

CIVICS:

**RIGHTS, OBLIGATIONS & DUTIES OR
PROPAGANDA, EVASION &
DERELICTION?**

April 2026

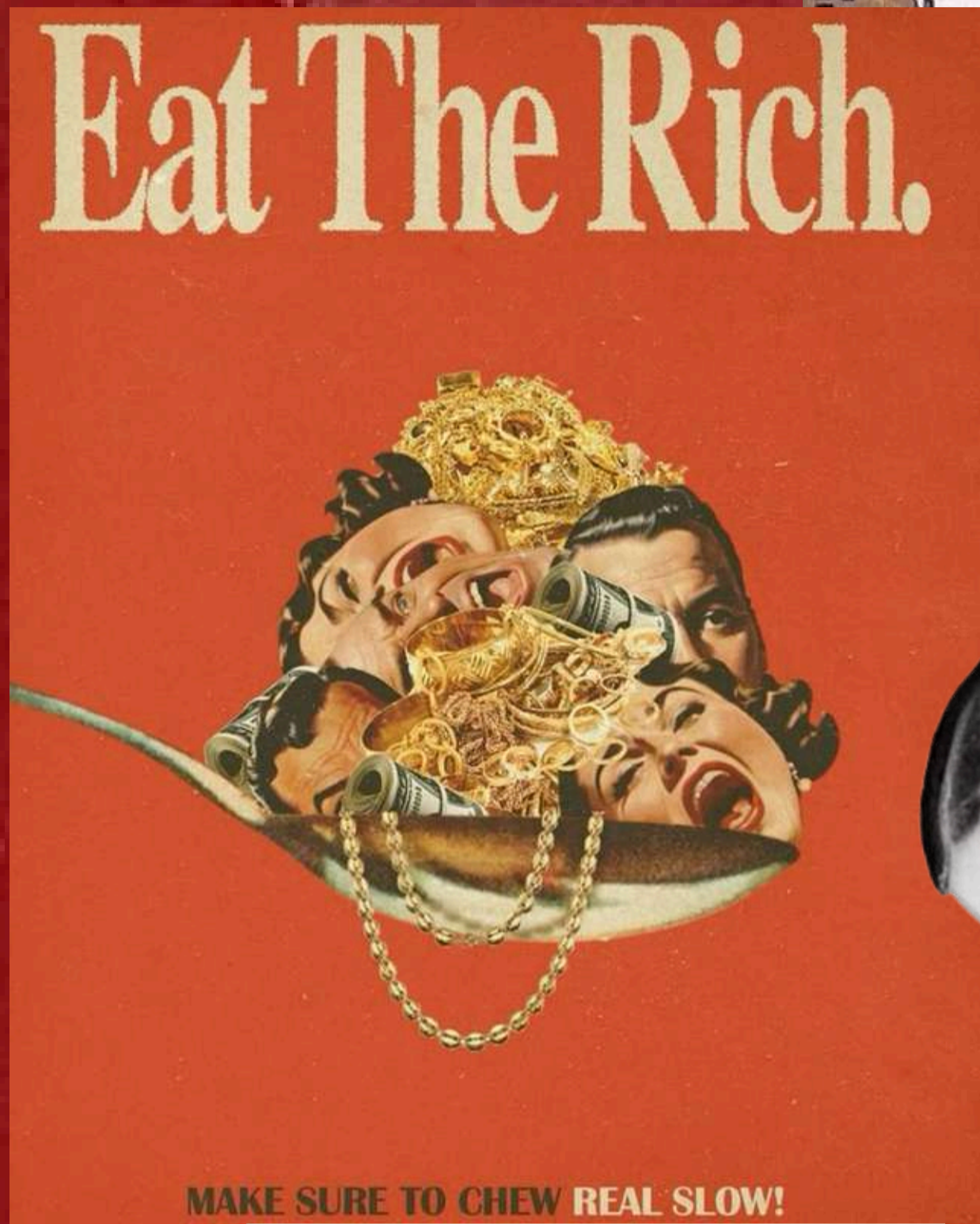
Legacy Gazette

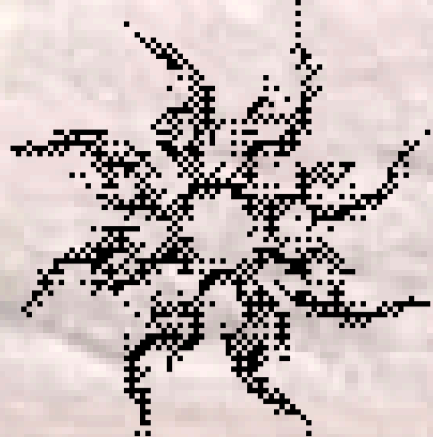


FROM THEN TO NOW, THEM TO US: A HISTORY OF POLITICAL, RACIST, AND VIOLENT PROPAGANDA

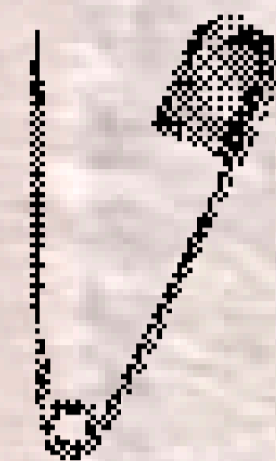
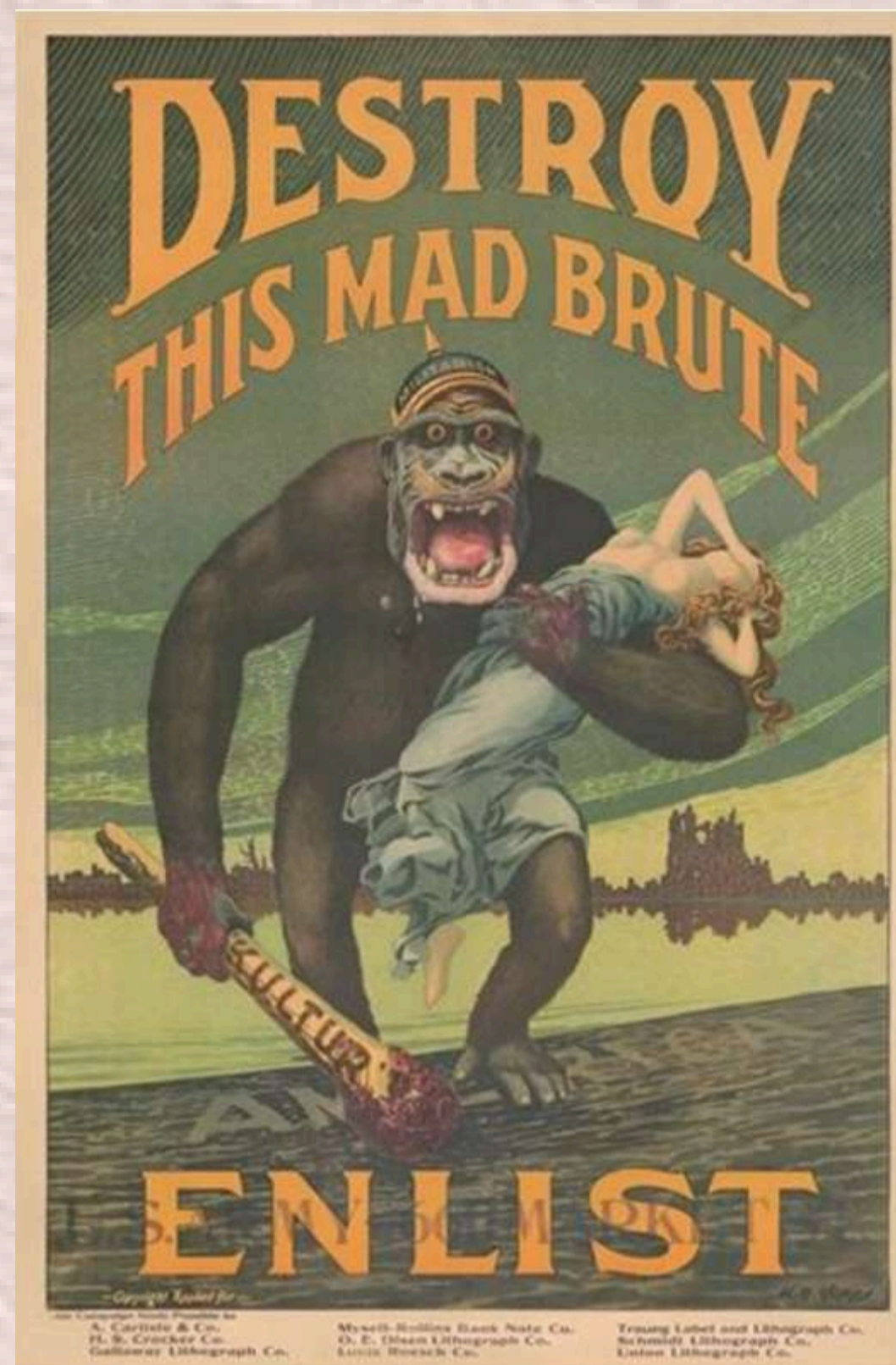
Caitlin Liao

Propaganda has had a paramount role in shaping human history and can be traced from modern-day all the way back to ancient Greece. Propaganda is defined as information used to promote a particular point of view, often biased in misleading ways. These days, we often see propaganda in the form of social media posts or unreliable news outlets, but propaganda has taken many forms over the centuries. Consider the typical iconography of Ancient Egypt — the sphinx, the pyramids, even gold. These symbols, often turned into massively scaled monuments, are just one example of propaganda. They served to promote the idea that the Pharaoh was a living god, capitalizing on human fear and awe to indoctrinate the Pharaoh's subjects. Consider Alexander the Great, who had his face placed on coins, pottery, statues, and monuments. Similar to the pharaohs of Egypt, he deified himself and made his existence ever-present in essential parts of his empire, such as currency exchange and art.



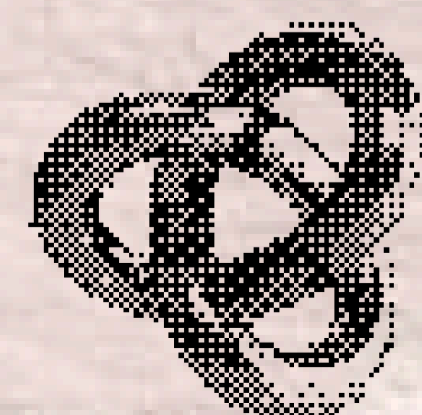


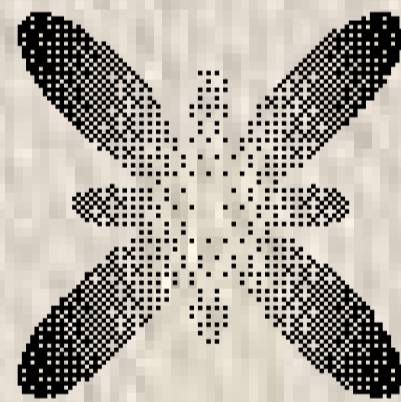
The term “propaganda” was popularized during WW1 when governments across the world began utilizing pamphlets, posters, and film to recruit soldiers, sell bonds, and demonize the enemy. The American poster “Destroy This Mad Brute: Enlist” exemplifies the latter. In this poster, the German enemy is represented as a primate – unhuman. The ape is depicted carrying a faint white woman in his arms, a design intended to inspire outrage amongst American soldiers. The ape is holding a bloody baton labeled “Kultur,” or culture in English, implying that the Germans intend to destroy or kill American culture. “Destory This Mad Brute,” the poster says. “Enlist,” it says. “Enlist, and you will save the weak white woman, your culture, and your country,” it says, less explicitly.



Harry Ryle Hopps (American, 1869–1937). *Destroy This Mad Brute: Enlist*, 1917. Color lithograph, image: 38 3/4 x 25 5/8 in. (98.4 x 65.1 cm). Collection of Mary Ellen Meehan.

During WW2, the world saw a rise towards racist propaganda. The Axis Powers – Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan – demonized the Jewish with violent caricatures. The Allied Powers – the United States, the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, China, and France – frequently repeated the imagery of the ape to describe the Germans, as well as depicting the Japanese in extremely racist ways. Americans likened the Japanese to rats, or vermin, drawing them with inhumanly small eyes and large teeth. Both sides of WW2 utilized propaganda to demonize their enemies in ways that perpetuated racism even after the war ended, particularly towards the Jewish, Japanese, and other Asian peoples.



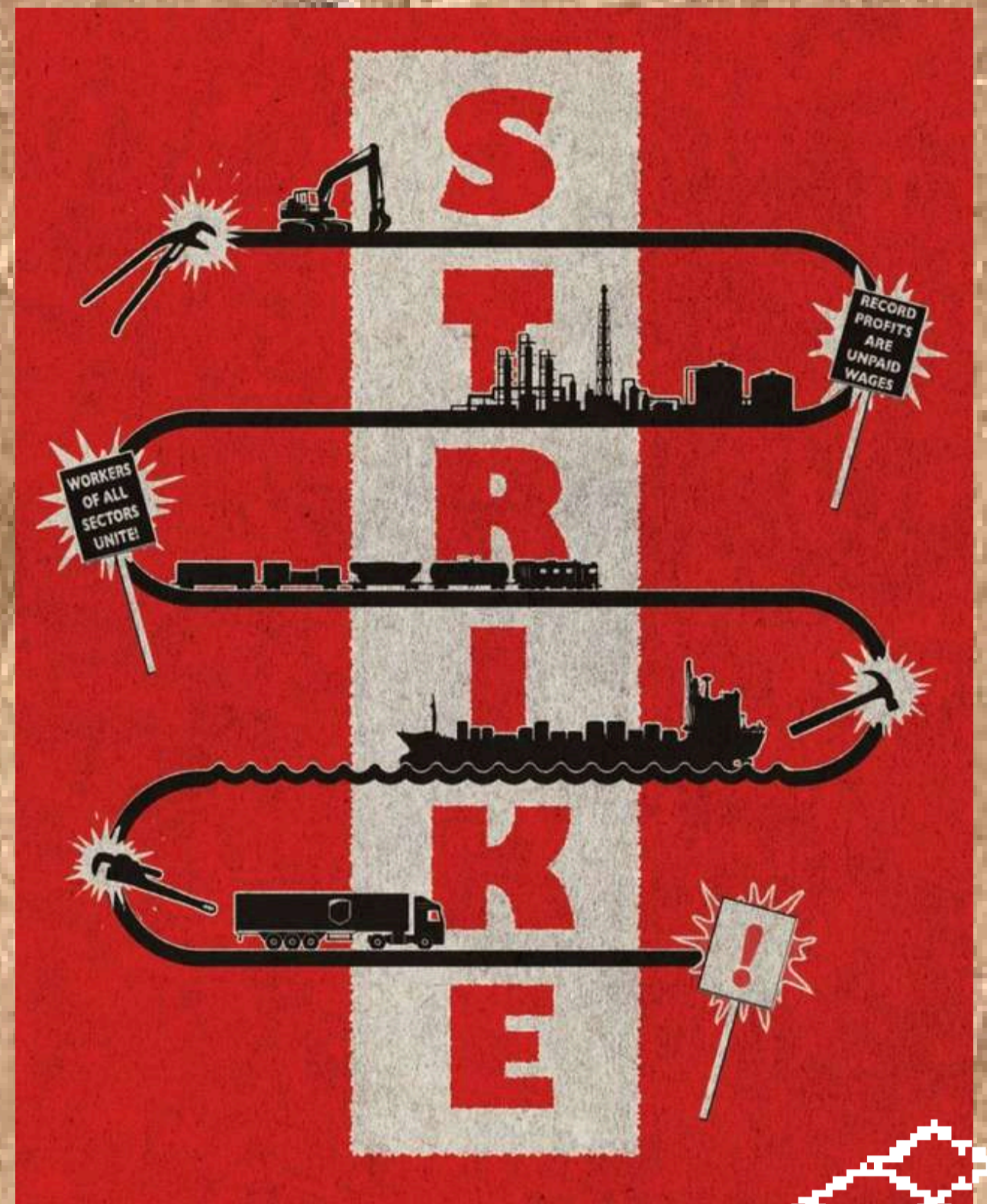


Antisemitism is a hostility or prejudice against Jewish people. Even in the present day, we are surrounded by antisemitism in our media, news, and even entertainment. Disney's 1937 *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* is one of the most watched films in history. In *Snow White*, the Evil Queen disguises herself as an old hag (a witch) and presents Snow White with a poisoned apple. The character design of the witch is undeniably antisemitic. She has a hooked nose and a pointy hat — which is traced back to the *judenhat*, which Jews were forced to wear in Medieval Europe to establish them as outsiders. *Snow White* is not the only popular story with a villain who is designed to look Jewish. Roald Dahl's *The Witches* presents the villains as women with claws and large noses. In *Tangled* (2010), Mother Gothel is depicted with dark curly hair, and once again, a hooked nose. In all of these stories, the heroes and heroines are white children.

Racism and the stereotyping of Asians have existed for centuries, but have seen a surge in the past decades that can be attributed to propaganda. Asians are often considered the “model minority” in America — submissive, hard workers. East Asian women are fetishized in the media, particularly because they are seen as fragile and tiny. Asian men are constantly emasculated, often stereotyped as lacking physical strength. In TV and films, they often play the role as the nerd or the doctor, seldom the love interest. Furthermore, the rise of COVID-19, which originated in China, led to a spike in anti-Asian propaganda all across the media. In 2020, a study found 17 million social media posts that contained anti-Asian hate language. Across 2020 and 2021, there were over 1000 reported anti-Asian hate crimes. In October 2025, a man faced charges for assaulting five different Asian individuals on the subway. Propaganda has been an undeniably large factor in the large scale of anti-Asian hate and violence, and it is only amplified by the rise of social media.

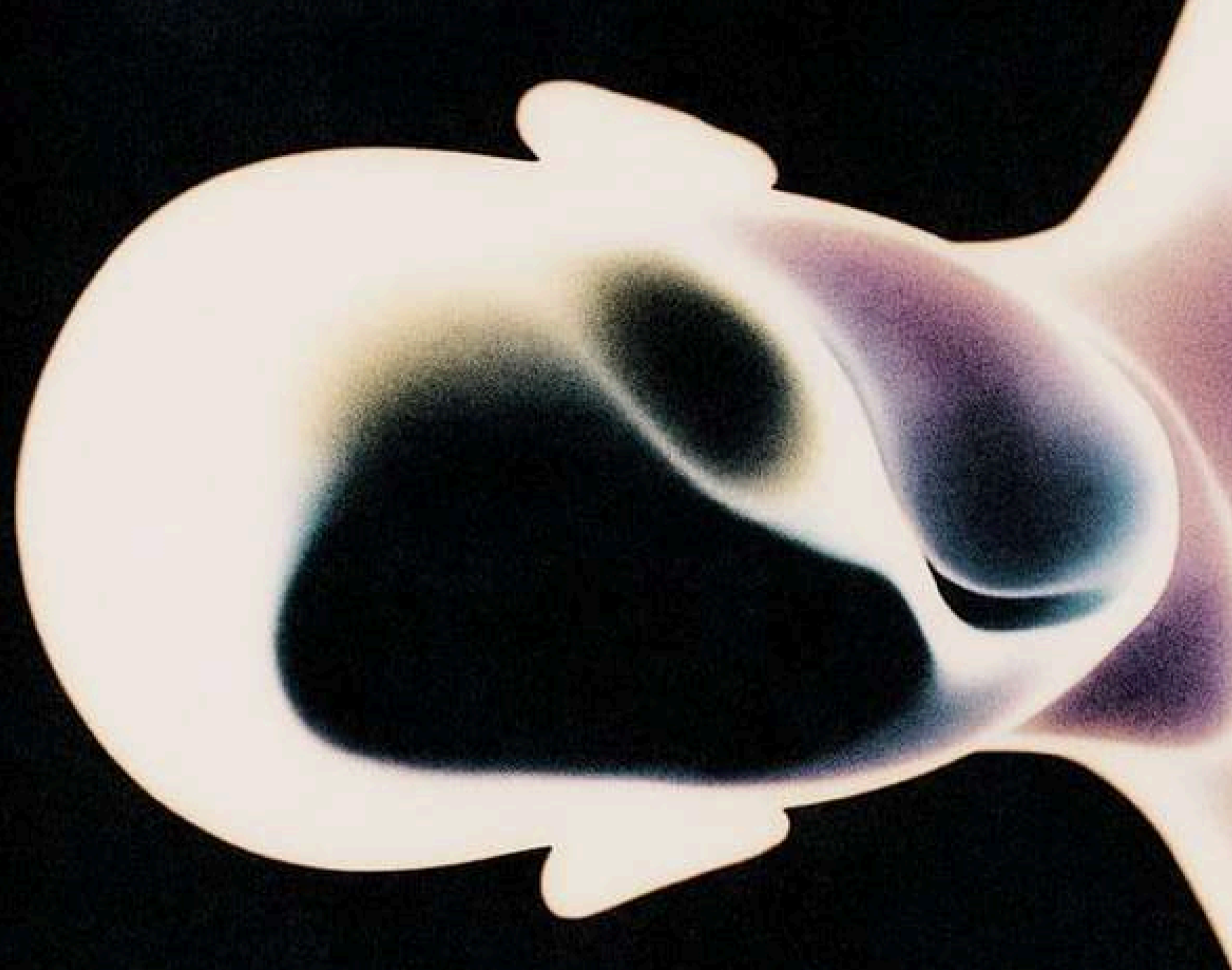
Social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok, have made propaganda more accessible than ever. Furthermore, with a rise in AI generated videos and news, we increasingly consume propaganda and misleading information without knowing. Some recent examples of internet propaganda have been miracle diet trends, false news stories about natural disasters and political protests, and made-up statements by public officials. President Donald Trump often makes extremist statements that critics often characterize as propaganda, designed to shape public perception. Both the right and left wings make statements or alter facts with conservative or radical biases.

We are in an age where we must question everything we see, read or hear because any of it could be biased, false, or even completely AI generated. We must evaluate the media we consume for accuracy and call out racist or stereotypical sentiments. Propaganda is one of the most influential tools utilized in human history, and it has been proven again and again to have the power to harm millions of people. As you consume media in the future, consider its intent and its source. As you push media forward by posting, sharing, liking, or reposting, consider the messages of what you are promoting. Social media has the power to do both good and harm, and it is our intent that decides which path it goes down.



ON THE ORIGIN OF WEAPONIZED SCIENCE: HOW EUGENICS COLLAPSED BIOLOGICAL FACT INTO SOCIAL PREJUDICE

Sydaili Dottin



A eugenics demonstration on Wall Street, 1915. Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

In 1883, the idea of an optimized human race took hold in the United Kingdom. Francis Galton, cousin of Charles Darwin, popularized what is now referred to as the eugenics movement, a wave of sociopolitical ideologies and practices intending to hierarchize and subjectify groups of humans. The movement, backed by misleading science, found its way into the United States, where it became deeply intertwined with preexisting notions of racism, sexism, and classism. It heavily influenced American science, politics, and society, leaving devastating effects that lasted long after the movement waned. Science is often assumed to be objective, yet history proves just how easily it can be manipulated to serve power to those who

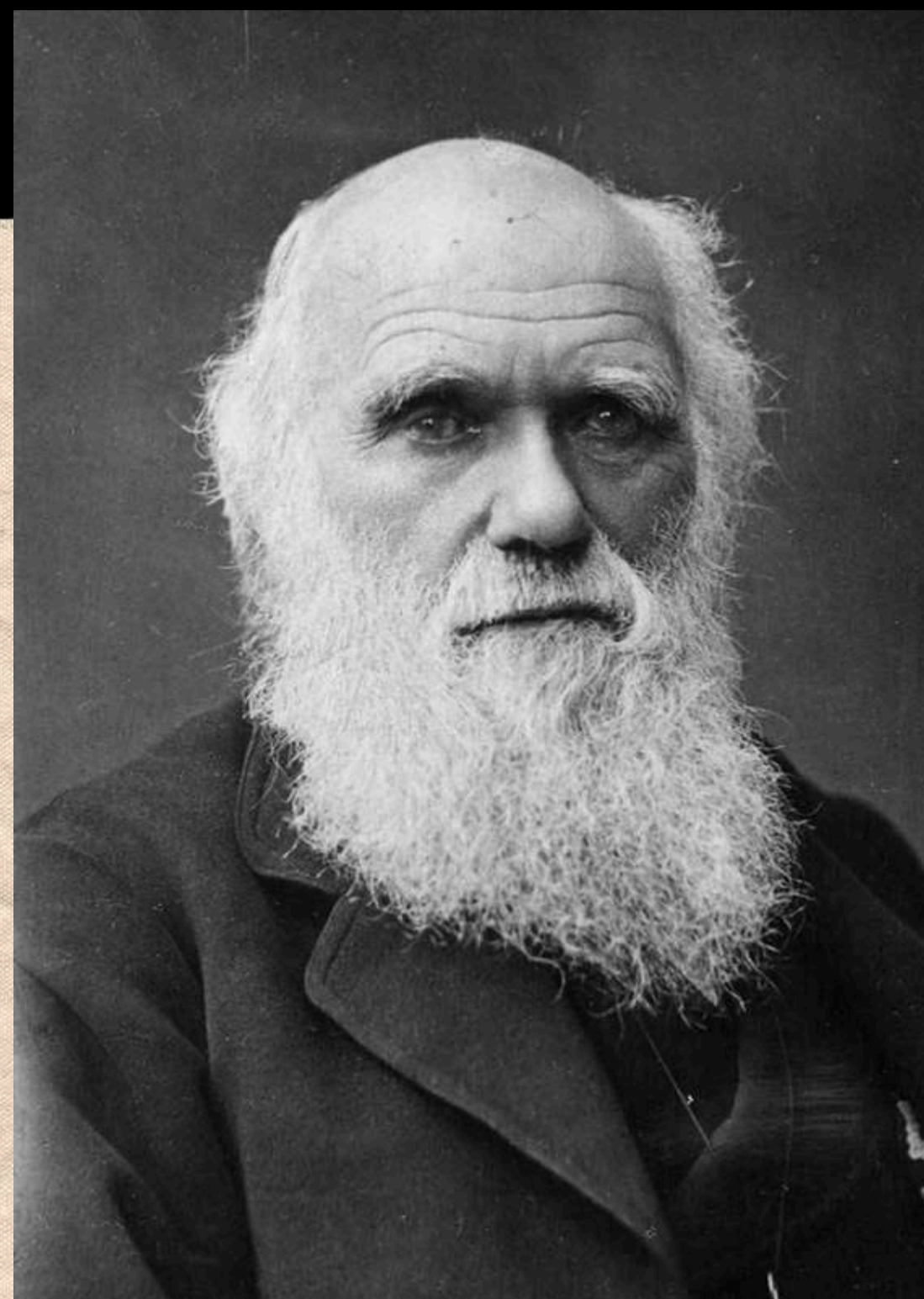
seek it. Eugenics utilized scientific authority to legitimize social prejudice by erasing the distinction between biological fact and sociocultural constructions, which led to long-term scientific, social, and political consequences.

