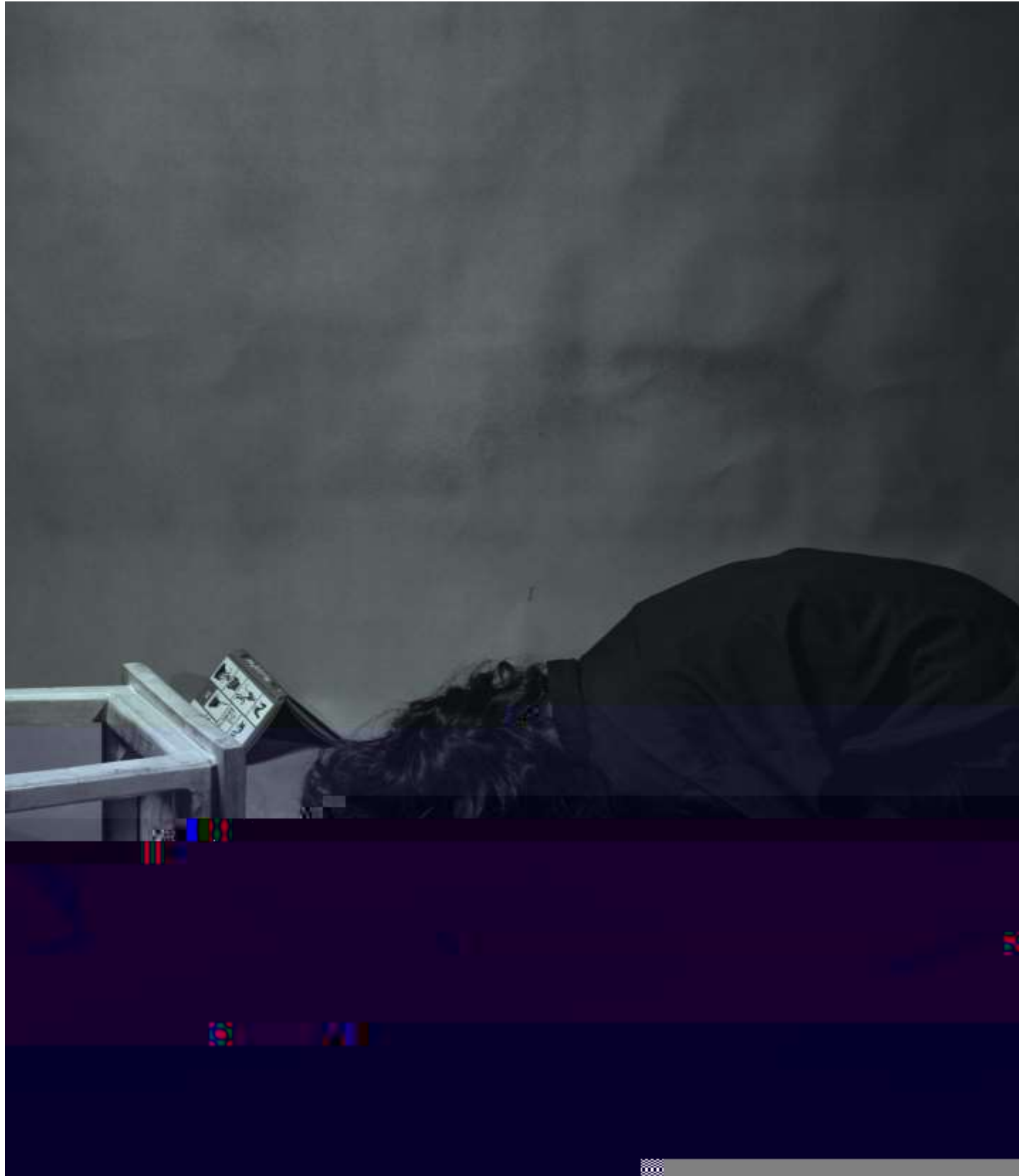


plays on questions of identity and politics as they relate to
the pursuit of (some) fundamental rights - political

This would become one of the first incidents that would mark the beginning of the Los Angeles riots of 1992.

