

Though this was my second year as an artist for silverchips, it was my first year as an editor, and also the first year that I felt my art was truly additive to the paper. This year I took on more pieces each cycle than I ever had before, oftentimes up to five or six. I think doing so many illustrations in so little time forced my art to grow very quickly. At first, I was simply scrambling to get all the pieces done as fast as I could, but with more practice I became more efficient, leaving excess time to be thoughtful with my work. I wanted to extend my goal beyond just getting that finished product in as soon as I could, I now wanted to fulfill the purpose of an illustrator. Good illustrations don't just prettily accompany the text, they should add nuance to the meaning of the story. I also began to consider the design of the page and the colors and styles I used more than in the past. I feel proud to say that when I look at my silverchips pieces from last year and compare it to this year, I can undoubtedly see that my skills as an illustrator have improved. No, not every piece I make I love, and not every one enhances each story. But I do feel that all in all, the paper is more vivid and expressive because of the work I have contributed, and I'm so excited to continue growing and improving in the future.

MH4/MH5, February 2020, Living with Trauma

This centerspread I created digitally with the creative help of one of my staffers, Ivvone Zhou. Working with her helped me be more critical about the design elements of the piece. It is accompanying a story about the struggle of living with traumatic experiences, and through the work, I tried to express a story of fear and panic progressing to hope and recovery.

# Living with trauma: the trickling effects of abuse

Where only first names appear, names have been changed to protect the identities of the sources.

**TRIGGER WARNING:** This article contains descriptions of and information about abuse and trauma which some readers may find disturbing.

When Susie realized that November's innovation period, Blair's occasional wellness initiative, would focus on abuse, she was deeply unsettled. She never thought that she would be confronted with her trauma during the school day.

Filled with anxiety, Susie started to tremble and fidget, feeling the anticipation of an oncoming breakdown. She took a deep breath, trying to calm down, but it was of no use. The background noises faded out until she could only hear her teacher's voice. Susie then saw the following words on the Promethean board: "You notice that your friend has a bruise on their arm..."

That specific statement took Susie back a year, to a night that she never wanted to remember at school. Remnants of that traumatic evening have haunted her far past the incident, and linger painfully in her daily life. "[Trauma] affects our lives pervasively... body, mind, and soul," Alan Nathan, a clinical psychologist and motivational psychoanalyst, says. "It is possible for somebody to look like they're functioning okay, but to be struggling quite severely."

There is often no warning before episodes like Susie's are triggered. "Anything could trigger [a victim] because the emergency [fight or flight] mode becomes your normal," Nathan says.

## "Maybe if I stay still"

In her classroom, Susie dissociated from her environment and froze in a state of shock, mentally reliving a disturbing event that transpired a year before and was the culmination of years of physical and verbal abuse from her mother.

Susie lives with her mother, a single parent, who dominates every aspect of her life. As Susie has grown older, her mother has become increasingly controlling. "We stay in the same room," Susie says, "even though we have this big wonderful house that has an office space and dining room space that we could separately work in." Susie's mom routinely sits with her every night for hours to ensure that Susie is not off task when she completes her homework.

But her mother's dominance does not end when Susie finishes her homework. Susie often has to share her twin size bed with her

mother, despite the fact that they have their own designated rooms. Even in the most intimate areas, her mother's overbearing directives have rendered Susie's privacy virtually nonexistent.

One night at 3 a.m., Susie awoke to the chills of her barren and enclosed bedroom. The room was still, filled only with the sound of her bed creaking. Still drowsy, she opened her eyes to see her mother sitting up in bed glaring at her, instead of peacefully sleeping next to her. "She [was] really worked up about something, she started yelling, and I got scared," Susie says. "I [tried] to leave the bed."

Susie's mother maneuvered herself and placed herself on top of Susie, trapping her with her body. She began

her bedside with a stuffed animal on top as her makeshift pillow for the night.

Susie spent the next hour relaying the events that had just occurred, trying to make sense of the situation. It was still the middle of the night, and Susie's room was surrounded in a veil of dark blue light.

Staring at the clock and watching the shadows of her bedroom objects, she let her tears fall. "I was just lying on the floor, I was crying," Susie recalls. She couldn't sleep as feelings of vulnerability, sorrow, and isolation washed over her.

As Susie lay awake, she found herself yearning for a supportive figure. "I wish I had someone there to comfort me, but the only person that was there to comfort me was the person who made me cry," she says.

## "I kept going back to the night before"

During the next school day, the events of the previous night still echoed inside Susie's mind. "I was struggling to stay [alert] and keep my focus in the classroom," she says. "I kept going back to the night before and thinking about lying there on the carpet." She started to tremble and her heart pounded in her chest, even though there was nothing in the classroom to remind her of the previous evening.

Even in situations when no real threat is present, the body lives in a continuous fight or flight state. "Your parasympathetic nervous system, [one of the things] that helps you relax, can get stuck," Beth Wheeler, licensed clinical social worker and the director of Edges Education and Consulting, says. This internal reaction can often lead to a host of physical symptoms, including shaking and heart palpitations.