THE INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL ORIGINS OF EUGENICS

Charles Darwin, known for his massive contributions to evolutionary biology and the concept of social Darwinism, struggled to explain the variation of organisms within a certain species. His studies focused on the biological evolution of humans, particularly how certain features and characteristics came to be over time, which eventually led to his theory of natural selection.

In one such study, he detailed the comparison of human skeletal and dental anatomy to that of historic primates and marsupials in order to identify evolutionary variations. His comparisons then went on to study the proximity or similarity of the two sexes and various races in relation to these ancestral species. This reduction of human diversity eventually translated to a binary: “civilised” vs “barbarous.” It went on to support his idea of natural selection preferring the civilised, as he argued that “we must not underrate the importance of his bodily structure” (Darwin 201).

Darwin’s conclusions on variation are built upon discriminatory ideals: the civilised and savages are not merely biological labels, but ones that implicate a clear divide, posing white as “domesticated” and anything else as inferior. He again implies the existence of a hierarchy in his exploration of and conclusions regarding variation between the sexes, a concept he named “sexual selection.” In “Darwin and the Descent of Woman,” author Annabelle Richards highlights the consistent themes of sexism, misogyny, and prejudice in Darwin’s findings:



Portrait of Charles Darwin by Herbert Rose Barraud (1845 - 1896) taken in 1881, thought to be the last photograph of Darwin before his death.

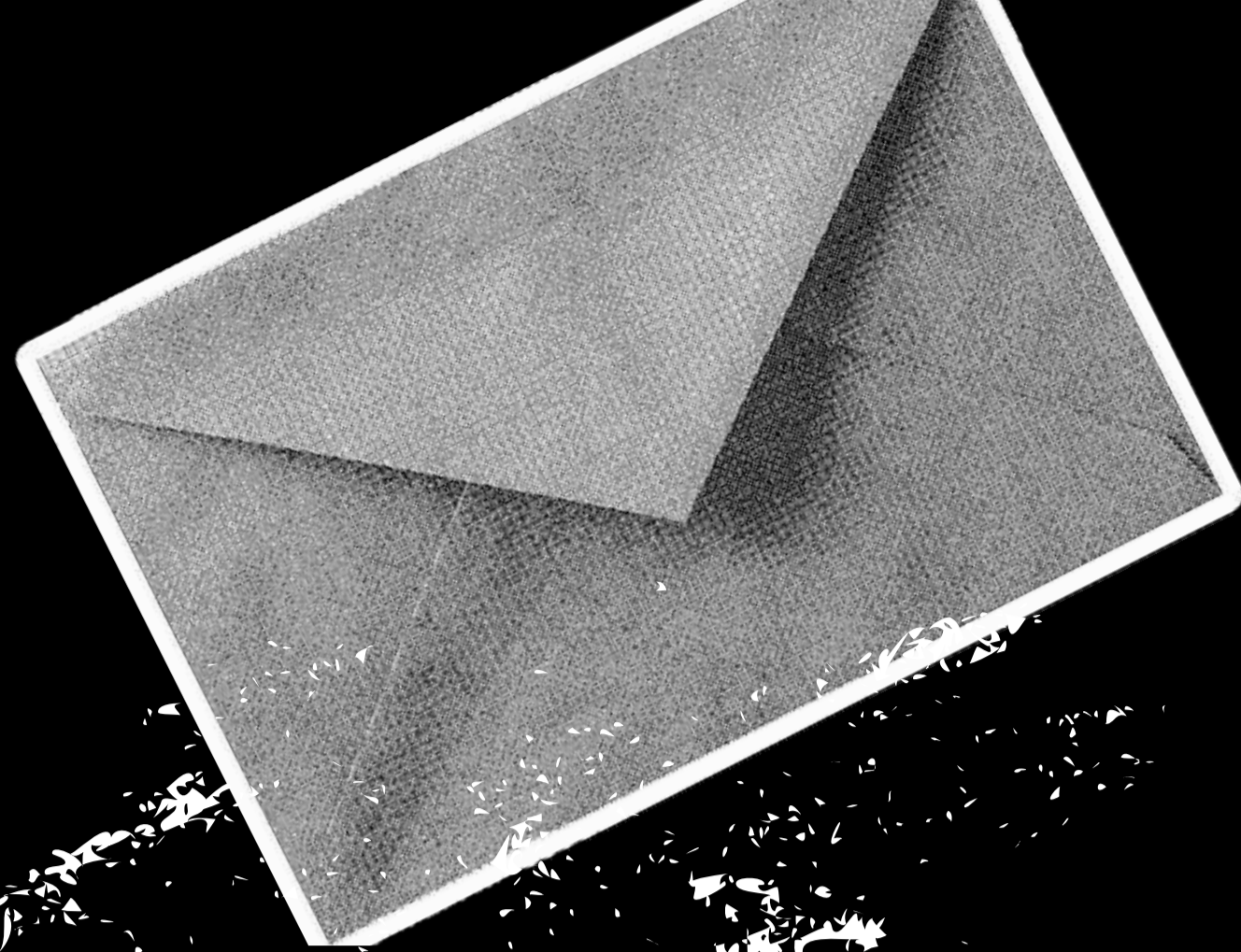
“They are unanimous in their categorization of them as catering to and supporting a prejudiced and discriminatory view of women’s abilities and potential—one unsupported by evidence and based upon Victorian sexist ideology . . . Darwin deduced the natural and innate inferiority of women from his theory of evolution by natural and sexual selection . . .”(Richards 435-436)

A pattern in Darwin’s thinking quickly becomes apparent: in his search for scientific answers, he often mistook external factors—ones based more in cultural or individual practices—as supplements for his biological theories. As Richard adds, it is somewhat unnecessary to critique the basis of Darwin’s ideology, as his thoughts and speculations were simply a result of his time. He came to his conclusions under the influence of Victorian era social norms, ones that were heavily based in racism, sexism, and classism: “one has only to examine his lived experience as Victorian bourgeois . . . and relate it to his theoretical arguments” (436). Rather, it is more sensible to critique the scientific validity of his theories and their retrospective effects.

The Darwinian theory of evolution continuously produced ethically questionable conclusions, insinuating a clear order that favored the white male (435). Despite its roots in non-scientific reasoning, his work was considered revolutionary and gave way to the future of eugenic study. Though Darwin's intentions may not have been entirely based on malice, other scientists followed with different intentions. The acceptance of social Darwinism as objective biological fact granted them unquestionable authority, allowing them to draw socially convenient conclusions in alignment with existing social systems; in essence, they justified discrimination with science. As the eugenics movement—"closely associated with a sense of white Anglo-Saxon superiority and racism"—began to flourish, elitist and racist leaders such as Francis Galton used Darwin's studies to promote and rationalize their own social orders (Allen, "A History of Eugenics" 32).

The use of subjective science and biology to reinforce systemic marginalization operated within three main categories: race, sex, and class. Within these categories emerged an extensive hierarchy, ranking individuals according to these factors under the guise of anatomical standards. Scientists steadily ventured into the practice of using analogy to draw connections between biological fact and social constructs, as explained in "Race and Gender: The Role of Analogy in Science":

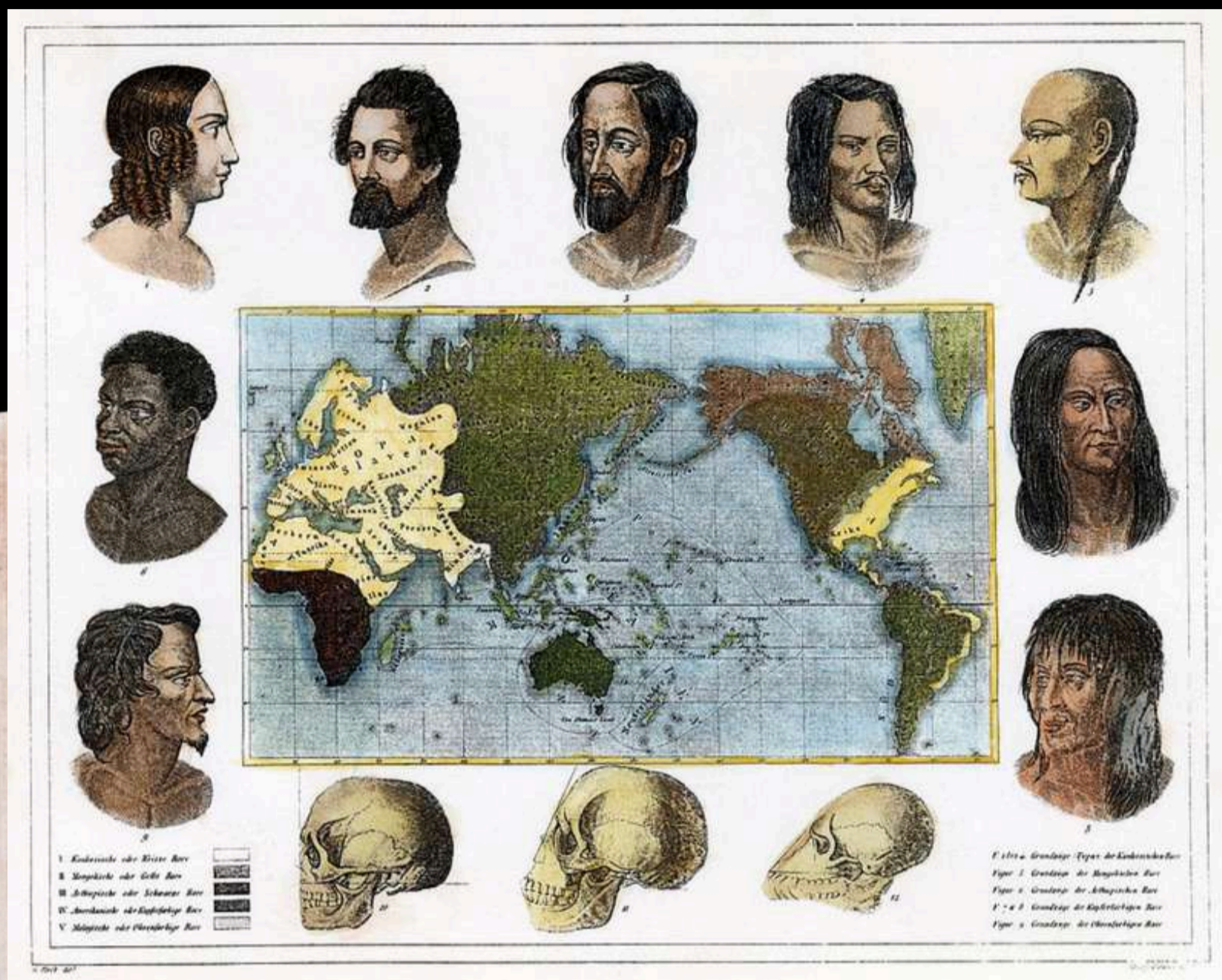
"The analogy examined is the one linking race to gender, an analogy that occupied a strategic place in scientific theorizing about human variation in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries . . . gender was found to be remarkably analogous to race, such that the scientist could use racial difference to explain gender difference, and vice versa" (Stepan 262-263).



Here lies an obvious issue: mistaking social determinants for biological ones, particularly in a realm of study dominated by said biological fact, is a dangerous practice. It threatened to—and ultimately did—collapse the distinction between natural and societal practices, and introduced space for personal bias and prejudice to shape the establishment of foundational scientific theory.

THE COLLAPSE OF SOCIAL VERSUS BIOLOGICAL DISTINCTION

Francis Galton, credited as the originator of the eugenicist movement, continued on the basis of Darwin's work—"a wonderfully complex combination of high faculties, tends to be inherited; and, on the other hand, it is too certain that insanity and deteriorated mental powers likewise run in families"—further blurring the lines between sociology and biology (Darwin 196). Eugenic geneticists like Davenport and Castle worked off of baseless claims, attempting to prove that "the new immigrants were genetically inferior to the Nordic or Anglo-Saxon" and that "heredity was far more important than environment in determining human behavior" (Allen, "A History of Eugenics" 34).



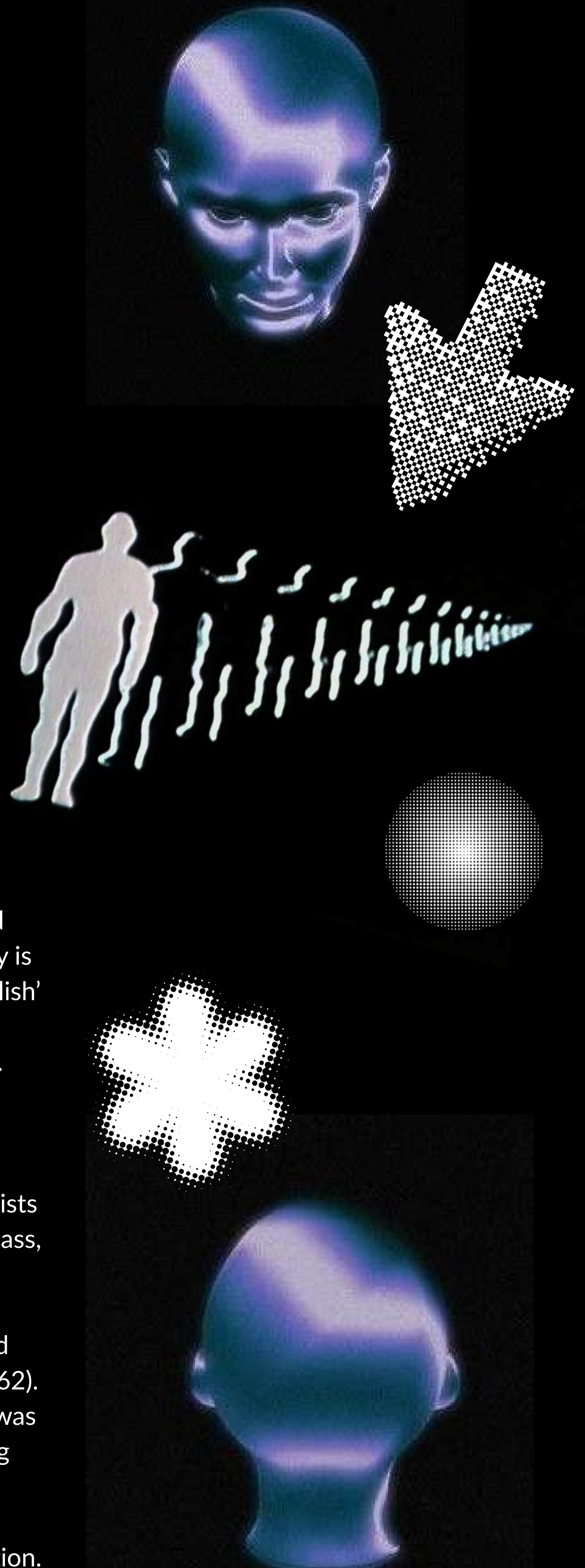
RACIAL TYPES, 19th CENTURY. German study of racial types, based on the theories of anthropologist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach (1752-1840). Line engraving, c1850. Created by Granger.

The concept of hereditary traits suggested that certain social constructs or behaviors were the result of inherited genetics coupled with poor environment (qtd. in Allen, "The biological basis of crime" 183). These behaviors and traits included "manic depression, schizophrenia, alcoholism, shyness, homosexuality, risk-taking, general personality factors, including 'religiosity', intelligence, especially its racial distribution and, of course, criminality and its associated trait of 'violence'" (Allen, "The biological basis of crime" 184). Citing the "high levels of disease, illiteracy, poverty, and crime in immigrant neighborhoods," eugenicists claimed that individuals were predisposed to "specific social behaviors and personality traits" based on their race (Allen, "A History of Eugenics" 34; "The biological basis of crime" 184). This concept of heredity was majorly biased; eugenicists worked backwards from social outcomes to biological causes. The longstanding inequalities in social environments were treated as proof of biological failure, even though said outcomes were the result of systemic discrimination; it was assumed that these conditions reflected inherited genetic traits rather than the products of flawed systems.

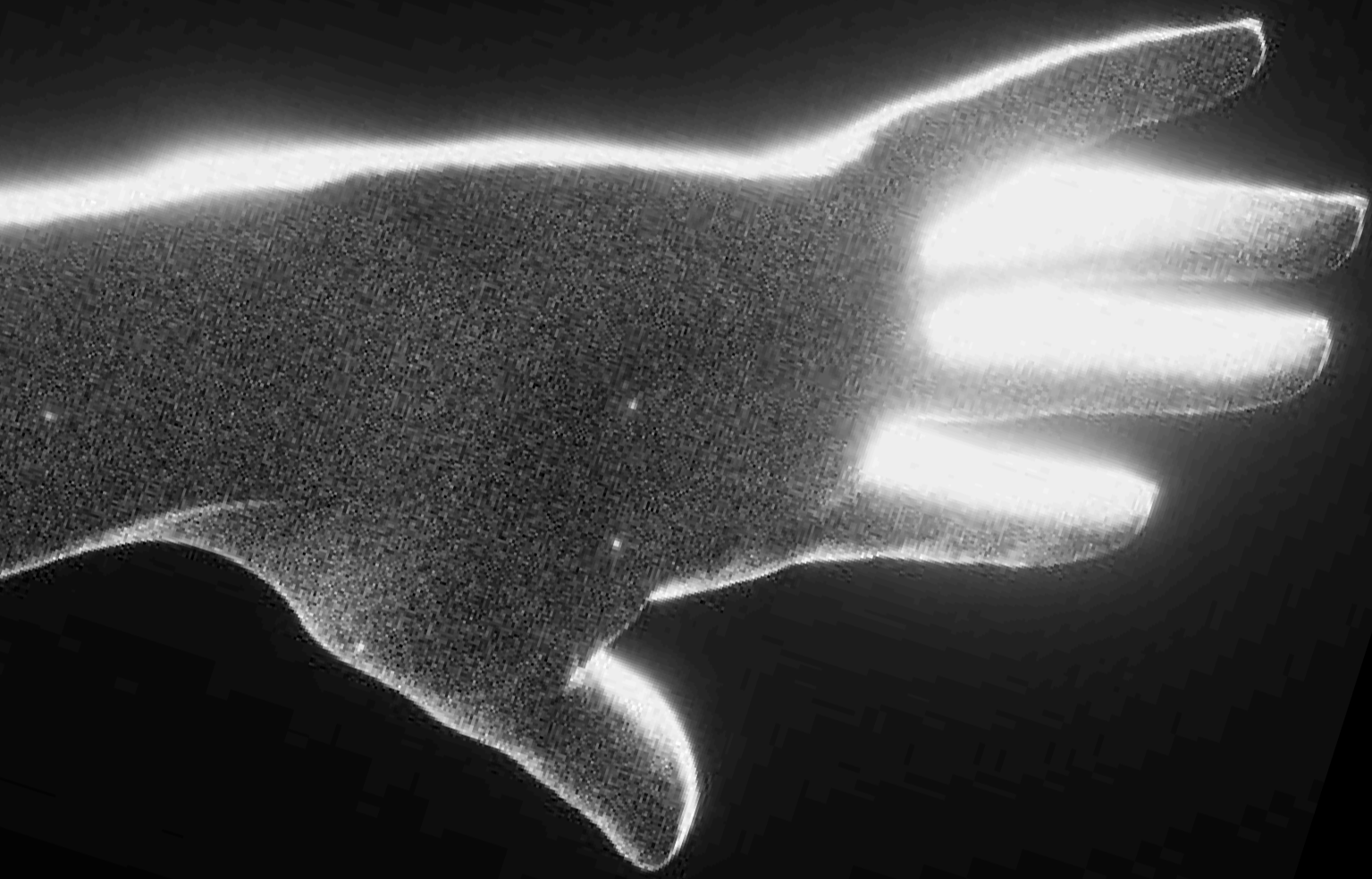
Science is based on concrete facts, hypotheses proven and connections drawn with logical, non-circumstantial evidence. However, within the context of eugenics, the typically narrow margins of uncertainty were significantly wider, creating much more space for manipulation and inaccuracy.

In this revised view of science, the basis of the traditional distinction between scientific and social thought is eliminated, and as a consequence, the customary contrast between 'internal' intellectual and 'external' social factors in the history of science loses its significance. (Richards 434)

Herein lies the questionable practice of analogy and metaphor in science. "[A]s Stanley Fish puts it, 'Similarity is not something one finds but something one must establish' ... Metaphors, then, through their capacity to construct similarities, create new knowledge" (qtd. in Stepan 271). Note the difference between connection versus construction: connection merely identifies an existing similarity, whereas construction creates the similarity based on the knowledge one seeks to produce. Eugenicists did not identify biological relationships between race, class, sex, or behavior; they constructed them to fit the conclusions they sought to find. What was once considered "mere embellishments or poetic fictions" had become "essential to scientific thought itself" (Stepan 262). Any information that did not fit the drawn conclusions was manipulated or entirely suppressed, further undermining the validity of scientific fact (272). Biological study consisted of oddly constructed hypotheses treated as established conclusions, all without the proper justification.

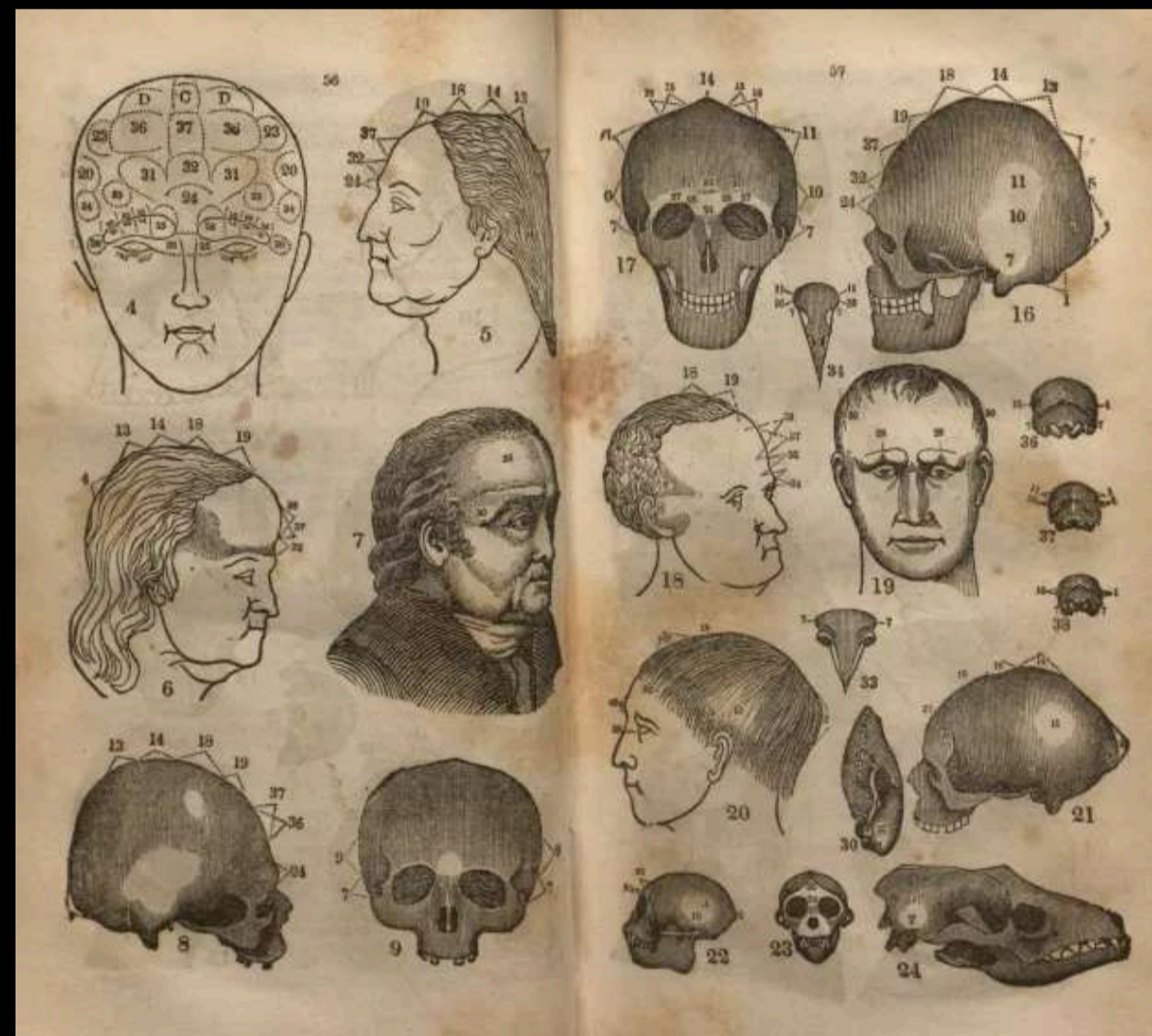


Eugenic science, rooted in oppressive politics and white male bias, was simply a reflection of the white patriarchy. Flawed research led to scientific conclusions based on longstanding systems of racism, sexism, and classism. The majority of individuals missed the large distinction between objective and subjective fact, accepting the logic of the eugenicists simply from the authority they had derived from their “science.” In this way, systemic inequalities were naturalized and considered biological effects, perpetuating prejudiced cycles against men and women of different races and classes. The use of breeding adjectives implied a biological hierarchy, one based on hereditary worth. “[I]n men than in women, in eminent men than in men of mediocre talent, in superior races than in inferior races [...] [S]cientifically validated grounds of comparison between males of “lower” races and women of “higher” races existed” (Stepan 269). As distinctions were drawn between tiers of the eugenic hierarchy, the emergence of positive and negative eugenics arose: the increased reproduction of “fit” individuals versus the reduced reproduction of those deemed “unfit” (Allen, “A History of Eugenics” 32).