It is no secret the issue at heart was the matter of police brutality, an issue recurring in many similar instances over the past three decades. It is on this same issue that the Black Lives Matter Movement was formed in 2013 to advocate against the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the Trayvon Martin Shooting of 2012. [2] This movement and others, however, have not gone by without generating its own sets of questions particularly regarding their political and cultural orientations.

There has been developing two prevailing notions regarding the nature of the new activist movements. The first is the belief that they are apolitical in the sense that they transcend the political sphere. The second



Sensitive Souls

I know not what is wrong, I know not what is right, therefore, I know not who I am. In my bouts of arrogance, I can barely look another being in the eye - such is my disgust at mankind. In my bouts of despair, I long for solace in that which disgusts me more than anything. My soul is in battle with my body, my mind in battle with my heart. God and Satan are permanently firing at each other equal in

I was blessed to witness a touching site involving him once. A young girl had taken out a penny which she had just received from the shop owner as part of her transaction and immediately proceeded to give it over to the beggar, almost as if she had planned this meticulously for days on end - such is the innocence of a child. The man almost seemed embarrassed to be receiving a donation as he tried his best to formulate some sort of smile which revealed his lack of front teeth. The width of his mouth, as well as the faintness of his eyebrows, gave him an unintelligent appearance, that is until one saw his eyes. They burned with passion in their piercing gray tone which led people to give him the nickname of "fortune teller" as his gaze was so penetrating that the locals

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The importance of this conversation cannot be understated particularly as it evolves into a discussion of freedom and power, of which is characterized by elements of partisan interests and the centrality of representation. The earlier stated stances of the Justices might roughly be interpreted as to whether politics might be used as an instrument of accommodation in settling racial disputes. In that manner, two ideas should strike out as emerging from such considerations. First is the idea as to whether freedom should solely be considered in the political sphere. Second is the idea that freedom should go beyond political determinants.

In some ways, there is some legitimacy with the first argument that freedom inherently contains a political component. However, this political notion should not be confined to political action but also be inclusive of institutions that

enable the ordinary citizen to keep their representatives accountable. Yet, however, freedom in the modern sense goes beyond the political particularly because it extends beyond a discussion of partisan interests. Freedom is significantly much more than a consideration of group interests but also of individual's.