Months after Susie's trauma occurred, her brain still recognized her experience as a present and ongoing threat. What she saw on the board became a reminder of her trauma and provoked her body's natural fight or flight response. "When our systems are overwhelmed with fear and rage and emotional pain in a way, we're not eligible to take effective action to resolve what's happening to us," Nathan says.

Although these symptoms are typical a few days after the incident, diagnoses of mental illness such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) apply when the symptoms persist and become present in daily life. "One of the most serious problems is when you can't get out of [the fight or flight] state," Nathan says. "You tend to shut down or freeze up. And that is what often keeps the symptoms of trauma going unresolved."

*"Trauma affects our lives pervasively... body, mind, and soul"*  
- Alan Nathan

to yell at Susie, unleashing unbridled anger. But Susie paid no attention to her words. "What is going on? What is she going to do next? Is she going to do something worse?" Susie thought at the time.

As her mother grappled with Susie's body, Susie thrashed around, trying to break free. Without warning, her mother leaned down and bit her just above her elbow.

Susie was paralyzed. "Maybe if I... stay still," Susie considered, "and don't react too much, then she'll calm down and she'll get off of me."

After some time, Susie was able to finally regain control from her mother. She rolled off of her bed and slept on the floor, using books by

## "School is my safe place, my happy place"

Susie views school as a haven—a getaway from her home environment. "School is my safe place, my happy place. I know some people really hate school, but that's not me," Susie says.

School is generally the only time when Susie has a chance to meet with her friends, who serve as her support group. "Even though they haven't personally experienced something similar to what I have," Susie says, "they... value me as a person and they care about me as a friend, and they want me to be healthy."

Having outside support, as Susie has, is a vital part of the healing process. "People tend to recover [quicker] or have less likelihood of PTSD if they've had somebody with them," Wheeler says. "They're not alone."

However, the process of healing is never achieved through a single solution. "If you only talk, you're not going to fully heal," Wheeler says. "If [victims] don't work through some of what's going on in the body, symptoms can still remain."

## "You never know who it's going to be significant to"

After a traumatic experience, many victims have trouble concentrating, remembering, and communicating. Therefore, classroom behavior can be a prime indicator of adolescent trauma.

When Susie faced such a blatant reminder of her abuse, she had no choice but to disengage from the lesson on abuse by placing her head in her arms. Although Susie's withdrawal may have been seen as disrespectful toward her teacher, it was her way of hiding from past abuse.

Trauma-informed teaching is an approach that trains educators to interact with students who have suffered trauma mindfully and respectfully. "[Teachers should be aware] if a person is responding a certain way, particularly if it's not their usual way of being," Wheeler says.

Susie wishes that teachers would discuss topics like trauma more carefully. "[In class], people are thinking about a million other things and nobody really wants to pay attention, but as a teacher you have to take action against that kind of feeling and approach," Susie says. "Because you never know who it's going to be significant to."

Before her emotional breakdown in the innovation period, Susie had long thought that the effects of her traumatic event had worn off. "That [lesson] was surprising to me, because I thought I was over it," Susie says. "But I guess you never really are."