From the female reproductive system to varying skull sizes and limb lengths, natural anatomical distinctions had become scientifically validated discriminants—eugenicists had created a science that had effectively become an oppressor. The hierarchy of human genetics became a focus of increasing interest, as it gave scientists clear grounds to designate certain groups as higher and lower.

THE PRACTICE OF EUGENICS: INSTITUTIONALIZING PREJUDICE AND BIAS



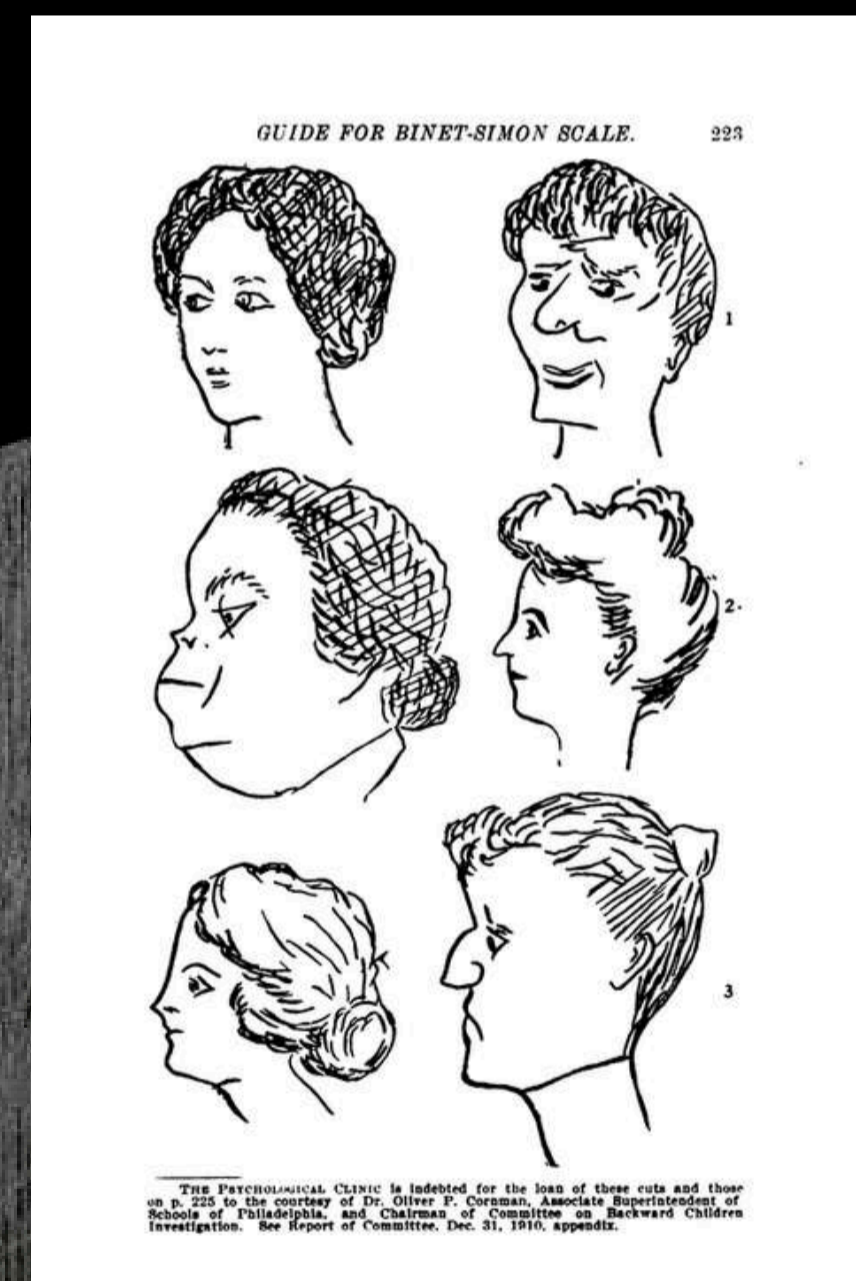
Created by Orson Squire Fowler, 1847.
Illustrations of skulls and famous busts,
providing measurements for each by which organ
size can be determined.

The *adults of inferior* groups must be like *children of superior* groups, for the child represents a primitive adult ancestor. If adult blacks and women are like white male children . . . An anatomical theory for ranking races—based on entire bodies, not only on heads—has been found. Recapitulation served as a general theory of biological determinism. All “inferior” groups—races, sexes, and classes—were compared with the children of white males . . . identified four groups of lower human forms on this criterion: nonwhite races, all women, southern as opposed to northern European whites, and lower classes within superior races. (Gould 144)

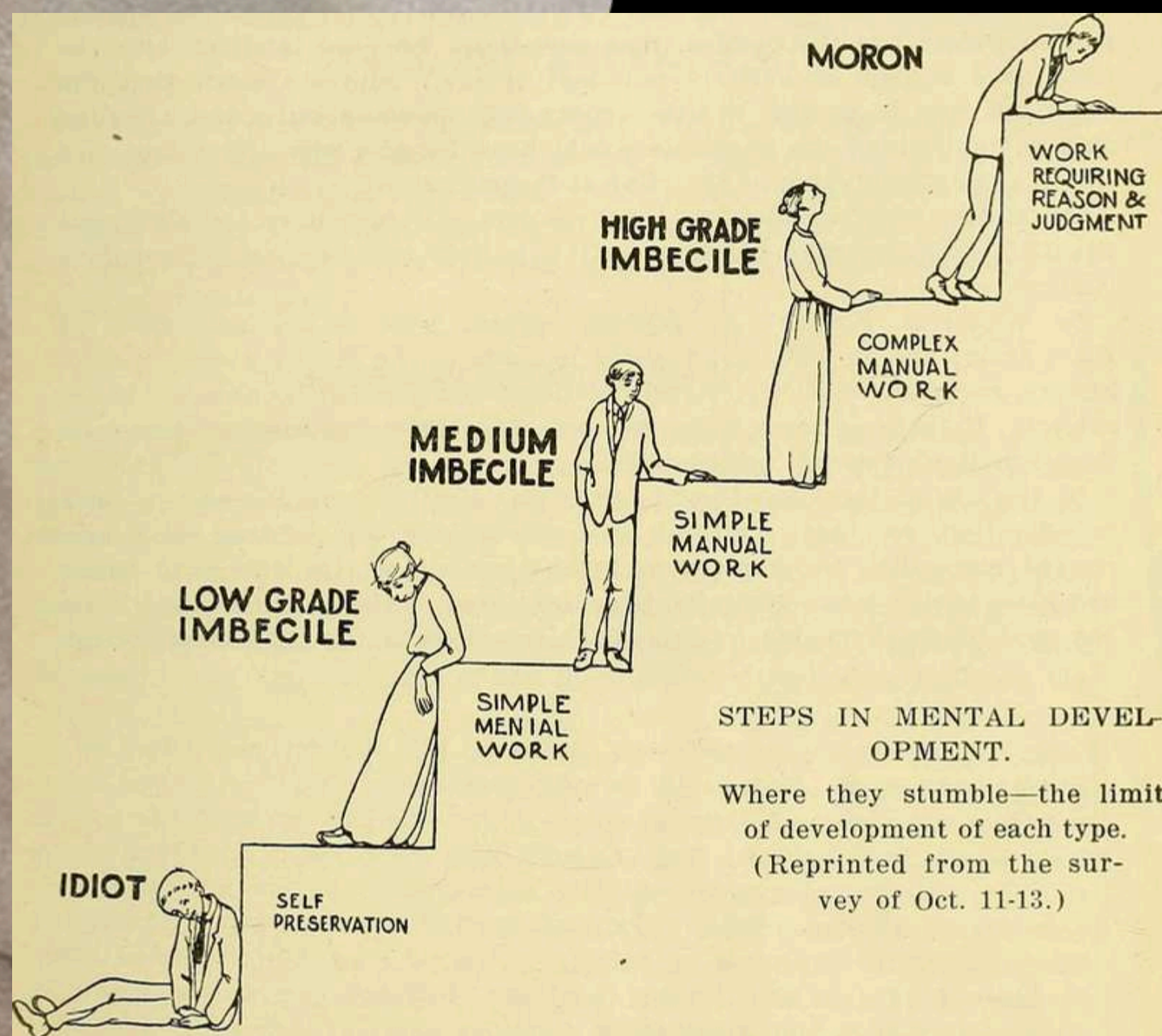
Eugenic anatomical and ancestral theory was centered on the “evolution of white males;” preexisting societal notions of white male superiority now seemed to be backed by science, as any other group or individual outside of it was simply deemed “a living [representative] of an ancestral stage in the evolution of white males” (144). Under this way of thinking, the line between biology and sociology had long since collapsed, and the institutionalization of systemic racism, classism, and sexism was rapidly underway.

With this categorization of human groups, eugenicists went on to establish multiple new theories. The Binet test¹ was adapted and then misused by eugenic scientists to draw connections between low test scores—“feble-mindedness”—and observed social behaviors—“delinquency, criminality, sexual promiscuity, and degeneracy”—ranking racial groups by intelligence scores gathered from engineered tests (Allen, “A History of Eugenics” 33). Cultural bias, language barriers, and socioeconomic inequalities were ignored—as previously noted, information or evidence that did not fit the given scientific metaphor was entirely omitted—and considering the “lower-ranking” population majorly consisted of immigrants and poorly educated individuals, evidence skewedly pointed toward the eugenicists' posed conclusions. Scientific theory, majorly developed under a male-centric worldview, designated women as biologically passive and inferior, and aligned them more closely with lower races.

DIFFÉRENTES ÉPREUVES	ÉCOLES DE M. L. ET DE M. M. SITUÉES A PARIS RUE DES RÉCOLLETS ET RUE SAMBRE-ET-MEUSE				
	AGE DES ENFANTS				
	7 ans.	8 ans.	9 ans.	10 ans.	12 ans.
<i>6 ans.</i>					
Distinguer matin et soir.	10	10			
Définir par l'usage.	10	10			
Copier losange.	9	10			
Compter 13 sous simples.	9	10			
Comparer 2 figures esthétiques.	9	10			
<i>7 ans.</i>					
Main droite, oreille gauche. . .	8	10			
Décrire une gravure.	7	10			
Exécuter 3 commissions.	7	10			
Compter 9 sous simples et doubles.	4	9	10		
Nommer 4 couleurs.	4	9	10		
<i>8 ans.</i>					
Comparer 2 objets de souvenir.	4	8	10	10	
Compter de 20 à 0.	3	9	10	9	
Indiquer lacunes figures.	3	8			
Donner date du jour.	4	8	10	10	
Répéter 5 chiffres.	2	5			
<i>9 ans.</i>					
Rendre sur 20 sous.		4	10	9	10
Définir mieux que par l'usage.		3	6	7	7
Pièces de monnaie.		2	10	9	9
Mois.		2	8	10	9
Comprendre des questions faciles.		2	9	9	10
<i>10 ans.</i>					
Ordonner poids.		1	5	6	
Copier dessin mémoire.		2	4	5	
Critiquer phrases absurdes. . .			4	5	8
Loger 3 mots en 2 phrases. . .			3	5	8
Comprendre questions difficiles.			3	3	7
<i>12 ans.</i>					
Suggestion de lignes.			2	3	
3 mots en 1 phrase.			2	4	8
60 mots en 3 minutes.			2	4	5
Définitions abstraites.			1	2	4
Phrases désarticulées.			1	4	7



¹ Developed in 1905 by French psychologists Alfred Binet and Théodore Simon, the French Binet-Simon Scale was initially developed as a test to measure children's general intellectual capacity in order to identify those requiring special education. In 1916, Lewis M. Terman, a psychologist at Stanford University, developed an adaptation of the test for individuals in the United States, now referred to as the Stanford-Binet Intelligence scale. The modern Stanford-Binet test—more commonly referred to as an IQ test—assesses intelligence through five key cognitive factors: fluid reasoning, knowledge, quantitative reasoning, visual-spatial reasoning, working memory, and knowledge.



Although this illustration was from a special report in Virginia, it was based on the Binet-Simon classification; from Internet Archive Book Images, No restrictions, via Wikimedia Commons

The ranking of women within the eugenic hierarchy—her “place in nature”—largely depended on her “bio-psychological differences from men . . . mainly in terms of reproductive function and sexuality” (Stepan 269). Objective anatomical facts regarding reproductive organs, genitalia, and secondary sex characteristics as well as instinctive maternalistic drive was manipulated to fit the subjective context in which it was applied; a woman’s intelligence and biological worth were essentially dictated by her capacity to bear children (Urla and Swedlund 287). The natural physical structure of a woman, underresearched and misunderstood, had become a scientifically proven discriminant. Society’s construction of the female role—to submit to the active male and reproduce, to transmit his male characteristics and remain passive while doing so—was further reinforced by these unsubstantiated claims. The patriarchy had effectively enlisted science to legitimize and sustain its authority (Richards 438).

The scientific study of women is perhaps one of the clearest examples of how eugenic science functioned as an oppressor. As anthropomorphic study of the human body continued to evolve, women—particularly those of non-European descent—were largely outnumbered by males:

“[P]hysician anthropology’s main object of study was indeed the ‘white male,’ rather than the ‘human body.’ With males as the unspoken prototype, women’s bodies were frequently described (subtly or not) as deviations from the norm: as subjects, the measurement of their bodies was occasionally risky to the male scientists, and as bodies they were variations from the generic or ideal type” (Urla and Swedlund 288).



SOCIOCULTURAL REINFORCEMENT AND MODERN IMPLICATIONS

Eugenics, having blurred ethical boundaries, was an institutionalized practice when enforcing prejudiced social norms. When the feminist movement—which directly opposed the “proven” ideas of female passivity—began to threaten bourgeois social order in the late 1800s, social Darwinism was again used as a weapon, “brought into conflict with feminism and imposed naturalistic scientific limits to the claims by women for political and social equality” (437). Already pitted toward the bottom of the hierarchy, women had to fight not only for political rights, but also for the intellectual and social equality that Darwin’s theories had denied them.

The effects of eugenics are not limited to the time in which they flourished; in fact, they have consistently manifested themselves throughout time. Women continue to be stereotyped as overly-emotional and fragile and face systemic marginalization in public, private, and professional spaces, while men are expected to be stoic and dominant, controlling the workforce and the systems that perpetuate the patriarchy. Beauty, intelligence, and worth continue to be measured according to long-outdated standards rooted in eugenic ideology and practices. The ideal body type is often described as “big-busted and slim-hipped, [having] long flowing hair and tiny feet, and [being] very, very thin,” unrealistic criteria generated by historical neglect of female study and the alienation of their bodies (Urla and Swedlund 285). Non-European Americans, “whose bodies were the subject of racist, evolution-oriented studies concerned with ‘race crossing’, degeneracy, and the effects of the ‘civilizing’ process,” are not included in these definitions of the “normal” or “ideal,” placing them even further down in the allegedly dismissed hierarchy of race and sex. The standard of beauty still centers the white woman—blonde hair, blue eyes, a slim frame—while ethnic features are only permissible when appropriated and sexualized: plump lips, large breasts and buttocks, full hips and thighs.



Public messaging, advertising, and social trends have always been used to spread propaganda: the individuals controlling the news media, publishing houses, and educational facilities during the eugenics movement were the same ones backing the ideology, using their wealth and resources to shape public opinion. Companies that function under capitalism today continue with these same practices, using humor and satire as a shield to excuse blatant racism and sexism. Though there is now a social and political consciousness that identifies the moral and ethical dilemma in eugenics, companies like American Eagle continue to play between blurred lines to profit off of flawed beauty standards. They recently came under fire for their controversial campaign featuring Sydney Sweeney, the epitome of American beauty, using the double entendre of jeans versus genes to subtly imply ideas of eugenics and white supremacy. Though eugenic practices have been mostly dismissed in the official scientific realm, it does not disqualify its ramifications, which continue to echo throughout modern society.

CONCLUSION

Eugenics, its practices, and its institutionalization have set back societal and scientific progress for centuries. The lack of distinction between biological fact and sociocultural construction led to the endorsement of social prejudice, the consequences of which are still present in modern society. History has proven the unmistakable danger in the overlap of the two when determining biological origins and natural order, and it is important that modern scientists continue to consciously

move away from the usage of societal structures in determining objective fact. However, there is a new set of obstacles in doing so: with already developed systems and impacted human development, it is questionable whether it is even possible to properly distinguish between the objective and the subjective, and to what extent it can be used in the biological sciences. Though eugenics has been concretely disproved by a plethora of accurate study, the world has not truly rid itself of its effects. This is why the collective rejection of falsely enforced standards—sexism, racism, classism, ableism, etc—is crucial. It is a continuous effort, one that evolves with every new social trend, political regime, and scientific breakthrough, and it is the responsibility of each individual in society to uphold it.

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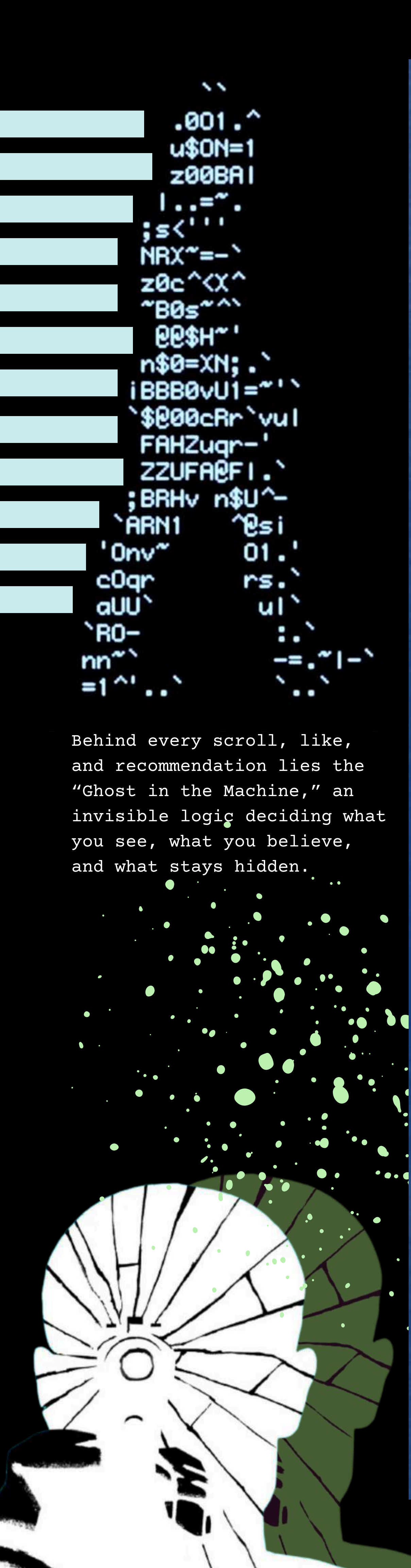
THE GHOST IN THE MACHINE: THE FOURTH BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT

Derek Du

In 1787, the US Constitution established a “trias politica,” a three-part system designed to prevent any single entity from becoming a tyrant. But as we navigate the complexities of 2026, it is becoming increasingly clear that the primary architecture of power has shifted from the neoclassical halls of Washington D.C. to the humming server farms of Silicon Valley. While we still pay taxes to the IRS and obey physical laws, our daily behavior, political leanings, and very perception of truth are governed by a silent omnipresent force. The Algorithm has effectively become the Fourth Branch of Government, and its influence is oftentimes more immediate than any federal mandate.

In traditional civics, laws are debated in public and recorded in history. Today, however, the rules of human engagement are written in proprietary code. As legal scholar Lawrence Lessig famously argued, “Code is Law,” but in 2026, that law is no longer static. It is a living, breathing constitution of the feed that determines what is visible and what is suppressed. According to the [University of St. Gallen](#), X’s (formerly Twitter’s) algorithmic feed significantly shifts political opinions after just seven weeks of exposure. By promoting engaging activist content over traditional news, the algorithm legislates the boundaries of what is considered an acceptable or relevant topic for debate, rather than simply reflecting public opinion. When a handful of engineers adjust a recommendation weight—a numerical value an algorithm assigns to a piece of content or user profile to determine how likely it is to be suggested to another user—they are performing an act of mass legislation that affects more people than any bill passed by Congress.

Beyond setting the rules, the Algorithm acts as an automated, tireless police force.