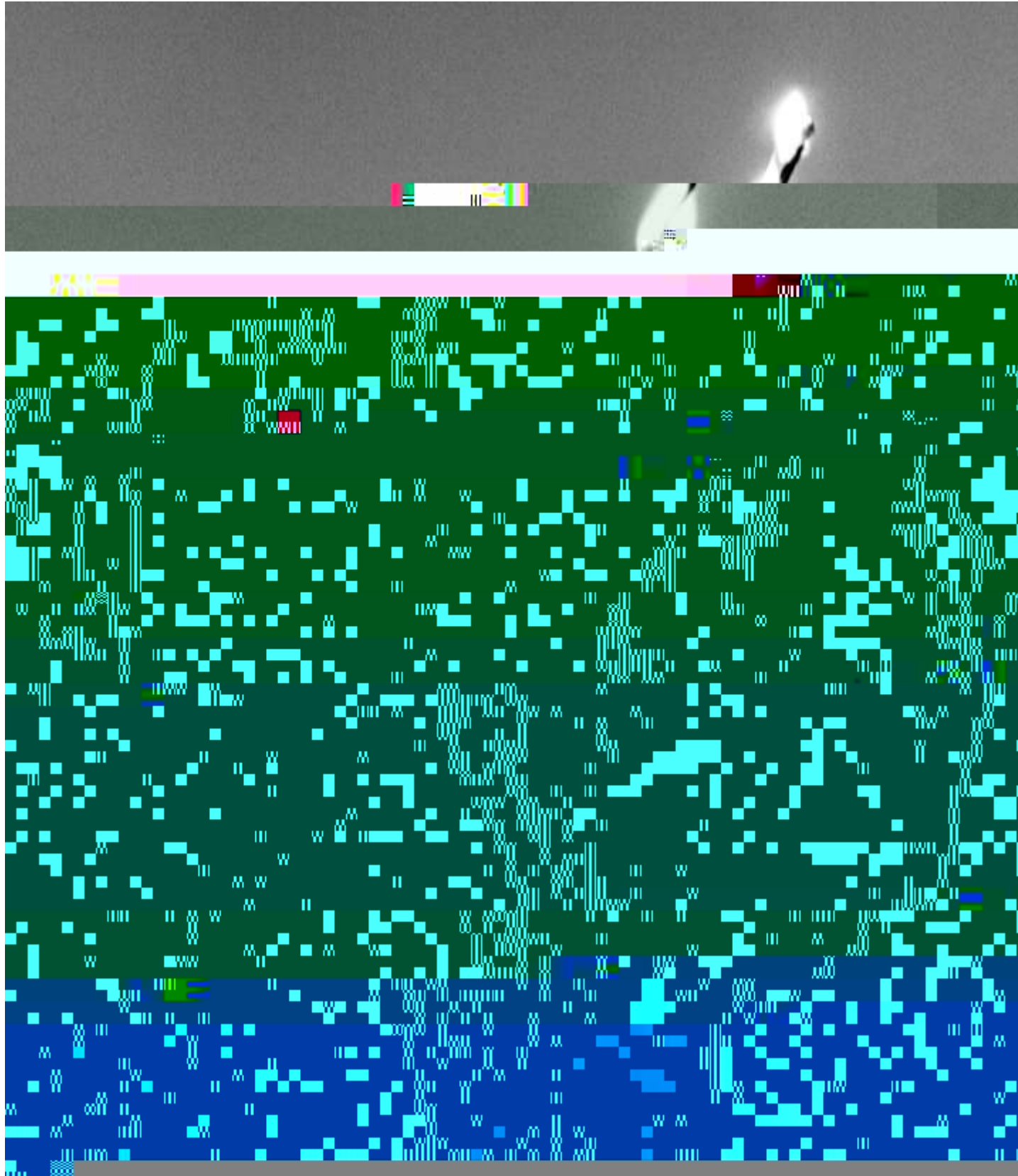
The essence of the decision is the Supreme Court has laid out the bare fact that freedom cannot be maintained without politics as was the argument of Justice Kennedy. However, as Justice Sotomayor dissented, freedom cannot be reduced to politics. Politicization of the question of freedom is not the ultimate solution to the problems of the black community. However, that does not mean it cannot form a part of the solution.

Freedom is power. And power, in part, is determined by our ability to exert control across the political dimension.



An Unfortunate Occurrence

Is it not the most depressing thing imaginable that the truest sentiments can never be shared? Let us simply admire their tragic beauty in silence. The silence in question was deafening as it filled the room surrounded by four aged walls, smeared by cracks stemming from the rotting ceiling that gave off a putrid smell, often deterring visitors - but these are the kind of details that make a home special. The silence was supposed to be a stranger to this room which was often a site for a great deal of hullabaloo once the family settled down for supper at six o'clock sharp. The hullabaloo was positive, however, as the family fully utilised the short period of time they had together by engaging in discussions of all sorts ranging from the philosophical to playful insults. Being his incandescent self, the father would often begin the topic of the evening by offering a conundrum or