Story by

Abednego Togas

Lilia Wong

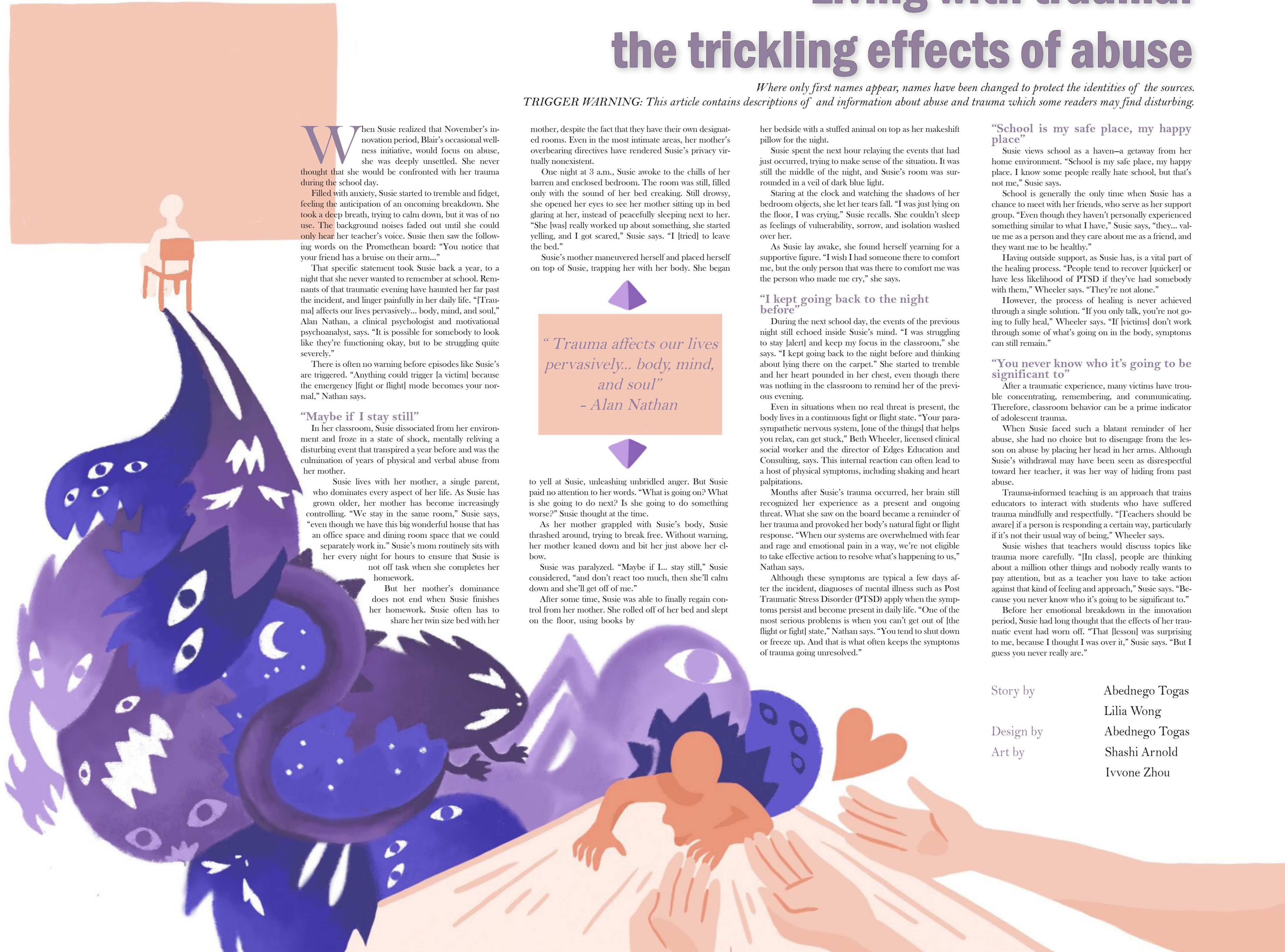
Design by

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Ivone Zhou



# BELIEVE IN S

## Exploring the unprecedented resurgence

Click. The world opens up chunk by chunk, revealing a mosaic of multicolored biomes, winding rivers, and sloping hills. The landscape is littered with stone brick castles, towering skyscrapers, complex farms, and incomplete projects long abandoned. It all remains in pristine condition, just how it was painstakingly built, one block at a time all those years ago.

This is Minecraft, the famed blocky game making a sudden resurgence. Players gather materials, build monuments, craft tools, fight monsters, and explore the virtual world. Across Blair, students who had quit the game years ago are logging back on.

According to Google Trends, online searches for Minecraft peaked in 2013, followed by a steady decline in popularity—until 2019. In September, searches for the game jumped to 66 percent of their all-time high, easily surpassing Fortnite, the world's most popular game of 2018.

Junior Avi Kedia believes that the ability to play the game with others has brought people back into playing Minecraft, on desktop, console, and mobile devices. "People were picking up the game again, people were getting Minecraft Pocket Edition," he says, referring to the mobile Minecraft application. "I saw people play in class, and I saw people playing with their friends, and talking about it, posting about it."

Many who decided to pick up the game for the first time in years are once again hooked. "Probably about last winter

to spring, people started talking about it a little bit, saying, 'You know, it's actually not that bad of a game,'" junior Coltin Chao says. "When school let out last year, most people I knew were playing it."

Minecraft's resurgence has not only been among groups of friends, but on popular online platforms like YouTube and the live-streaming website Twitch, where gamers can film themselves playing the game and share it with millions.

Kedia, for example, considers YouTuber PewDiePie's involvement in Minecraft particularly instrumental to its newfound popularity. "As [PewDiePie] started playing it, he started getting a lot of followers, and it became a mainstream thing to play Minecraft again," he says. "[My friends and I] were also following PewDiePie's Minecraft Let's Play, so we were like, 'Everything he's doing, we have to do.'"

With over 101 million subscribers on YouTube, creators like PewdiePie can focus their audiences on the games they are playing, almost certainly providing a boost to Minecraft's numbers.

Junior Judy Goldstein rediscovered Minecraft on other platforms. "It was less YouTube and more about the kids at Blair talking about their Minecraft servers," she says. "On my [Instagram] explore page I kept on seeing Minecraft memes."

Beyond the hype, certain aspects of the game are uniquely fun. "I like Minecraft because there is nothing else like it," junior Mark Kokiyelov says. "There's no other game where you can destroy the entire world and rebuild it in whatever way you want."

### Digging deeper

Minecraft has two main game modes: survival, which challenges players to find food, avoid monsters, and build while creative mode lets players build anything they can dream without the worry of dying.

Sophomore Sophia Shen says she was drawn to the game's duality. "It's all up to you whether you want to play to find out how long you can survive or how skilled you are. Or you can just play for fun."

Aside from the game's popularity, Kedia says much of Minecraft's comeback is due to the nostalgia it evokes in returning players. "When I went on my iPad again, I realized I had actually had played on [as a kid] and I just thought back to a simple joy."

Like many other Blair students, Kedia says he played the game in elementary school. "I remember the experience of playing the game and how it felt like it is just as it was when he was younger," he says. "I'm bringing it up for the first time with my friends, and they're like, 'wow.' Even after all of these years, the game has grown, but the wood is still the same, the animals are still the same... You felt the same joy that you had as a kid playing."