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Behind every scroll, like,  
and recommendation lies the  
“Ghost in the Machine,” an  
invisible logic deciding what  
you see, what you believe,  
and what stays hidden.
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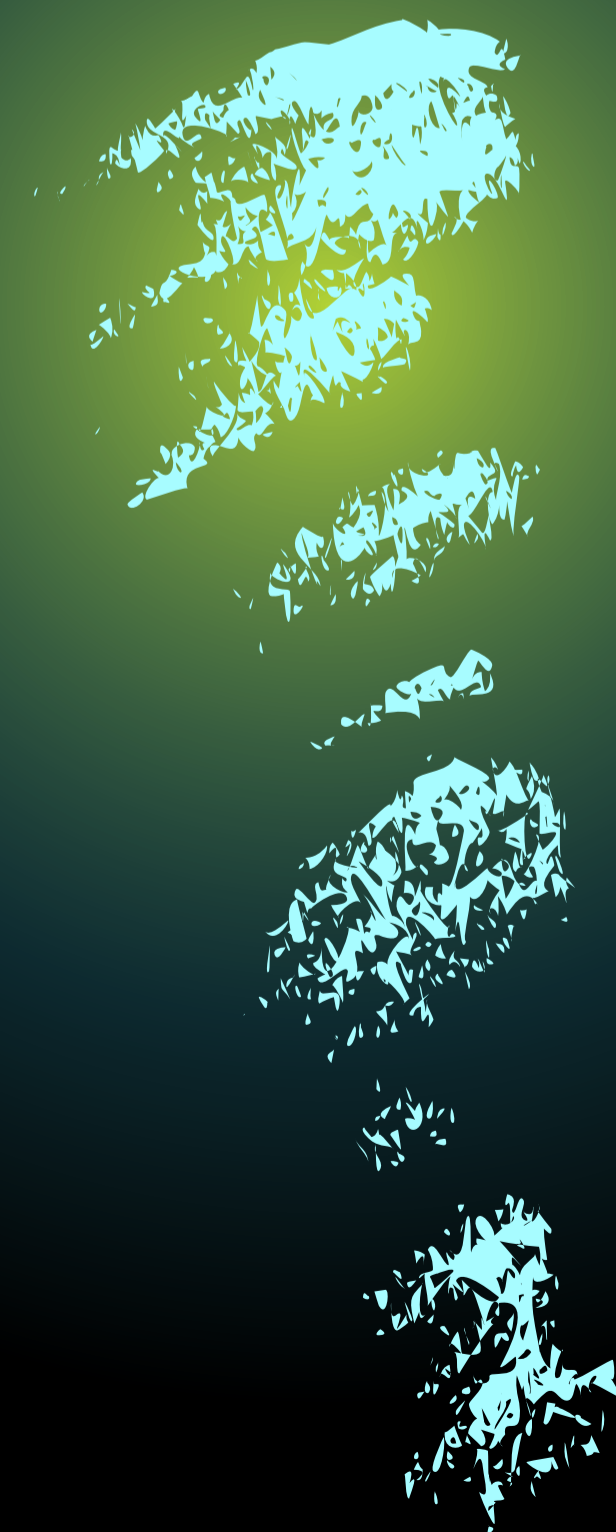
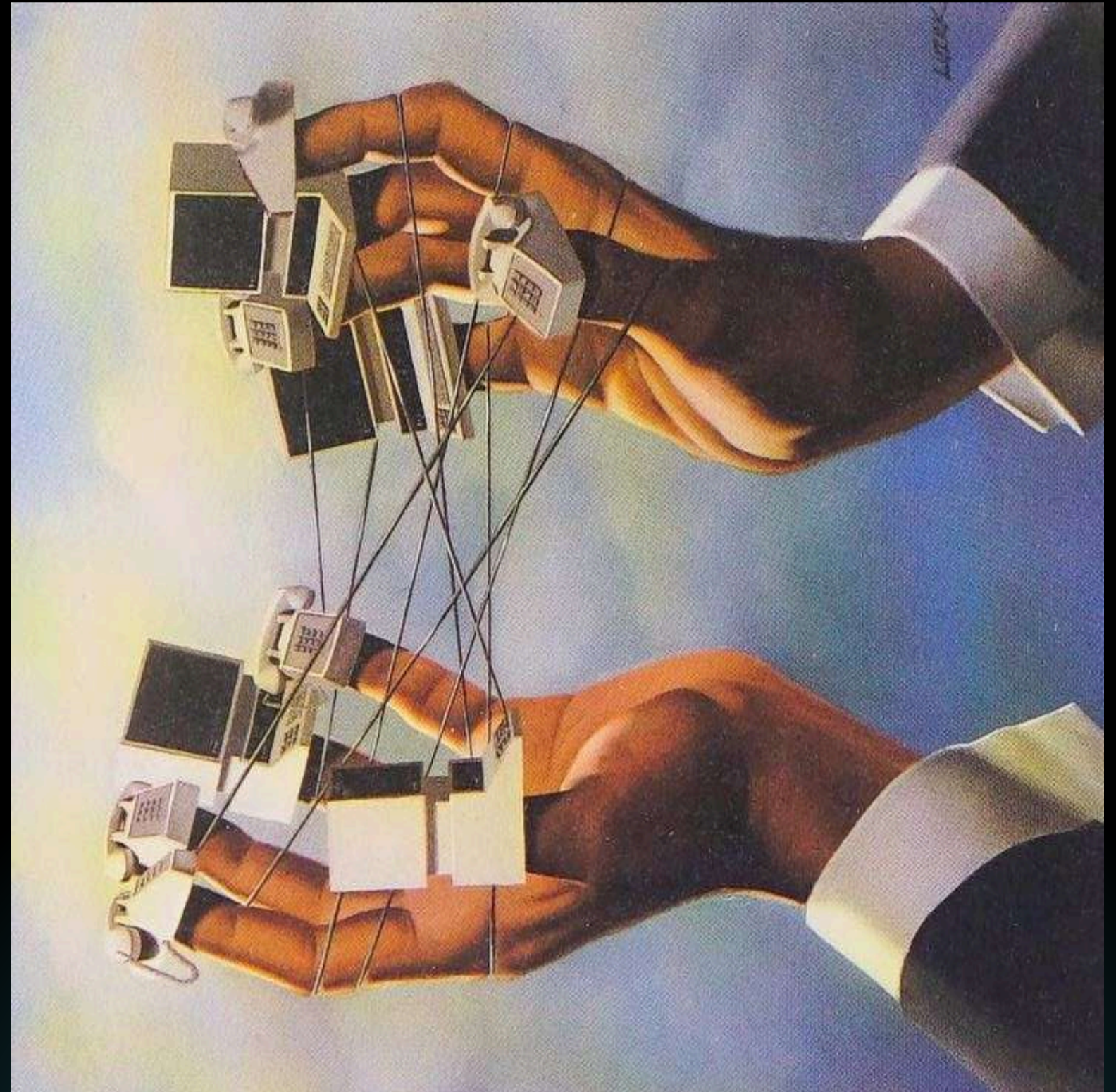
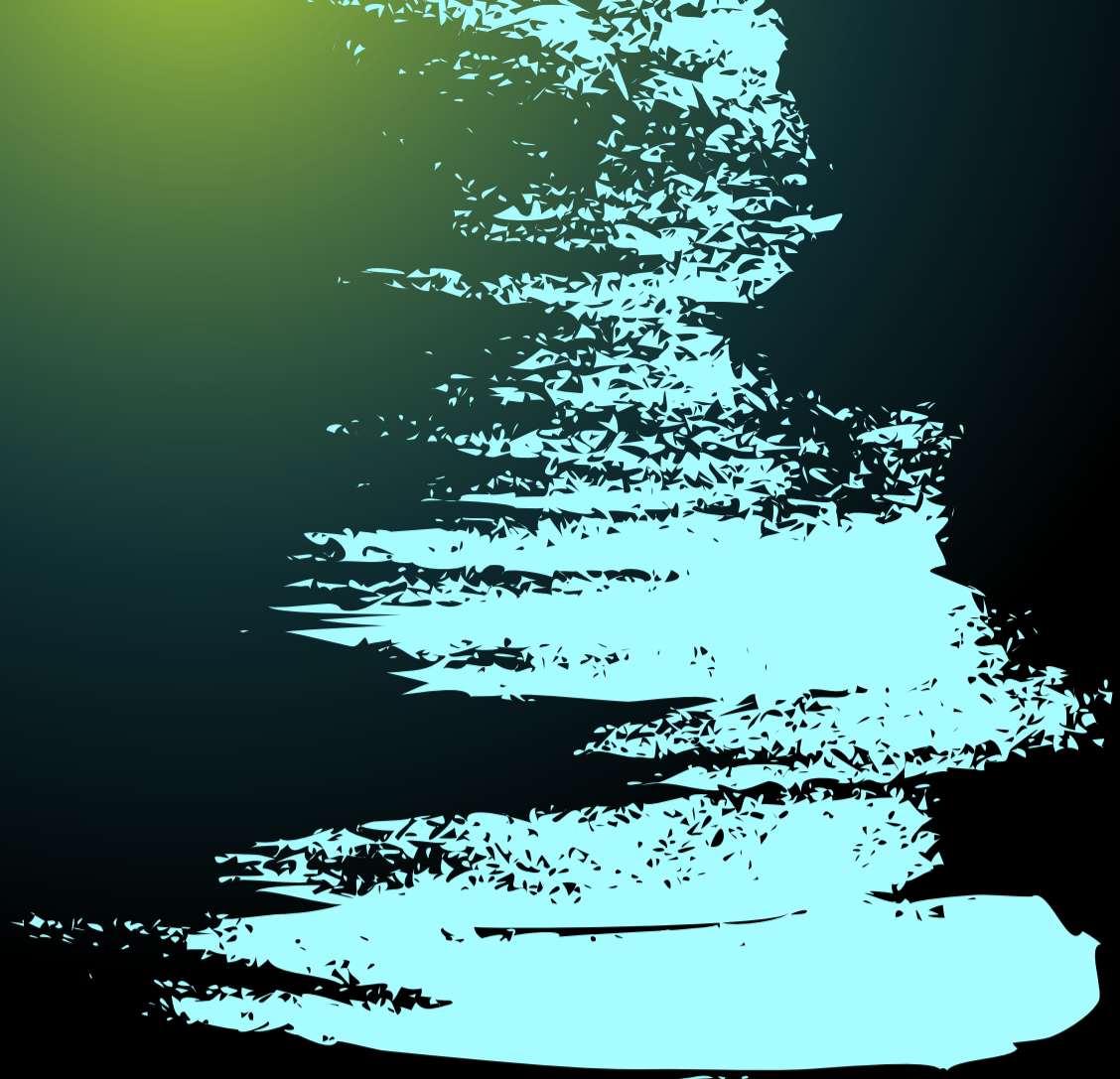
Beyond setting the rules, the Algorithm acts as an automated, tireless police force. Through content moderation, AI executes immediate rulings—shadowbanning, demonetization, or permanent exile—often without a trial or even a clear explanation. Privacy has been effectively destroyed by the modern tech economy, specifically by the “Big Other,” a global surveillance infrastructure that monitors, predicts, and modifies human behavior in real-time, according to Shoshana Zuboff, Co-Director of the Harvard Kennedy School Carr-Ryan Center’s Technology and Human Rights Fellowship Program. This algorithmic executive doesn’t wait for a court order to limit a user’s reach; it simply adjusts a line of code. This shift represents a move toward a model where corporate digital capabilities have far outstripped the state’s ability to protect individual autonomy, creating an enforcement mechanism that operates at the speed of light.

Perhaps the most unsettling shift is the algorithm’s role as a supreme court of truth. In a world where virtual interactions often supplant real-world deliberation, algorithms adjudicate what constitutes misinformation. According to the Dentsu 2026 Media Trends Report, we are living in an era where the gatekeepers of truth are no longer editorial boards or judges, but recommendation engines that prioritize simplicity, sociability, and attention. This has led to an epistemic crisis: when two citizens see entirely different sets of “facts” on their screens, the traditional judiciary’s ability to resolve disputes based on a shared reality begins to crumble. The algorithm has become the final judge, deciding where evidence is presented to the jury of the public.



The tension in 2026 is, in addition to political parties, between the speed of code and the speed of law. The regulatory landscape remains fragmented and inconsistent, according to White & Case. While Congress takes a while to pass a single law, the federal government has resorted to forming an AI Litigation Task Force to strike down state laws that move too fast or too strictly. This creates a strange reality where Silicon Valley updates its rules in milliseconds through opaque automated systems that offer no transparency to the public, while the traditional state is stuck in a loop of lawsuits and public hearings. In this environment, our participation has shifted: we only vote for our government every few years, but we “vote” in the algorithmic state with every click, scroll, and like we perform.

The reality of 2026 is that we are just as much citizens of a nation as users of a platform. Our social contract has been largely replaced by a terms of service agreement that we never actually read. If we want to reclaim the democratic ideals of 1787, we must recognize the Algorithm for what it is: a powerful, unelected branch of government. True algorithmic citizenship requires us to demand the same checks and balances for code that we demand for our laws—transparency, accountability, and the right to a fair appeal. Until we treat Silicon Valley’s engineers with the same scrutiny as our elected officials, the most influential legislators in our lives will continue to be the ones we never voted for.





CLEAN WATER, DIRTY CONSCIENCE?

Maggie Hsu

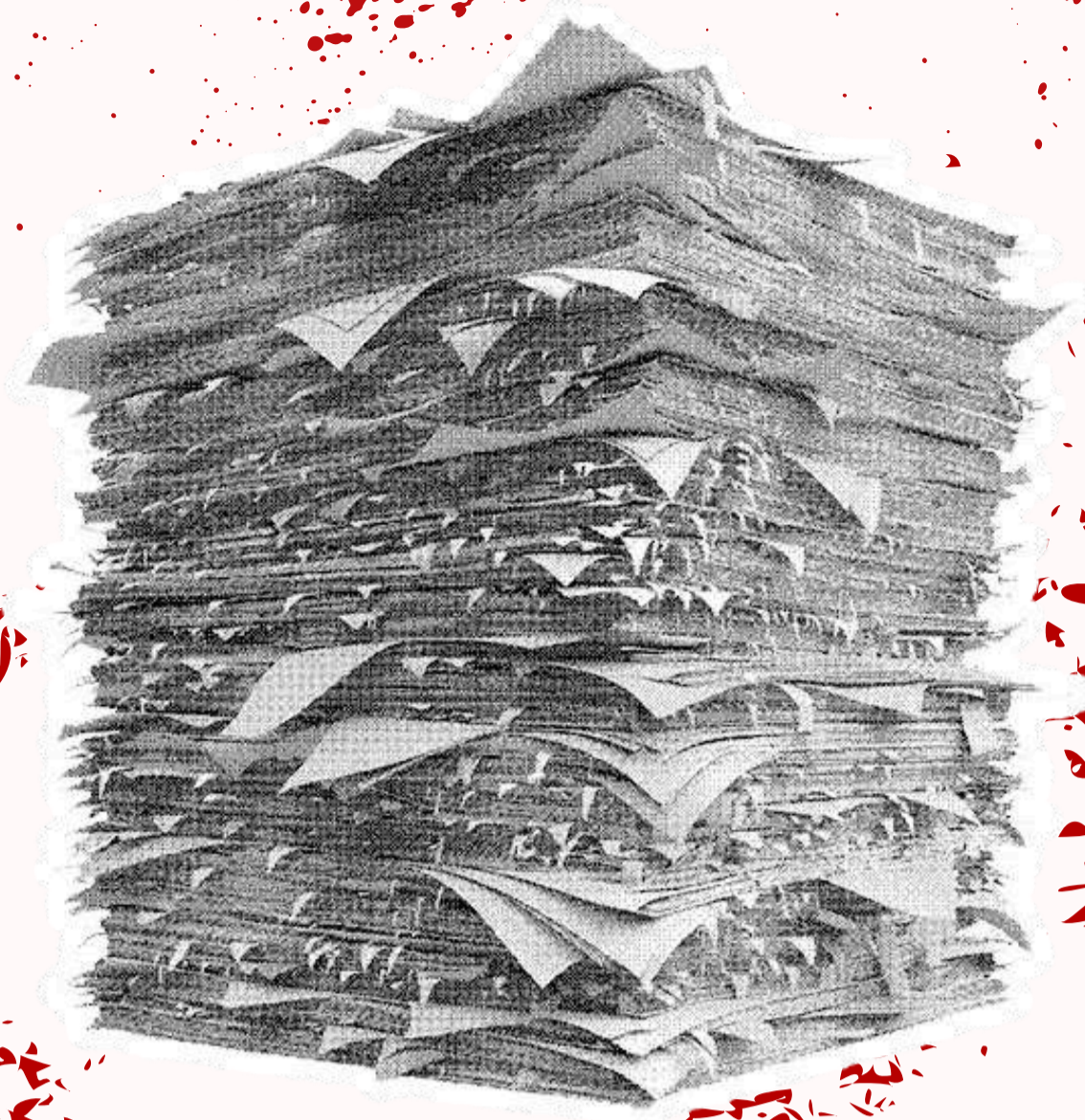
Climate activists hold signs during a press conference with House Democrats on COP30 and climate issues outside the US Capitol November 13, 2025. © 2025 Francis Chung/POLITICO via AP Images

Picture a world where greenhouse gases rise to 75 billion tonnes a year, casting crippling heat waves piercing 9.2 billion individuals across the globe. 165 billion tonnes of raw material extraction destroys natural spaces, feeding biodiversity loss and climate change. As 4% of global gross domestic products falter annually, the chasm between the rich and poor widens, leading to an economic downturn greater than the Great Depression during the 1920s to 1930s. This will be our planet if no actions are taken by 2050.

Environmental rights comprises substantive rights and procedural rights. Together, they guarantee access to a clean and sustainable environment. Substantive rights consist of civil & political rights (rights to life, freedom from discrimination), economic & social rights (rights to health, food, standards of living), cultural rights (access to religious sites), and collective rights (rights of indigenous peoples). Procedural rights prescribe steps to enforce legal rights with 3 fundamental rights: access to information, public participation, and access to justice.



At the heart of environmental justice lies a contradiction: people insist on the right to clean air and water, yet resist the personal sacrifices required to secure them. Globally, surveys reveal 89% respondents supporting more governmental action combatting global warming and 69% claim they are willing to contribute 1% of their income. Yet meanwhile, individuals often underestimate how many others share these views and remain reluctant to change lifestyle habits, creating pluralistic ignorance suppressing broader collective effort. The U.S. recycling rate for municipal solid waste (MSW) is 32%, though some studies suggest, when considering all materials, the effective rate may be closer to 21%. Environmental rights cannot exist in isolation from personal and collective responsibility; without both, progress toward sustainability remains stalled.



A question lies in the discussion of environmental protection: Should AI data centers be rejected? As artificial intelligence rapidly advances in societies, AI data centers tap into surface and underground aquifers to cool facilities. To prevent overheating and damage of processor chips, heat exchangers capture hot air or hot water produced as byproducts of the cooling process, leaving 80% of water (typically freshwater) evaporating with remaining water discharged to wastewater facilities. Other pathways include evaporative cooling towers releasing heat into the atmosphere through water evaporation, HVAC systems maintaining humidity levels preventing static electricity, and using liquid coolant cooling servers and GPUs. No matter the method, data centers consume roughly 110 million gallons of water per year on average, equivalent to the annual water usage of 1000 households. Continuation of AI data center expansion accelerates water scarcity and contributes indirectly to global warming. As communities increasingly face declining freshwater availability and intensifying climate pressures, it is no longer sufficient to treat the environmental costs of artificial intelligence as an invisible trade-off for technological progress.

The QTS data center complex, under development last year in Fayetteville, Ga.
Elijah Nouvelage—Bloomberg/Getty Images



Closing the responsibility gap requires both systemic reform and individual accountability. Structural changes to environmental policies are crucial. Incentives for renewable energy, including increased implementation of solar, wind, and hydro power, transparency requirements for corporate water and carbon usage, and stricter regulations on mass production industries steers society into a clear path to sustainability. Furthermore, as communities, shared societal action fosters greater change, as cooperated efforts eliminates the sense of pluralistic ignorance. Recycling programs, public transportation investments, and local water conservation programs enact civic participation in environmental protection efforts. To make AI data centers water-efficient, water management techniques to replace current cooling methods allows the reducing of water-wastage. Closed-loop cooling systems enabling the reuse of recycled and freshwater, free cooling methods using outside cold air for cooling, air cooling with air conditioning vents and tubes, and immersion cooling through submerging chips and components in dielectric fluids all guarantee substantial water conservation results. In Wisconsin, Microsoft's largest and most sophisticated AI datacenter integrated circulation of cold liquid directly into servers in a closed-loop system, ensuring zero water waste. This serves as an effective example of environmentally-friendly water management, saving millions of tonnes of water resources over time.



Aerial view of part of the closed loop liquid cooling system at Fairwater (Credit: Microsoft)

“While much, much more needs to be done to put us on the right path to avert the worst effects of climate change, the growth of renewable energy around the world, the rise of electric vehicles, and the growing appreciation for plant-based diets all give reason for hope over fear” said Aaron Bernstein, Interim Director of the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at the Harvard. If nations advance toward 100% renewable energy generation and the retirement of fossil fuel plants, the water savings would be enormous, saving billions of gallons of water, and more resources would be available for both human consumption and natural ecosystems.



CIVICS EDUCATION AND THE POWER OF TEACHERS TO INFLUENCE STUDENTS' POLITICAL VIEWS

Sophia Zhang

The role of the educator in America has long been viewed as the cornerstone for a democratic, functional society; they are tasked with the crucial step of molding the next generation of informed citizens. However, in an era of heightened and heightening polarization, the question of whether a classroom can—or should—be truly apolitical has become the subject of intense debates.

While traditional views often champion a strict standard of “teacher neutrality” for the benefit of generating one’s own beliefs without bias, contemporary research and pedagogical theories have suggested that education itself is an inherently political act. This is largely because a growing consensus among educational experts suggests that “keeping politics out of the classroom” is functionally impossible. The very structures of education—from the selection of textbooks by state boards to the methods used for school funding—are determined by political processes. As Alyssa Hadley Dunn, an education professor at Michigan State University, notes, the cultural and historical contexts of a school simply cannot be left at the doorstep.

Furthermore, the decision to remain “neutral” itself is, in actuality, a political choice in itself. Critics argue that a strict adherence to neutrality often serves to bolster the status quo and can often marginalize students whose lived experiences are directly impacted by political policy. For educators of color, in particular, neutrality is often not a viable option.

The act of leading schools that serve marginalized communities is fundamentally tied to issues of race, class, and equity. When teachers *do* choose to share their political views, the impact on students is nuanced. Research indicates that students are often aware of their teachers' political leanings even when teachers believe they are benign neutral in classrooms. Interestingly, student comfort levels in the classroom are not necessarily dictated by whether they know a teacher's beliefs, but rather by how those beliefs are presented to them.

What is truly critical is the distinction between sharing a view and actively advocating for one. Sharing involves presenting an opinion as one of many valid perspectives, whereas advocacy or "indoctrination" seeks to persuade students to adopt a specific stance. Some researchers argue that teacher disclosure, when handled correctly, can actually enhance critical thinking skills. By witnessing how a trusted adult navigates complex issues, students can better understand the concept of bias and learn to distinguish between fact and opinion better. In fact, most students—approximately 79% in certain studies—believe it is acceptable for social studies teachers to share their opinions, provided they do not pressure students to think a certain way.

However, despite these potential benefits, many teachers still face significant pressure to avoid controversial topics. A 2024 survey found that nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of teachers changed or skipped lessons due to fear of backlash from parents or administrators. This "instructional gatekeeping" means that teachers' own beliefs and fears will heavily influence what kind of knowledge is deemed "valid" or "relevant" in a civic education context.

To navigate these challenges, educators are encouraged to focus on "deliberation" rather than "consensus". Effective strategies include structured dialogue, tools like mock trials, debates, and "fishbowl" discussions to allow students to process research in a higher democratic context. Media literacy has also become vital; teaching students how to identify biased reporting and fact-check information allows them to reach their own conclusions based on data rather than a teacher's personal opinion. In addition, service-learning that connects lessons to community service can foster "political thinking" by helping students recognize and address social injustices firsthand.

Ultimately, the goal of the modern political classroom is not to tell students what to think, but to equip them with the tools of inquiry and empathy required to function as active participants in our diverse democracy. While the path is full of professional and social risks, the alternative—a classroom that ignores the political realities of society—may leave students unprepared for civic life in their future.



HISTORICAL CONSTRAINTS ON LABOR

To understand why an effective, coordinated large-scale strike is so relatively rare nowadays in the modern industrial society, we must look at the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947. Officially known as the Labor-Management Relations Act, it was designed during a period of significant labor-management friction, introducing various regulations including limitations on "secondary boycotts" and "solidarity strikes", which fundamentally altered the labor landscape.

For decades, this legal framework has served as a defining boundary for union activity, transforming strikes into some highly structured, narrow negotiations. This history is essential to understanding why the current labor environment is so distinct: previous generations were operating under a set of restrictions that made political use of strikes legally and practically difficult.

THE ARCHITECTURE OF LEVERAGE

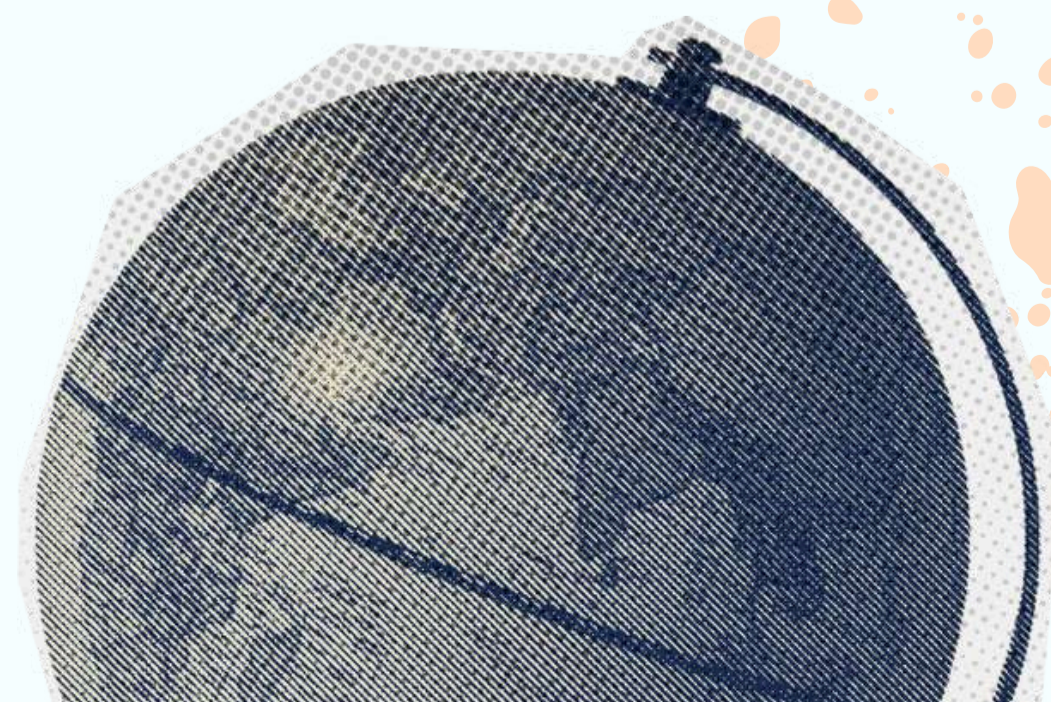
When traditional avenues for expressing public concern are perceived as ineffective, new and louder methods of engagement often emerge. This is the logic behind the proposed long-term labor strategy "[Plan 2028](#)" that began gaining attention since the start of 2026. Led by the United Auto Worker (UAW) and a group of teachers and service workers, this approach is an attempt to overcome the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 by creating the possibility for workers in essential sectors including transportation, education, and manufacturing to legally address their work conditions on a unified platform. This action aims to ensure that these sectors have a collective voice in economic matters, emphasizing that their role in the economy is a significant component of their role in society.