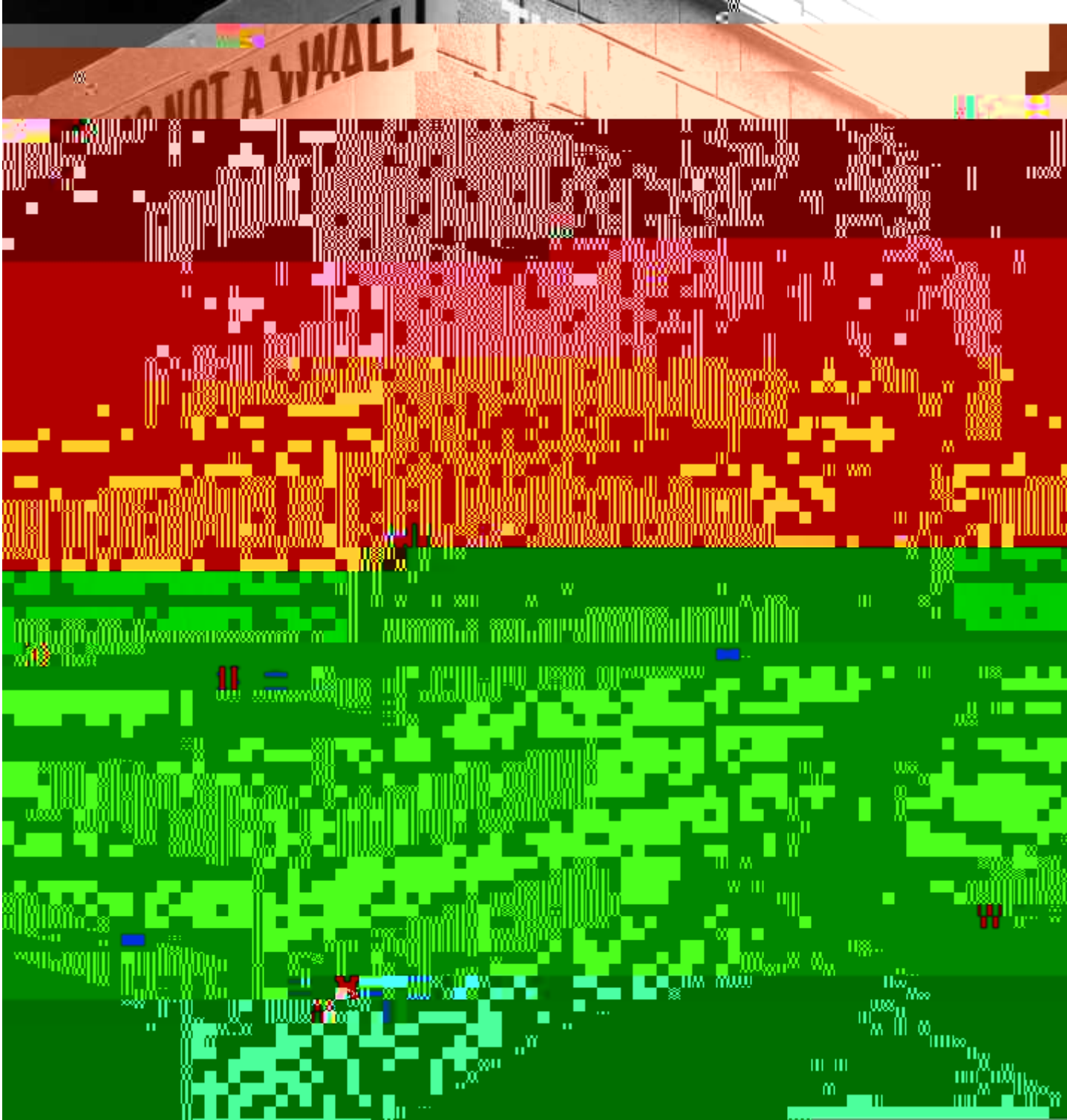
shoved in the police van which arrived on the scene at roughly the same time as the ambulance. The reason for this was because the man had called the ambulance to aid his victim and subsequently called the police immediately after. Upon instinct, this is an abnormal reaction but an abnormal reaction to an abnormal situation is normal behaviour. Let us diverge into a short history of the killer. In all honesty, not much was known about his personal life given his nomadic way of living but rumour has it that he was once the son of a government official in the capital and was eventually estranged from his parents due to his frivolous spending habits and a knack for violating the laws. The estrangement was said to be mutual, despite him being only nineteen at

her to eat as well). The father was the most distraught of them all. While he respected Gogo Aly, he was not particularly close to her which made it strange that his character had undergone such a drastic alteration after her death. The following ensued:

“But it was expected at some point. Did you know that he’s a Marxist? May God take my soul before I ever fall for that gimmick. All of them are the same: They spend too much time within themselves ruminating and seething. As narcissists, their whole world view is that of themselves, not of the world itself. Now they lie to us about their compassion yet in truth they see the world as it should be, not as it is. Ultimately they see nothing at all. It is like the blind mice leading each other into some childish utopian wonderland. They are always one corpse away from achieving this wonderland.” The son said this furiously as he aimed to succeed where his mother had failed and ease the tension by offering a topic to discuss. Educated people often retreat back into hindsight when an unforeseen event has taken place - perhaps to remind oneself that they are still more rational than they are barbaric. It is worth noting that both parents were Professors and both their children were educated from home which was not only cost-effective but also more efficient.

“Some trees have even deeper roots than it seems son. Now is not the time to point fingers...” replied the father who finally opened his mouth

Structures of the Modern Society-
Identity, Difference and Toleration



Recent developments, however, reveal the inadequacies of both approaches to underlying issues of social division. Within the perfectionist view, toleration is not as much about acceptance and recognition as it is about being able to put up with. Not only does this view fail in this regard but it also reveals a selectiveness in its incompatibility with views of illiberal cultures. The neutralist interpretation of toleration, however, does no better. While openness and inclusion characterize the neutralist trait, it turns out its view of non-discrimination is self-defeating.

In the first place, the neutralist stands holds all differences are alike and consequently adopts a difference-blind view as a solution. This is its most important flaw. It makes our differences – notably on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and culture – disappear. The resultant conclusions are that the neutralist proposes a false-openness while the perfectionist view is explicitly exclusive.

Perhaps, to understand these flawed views of toleration, it would be important to look at the underlying connection between the neutralist and perfectionist view. They both evaluate tolerance on an individual level. Being black for that matter is treated as endorsing certain kinds of social practices and ways of life. In other words, being black is viewed as a matter of choice.

This important point leads to a discussion of redefining what we mean by pluralism. Of course, this suggests expanding from the individual level to realize the collective dimension is crucial. And if it is crucial, it would mean discussions of toleration need to be expanded for all cultures to have an equal footing. This is what modern toleration is about. Liberty, inclusion and respect, not only in the private domain but in the public circle.

Toleration need not be concerned about the maintenance of liberal values as it should be about equal treatment. It is about time we rid the notion of confusing the public visibility of black presence as a sign of inclusion. If we are to be deemed tolerated, it would depend on us being recognized at every level of society. Legitimate representation is what we should desire not symbolism.