### Building an empire

First marketed as an expansion pack for the game, Minecraft without any rules or instructions became an immediate success after its official release in 2011. It took the world by storm, filling the pages of the media.

Minecraft's earliest players, including Kedia, had experience with the game, recording their progress over time, published tutorials, "leaked" mods, and song parodies—remember the "Minecraft" rap?—to express their enthusiasm.

As Minecraft grew in popularity, new players flooded the game, spreading the word. Minecraft reached its peak in the summer of 2013, when it was named the most popular game to play. Kedia says he didn't realize it until he saw the news.

On September 17, 2013, Microsoft bought Minecraft for \$2.5 billion. The development of Minecraft into a full-fledged game was a success.

<story> Adam Chazan, Clark Zhang  
<design> Victoria Xin, Adam Chazan  
<art> Shashi Arnold



# TEWE

## ence of Minecraft

game modes: Survival mode food and stave off enemies, players focus on building the intricate contraptions of their death.

enjoys the freedom of the to you," she says. "You can you can survive, or how well you can creative [mode] and have

distinctive design qualities, back could be attributed to turning players. "I remember in, my old iPad that I origi-], and I saw my old world, I r time," Kedia says.

students, Kedia began playing cool and reminisces that the me today in all its simplicity, younger. "I remember load- with my friend and... thinking e years, I myself as a person still the same, the dogs are e the same," he says. "Every- that sense of enjoyment and ing it."

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s, eager to share their expe- led their prolonged gaming et's play" series, and wrote "Fallen Kingdom"?—to ex-

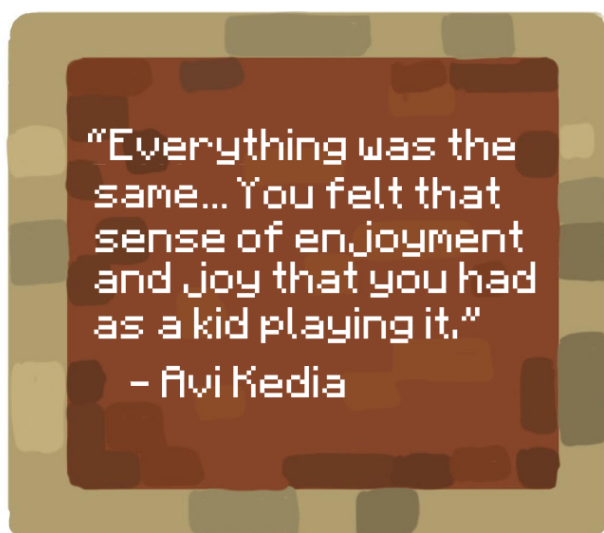
ained more media cover- locked to the game as word t quickly built momentum, search interest in the sum- as Google Search trends in-

pt. 15, 2014, Microsoft Mojang, Minecraft's devel- company, along with all Mi- ellectual property in a stag- gering \$2.5 billion deal, something that Ke-

dia says changed the game for the worse. "I think [Microsoft] blew it up a lot more than they needed to, and it ruined it for a lot of people," he says.

Junior Carlos Hernandez disagrees; he says that Microsoft's involvement has been a positive force. "[The acquisition] has honestly been pretty good for the game. I feel like that also may have had a contribution to the game's popularity now," he says. "People are hopping back on and seeing all of the familiar cool stuff, plus all this crazy new stuff that they can explore."

This year at Minecon, Minecraft's annual convention, Minecraft revealed a long-requested update to the Nether, something that excites Hernandez. He believes that