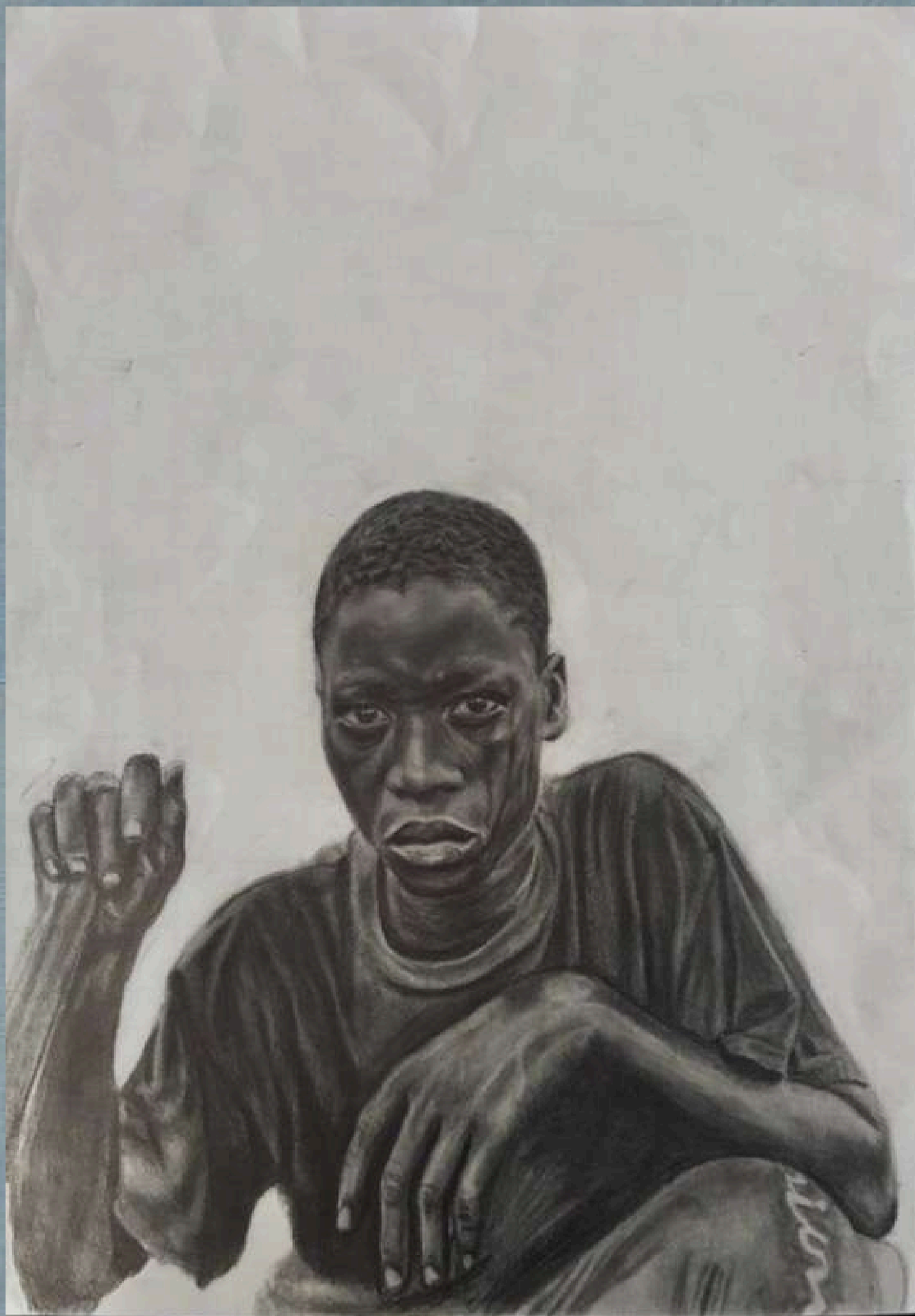
A NON-VIOLENT REVOLUTION

The discussion surrounding these potential actions are multifaceted. Some express concerns that coordinated labor actions could potentially introduce economic instability, causing disruptions in supply chains and impacting the broader public due to the 'Bullwhip Effect' - a phenomenon where minor disruptions at one end of the supply chain cause increasingly large oscillations in demand and availability as they move upstream. They argue that using economic pressure to influence political outcomes could set a precedent that challenges the traditional separation of labor and state.

Conversely, others suggest that the "cost of no actions" is equally as significant. They argue that when a government remains unresponsive to its calls, the lack of trust poses its own risks to the country's long-term stability. From this point of view, the use of collective labor action is not a rejection of democracy, but a desperate, final attempt to re-engage with the system.

Whether or not these strategies lead to policy changes, they highlight a pivotal moment in civic rights history: a time when the people are looking beyond the traditional ballot box to identify new, tangible ways to participate in the democratic process. Ultimately, the future of this movement depends on whether the government and the public can find new ways to restore the responsiveness of democratic institutions.





Siaana Hearn, *The Rights That Are Still Not Met*, charcoal on 11.7x16.5" sketch paper, 2026

PRESSURE, BURNOUT, AND COMPARISON: THE MENTAL STRUGGLE OF ATHLETES & THEIR RIGHT TO FIGHT FOR CHANGE

Grace Guan

INTRODUCTION

For children, getting involved in sports is all about having fun and being active. It's a chance to run around with friends, pick up new skills, and just enjoy being outdoors. During practices, having fun is all that matters, and the outcome of the games doesn't really matter when you're just having a good time. But as kids get older and the competition gets tougher, things start to change. Sports transform from just a recreational activity into a high-pressure situation where the expectations can really weigh on athletes. Today, whether in high school, college, or even in professional leagues, many athletes are feeling more and more pressure to perform. This can lead to serious results like burnout, anxiety, and emotional stress.

PRESSURE TO PERFORM

Athletes, regardless of their level, face a ton of pressure to perform well in their sports. Whether it's competing for a starting spot, trying to score scholarships, or simply representing their schools in competitions, the stakes can be really high. While physical training and performance typically receive the most attention in sports programs, mental health support often gets overlooked. This can have a toll on athletes, leading to higher stress levels and burnout.

Recent research shows how widespread this pressure has become. Studies from GITNEX in a 2026 Report indicate that around "76% of student-athletes report that academic pressure is a major contributor to their mental distress," and "40% of elite athletes report performance anxiety as their primary source of stress." Additionally, an older large-scale survey of NCAA athletes reported that "rates of mental exhaustion, anxiety and depression have seen little change since fall 2020 and remain 1.5 to two times higher than identified before the COVID-19 pandemic," indicating the pervasiveness and prevalence of stress in competitive athletics.



Several high-profile athletes have also helped to bring attention to this issue. Take Olympic gymnast Simone Biles, for example, who stepped away from multiple events during the 2020 Summer Olympics to prioritize her mental health, explaining that the pressure of competing at the highest level had become overwhelming. Similarly, tennis champion Naomi Osaka withdrew from press conferences during the 2021 French Open, mentioning the mental strain caused by media expectations.

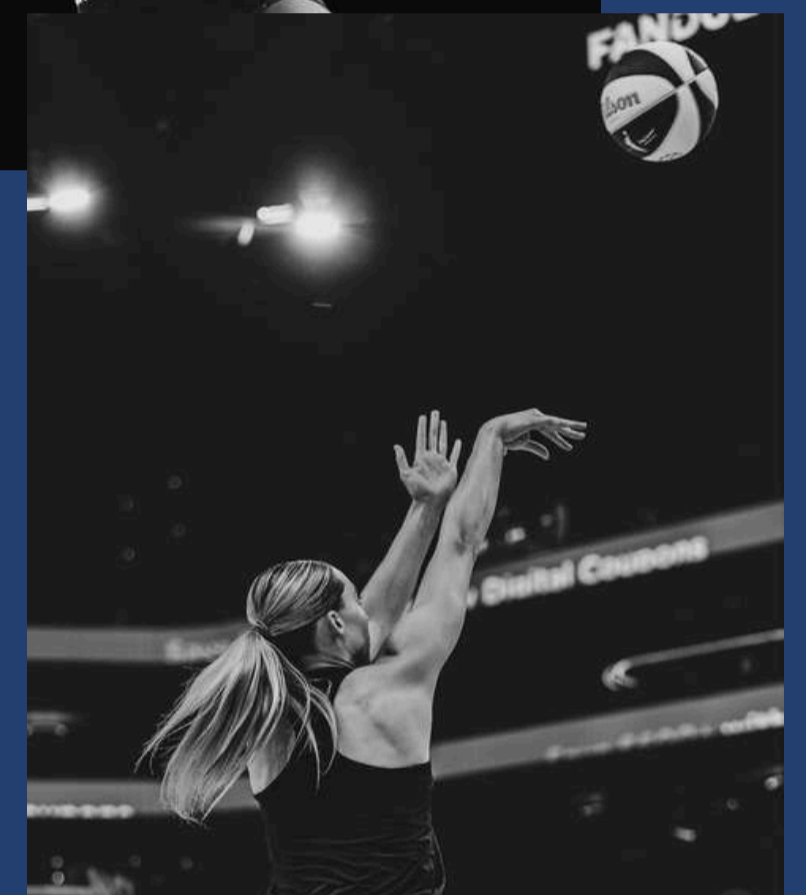
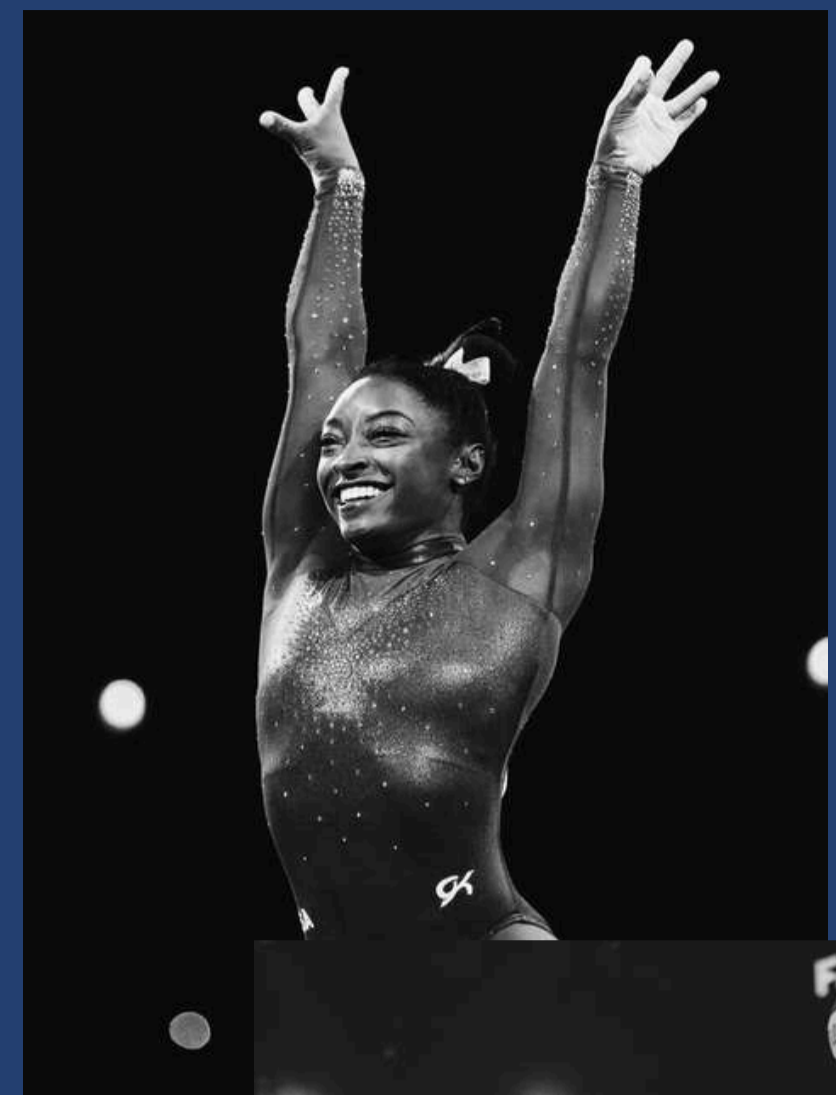
In more recent news, college basketball players such as Hailey Van Lith and Paige Bueckers have spoken publicly about seeking therapy to manage stress from injuries, expectations, and the public spotlight surrounding college athletics. These stories all highlight a growing theme that athletic success requires not only physical preparation but also strong mental support systems.

RECOVERY FROM INJURY

Physical injuries are something that most athletes go through, but the mental impact of those injuries is often overlooked. When athletes are stopped from competing, they may experience feelings of isolation, frustration, and anxiety about losing their place on the team. Going back to data collected from GITNEX, “22% of athletes who underwent surgery reported 'fear of re-injury' as a barrier to mental recovery,” and “51% of athletes who suffer a career-ending injury develop clinical depression within six months.” This research demonstrates how injuries can have as large psychological effects as physical impacts, if not more.

Sports medicine researchers from the National Library of Medicine have found that injured athletes frequently experience “simultaneous mood disturbance and lowered self-esteem.” For athletes who strongly identify themselves with their sport, being unable to compete can significantly affect their self-confidence and sense of identity. According to this article, being aware of these emotional responses of athletes during their recovery from injury and putting coping strategies into effect “should facilitate optimal rehabilitation.”

Even with all the challenges athletes face, many rehab programs mainly concentrate on getting them physically back to their sport. It’s extremely important for schools and sports organizations to also include psychological support during recovery. By incorporating mental health care into these programs, athletes could come back not just physically ready but also mentally strong, which is crucial for a successful return to competition.



COMPARISON TO OTHERS

As a student-athlete, I've come to realize that comparing ourselves to others is just part of the sports culture. We often find ourselves looking at performance stats, rankings, and competing against one another, and it's hard not to measure our success against our teammates or competitors. While these numbers can help us see how far we've come, they can also add a lot of pressure in an already intense environment. It can be stressful trying to outdo everyone else, even when we're all just trying to improve and enjoy what we do.

Social media has also amplified this issue by letting athletes always see the achievements of others. Recruitment announcements, highlight videos, and championship celebrations can make athletes feel as though they are falling behind. Having peers who play the same sport also contributes to comparison. Because of this shared similarity, athletes are more likely to evaluate their own performance against that of others.

CIVIC ACTION AND ADVOCACY

Even though conversations about mental well-being in athletics are growing, plenty of competitors still face barriers when seeking real help. Because of this gap, those involved - players, families, coaches - might turn civic rights into tools for pushing awareness forward

It often begins with free expression. Open stories from driven athletes about personal struggles make mental wellness harder to ignore, especially online. Lately, top competitors have leaned into visibility, discussing stress tied to performance and emotional care in athletics. Even without elite status, anyone who is interested in sports culture can shift attitudes just by speaking up. Slowly, momentum builds when these voices overlap, pushing leagues and teams to respond with real attention. These conversations all come together to encourage sports institutions and organizations to take the issue more seriously.

According to research published by the Voice in Sports about "The Comparison Trap," comparison is something natural and may even help us reach our potential, but it also may cause us to "struggle with situations in which we might not be able to succeed and develop negative self-perceptions when others perform better than us." For athletes already facing performance pressure, this environment can intensify feelings of self-doubt.

Some educators and sports psychologists believe schools should address this issue by promoting a focus on collective improvement rather than constant comparison. As "The Comparison Trap" article suggests, "individual sports are often more prone to the challenges of comparison." Therefore, programs that emphasize teamwork, personal development, and mental resilience may help athletes build confidence while reducing harmful competition within teams.

Citizens also have the right to start campaigns, awareness events, or organizations supporting mental health resources for athletes. For instance, in late 2025, the nonprofit [Ad Council](#) launched an initiative called “Love, Your Mind,” which works with lots of professional athletes and major sports leagues in order to encourage others to converse more openly about this topic and to prioritize their well-being. This campaign has resources that are designed to remind people that caring for one’s mental health is just as important as caring for one’s physical fitness. These actions have a larger impact than most people realize, urging athletic organizations or even local schools to prioritize athlete well-being.

Adding on, supporting leaders who already prioritize mental health funding or by advocating for policies that require schools to provide resources for student-athletes, communities together can help shape how these institutions respond to the challenges others are already facing. Former Division I volleyball player [Victoria Garrick Browne](#) is an example of someone who has used her platform to support change. After sharing [her own struggles with anxiety and depression](#) as a college athlete, she founded the nonprofit [The Hidden Opponent](#), which works to raise awareness and provide lots of resources for psychological challenges. Through these civic rights, athletes and advocates can move the conversation about awareness for athletes’ mental health into meaningful movements or active action so that mental health is properly addressed in the world of sports.

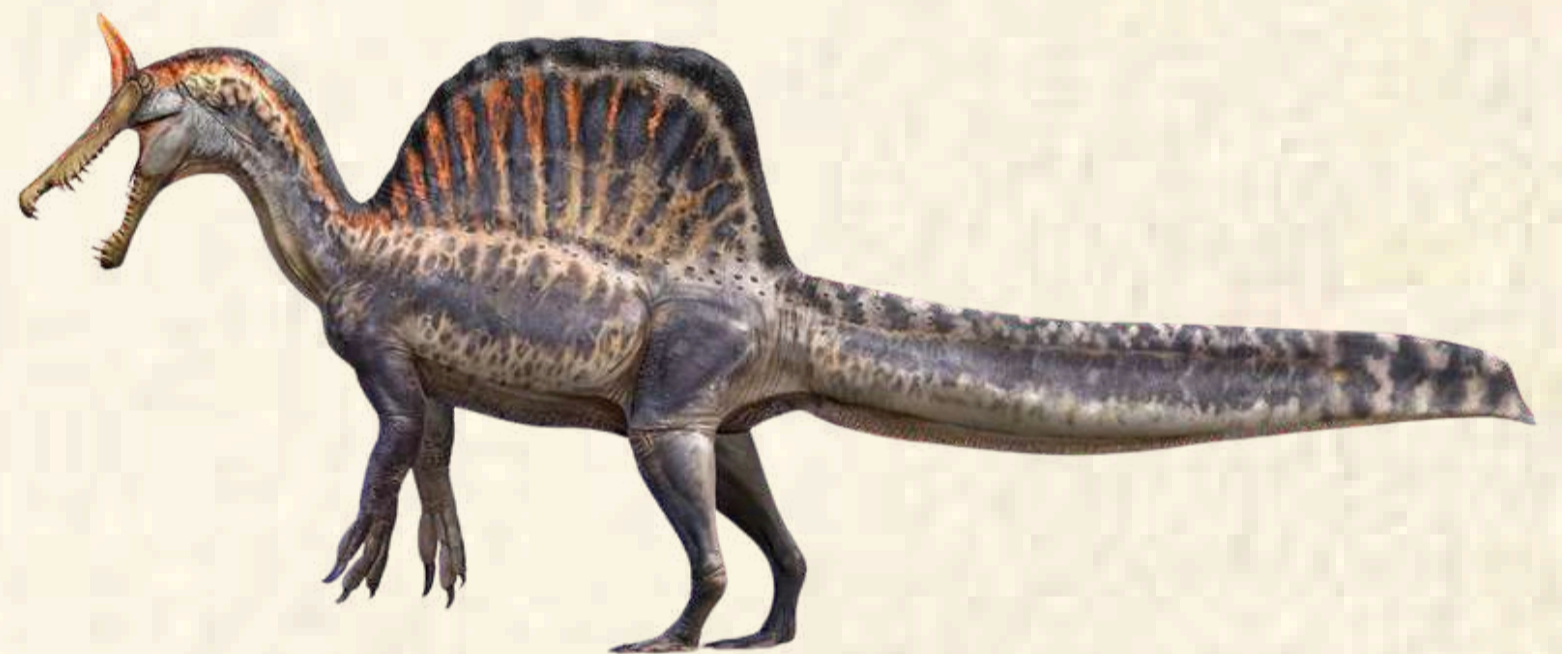
CONCLUSION

As more people recognize the importance of mental health for athletes, sports organizations, and schools should step up and really try to make a difference. They have a unique chance to create environments that value mental well-being just as much as physical training. By focusing on mental health education, providing access to counselling services, and promoting supportive team atmospheres, these institutions can help athletes thrive not just in their sport but also in their overall lives. To conclude, prioritizing mental well-being is not just beneficial; it is imperative for the future of sports.

THE DISCOVERY OF **SPINOSAURUS MIRABILIS** AND THE CITIZENS' DUTY TO REPORT

Tansy Lau

In February 2026, researchers working in North Africa announced the discovery of what may be a new dinosaur species called *Spinosaurus mirabilis*. The fossil was found during a survey near Jengueb in modern-day Niger and could be the first new species added to the Spinosaurus genus in over 100 years. What makes this discovery especially exciting is how complete the fossil is. Many earlier Spinosaurus fossils were made up of scattered or damaged bones, but this specimen was recovered in near-complete condition. Because it is so well preserved, scientists now have a rare chance to re-examine what they thought they knew about how these giant predators lived and moved .



*Caption: Artist reconstructions of **Spinosaurus mirabilis**, a newly identified species of spinosaurid dinosaur that lived in river and wetland environments about 95 million years ago.*



The discovery began when researchers noticed a small piece of bone sticking out of sandstone. At first, they thought it might be part of a vertebra. But as they carefully dug around it, they realized it was actually the curved top of a skull. As the excavation continued, the team uncovered an unusual arched ridge above the braincase, a feature that had never been seen in other *Spinosaurus* fossils. Scientists think this ridge may have supported a keratin covering—the same material found in human fingernails and bird beaks. While the exact color cannot be determined from fossils, researchers believe it might have been used for display, possibly helping individuals recognize each other or attract mates .

Other parts of the skull were also found, including sections of the jaw and several cone-shaped teeth designed for gripping slippery prey like fish. Using advanced 3D imaging technology, researchers reconstructed damaged parts of the skull and compared them to known fossils of *Spinosaurus aegyptiacus*, the most famous species in the group. Small but consistent differences in the bones convinced scientists they were likely looking at a new species. These differences included the shape of the crest, the structure of the jaw bones, and slight variations in the skull proportions. Because of these differences, the researchers proposed the name ***Spinosaurus mirabilis***, meaning “astounding spinosaur” in Latin .

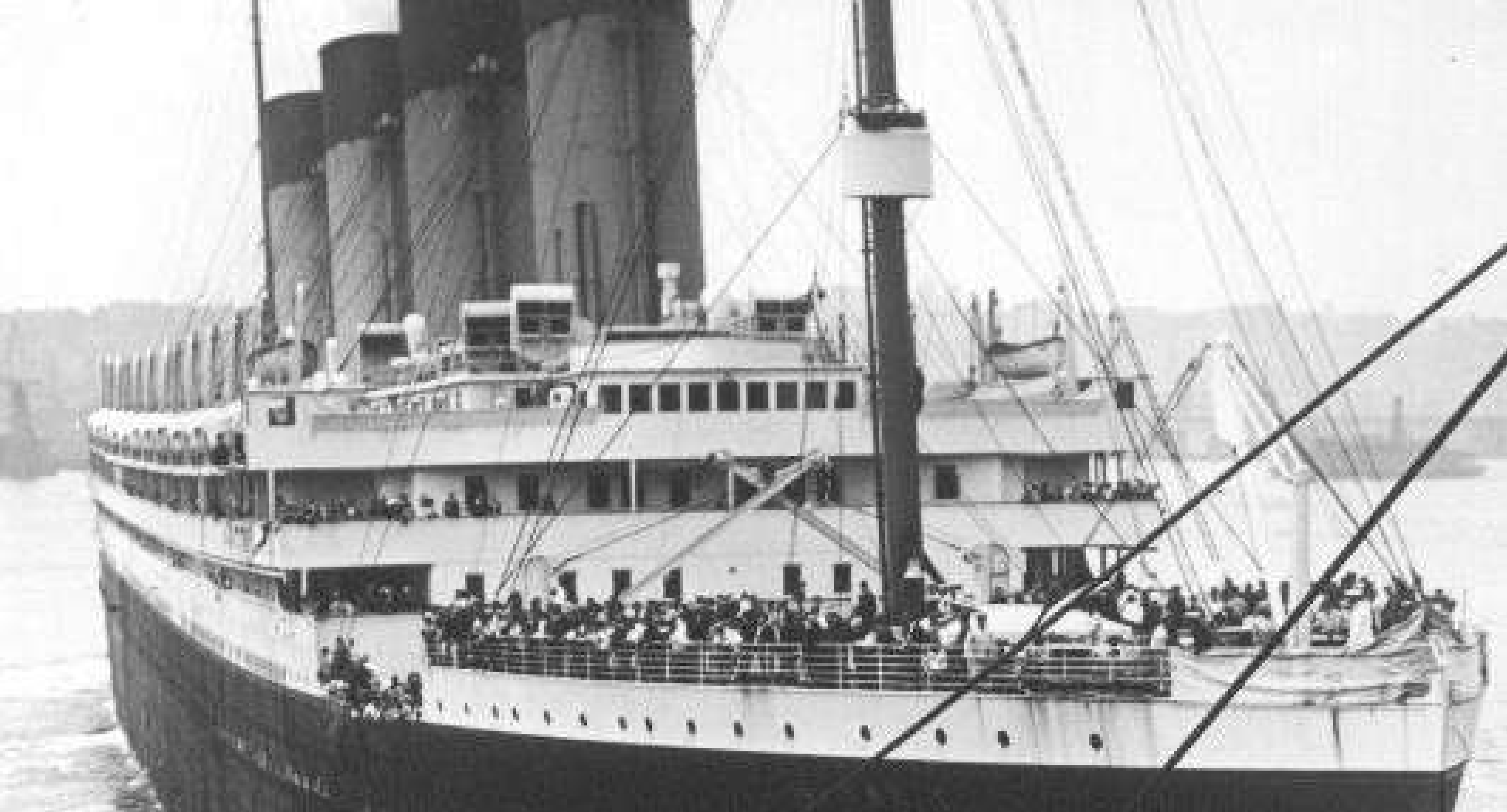
The fossil also adds more evidence that *Spinosaurus* dinosaurs were adapted to life around water. Its long snout and paddle-shaped tail suggest it was a strong swimmer. However, the fact that it was found far inland indicates these animals may have lived mainly in rivers and wetlands rather than coastal seas. Around 95 million years ago, during the Late Cretaceous period, the area that is now desert looked completely different. Instead of dry sand dunes, the region contained rivers, floodplains, and thick vegetation that supported a wide variety of animals including fish, crocodile-like reptiles, turtles, and other dinosaurs.

Researchers think *Spinosaurus mirabilis* may have hunted in shallow water, possibly wading and snapping at fish in a way that's somewhat similar to modern wading birds such as herons or storks. Because of this behavior, some scientists have even described the dinosaur as behaving like a "giant prehistoric wading predator." Its long jaws and conical teeth would have been perfect for grabbing fish quickly before they could escape.

This discovery also adds to an ongoing debate among scientists about just how aquatic spinosaurs really were. Fossils from places like Morocco and Egypt have suggested strong swimming abilities, but this new find hints that different species might have lived in different types of environments instead of all behaving the same way. Some spinosaurs may have been specialized swimmers, while others may have hunted by wading through shallow water and riverbanks.

The discovery has also brought attention to the importance of fossil preservation and ownership. Niger has strict rules requiring that major fossil discoveries be reported and studied by scientific authorities. These laws are important because fossils provide valuable scientific information about Earth's past. Knowing exactly where and how a fossil was found helps scientists understand its age, environment, and place in evolutionary history. Without proper documentation, that information could be lost forever.

Overall, the discovery of *Spinosaurus mirabilis* shows that even well-known dinosaur groups can still surprise scientists. Paleontologists believe that continued research and excavation in underexplored parts of North Africa could lead to many more discoveries in the future. Fossils from regions like the Sahara Desert are helping researchers better understand the diversity of dinosaurs that once lived on Earth and the environments they inhabited. As scientists continue studying this remarkable fossil, it may provide even more clues about the evolution and behavior of some of the largest predators to ever walk the planet.