On the Determinants of Passion

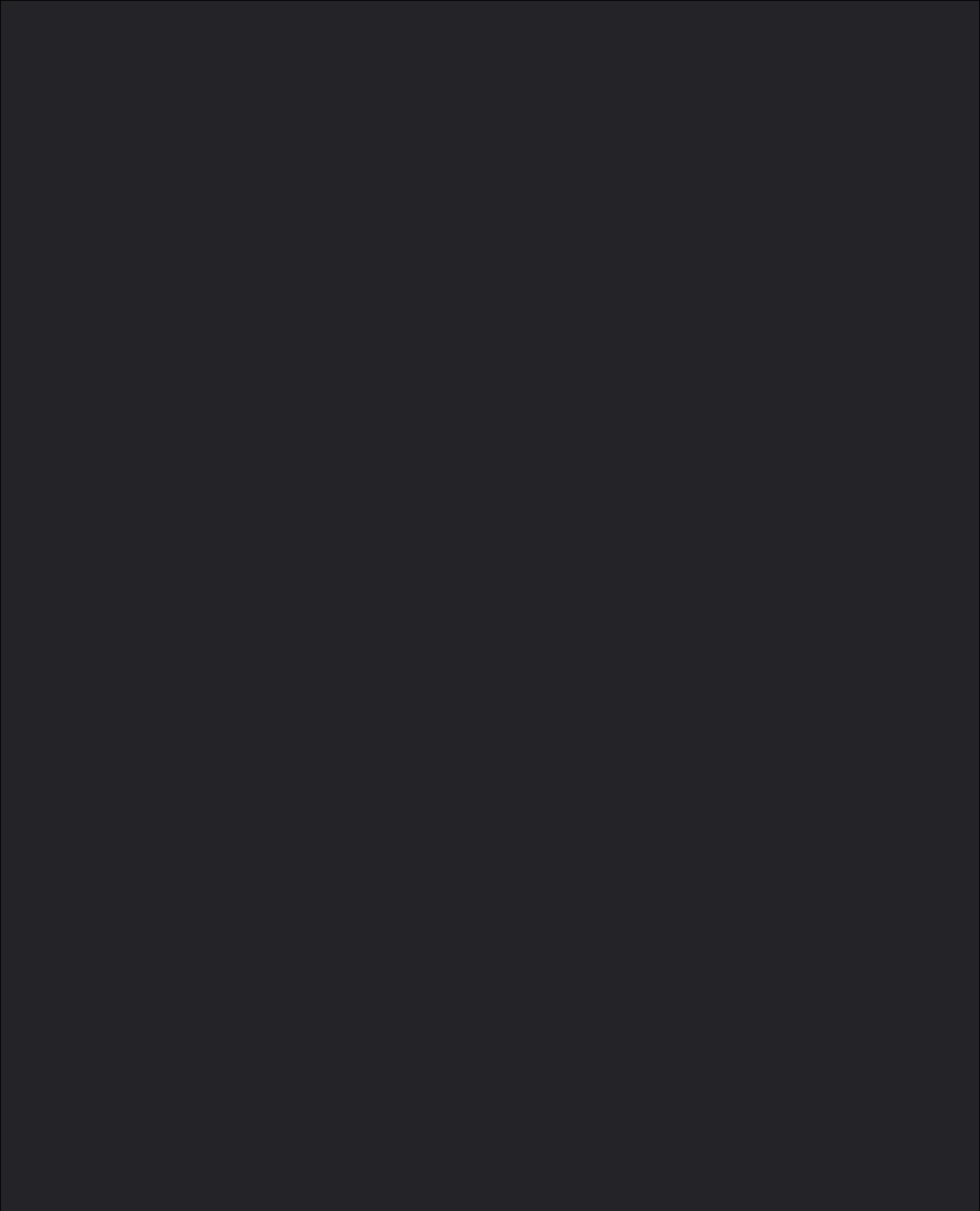
In the psychological sphere, passion is thought of as a strong inclination toward an activity a person values and finds meaningful to the extent that they may be willing to devote significant amounts of time and energy toward that activity. Extended from this view is that passion

Motivating Collective Action

In certain respects, it would be fitting to answer the above question by looking directly at specific grievances and consequently participation as means of addressing those issues. However, that approach would be misguided least because it dismisses the psychological factors that underlie a movement. In fact, it could be more useful to answer the question specifically through the lens of framing,

At noon on Friday, January 20, 2017, it was official that America had a new president. Donald J. Trump had been inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States. In hindsight, it was obvious President Trump's tenure was marked with a background of contentious divide within the nation. Yet, the development of growing discontent could not be limited to developments immediate to the election. Discontent had always been a general theme of American politics. However, the fact is there was a change in American politics that year. It was not that more people suddenly became aggrieved. It was that more aggrieved people started to express their grievances. And so a question naturally arises, why did social movements become commonplace?

The issue of participation extending beyond the bounds of incentives diverges into a discussion of identity. Of course, a consideration of identity would necessitate



In Conversation with Dr. Richardson

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. I am also a recently appointed Senior Advisor to the President. I have been t



1. What's your current position? How long have you been in this position?

I am the Ernest H. Volwiler Professor of Mathematics and the Chair of the



5. Now if we can, I'd like to go way back for a little while. Where did you grow up? What was it like to grow up in Chicago?