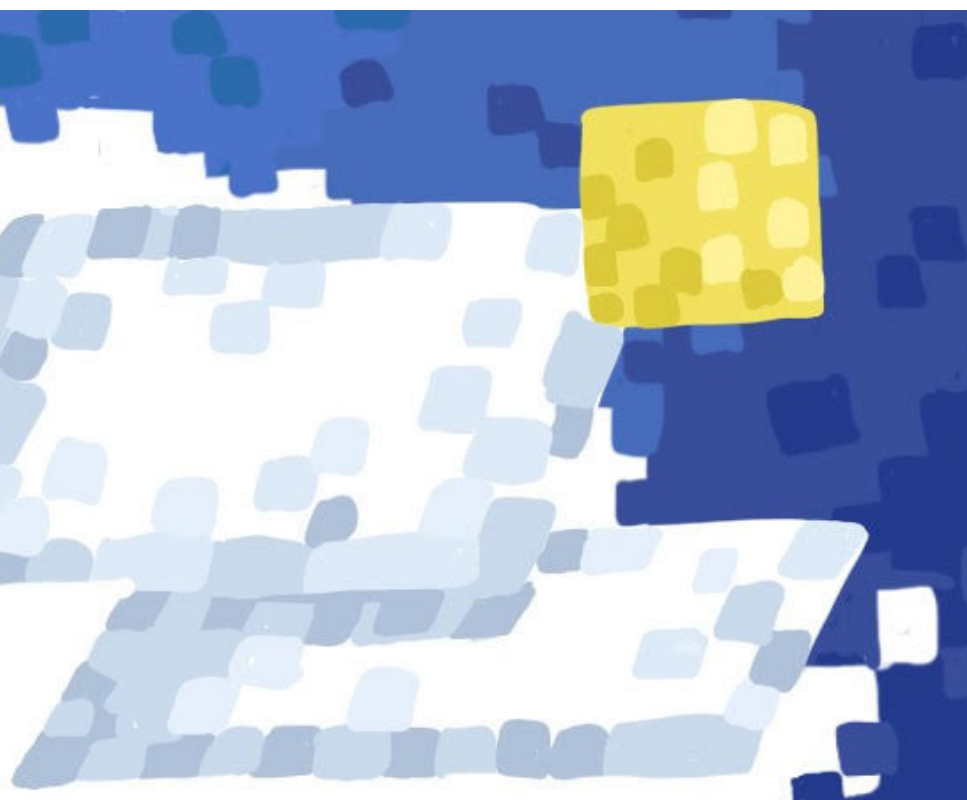


it is important that game developers listen to the feedback from their players, and incorporate it into the game. "That feeling of having some user input into the game really makes whatever the new stuff that they build feel as if it came from us and not just some obsolete, disconnected company," Hernandez says.

Following Microsoft's purchase of Mojang, Minecraft merchandising spilled into the real world. "Minecraft is so pure and good and fun, [and] that was tainted by the cringe culture from the apparel," junior Judy Goldstein says. Minecraft-related books, toys, and apparel flooded the market.

"I remember when it was very cringy seeing people with creeper hoodies on," Kedia adds. "That's what killed it; it was not cool [anymore]."

This phenomenon was repeated with Fortnite as aspects of the game started spilling into the real world. Most notably, learning Fortnite dances was all the rage, with videos of children dancing going viral.



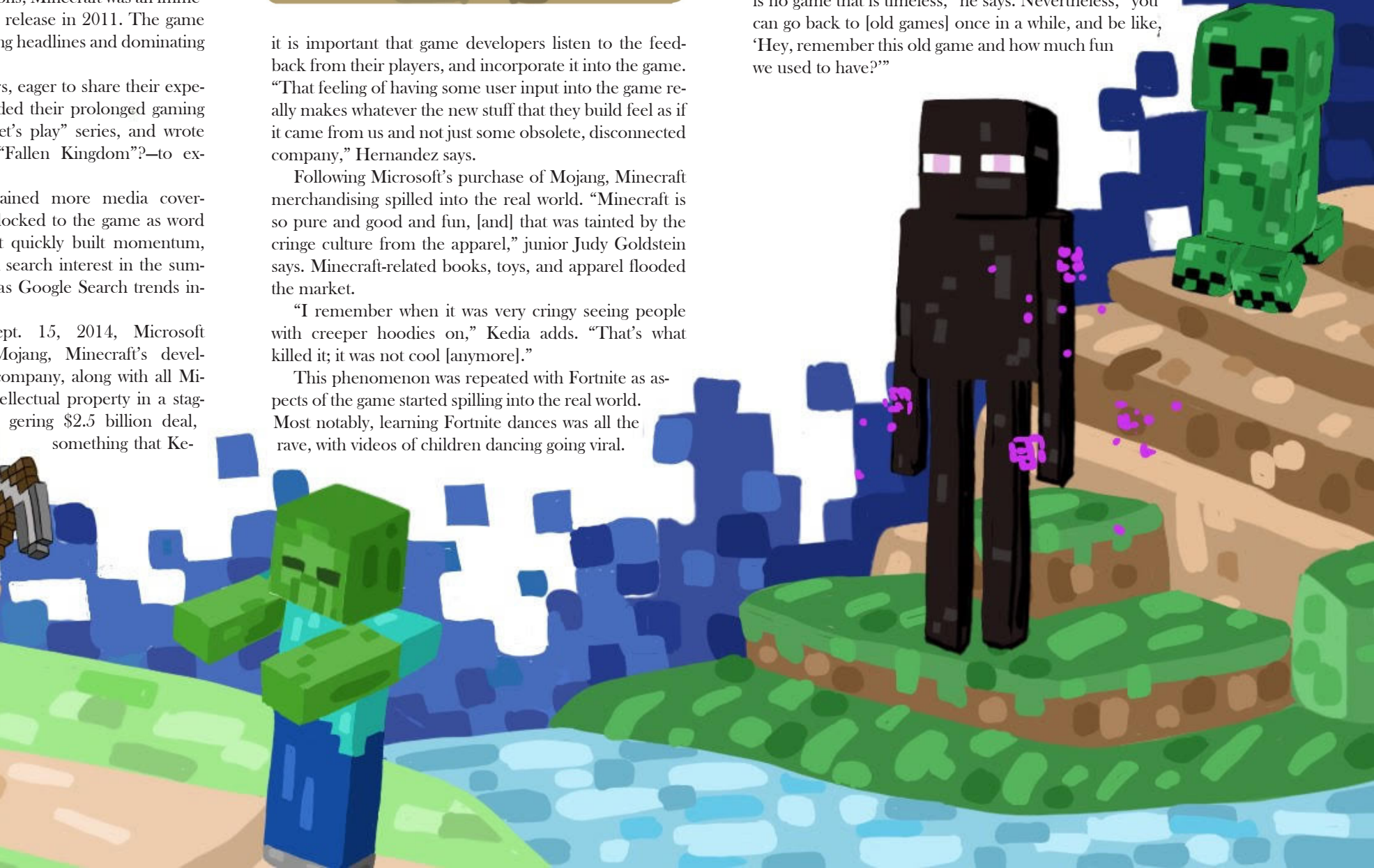
Hernandez isn't bothered by this perception of Minecraft. "I think that it doesn't really matter; it doesn't affect whether you should play a game or not," Hernandez says. "If you're really going to seriously judge somebody over whether they play a certain game that you consider cringe or not, I think it's more of a 'you' problem."