THE SHIP

Emily Qian

The ship's wheel is pale and rough, splintered where the storm gnawed at it with salt and wind. Flakes of wood peel at the edges, biting at my fingertips. I hear the relentless waves crashing against the hull, dragging the sunken boat deeper into the unknown. Jagged lines run down the spokes like human veins, and when I grip the wheel, silver needles dig into my palms. They are knives to my skin, threatening to rip apart flesh. The stench of rotting wood and bird droppings creeps into my nostrils with a sour taste. The sea screams against the rocks, drowning out my shallow breaths. The mast plunges into the water, and disappears beneath the blackened water.

I cling to the wheel, even though it sends sharp waves of pain up my arms. I mutter prayers but all I see is the fog from my breaths, drifting upward before dissolving into the gray sky. Water runs along the cracks of the wood, making them glisten like scars. Salt clings to everything, my sleeves, my hair, my mouth. The sea below swells and sighs like a restless creature.

a

deafening

boom

splits

the

sky.

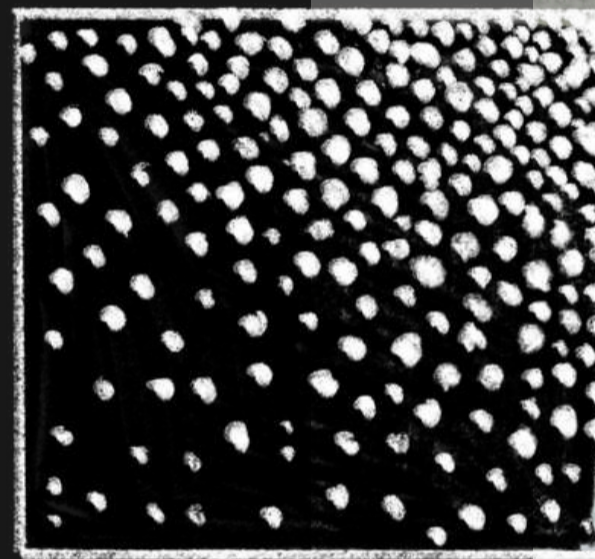
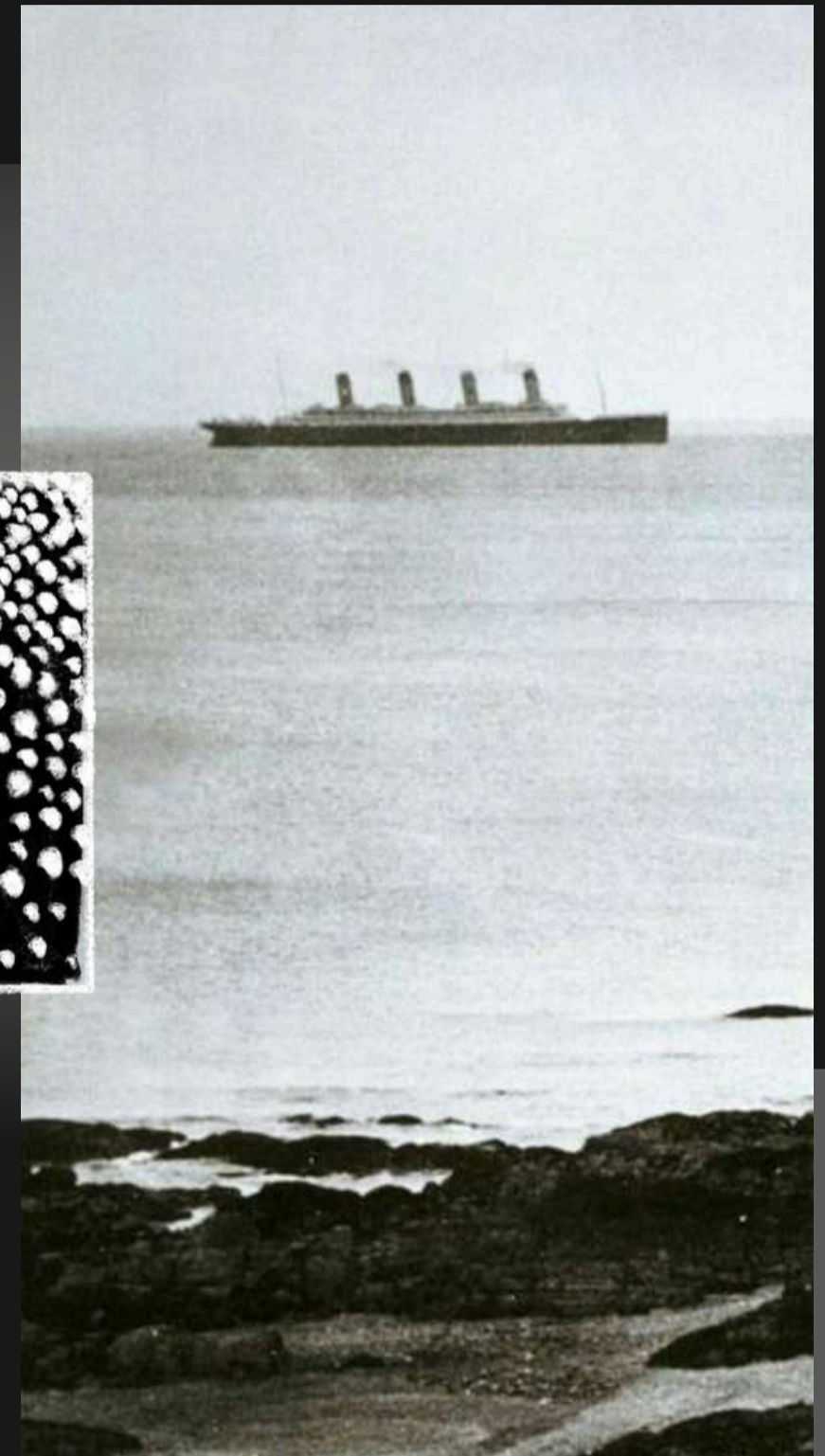
Thunderclaps shudder through the air, rattling the ship like a child's toy. There is a blinding flash, and the deck is illuminated in sharp bursts. It sinks beneath my feet, as if suctioned to the ocean floor. I smell thunder mingled with saltwater, and the metallic scent embeds itself onto my tongue. The ship tilts to its side, one wave from losing its balance completely. The clouds swirl in shades of black and white, and each strike of lightning rips through them like a tear in the heavens. I gasp for fresh air, but the cold only seeps deeper into my lungs.

i don't think about
the lost map
the battered boat
the heaving waves
the murderous storm

i blink through the rain
take a deep breath
put my hand on the wheel
brace myself against the wind
look into the open sea
start steering

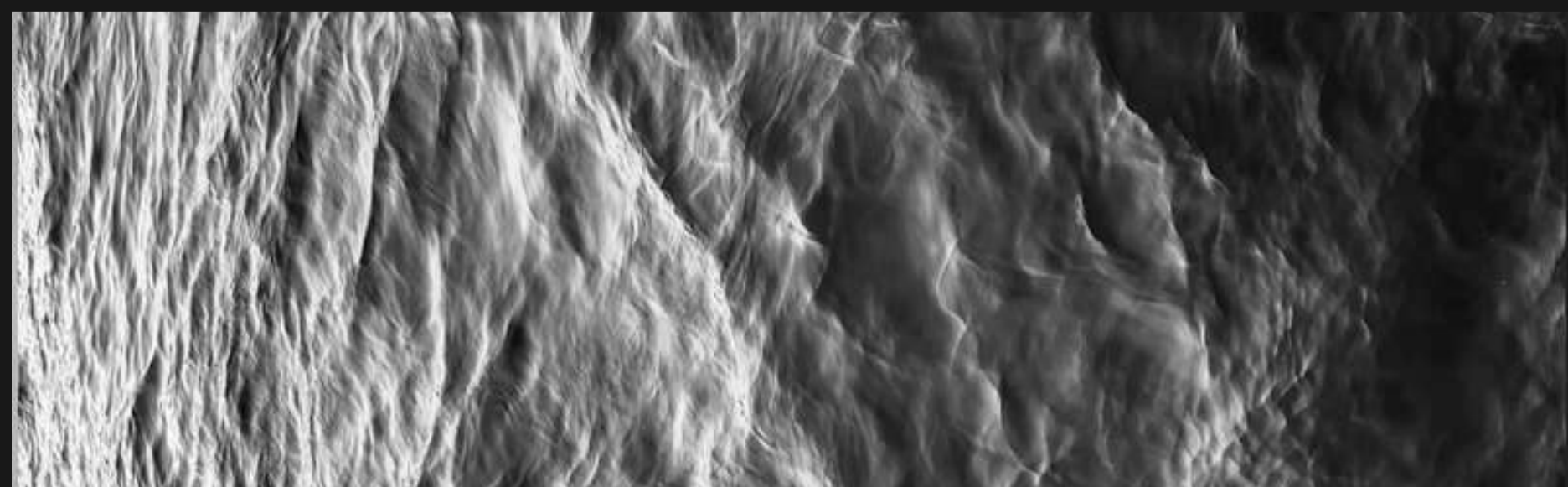
i grit my teeth, tell myself:
i will win this fight.

it
takes
all of me
to ride the storm.



Shyly, the clouds part. Golden sun spills over the horizon, scattering light across the water in sparkling shards. Waves brush against my feet, tickling the deck, their edges foaming with a playful hiss. As I feel warmth through my soaked T-shirt, the last clouds of the storm vanish behind me. In the distance, tiny figures move across the sand. Women sunbathe on colorful mats, the black of their swimsuits striking against the bright red and baby blue. Men with sunburned skin linger at the bar, laughing heartily at their own jokes. Children kneel in the sand, building castles that glint like a million jewels. As the ship nears the shore, cafés and small shops come into view, and the scents of fried crab and raw urchin drift toward me.

Everything is still.



THE SUPREME COURT MAY SOON DIMINISH BLACK POLITICAL POWER, UNDOING GENERATIONS OF GAINS

Robert D. Bland

*Assistant Professor of History and
Africana Studies, University of Tennessee*



U.S. Rep. Cleo Fields, a Democrat who represents portions of central Louisiana in the House, could lose his seat if the Supreme Court invalidates Louisiana's congressional map. [AP Photo/Gerald Herbert](#)

THE
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[The Conversation](#)*

Back in 2013, the Supreme Court tossed out a key provision of the Voting Rights Act regarding federal oversight of elections. It appears poised to abolish another pillar of the law.

In a case known as Louisiana v. Callais, the court appears ready to rule against Louisiana and its Black voters. In doing so, the court may well abolish Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, a provision that prohibits any discriminatory voting practice or election rule that results in less opportunity for political clout for minority groups.

The dismantling of Section 2 would open the floodgates for widespread vote dilution by allowing primarily Southern state legislatures to redraw political districts, weakening the voting power of racial minorities.

The case was brought by a group of Louisiana citizens who declared that the federal mandate under Section 2 to draw a second majority-Black district violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and thus served as an unconstitutional act of racial gerrymandering.

There would be considerable historical irony if the court decides to use the 14th Amendment to provide the legal cover for reversing a generation of Black political progress in the South. Initially designed to enshrine federal civil rights protections for freed people facing a battery of discriminatory "Black Codes" in the postbellum South, the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has been the foundation of the nation's modern rights-based legal order, ensuring that all U.S. citizens are treated fairly and preventing the government from engaging in explicit discrimination.

The cornerstone of the nation's "second founding," the Reconstruction-era amendments to the Constitution, including the 14th Amendment, created the first cohort of Black elected officials.

I am a historian who studies race and memory during the Civil War era. As I highlight in my new book "Requiem for Reconstruction," the struggle over the nation's second founding not only highlights how generational political progress can be reversed but also provides a lens into the specific historical origins of racial gerrymandering in the United States.

Without understanding this history – and the forces that unraveled Reconstruction's initial promise of greater racial justice – we cannot fully comprehend the roots of those forces that are reshaping our contemporary political landscape in a way that I believe subverts the true intentions of the Constitution.

THE LONG HISTORY OF GERRYMANDERING

Political gerrymandering, or shaping political boundaries to benefit a particular party, has been considered constitutional since the nation's 18th-century founding, but racial gerrymandering is a practice with roots in the post-Civil War era.

Expanding beyond the practice of redrawing district lines after each decennial census, late 19th-century Democratic state legislatures built on the earlier cartographic practice to create a litany of so-called Black districts across the postbellum South.

The nation's first wave of racial gerrymandering emerged as a response to the political gains Southern Black voters made during the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant in the 1870s. Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and Louisiana all elected Black congressmen during that decade. During the 42nd Congress, which met from 1871 to 1873, South Carolina sent Black men to the House from three of its four districts.



The first Black senator and representatives were elected in the 1870s, as shown in this historic print. [Library of Congress](#)

Initially, the white Democrats who ruled the South responded to the rise of Black political power by crafting racist narratives that insinuated that the emergence of Black voters and Black officeholders was a corruption of the proper political order. These attacks often provided a larger cultural pretext for the campaigns of extralegal political violence that terrorized Black voters in the South, assassinated political leaders, and marred the integrity of several of the region's major elections.

ELECTION CHANGES

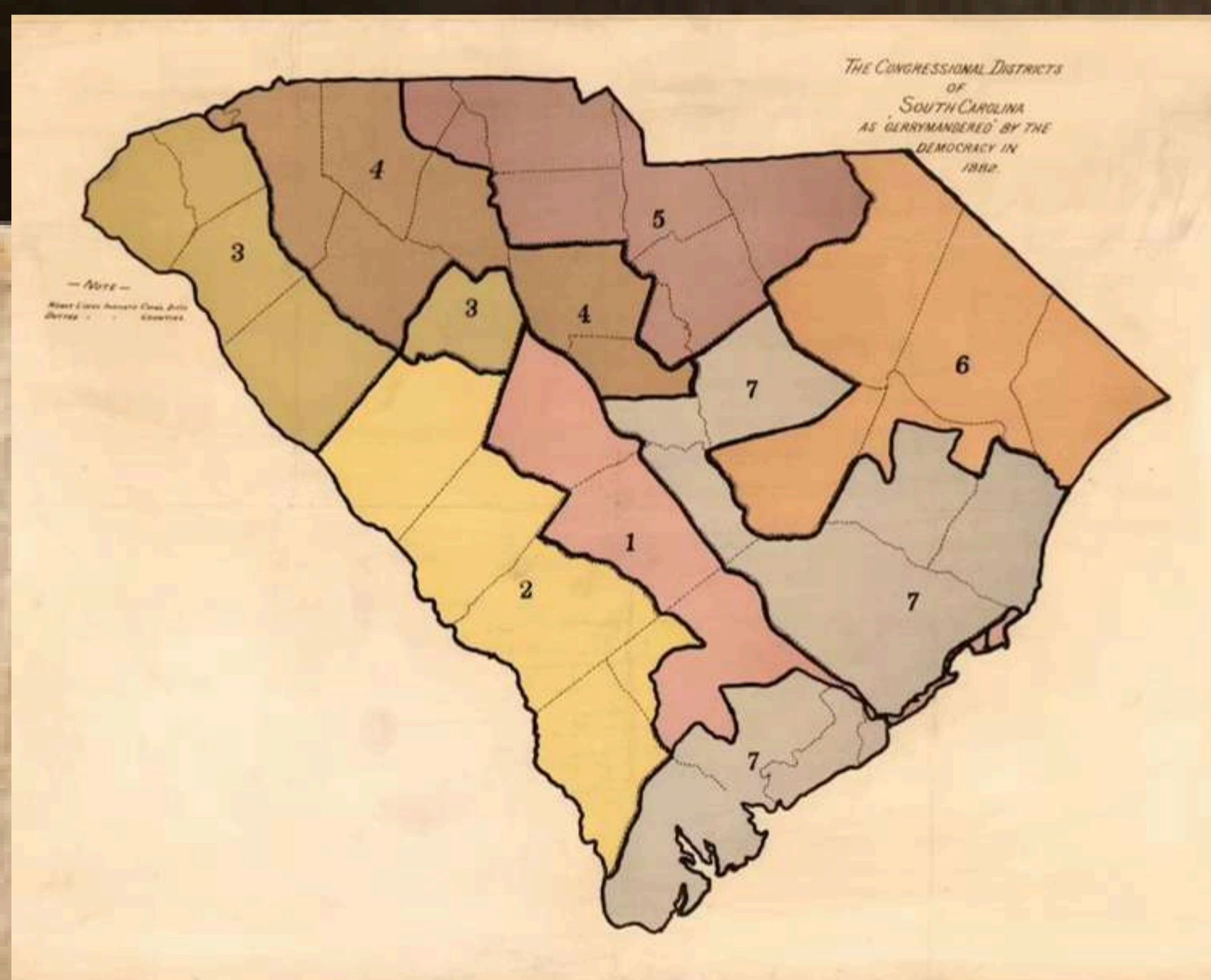
Following these pogroms during the 1870s, southern legislatures began seeking legal remedies to make permanent the counterrevolution of "Redemption," which sought to undo Reconstruction's advancement of political equality. A generation before the Jim Crow legal order of segregation and discrimination was established, southern political leaders began to disfranchise Black voters through racial gerrymandering.

These newly created Black districts gained notoriety for their cartographic absurdity. In Mississippi, a shoestring-shaped district was created to snake and swerve alongside the state's famous river. North Carolina created the "Black Second" to concentrate its African American voters to a single district. Alabama's "Black Fourth" did similar work, leaving African American voters only one possible district in which they could affect the outcome in the state's central Black Belt.

South Carolina's "Black Seventh" was perhaps the most notorious of these acts of Reconstruction-era gerrymandering. The district "sliced through county lines and ducked around Charleston back alleys" – anticipating the current trend of sophisticated, computer-targeted political redistricting.

Although federal courts during the late 19th century remained painfully silent on the constitutionality of these antidemocratic measures, contemporary observers saw these redistricting efforts as more than a simple act of seeking partisan advantage.

"It was the high-water mark of political ingenuity coupled with rascality, and the merits of its appellation," observed one Black congressman who represented South Carolina's 7th District.



South Carolina's House map was gerrymandered in 1882 to minimize Black representation, heavily concentrating Black voters in the 7th District. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division



RACIAL GERRYMANDERING IN RECENT TIMES

The political gains of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s, sometimes called the “Second Reconstruction,” were made tangible by the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The law revived the postbellum 15th Amendment, which prevented states from creating voting restrictions based on race. That amendment had been made a dead letter by Jim Crow state legislatures and an acquiescent Supreme Court.

In contrast to the post-Civil War struggle, the Second Reconstruction had the firm support of the federal courts. The Supreme Court affirmed the principal of “one person, one vote” in its 1962 Baker v. Carr and 1964 Reynolds v. Sims decisions – upending the Solid South’s landscape of political districts that had long been marked by sparsely populated Democratic districts controlled by rural elites.

The Voting Rights Act gave the federal government oversight over any changes in voting policy that might affect historically marginalized groups. Since passage of the 1965 law and its subsequent revisions, racial gerrymandering has largely served the purpose of creating districts that preserve and amplify the political representation of historically marginalized groups.

This generational work may soon be undone by the current Supreme Court. The court, which heard oral arguments in the Louisiana case in October 2025, will release its decision by the end of June 2026.

FOUR DAYS

Fiona Fan, BISZ

Clara's best friend was dead, and the world was silent.

Lying there on the cold cement ground, dark hair sprawled all over her bruised face, Clara suddenly realized how helpless she looked. Lilian Jin. The first time she'd heard the name, Clara thought she would be another one of those quiet girls, with neat handwriting and a picture-perfect smile. But Lilian wasn't like that—at all. Lilian was tough. On the first day of school she'd torn off all the post-its that covered her desk and pushed her way out of the snickering guys around her locker. The week after she'd called the police twice when the same group of guys were throwing a party at their house.

The kids hated her for that. Her nicknames went from "oriental" to "chink" but Lilian never bat an eye.

But now, as Clara studied her face again, Lilian looked so unbelievably frail. Her bruises and scars made her look battered, not tough. Her parted lips made her look lost, not defiant. And worst of all was her silence. Lilian was never silent. It made her feel unbelievably faraway, like her presence was already fading.

Clara shook her head. None of that mattered, because Lilian was dead.

Death was usually quite an extravagant thing in the tiny Middlebury town. When Chief Jones passed away peacefully at ninety-seven, everyone was given half a day off of school and all gathered to mourn his death at the town hall. Remember Chief Jones signs could still be seen all around. Clara liked that about their town. Because people never truly died—the impact they left, the echoes of their stories were always kept intact and would be for generations to come

That's what would happen to Lilian, Clara thought. She was gone, but she wouldn't really die. No one ever really died. Their presence lingered in all kinds of ways and no one was ever truly forgotten. Even Edward, the old man who couldn't talk properly and spent his days pacing the park. A few dozen people had gathered in the park when he passed, and Clara always felt that Chapman park seemed empty without him.

And so Clara didn't cry when the police came and told her to leave. She didn't cry when Mr. and Mrs. Jin arrived, red-eyed and hectic. Her best friend was dead; Clara accepted it like a matter of fact. Her face never flinched but as she watched the police snap picture after picture, like Lilian's death had already become a project in their resume, Clara felt something gnaw inside her. Not grief, not yet—just an ache she couldn't quite name.

Not long after, the police covered Lilian with a black cloth and wheeled her away.

The silence grew louder.



||

Clara went to bed early that night, but she slept so restlessly it was hard to believe she slept at all.

She kept thinking about Lilian. Her wind-tangled dark hair on the cement. The scar on her right cheek. The way she looked, lying there. Utterly defenseless.

Stop it, Clara told herself sharply. There was no point thinking about Lilian, why she died or how she died. Nothing could be done now. And she definitely wouldn't be dramatic about it. But somehow, the silence felt heavier than sleep.

In the morning, Clara woke up ten minutes before her alarm sounded and glared at the ceiling. It looked exactly the same. Every crack, every aged yellow stain. But it also looked entirely different—like the cracks had somehow deepened overnight.

Abruptly, a wave of grief threatened to overcome her.





She stumbled out of bed. “Mom, do we stay home from school today?” She called down the hall.

Her mom didn’t look up from buttoning her blouse. “No. Why would you stay home?”

Clara frowned, swallowing hard. “Mom, my best friend just died.”

A pause—barely a second, but long enough for Clara to go from half-conscious to completely awake. She saw her mother’s face flinch.

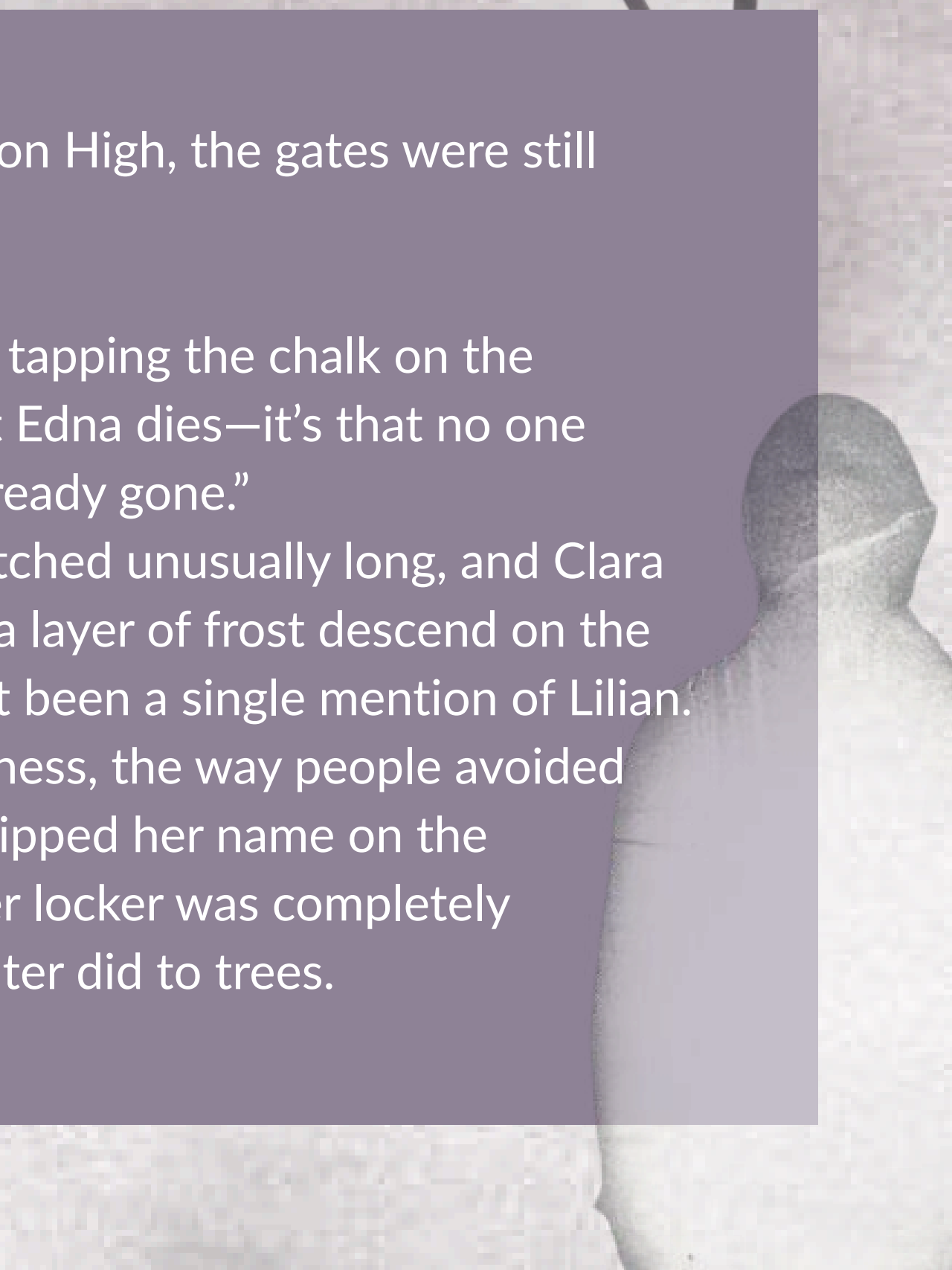
“Since when was that Jin girl your best friend? Clara, I told you not to associate with those people. They’re not up to any good business.”