I grew up on the South-side of Chicago, though my parents were raised in Mississippi and relocated to Chicago as part of the "Great migration" of the 1950's. My parents were card-carrying members of the "working poor", earning enough to keep an adequate (but not at all fancy) roof over our heads and clothing for us to wear. I was raised in a neighborhood called Woodlawn that is, literally, located two blocks from the University of Chicago campus. At that time there were lots of gangs in Woodlawn; it was the stereotypical urban environment. As an example, a source of evening entertainment for my younger sister and I was proceeding to our living room, turning out all lights, opening the curtains, and peering out the window in anticipation of an evening brawl in the street that frequently erupted between rival street gangs in the neighborhood.

For reasons that were never fully shared, my mother lost her job and was unable to find another, forcing our family to depend on government public assistance, or "food stamps" as it was called, for our livelihood. I recall life being "interesting" during that time as our family's rhythm revolved around the first-of-the-month arrival of food stamps and the "aid check". My elementary school experience was similarly interesting. The affirmative action era within the U.S. was in full swing then, a time when the ethnic

integration of public schools was mandated. Many kids from the overwhelmingly Black neighborhood of Woodlawn, I among them, were forced to attend middle-school in the nearby predominantly White neighborhood of Hyde Park (though, White kids were never required to attend schools in Woodlawn). Although the two neighborhoods were adjoined, life and living within the two were worlds apart.

I remember the start of my first year of middle school, 7th grade. For me and all of my friends, this marked our first life experience with White kids and a predominantly White social environment. We very quickly noticed that everyone in the school were afraid of us, as if we all were hoodlums, savages, and thugs who had invaded their space. Many of us quickly fulfilled that expectation and began running a bit amok, as kids will do when they sense the combination of disdain and fear among those in authority over them. However, having been motivated by two formidable adults who were pivotal to my thinking at that time, I took advantage of being placed into the advanced classes in Math and English. The overwhelming majority, if not all, of the students in each of these classes were White; almost all Black kids were placed in the general or special education classes. In this very real sense, the school remained segregated even while satisfying the statutory requirements of educational integration. (There's a lot more that can be—and has been—said about all of this, highlighting both the successes and failures of such government efforts, but that

more than a bit of resentment within me. This resentment was amplified once I finished





I really don't buy into professional trajectories for myself, though they are winning tools for many. For me, consistent with my passions, professional trajectories can be limiting; they can lead to tunnel vision in which you ignore golden opportunities that come your way only because you had not considered them. As I said earlier, I prefer to maximize opportunities to learn new things and new ways. If an opportunity comes my way that can supplement my know-how, then I'll take advantage of it.

References

Are the New Activist Movements Political or Cultural

1. Paragraph 2 is sourced from Controversy over Rodney King beating and L.A. riots reignites. (n.d.). Retrieved January 2, 2021, from https://web.archive.org/web/20150417061706/http://lapd.com/news/headlines/controversy_over_rodney_king_beating_and_la_riots_reignites/
2. Details from Paragraph 1 are sourced from the same page
3. Formation of the BLM is sourced from #BlackLivesMatter: The birth of a new civil rights movement. (2015, July 19). Retrieved January 4, 2021, from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jul/19/blacklivesmatter-birth-civil-rights-movement>

Freedom as Political Representation

1. Quoted Sections in Paragraph 1 is sourced from: Cheng, B. (n.d.). Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action. Retrieved January 7, 2021, from <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/schuette-v-coalition-to-defend-affirmative-action/>

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About Black Rap

Our stated priority is we are oriented toward the audience of the black community at the college both past and present. Our content is built upon discussions of the successes of the black community within the context of its unpleasant realities.

We chronicle the interactive qualities that exemplify the members of the black community. We hope that our work reflects the diversity and vitality of the Black community of Lake Forest College.

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