### Traversing the end

Most recently, gamers all around the globe have latched onto Fortnite. The game blew up unexpectedly and inherited the label of a "kids game" from Minecraft. "With Fortnite getting as big as it did, a lot of people stopped looking at Minecraft as just a kids game, and some people came back to it after a couple of years after not playing it, and saw that it was still actually an unironically good game," Chao says.

Minecraft's comeback is an example of how nostalgia and good memories can bring videogames and other media back into relevance, but Hernandez considers the idea applicable to other games. "I feel like... there's gonna be like a Fortnite resurgence and they're all going to be like, 'Oh, man, remember? Oh, it's so good, the Fortnite nostalgia,'" Hernandez says. "It's going to be the same thing all over."

Kedia finds it natural for videogames to lose popularity over time, and he believes that even established games like Minecraft will ultimately die out. "Video games aren't meant to stay, and there is no game that is timeless," he says. Nevertheless, "you can go back to [old games] once in a while, and be like, 'Hey, remember this old game and how much fun we used to have?'"



D1/D2, November 2019, Believe in Steve

This was an especially fun piece about the return of Minecraft. I wanted to match the lively tone of the story with bright and fantastical art that might make the reader feels as if they were falling into the world of Minecraft right there on the page.

D1/D2, October 2019, Creating communities far from their Homeland'

This story was about immigrants and the many struggles they face, but also about the ways they have united and built vibrant communities here. Because of that, I wanted to create a series of portraits with vivid colors to show that strength and vibrancy. By doing individual portraits I also intended to make it feel as if the reader were glimpsing into personal stories of different individuals or friends and families.

# Creating communities for Creando comunidades

By Anna Fisher Lopez  
Staff Writer

Right before she started fifth grade, Brenda Perez moved to Washington, D.C. from Mexico. Facing language barriers in many of her classes at school, the only subject Perez felt confident in was math. She started working hard at math to make sure her teachers did not see her as a lazy student, or as one who did not understand schoolwork. “Math is kind of like a sport,” she says. “The more you practice, the more you become good at it.”

By the time she was a senior in high school, Perez was taking AP Physics, AP Calculus, and working on a science senior project. Her teachers encouraged her to pursue a STEM degree, and she wanted to go to college to study civil engineering. But Perez was undocumented and wasn't yet under the protection of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. She didn't have a green card, a U.S. passport, or a social security number.

Applying to college was difficult without legal or DACA status. Even though she had lived in the United States for more than seven years, Perez had to apply as an international student because she wasn't a legal U.S. resident. She received acceptance letter after acceptance letter from colleges she wanted to attend, but knew she couldn't afford. Tuition for international students is much higher than it is for U.S. residents, and she didn't know how she was going to pay the extra cost.

“I had already decided that I was gonna take off a year from school and just start working to start saving some money so that I could potentially go to college the year after that,” Perez says. While still in high school, she continued to look for financial aid opportunities and came across an organization called the Esperanza Education Fund, which offers scholarships to immigrant students regardless of their legal status. Perez applied, but didn't know if she would win the money.

As her senior year was drawing to a close, Perez heard back from the Esperanza fund. She had won \$10,000. “Thanks to them, I was able to go to college right after graduating high school, which was my biggest dream,” she says. Perez got a part-time job instead of taking a gap year, and four years later, she graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a degree in civil engineering.

Countless organizations around Montgomery County and Washington D.C. provide such support and opportunities for immigrants who come to the United States seeking the “American Dream” but instead find themselves confronted by a restrictive political and social environment.

*“The focus is on thinking of immigrants as part of the community, not as others that we are helping in an us and them kind of way”*

- Kate Clark

## Breaking down barriers

The Esperanza Fund is one of many organizations that provide opportunities for immigrants facing barriers when they move to the United States. “The Esperanza Education Fund scholarship is maybe the only scholarship that allows undocumented youth to apply for those benefits,” Perez, who received DACA during her freshman year in college and is now a board member of the Esperanza Fund, says. “This is such an important resource to the community, especially to get access to higher education, which is almost always very impossible if you're undocumented because you don't get any financial aid.”

The Esperanza Fund doesn't just provide scholarship money; it also gives immigrant youth access to a network of mentors and professionals to guide them through their academic life and help them find a career after they graduate. “Having that network, that financial support, it really helped me navigate through college and access college in the first place,” Perez says.