“That’s not true.” Clara felt heat rise in her chest. “You didn’t even know her.” The words came out more defensive than she thought they would.

Her mom’s hands stilled. “I know enough.”

“You don’t,” She was completely awake now, pulling on her robe as she started down the hall. “Why would you say that about them? You don’t know Lilian, but I do. And she just killed herself—”

“Enough.” Mrs. Pulver’s voice was sharp, curt. “Leave. You’re going to be late.”



When Clara arrived at Middlebury Union High, the gates were still locked. She was twenty minutes early.

“So, in *The Awakening*,” Mrs. Tate said, tapping the chalk on the blackboard. “The tragedy isn’t just that Edna dies—it’s that no one around her truly sees her until she’s already gone.”

It was the second period. The day stretched unusually long, and Clara listened only half-heartedly, watching a layer of frost descend on the maple tree outside. So far, there hadn’t been a single mention of Lilian. It felt almost deliberate—the obliviousness, the way people avoided everything about her. Mrs. Tate had skipped her name on the attendance list. The hallway next to her locker was completely deserted—stripped clean, like what winter did to trees.

English class ended. Clara barely noticed, busy staring at the empty front-row desk. It was old and battered—like most things in the school, really. But one of the chair legs was sawed short, and there were all kinds of engravings and scribbles on it. Spray-paints, too. Most of them weren't exactly nice.

When did they start? Clara could barely remember. But she knew that even weeks before the Jins actually arrived at Middlebury, people had started talking. A Chinese family's moving here! Clara still remembered hearing the news from Lane Cummings and the snicker on her face.

Truthfully, Clara was intrigued. She'd also never seen a Chinese family before. But when Lane knocked on her door and told her to spray-paint the new girl's locker, something made Clara decline. She didn't feel good, she'd said. It just didn't seem right. Surprisingly, Clara did wound up getting sick, like a manifestation. And when she went back to school, the first thing she saw was Lilian glaring at Aaron Burke with a look that could kill.

"Move. Now."

Temporarily stunned, Aaron Burke and his gorillas moved aside and Lilian slammed her locker shut, then left. The silence barely lasted a minute before the gossip began.

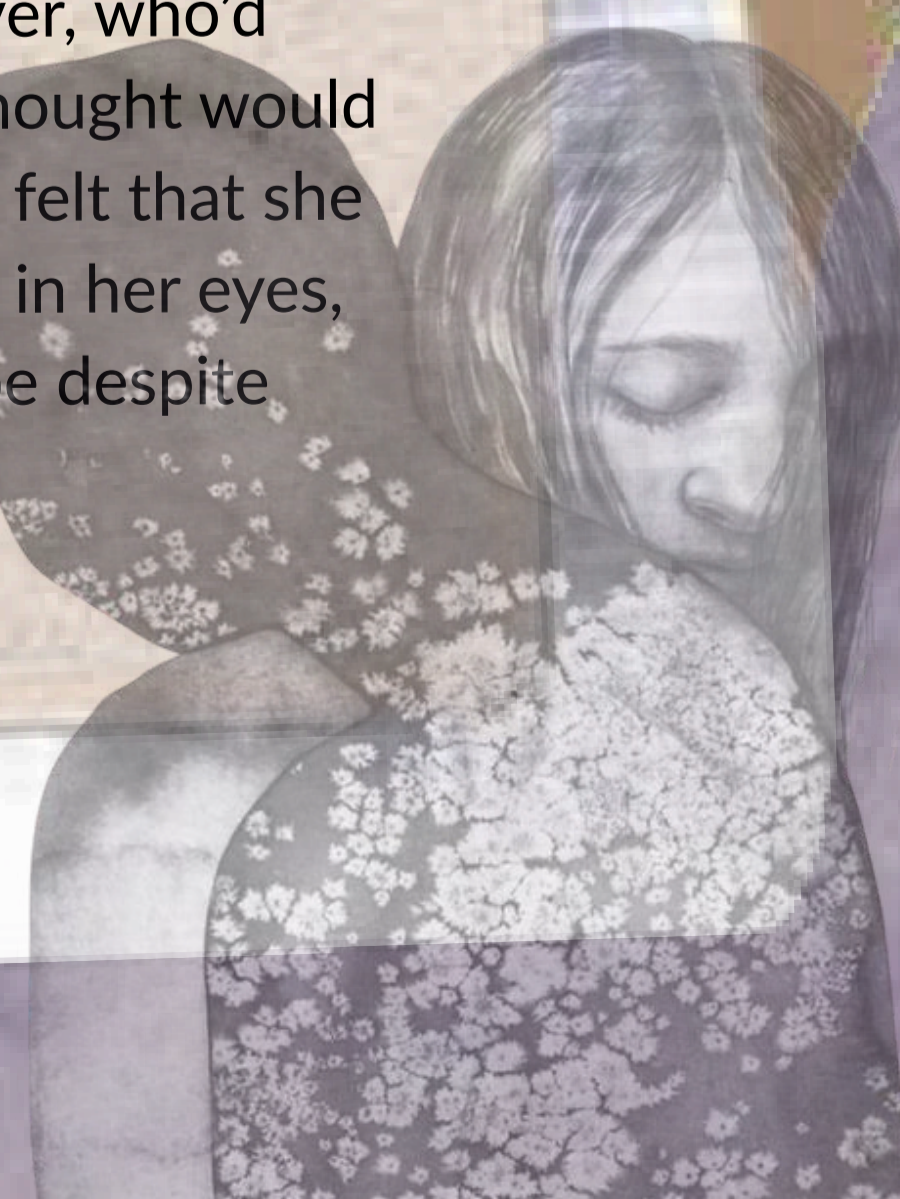
"Who does she think she is?"

"Someone's got a temper."

"Bet she eats dogs or something."

Clara stood at the end of the hall and quietly watched the scene unfold. For the first time, she felt good saying no to Lane Cummings. That day she sat alone at lunch, and after a moment, Lilian sat down across from her.

Becoming best friends with Lilian Jin wasn't something Clara Pulver, who'd never left her small town or questioned much of anything, ever thought would happen. It certainly didn't make her popular in any way. But Clara felt that she saw a side to Lilian everyone else missed. She saw the steadiness in her eyes, the quick wit behind her blunt words. She saw a girl who had hope despite being overlooked by the world. She saw herself.





But now, her name was gone. Erased, like it never mattered. Not just on the list, either. When Teddy Carver, who had been out sick for a week, came to school today and asked where Lilian was, Mrs. Tate had pulled him out of the classroom and Ted came back with the same look on everyone else's face: indifference.

That was the first time Lilian was mentioned in four days. It was also the only time. The only break in the silent agreement that Clara, apparently, wasn't informed of.

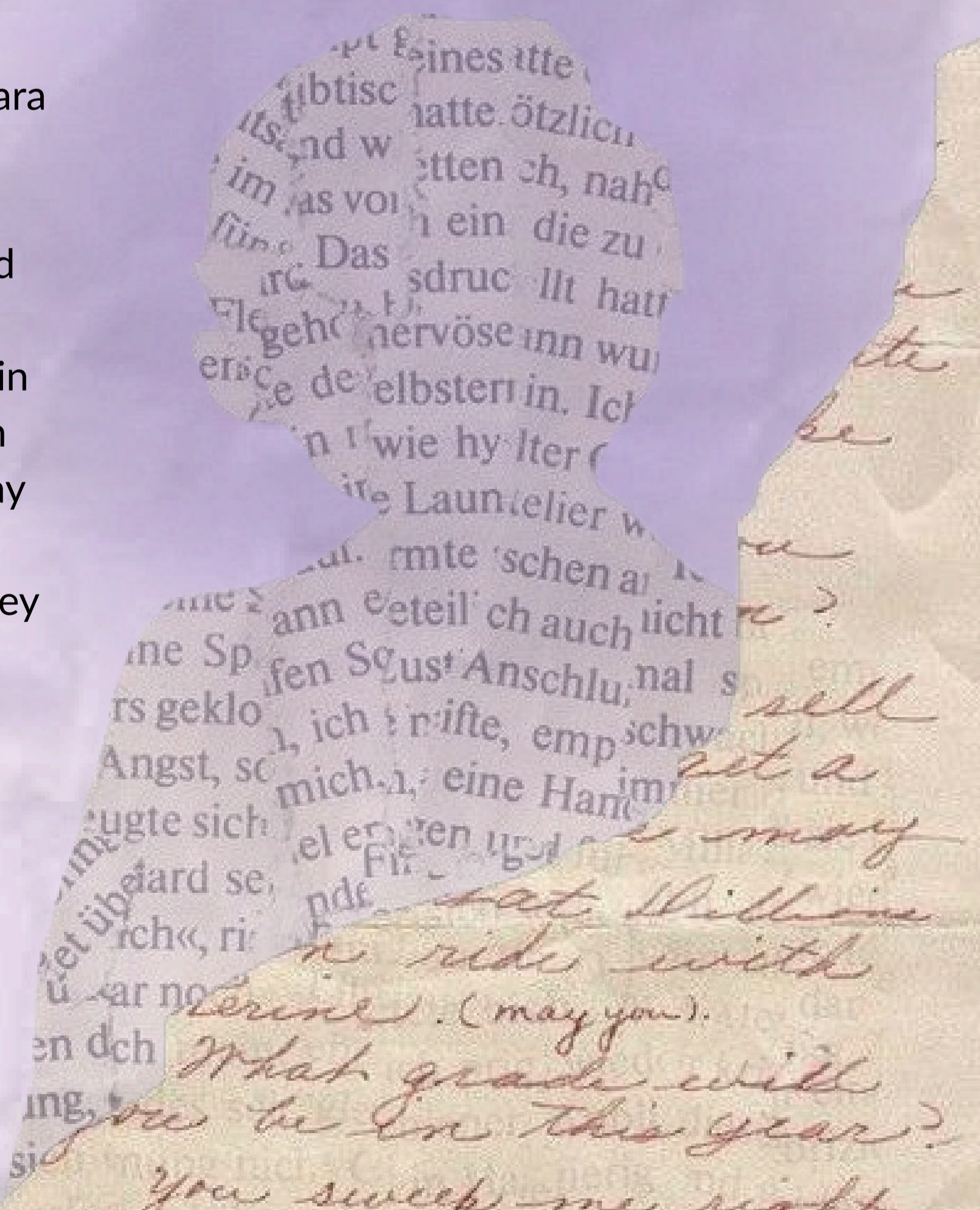
It was also on the night of the fourth day when Clara allowed herself to think about Lilian for the first time, to actually think.

She thought about Lilian's family. It was part of the reason why her death didn't come as much of a shock to her, not as it should've. Clara knew the way things were in Lilian's house. She knew that the bruises on her face weren't just from fighting with classmates, and why she signed up for every after-school activity there was to offer. The Jins lived across from her family's house. Lilian's bedroom was on the top floor. Clara thought about the times she'd seen Mr. Jin storm into that bedroom, the shadow of his fists raised before the curtains were drawn shut.

The day after, there'd be new cuts on Lilian's wrist. Clara saw them. She just never asked.

She then thought about her town, and what happened when Lilian's family moved in. She thought about the little boy she'd seen, talking to Lilian, who was sitting in her front yard, and how the boy's mother dragged him away muttering something. She thought about the way the shopkeepers glanced at them skeptically, and the quiet stares that seemed to linger no matter where they went. She thought about the day she'd asked Lilian to hang out in her house instead of the library.

"It's too busy on Saturdays," she'd said.



But the truth was Clara simply didn't want to face the town's judgement. From the way Lilian nodded, Clara could tell that she saw right past her lie.

Clara also thought about death. The way people died in Middlebury. A few days ago her answer was this—No one ever really died. Their presence lingered in all kinds of ways and no one was ever truly forgotten. She used to believe that.

But all around her, traces of Lilian were disappearing. Her portrait in the hallway, her ribbons and plaques in the awards room, even her desk, along with all the nicknames and engravings. For the first time, Clara began to feel her presence falter.

It was a terrifying feeling.

All her life Clara believed that death was just a biological concept. Nothing could ever just be gone. By existing, you place an impact. By existing, you are remembered. But she'd ignored an important question in the process: what do people want to remember?

IV

From her bedroom window, Clara saw the Jins moving out.

This time around, she still wasn't shocked. It had been almost two weeks since Lilian's death, and her parents had become the only evidence of her existence.

Because death, Clara knew, wasn't the absence of a heartbeat—

It was when people decided that you never existed.

After Mr. and Mrs. Jin left, the town could finally erase her for good.

Winter seemed to arrive suddenly that year. On Sunday morning, Clara woke to find the streets completely covered in a perfect layer of beautiful, white snowflakes.

It'd be a perfect day to join the town in Christmas celebrations, but Clara had a mission. She held a navy-blue notebook tight in her hands and set off.

The town was in full holiday mode. Mistletoes and ribbons covered every single street lamp she passed. Lane waved at her when she walked past and Clara threw back an almost-convincing smile.

After ten minutes of walking, Clara reached Prospect Cemetery and found Lilian's grave. She laid the navy-blue notebook on top gently, along with some freeze-dried forget-me-nots.

Lilian had given her that notebook the night before her death. Clara had thought that it was an absent-minded gesture. "Hold this for me, Clara," Lilian had said. But now she understood what Lilian wanted.

Clara stepped back and took a deep breath, wiping off the layer of snow on Lilian's tombstone to reveal the words underneath. She stood there for a moment in silence.

Lilian Jin

1943–Nov. 17, 1959

"November 17th, 1959." Clara repeated to herself.

But she knew that the town had killed her long before that.

BIOGRAPHY

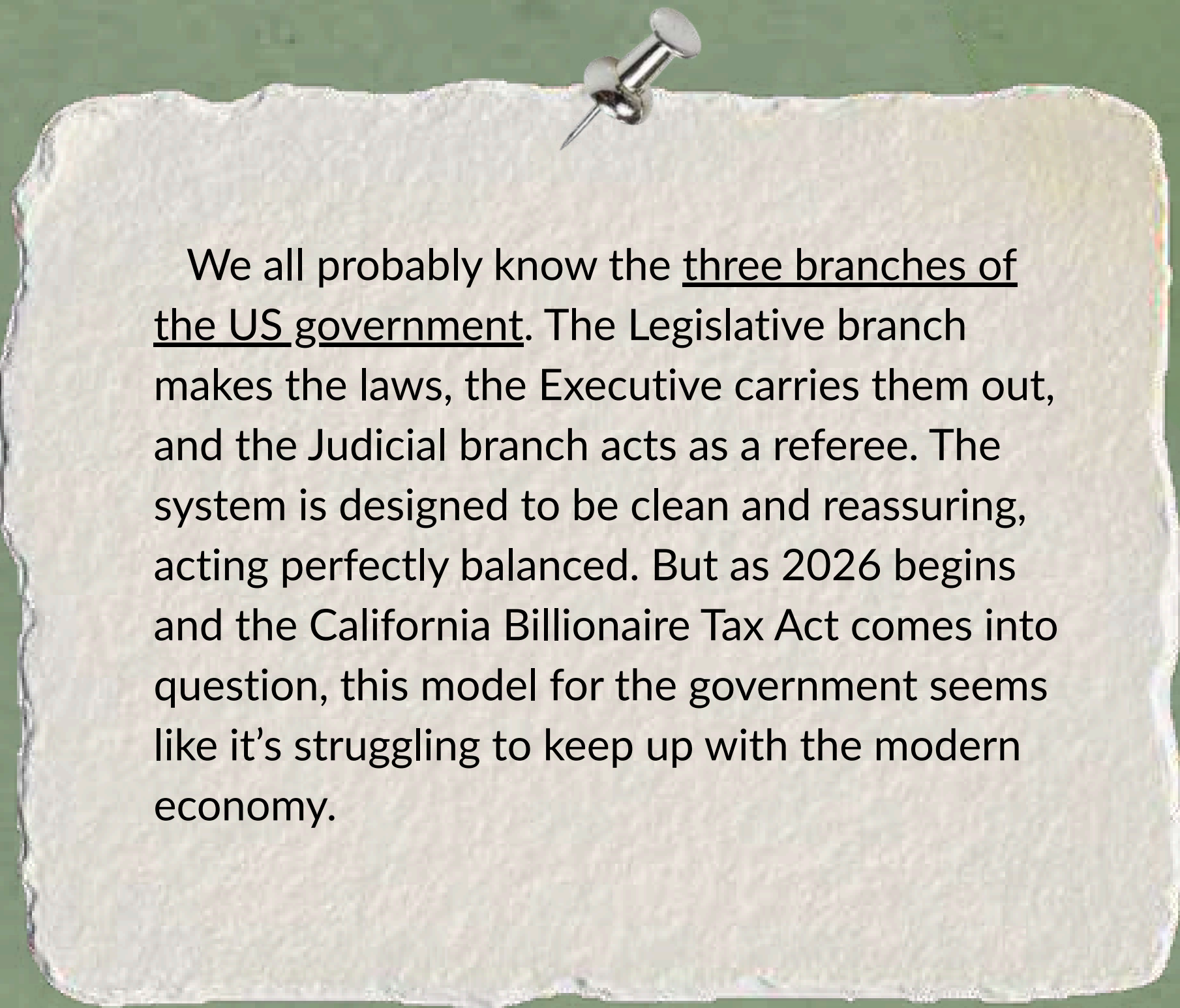


I'm Fiona, a freshman-year-student. I like books, cats, and writing. I write because I find that letting my thoughts flow on paper helps me see them more clearly, and because words can leave a sharper impact. I hope my words will leave an impact on you, too.




EXPLORING THE CALIFORNIA BILLIONAIRE TAX ACT, ITS IMPACTS, AND FUTURE

Celina Xue



We all probably know the three branches of the US government. The Legislative branch makes the laws, the Executive carries them out, and the Judicial branch acts as a referee. The system is designed to be clean and reassuring, acting perfectly balanced. But as 2026 begins and the California Billionaire Tax Act comes into question, this model for the government seems like it's struggling to keep up with the modern economy.

WHAT IS THE NEW ACT?



Filed by SEIU United Healthcare Workers West, the 2026 California ballot initiative proposes a one-time 5% tax on fortunes over \$1 billion (excluding real estate, pensions, and retirement accounts). Addressing the cuts in Medicaid and food assistance, the measure will allocate 90% of its revenue to public health care services, with the remaining 10% for tax administration, education, and food assistance programs. As a new approach to taxing the rich appears, it pushes people to reflect: Is our 240 year old constitutional framework still compatible with a world of hyper-concentrated, digital wealth?

THE PRESENT REALITY

To understand this rising conflict, we have to look at the differences in how wealth is acquired. Most Americans still earn an income by working, getting a paycheck, and giving a percentage to the government. It's a straightforward process. However, for the 900+ billionaires in the country, wealth doesn't usually come from a traditional salary. Instead, it accumulates through stocks, rising companies, or valuable real estate. As a result, billionaires are growing their wealth over 16% in just a year (in 2025), surpassing past averages and creating wider wealth disparities and political inequalities.

Currently, there is a tax code that favors income from wealth over income from work. Thus, billionaires often pay a lower tax rate and a smaller percentage of their income compared to the working class. A 2021 White House study revealed that the wealthiest 400 families in the US paid an average federal individual tax rate of 8.2 percent. For comparison, the average American taxpayer that same year paid 13 percent. This must feel like a massive disconnect, and it is. The new California initiative is trying to bridge this gap by taxing the net worth of the ultra-wealthy rather than their annual income.

A

CONCERNS REGARDING THE ACT

Even if the Billionaire Tax Act passes on the November 2026 ballot, it will likely trigger a series of “checks” that could lead to no real progress:

- The Legislative Gap: Why was it a ballot initiative rather than a standard law in the first place? For years, the California legislature has been unwilling to move on wealth tax bills, due to political pressure and donor influence. By taking this “direct democracy” route, voters can bypass the traditional system entirely.
- The Judicial Question: Is this even legal? If the tax bill is sent to a billionaire, it will likely be challenged in court. The Supreme Court could rule that taxing unrealized gains is unconstitutional, as it isn't “income” as defined by the 16th Amendment. If the Judicial branch does veto a policy supported by the majority of a state's voters, it raises an additional important question: Where does real power lie in our democracy?
- The Executive Challenge: What if billionaires move to different states to avoid the tax? California is proposing an Exit Tax to keep its authority, but enforcing it across borders is already legally troublesome. In a country with free movement, can one state catch wealth that can be moved with a flight?



A REAL NEED

We're already seeing the costs of lack of funding for healthcare and education programs. The [San Francisco Unified School district teachers' strike](#) from Feb 9 to Feb 13, the month-long [Kaiser strike](#) in early 2026 addressing benefit reductions for new hires, and the talk of a General Strike on May Day 2026 and 2028 are all examples. With the three branches of government appearing unable to adapt to economic shifts and the needs of the people, the nation begins to start looking for other ways to exert power.

As a student, I have respect for the framework our country was built on. But the context has changed. Instead of living in an era of private property and slow growth, we're caught into a rising digital age and economy. A handful of individuals hold more wealth than half the population combined. Can our Three-Branch system evolve to address all the new issues and concerns of this new era?

SOURCES

- U.S. Government. "[Branches of Government.](#)"
- Oxfam. "[Billionaire Wealth Jumps Three Times Faster in 2025.](#)"
- Oxfam America. "[Do the Rich Pay Their Fair Share?](#)"
- Nuveen. "[California Considers One-Time Tax on Billionaires.](#)"
- CalMatters. "[Kaiser Strike Enters Fourth Week.](#)"
- San Francisco Public Press. "[SF Teachers End Strike with Fully Funded Family Care.](#)"
- UC Berkeley School of Law. "[How to Tax the Ultra-Rich in California.](#)"

BIOGRAPHY

Celina is a current high school junior passionate in finance, business, and uplifting the community. She hopes that through The Insight Exchange, she can provide a student-led perspective on key events happening in the business world. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, volunteering, and hosting community events.



CLASSIFIEDS



CLASSIFIEDS

Organization: Cherry Tree's Young Writer Conference 2026

Information: Students take intensive creative writing workshops with nationally renowned authors in one of three genres (poetry, fiction, or journalism), discuss literature with English faculty, and attend professional readings and craft panels. They explore the world of literary internships and grants in publishing, writing, and editing.

Deadline: Not yet released

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The New York Times' Student Podcast Contest 2026

Information: We invite teenagers to submit original podcasts of five minutes or less. Your creation can be about anything that interests you, in any form that you like. Our favorites will be featured on The Learning Network.

Deadline: Not yet released

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: 36th A Voice for Animals Contest

Information: Participants are invited to submit an essay or video entry that addresses either the mistreatment of one animal species or one cause of animal suffering; or the preservation of one endangered species, occurring anywhere in the world, and potential solutions to alleviate animal suffering.

Deadline: 25 May 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The 2026 Adroit Prizes for Poetry & Prose

Information: Each poetry submission may include up to five poems (maximum of ten pages single-spaced). Each prose submission may include up to three works of fiction or creative nonfiction (combined word limit of 3,500 words; excerpts are acceptable).

Deadline: 1 May 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Fraser Institute's 2026 Student Essay Contest

Information: The Fraser Institute hosts an annual Student Essay Contest to promote student participation in economic discourse on current events and public policy. This contest affords winning students the opportunity to have their work peer-reviewed and published early on in their academic career. In addition, we offer exciting cash prizes for the top five winning submissions!

Deadline: 5 June 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Jane Austen Society of North America's 2026 Essay Contest

Information: JASNA conducts an annual student Essay Contest to encourage the study and appreciation of Jane Austen's works in new generations of readers.

Deadline: 1 June 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: YoungArts National Arts Competition

Information: The prestigious award gives emerging artists a headstart by demonstrating that they have received national recognition from highly respected artists in their field early on in their artistic journey. All YoungArts award winners receive cash prizes between \$250 and \$10,000.

Deadline: Not yet released

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: All American High School Film Festival

Information: Our festival offers an unparalleled experience designed specifically to promote and empower the future of film. When you submit to AAHSFF, you have the opportunity to become an Official Selection, meaning that your film will screen at the AMC Empire 25 Theaters in Times Square, the busiest movie theater in America, and you have the chance to receive national recognition as a category finalist or winner!

Deadline: 3 July 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The New York Times' Open Letters Contest 2026

Information: An open letter is a published letter of protest or appeal usually addressed to an individual, group or institution but intended for the general public. Write your own open letter, to anyone you like on any issue you care about, as long as it is also appropriate and meaningful for a general Times audience.

Deadline: 8 April 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: 2026 BlueCat TV Writing Competition

Information: When you submit your pilot, you will receive script analysis at no extra charge. After receiving feedback, all writers will be eligible to revise their scripts and resubmit. Send us your pilot—we want to help you develop your script! The winners will win \$2,000 each and be introduced to over four hundred literary managers and agents.

Deadline: 7 April 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: High School Field School

Information: High School Field School is your opportunity to be an archaeologist. Join our summer field crew and participate in real archaeological research alongside professional archaeologists. You will learn how to do fieldwork, laboratory work, identify artifacts, and more with professional archaeologists as we investigate the German site.

Deadline: 7 June 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Great Books & Big Ideas Program

Information: Academic Directors build the curriculum to include enduring literature superbly suited for deep and rewarding analysis. Each week students explore works from different genres, periods, and backgrounds linked by a common theme or thread. Imagine a week including Plato, Abraham Lincoln, Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Octavia Butler, John Locke, Jorge Luis Borges, and Ursula K. Le Guin.