## A safe support system

Undocumented immigrants have trouble finding stable access to other resources besides just college scholarships. Many immigrants are wary of American law enforcement officers because they fear deportation or other legal repercussions. This means that when they face hardships such as domestic violence or sexual assault, they often have nowhere to turn. Organizations like Ayuda, a nonprofit that provides social and legal services to immigrants, work hard to change that.

Ayuda provides therapy to immigrants who have survived domestic abuse or other forms of assault, and legal services to secure restraining orders or child support, supporting immigrants without exposing them to law enforcement.

“Ayuda is an organization that's been in the community for a very long time,” Kate Clark, the



managing attorney for immigration at Ayuda's Maryland office, says. “The focus is on helping our neighbors and on thinking of immigrants as part of the community, not as others that we are helping in an us-and-them kind of way.”

In Silver Spring, where Ayuda's Maryland office is located, one in three residents were born outside of the United States, and one in five residents are not U.S. citizens. Lawyers like Clark help Silver Spring's large immigrant population attain legal status so that they can gain access to a wider range of opportunities.

Clark and her colleagues have helped immigrants obtain visas, renew their DACA status, and pursue the path to citizenship. Their goal is to strengthen their community by giving immigrants the resources they need to succeed. “The clients are our neighbors,” Clark says. “We have the legal knowledge but they are the ones who are able to direct their lives.”

Legal fees can be expensive, but Ayuda has a pro bono program that provides significant cost reductions for low-income immigrants who may not be able to afford other legal support. In addition to reduced costs, they also provide free services to Montgomery County residents who are in deportation proceedings.

When President Donald Trump won the 2016 election with a campaign promise to “build the wall,” he carried anti-immigrant sentiment into the White House. Luis Aguilar, who works with CASA, an organization dedicated to expanding opportunities for immigrants and Latinos, says that increased complications and requirements surrounding the immigration process have created new worries in the communities he aids. “With the administrative changes of President Trump, an urgency has been created in the migratory processes within the community,” Aguilar says.

A large part of anti-immigration government enforcement efforts fall on families. Clark doesn't understand why enforcement efforts are focused on people who, she believes, are not a threat to society. “The people who are being targeted are families, and are people who are not posing any kind of danger to the community,” Clark says. “There's no reason to focus enforcement efforts on these folks.”

In a recent blow to the immigrant community, the Supreme Court upheld a Trump administration policy that denies asylum to immigrants in the United States unless they

have first been denied asylum in a country they passed through during their journey. Because of this new policy, the administration can deny asylum to some immigrants who arrived to the United States after July 19.

Although the policy does not affect immigrants from Mexico, it will impact tens of thousands of migrants who come yearly from Central American countries such as El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

One of the biggest challenges of working at Ayuda for Clark has been telling her clients that avenues of relief that were once open for them have been closed. “It's hard to tell people, “The environment has become so restrictive, and now you're not eligible for these things that if only you had got here two months ago you would have been eligible for,” she says.

## Building communities

Organizations that provide immigrants life-changing opportunities and resources can be found all across the country. Perez works with a number of young immigrants and encourages them to speak out about their needs so that they will be able to gain access to these resources.

“To all the immigrant youth that I work with, I told them to be very vocal about what they need, and to be very honest about where they're at,” she says.

## KNOW YOU CONOCE TUS

If ICE comes to  
Si ICE llega a

### Do not open the door

You are not obligated to let ICE into your home

### No abra la puerta

No está obligado permitir que ICE entre a su casa

### Do not answer questions

You have the right to remain silent and ask for a lawyer

### No conteste preguntas

Tiene el derecho de guardar silencio y pedir un abogado



“Otherwise, you know, you leave people guessing.”

Safe spaces are needed to make sure that immigrant and undocumented youth are comfortable enough to vocalize what resources they need access to. “Acknowledging that people are in a very vulnerable situation... we need to make sure that they feel safe and that their information is going to be kept private,” Perez says.

The only way that undocumented immigrants will have access to all of the resources available to them is if their community recognizes the barriers that they face and actively works to support them, Perez believes. “American citizens... have to be intentional about creating a safe space for undocumented immigrants,” Perez says. “We need to make sure that they feel safe, and that their information is going to be kept private.”

When everyone in the community can receive the help they need, Perez says, the entire community prospers. “We need each other,” she says. “We need to create new spaces, radically inclusive spaces, so that we can honestly be free and successful. Otherwise, if we keep on replicating the same structures and replicating the same behavior, we're not going to get anywhere.”

# Far from their homeland Lejados del país natal

Por Alzahra Rodríguez  
Staff Writer

La comunidad inmigrante del condado de Montgomery es extensa. Según la página web de la ciudad de Takoma Park, se aproxima que hay unos 5,512 residentes nacidos en el extranjero que viven en Takoma Park. También, hay aproximadamente 2,986 no ciudadanos en esta zona. Basado en las estadísticas de World Population Review, Silver Spring cuenta con un aproximado de 15,690 no ciudadanos y 26,408 residentes nacidos en otros países. Para ayudar a la comunidad inmigrante existen varias organizaciones a su disposición.