Deadline: Unclear

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: School of the Art Institute of Chicago Early College Program Summer Institute

Information: For each week students attend the Early College Program Summer Institute, they earn a college credit. These credits are accepted by most accredited institutions in the United States and abroad. Guided by our faculty of professional artists, students develop a body of work that will give them a competitive advantage in their applications for higher education programs in art and design.

Deadline: Varies

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Parsons Summer Academy

Information: Parsons Summer Academy offers a variety of dynamic noncredit in-person art and design courses for students in grades 3 through 12. Join us for two weeks at our Greenwich Village campus to explore art and design through hands-on projects that develop your creative thinking skills, knowledge of technique, and collaborative abilities. Students in grades 9 through 12 can also focus on creating a specialized fine art or design portfolio.

Deadline: 15 July 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: 2026 John Estey Student Writing Competition

Information: The prompt is a quote from the Declaration of Independence and can be used as a first line, a last line, a jumping-off point, an inspiration for your students' work. They can use the entire quote or portions of it to write a fiction or nonfiction story, poem, song, scene, short monologue or other form of writing.

Deadline: 29 May 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School's Pre-College Academy

Information: This three-week program is the only of its kind where classes are held in an actual law school with standing faculty members and high-level legal practitioners providing students a comprehensive introduction to the American legal system and specialized areas of law.

Deadline: ASAP

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: 67th London International Youth Science Forum

Information: LIYSF is a 14-day residential STEM summer camp bringing together 500 students aged 16–21 from around the world. Hosted at Imperial College London, participants explore cutting-edge science, attend Nobel Laureate lectures, and engage in hands-on learning.

Deadline: Unclear

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Writopia Lab

Information: Our age-based workshops give young writers the opportunity to work on their own pieces alongside a maximum of eight peers. All workshops are guided by a published author or produced playwright who is thoroughly versed in Writopia's student-centric methodology. We run workshops in New York City, Washington, DC, the San Francisco Bay Area, and online.

Deadline: Varies

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The Freedom Archives

Information: The Freedom Archives internship program offers opportunities to work hands-on with historical documents and media and improve your writing and critical thinking skills. The internship program is specifically designed for students in high school or college and community youth interested in working with historical materials that document peoples' struggle for freedom.

Deadline: 22 May 2026

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Exempli Gratia

Information: Through expert panels, interviews, and networking events, members can connect with real lawyers and law students to gain insight into their future careers. Mock trial practice opportunities are also available to help develop advocacy and public speaking skills, with the goal of organizing legal competitions in the future. Additionally, Exempli Gratia's magazine provides a platform for students to publish legal articles.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: HarmoniEats Initiative

Information: Join HarmoniEats Initiative in our community initiatives to raise awareness and support individuals with food allergies and autoimmune diseases. Your participation can make a real difference in the lives of those in need.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Quest4Clarity

Information: We are dedicated to providing a safe space for your mental wellness. Our platform offers free, high-quality articles, posts, guidance, and webinars tailored to your needs. Join us in advocating for neurological disorders and supporting local services as we work together towards better mental health.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Illustrations of Children's Health

Information: We specialize in creating beautiful illustrations that promote children's health and wellness. Our vibrant and engaging artwork is perfect for children's books, educational materials, and healthcare campaigns.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: *Behavioral Blueprint*

Information: Are you curious about behavioral science, consumer psychology, or the future of AI? Want to unpack how biases, culture, and AI shape—and manipulate—what we click, choose, and buy? The Behavioral Blueprint podcast is growing and looking for motivated collaborators to bring episodes to life!

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: PassNPlay Project

Information: The PassNPlay Project works around the GTA to provide children with the ample resources that they need to play sports. Join us in our mission to promote equal access to sports and encourage physical activity among children.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: International Youth Forum (IYF) 2026

Information: The International Youth Forum is a youth-led interdisciplinary forum for global dialogue and reflection. In 2026, the forum centres on healthy minds, bringing youth worldwide to explore learning, emotion, and social life through cognitive, emotional, and social psychology, and how these processes shape functioning.

Deadline: Unclear

Contact info: [Website](#)

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Deadline: Unclear

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: 30-Day Me

Information: 30-Day Me is an app designed to help users build habits and achieve personal growth through structured 30-day challenges. 30-Day Me is looking for partnerships with organizations or clubs that can benefit from customized challenge ideas tailored to members' goals.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: FluentFront

Information: FluentFront is a public speaking practice tool designed to help you speak clearly, confidently, and with purpose — no matter the setting. Choose from categories like interviews, debate, Model UN, casual conversation, or even chaotic “brainrot” prompts, then decide how you want to practice.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Vibrant Waves

Information: At Vibrant Waves, we believe in the transformative power of creativity, movement, and community to turn mental health challenges into opportunities for growth. Our mission is to empower children, young adults, and seniors through innovative, holistic programs that integrate journaling, visual arts, music, sports as tools for stress relief, emotional resilience, and self-discovery.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The Sunflower Project

Information: We are a youth-led initiative founded in Vancouver, Canada, passionate about preventing issues like Gender-Based Violence. Our primary audience is younger people who may not have been aware about the severity of such issues. We aim to raise awareness by organizing fundraisers, establishing a social media presence, and collaborating with other organizations to convey our message effectively.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: *Us and Tomorrow*

Information: Us and Tomorrow is a science fiction podcast hosted by Belinda Chen, exploring the intersection of emerging technologies and the human experience. It asks social, ethical, and philosophical questions that arise as science fiction increasingly becomes science reality. It is recruiting student collaborators, all of whom will receive full credit on podcast platforms and social media accounts.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Application](#)

Organization: GUD Medicine

Information: GUD Medicine is a youth initiative tackling complex healthcare issues and fighting for health literacy and justice. It aims to make healthcare more transparent and equitable by breaking down confusing medical insurance systems, comparing drug chemistries, and investigating global healthcare policies.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Instagram](#)

Organization: modern anthologies

Information: modern anthologies is a literary magazine dedicated to finding common ground amongst youths around the world. as founders, writing has been a big part of expressing and coming to terms with who we truly are and where we feel we belong in this world.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: The OpenMind Project

Information: The OpenMind Project is a mental wellness initiative offering resources on mental health to teenagers and young adults, with the goal to break the stigma surrounding mental health and help relieve stress. It is looking for student volunteers passionate about mental health to assist with their mission.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Bright Beats

Information: Bright Beats offers free, inclusive music sessions to children with developmental disabilities and special needs. To scale the project, Bright Beats is welcoming peers to start and lead a Bright Beats chapter at their schools or communities. Bright Beats provides training, flexible hours, and verified service hours.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Night Bloom

Information: Night Bloom envisions a community in which people are informed about light pollution and can combat it in their daily lives, allowing for the preservation of dark skies. They are looking to recruit new members to join the project.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Chinatown Youth Engagement Society

Information: CYES is a non-profit organization made by students who want to help dispel the misconceptions of Chinatown and revitalize its perception as a vibrant part of Vancouver. They are always looking for students interested in joining the project.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Feelustrate

Information: Feelustrate aims to create an emotional exploration platform that integrates science, art, and philosophy. Through this interdisciplinary approach, we strive to make abstract emotions tangible and explorable, helping young people find both an outlet for their feelings and a path toward self-awareness.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: SquashBuddy

Information: SquashBuddy is also actively looking for squash players interested in helping us launch SquashBuddy Centers. These are local hubs built around a concentrated player base, designed to make the app truly useful for finding matches and practice partners in a specific area. In addition to encouraging active app use, center leads help organize events, beginner clinics, and mini-tournaments.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: STEAMLabs

Information: STEAMLabs is a student-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit that brings hands-on science nights to under-resourced elementary schools. With nearly 100 high school mentors and 500+ students impacted across 11 U.S. cities, the program is now expanding nationwide. STEAMLabs is currently recruiting chapter leaders, national board members, and web designers. All leadership roles are eligible for monthly stipends of up to \$200, and 100% of funds you raise go back to you—STEAMLabs will match any donations or ad revenue you bring in.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: Youth Promise Collective

Information: YPC is a youth-led think tank that aims to gauge the opinions of youth on issues that impact them and magnify their voices. This is done through surveying students at schools across the world on a monthly topic and reporting on their responses and trends observed. Youth Promise Collective is looking for high school students who have an interest in writing and research.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: FoundationMHE

Information: FoundationMHE is a non-profit organization aimed at reducing the stigma around mental health while also providing accessible, pertinent, and innovative resources to educate youth about mental health. FMHE is looking for student authors to write monthly blog posts about topics in mental health (policies, trends, research, etc.) and social media managers.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: International Youth Neuroscience Association | Hong Kong Chapter

Information: We seek to introduce concepts of mental health and psychology through the lens of neuroscience. We aspire to educate and raise awareness of neurological and mental conditions among the Hong Kong public. We also strive to generate interest and facilitate learning about the wonders of the brain and neuroscience generally, connecting the local community with young neuroscientists worldwide.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: SHEGOLF

Information: SHEGOLF: Spotlighting Female Golfers is a blog that seeks to empower the voices of female golfers and to share their experiences and perspectives which can often be overlooked in a male dominated sport. Currently, this project is looking for female golfers who would be interested in contributing by writing an article.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: International High School Online Certamen (IHOC)

Information: (IHOC) is an exciting youth-led initiative that allows high school Classics students to connect and compete with each other in an online Certamen. A Certamen, which means competition in Latin, features contestants competing to answer Classics-themed questions at a fast pace on Latin language, literature, classical culture, history, and mythology. IHOC is currently seeking students who have taken at least a year or two of high school Latin to compete in the Certamen which will take place online on Saturday morning June 13th, 2026. There are cash prizes and the unique opportunity to earn the right to call yourself the champion of the International High School Online Certamen!

Deadline: 1 June 2026

Contact info: Contact Will Knispel, Founder of IHOC at ihocteam@gmail.com

Organization: Endeavr.ai

Information: Endeavr.ai, a fast-growing AI-assisted fintech investing platform for young people, is looking for a Social Media and Outreach Manager. Our machine learning based stock analysis company is quickly expanding its clientele, and needs someone to commit ~5 hours a week to working directly with the founding team to create content, draft marketing copy, and help manage new user acquisition. Must have creative expertise and the ability to work independently/remotely. Unpaid.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#)

Organization: CaseFile

Information: CaseFile is a developing website focused on key topics in criminology, including detailed case studies, analyses of recent research and developments in the field, and forensic science techniques. Founded by Maggie, a sophomore at Kang Chiao International School in Taiwan, the project was created to help students interested in criminology find opportunities to explore the field more deeply. Team members can contribute by researching and writing case studies, analyzing forensic science methods, discussing new developments in criminology, or helping coordinate outreach to experts as the project expands.

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#) / [Sign-Up](#)

Organization: Starlight

Information: Starlight raises awareness about light pollution and its health impacts, encourages responsible lighting practices, and engages communities in monitoring night sky quality. You can check out their flagship citizen science initiative SkyQI at skyqi.in. Starlight is looking for team members who have a knowledge of stargazing and either a knack for design, a passion for writing, an interest in advocacy, a talent for engineering, or the desire to start your own chapter.

Deadline: None

Contact info: Email starlight.darkskies@gmail.com

Organization: Open Lab Initiative

Information: The Open Lab Initiative is a student-led effort designed to expand access to academic research opportunities for high school students. Its goal is to connect students with professors and research groups who are willing to mentor, host lab visits, or offer short-term exploratory experiences. The mission is to remove geographic, socioeconomic, and informational barriers so that every student has the opportunity to understand what research truly looks like and make informed decisions about their academic and professional futures. The Initiative is looking to recruit a University Outreach Marketing Lead, responsible for connecting with universities, professors, and research groups that may be interested in participating; and a Student Outreach Marketing Lead, responsible for connecting with high school students who are interested in gaining research exposure.

Deadline: None

Contact info: Email openlab.initiative@gmail.com

Organization: Youthnovators

Information: Youthnovators is a student-led nonprofit based in Toronto, Canada, dedicated to making business education accessible to young children and inspiring them to explore their passions from an early age. They have hosted workshops with a local Toronto learning centre, launched a chapter at an all-girls elementary school, and are in communication with a partner in Montreal. They also recently introduced a Speaker Series, where business professionals share their experiences with younger students, including a partnership with an expert from Scotiabank. Youthnovators are looking to expand within and beyond Canada by welcoming motivated new team members who are passionate about business and education. Looking for a Program Development Director, Outreach Director and Chapter Leads.

Deadline: None

Contact info: Send your CV to youthnovators@gmail.com

Organization: *Health Without Borders*

Information: *Health Without Borders*, a public health podcast, is on a mission to make public health knowledge accessible and understandable by breaking down complex concepts into everyday language and multilingual episodes. *HWB* envisions a world where health information is not restricted by backgrounds, academic barriers, or language; people feel informed and included in conversations about their own health and daily practices.

Deadline: None

Contact info: Email avi.heglandfisher@ingeniusprep.com to be connected to the project founder.

Organization: The Mortals

Information: The Mortals serves as a platform for burgeoning writers, critical readers, and creative thinkers both within the Basis China Network and beyond, drawn to work that experiments and takes bold risks. We are now accepting submissions for our next issue - whether you like to write fiction, prose, poetry, essays, and anything in between. We're more than excited to hear your voice!

Deadline: None

Contact info: [Website](#) / [Submit](#)

PERIOD UNLIMITED PERIOD UNLIMITED



WE'RE HIRING!

WE WANT A TEAM THAT ISN'T AFRAID TO HOLD BACK: STUDENTS WHO CAN EXPOSE OPPRESSION FROM INSTITUTIONS, CULTURAL NORMS, AND POWERFUL FIGURES, WHICH STIGMATIZE PERIODS AND PREVENT WOMEN FROM OBTAINING THE MEDICAL INFORMATION AND TREATMENT THEY DESERVE.

PERIOD UNLIMITED PERIOD UNLIMITED

OUR MISSION:

- TO ERADICATE THE LIE THAT MENSTRUATION IS SHAMEFUL OR EMBARRASSING, REDEFINING MAN-MADE FRAMEWORKS AND SPARKING SOCIAL PUSHBACK

WE ENVISION:

- A WORLD WHERE BLEEDING IS NOT A BARRIER, BUT A SHARED REMINDER OF HUMANITY.

WHAT WE OFFER:

- A CHANCE DO TO LOUD, FIERCE, AND ASSERTIVE GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY
- A DEEPLY COLLABORATIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT WITH OTHER PASSIONATE ACTIVISTS
- A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

EMAIL PERIOD.UNLIMITED.ORG@GMAIL.COM IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!

PLATFORM MANAGER

- STUDENT POSITION (VOLUNTEER)
- RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING ALL OF PERIOD UNLIMITED'S ONLINE PLATFORMS AND OUR MEDIA PRESENCE
- EXCLUSIVELY DIGITAL DESIGN-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES
- SCHEDULE REGULAR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS, DESIGN ATTRACTIVE INSTAGRAM LAYOUTS, AND REPOST PERIOD-RELATED CONTENT FROM OTHER CREATORS
- RUN THE NEWSLETTER
- UPDATE THE WEBSITE

BLOG WRITERS

- STUDENT POSITION (VOLUNTEER)
- COMPEL, INSPIRE, AND SHOCK AUDIENCE MEMBERS INTO CONFRONTING THE OPPRESSIVE WORLD WE INHABIT
- CHANGE SOCIETAL ATTITUDES SURROUNDING MENSTRUATION
- COMPLETE ARTICLES, PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER SUNDAY, ABOUT ANY PERIOD-RELATED TOPIC OF YOUR CHOOSING
- EDIT BLOG ARTICLES
- PROVIDE FEEDBACK

OUTREACH HEAD

- STUDENT POSITION (VOLUNTEER)
- RESPONSIBLE FOR DIGGING INTO DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A TANGIBLE IMPACT
- ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND OUR VISIBILITY, AUDIENCE BASE, AND PEOPLE AFFECTED
- MUST BE THOROUGH AND EFFECTIVE RESEARCHER AND WRITER WHO CAN STRATEGICALLY IDENTIFY MISSION-ALIGNED CHARITIES, PROMINENT PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, STUDENT GROUPS, AND GRANTS

ADVOCATE SPEAKERS

- YOUTH OR ADULT (VOLUNTEER)
- ARE YOU AN ACTIVIST OR ACTIVIST-TO-BE? DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE, WHETHER PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL, ABOUT PERIOD STIGMA AND ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS? IF SO, WE'RE TALKING TO YOU AND PRIMED TO LISTEN.



EMAIL PERIOD.UNLIMITED.ORG@GMAIL.COM IF YOU'RE INTERESTED!



YOUTHNOVATORS



About Us

Youthnovators is a student-led nonprofit organization based in Toronto, Canada. It aims to bridge the gap in business education for students aged 7 to 12, and inspire them to develop their passions from a young age.

Our Projects:

Workshops

- Hosted workshops with a local Toronto learning centre
- Established a chapter at an all-girls elementary school in Toronto
- In active communication with an upcoming partner in Montreal, Canada

Speaker Series

- New program: the Youthnovators Speaker Series
- Connecting business professionals from various organizations to share their experiences with young students (e.g., Scotiabank)

We are hiring!

As we continue to grow, we are looking to expand **within and beyond Canada** with motivated high school students who are passionate about business and education. Open positions include:

- Chapter Lead
- Program Development Director
- Outreach Director

Contact

Feel free to connect with us on social media or send any inquiries and application submissions via email:



@youthnovators



youthnovators@gmail.com

AND ONE SPORTS



WHERE ALL KIDS
HAVE ACCESS TO
THE BENEFITS OF
SPORTS & PLAY

Help us expand

GET INVOLVED

We're looking for passionate leaders:

- Lead sports equipment drives in your area
- Spread the word about sports equity
- Collaborate with local schools, club teams, and organizations
- Help kids across the country to thrive through play
- Work with teens, coaches, and community leaders to make sports accessible to all

THE PROBLEM

- 1-in-3 kids stopped playing sports
- Equity gaps among families in affording sports gear, training etc.
- Importance of play is overlooked in our education system. Comes in last for state funding.

OUR MISSION

Youth-led initiative advocating for sports and play equity, ensuring all kids, regardless of background, have the right to play. We run equipment drives, offer volunteer coaching, and fundraise to reach those with the greatest needs and fewest resources.

www.andonesports.org / niam.taylor@gmail.com

Explore the Field of Behavioral Economics!

BEHAVIORAL BLUEPRINT

Podcast

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INTELLIGENCE**

ARE YOU CURIOUS
ABOUT BEHAVIORAL
SCIENCE, CONSUMER
PSYCHOLOGY, OR THE
FUTURE OF AI?

WANT TO UNPACK HOW
BIASES, CULTURE, & AI
SHAPE—AND MANIPULATE—
WHAT WE CLICK, CHOOSE,
AND BUY?

The Behavioral Blueprint
Podcast is growing and we're
looking for motivated
collaborators to bring our
episodes to life!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- Audio Editor
 - clean up raw recordings
- Social Media Manager
 - designs promotional posts and clips
- Project Manager
 - coordinates guest outreach, tracks deadlines, and manages website/blog

You don't need to be an expert—
just curious, reliable, and excited
about what we're building.



**CONSUMER
BEHAVIOR**

IF INTERESTED, PLEASE REACH OUT TO:

ATW65@GEORGETOWN.EDU

SquashBuddy

Grow your game, expand your reach — with SquashBuddy, connect and compete.



To Apply Email me at
AlbertZhang8148@gmail.com

If you have any questions or
want to learn more visit
squashbuddy.net



Why Download the App?



1 Discover squash players near you— Set your skill level, age, and preferences.

2 Match by skill, level, and preference – Match with players who fit your level.

3 Set up a match in minutes – no back-and-forth texting. Play more wait less.

Launch a SquashBuddy Chapter in Your City!

- Access to 1+ squash courts in your area
 - Willingness to coordinate 1+ meetup and event every 2 month
 - A small team or volunteers to spread the word
- Apply to Start a Chapter - be a leader in your community!

Framework Design Studio

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF MISSION DRIVEN ORGANIZATIONS

★ Our Team ★

What our team offers for our clients



VIDEOS

We film events in the form of videos and photos for organizations to post on their social media.



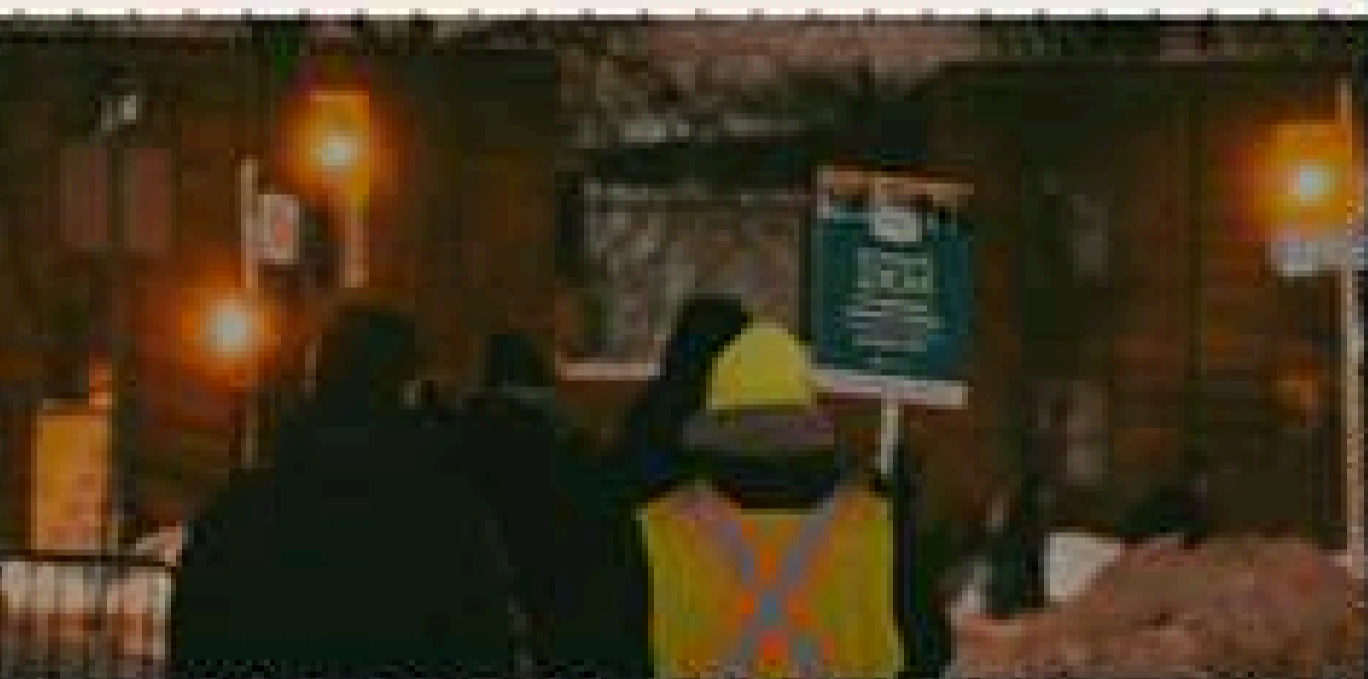
FINAL MOVIE

We also create mini movies for non profit events from the footage taken from day of the event.



TRAINING

Providing marketing mentorship for public school student programs without access to media classes (Horizons program).



We can help create marketing materials for your student-led initiatives.



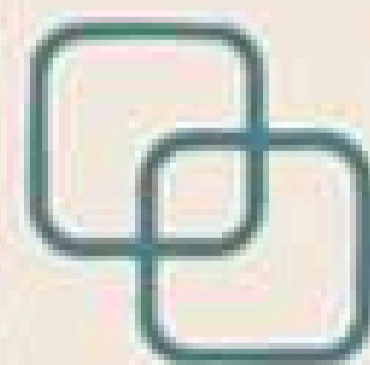
You can join our organization as a member and help us in our activities and projects.

What opportunities do we offer?

CONTACT US

Emails:

- robert.guo27@ucc.on.ca
- asher.mandel@ucc.on.ca
- ahabi27@ucc.on.ca



Framework Design

GO FOLLOW @FRAMEWORK_DESIGN_STUDIO ON INSTAGRAM



International High School Online Certamen

Saturday, June 13th, 2026

A celebration of classical knowledge, competition, and community
for high school students worldwide





30 DAY ME

Small Steps. Big Changes.

Sleep Challenge

6/1/2025 - 6/30/2025

Wish: Feel more well rested

Daily Action: Sleep >8 hours everyday

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7
8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14
15 	16 	17 	18 	19 	20 	21
22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28
29 	30 					

Build long-lasting habits in 30 days!

How it works:

1. Create a challenge and define your daily action
2. Complete your daily action each day
3. Check off the day and build your streak!
4. Don't get demotivated by setbacks!



Available on the iOS App Store

(Also available in Mandarin)



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Submit short stories, articles, or poems that bring light to environmental issues, paint vivid pictures of worlds grappling with environmental challenges, and more.

Let your imagination run free!



WIN CASH PRIZES



GET PUBLISHED IN LEGACY GAZETTE
(INT'L MAGAZINE)



REQUIREMENTS



JUNIOR DIVISION

Students in Grades 6-8
500-1000 Words



SENIOR DIVISION

Students in Grades 9-11
500-2000 Words

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
JULY 15, 2026

Send your entry to:
thegreensociety23@gmail.com

START - STEM&ART

Artwork by Ashley Wang
Poster by Dilan Yang

ART EXHIBITION



- **Deadline: April 15th, 2026.**
- **All schools, art, science welcome!**
- **Winners will be announced during a community meeting.**
- **Scan the QR Code for more info & SUBMIT!**
- **Link to website:**
<https://startgallery.lovable.app>