“Esperanza Education Fund” es una organización que da becas y consejería a jóvenes inmigrantes. Brenda Pérez, trabajadora de Esperanza, comentó, “Esperanza financia a unos 10 estudiantes cada año. Todos reciben diez mil dólares y no todos son indocumentados. Esperanza no es solo un fondo de becas, sino que también brinda una red comunitaria de mentores, profesionales y espacios donde puedes desarrollarte”. Pérez fue una estudiante que recibió una beca de “Esperanza Education Fund”, sobre su experiencia nos contó, “Cuando estaba solicitando a la universidad, todavía estaba completamente indocumentada y no tenía DACA en ese momento. Recibí cartas de aceptación de varias universidades a las que realmente quería ir. Pero todavía me veían como un estudiante internacional. Así que solicité a Esperanza... Recibí la beca de “Esperanza Education Fund” en 2014, que fue de 10,000, y tuve acceso a todos esos mentores y a toda esa comunidad. Así que gracias a ellos pude ir a la universidad justo después de



mente ridícula y desgarradora”.

Recientemente se salió a la luz que hay un plan de crear un centro de detención para niños migrantes en Takoma D.C. Varios residentes del condado se han manifestado en contra de este plan. Clark tampoco está de acuerdo y opino, “Estoy preocupada y desconfiada. La preocupación es que la agencia tratará de atraer personas para que el espacio esté siempre lleno. Estás mirando a los niños que están en estos refugios no durante unos días, sino durante semanas o meses. Cuando visité uno de los campamentos, los niños con los que hablé habían estado allí principalmente durante 60 o 70 días a la vez, y eso es mucho tiempo para estar confinado a una ciudad de toldos en el desierto en Texas”.

Otra de las situaciones que últimamente están siendo presentes en la comunidad migrante son las redadas de ICE. En el caso de que alguien esté en esa situación Luis Aguilar recomienda, “Si ICE se quiere llevar a algún inmigrante sin tener una orden judicial se tiene que hacer varias cosas. Lo primero es conocer completamente todos sus derechos. También, el inmigrante tiene que saber que es una orden judicial versus que es una orden administrativa. La judicial está firmada por un juez y la administrativa no lo es. ICE a veces tiene la costumbre de utilizar documentos como la orden administrativa como si fuera una orden judicial para arrestar a alguien. Esa orden administrativa no les da el poder de hacer eso. El inmigrante debe saber que tiene el derecho de permanecer callado y no decir nada sobre su estatus legal o sobre el país de donde vienen. Es importante que el inmigrante siempre este con una persona acompañada y que sepan que pueden grabar y compartir ese video vía redes sociales o vía organizaciones que luchan por los derechos de los inmigrantes. Si ICE viene y toca la puerta uno tiene el derecho de mantenerla cerrada. Si ellos dicen que tienen una orden para detener un inmigrante, estos deben pasarla por debajo de la puerta y uno tiene

## OUR RIGHTS S DERECHOS

o your house...  
su vivienda...

### Do not sign anything

Do not sign anything that ICE gives you

### No firme nada

No firme ningún documento que ICE le de

### Ask for an official warrant

ICE cannot enter your house without a warrant signed by a judge

### Pide una orden oficial

ICE no puede entrar a su vivienda sin una orden firmada por un juez

graduarme de la escuela secundaria, que era mi mayor sueño. Pude graduarme de la universidad en cuatro años. Ahora, puedo moverme por el mundo con un poco más de confianza sabiendo que tengo estos mentores y el sistema de apoyo para respaldarme y responder cualquier pregunta que tenga”.

También existen varias organizaciones que ayudan a inmigrantes con temas legales. Dos de estas son CASA y Ayuda. Kate Clark, abogada gerente de inmigración de Ayuda, explicó, “Proporcionamos cualquier variedad de servicios legales dentro de inmigración y para personas que tienen un ingreso por debajo de cierto nivel económico. Ayuda hace con más frecuencia solicitudes de visa U, hacemos solicitudes especiales de estatus de inmigrante juvenil, solicitudes de asilo, y defensa en procedimientos de deportación en el tribunal de inmigración, por lo que ayudamos a las personas yendo al tribunal de inmigración con ellos.” Luis Aguilar, empleado de CASA, habló de su trabajo, “La mejor ayuda que ofrecemos a la comunidad migrante es la conciencia social, es decir, que ellos luchen por ellos mismos sobre todas las políticas que los afectan. También, ofrecemos servicios de apoyo, por ejemplo, renovación de green card y de residencia permanente. De igual manera, les ayudamos a obtener la ciudadanía si ya son residentes y califican. Además, tenemos clases de ciudadanía gratuitamente y clases de inglés. A los que ganan menos de \$55,000 al año les damos ayuda de como hacer sus impuestos. En resumen, damos educación financiera y ayuda en términos migratorios”.

A través de un mandato presidencial, Trump y su administración han hecho cambios en las reglas de inmigración lo cual a tenido un impacto negativo en estas organizaciones.

“La restricción a peticiones de asilo ha aumentado desde el 20 de enero de 2017 y eso ha tenido un efecto en la elegibilidad de nuestros clientes en Ayuda. A partir del 16 de julio de 2019 si alguien llegó a otro país antes de llegar a los Estados Unidos y no solicitó asilo en ese país, ahora no es elegible para asilo en los Estados Unidos”, dijo Clark. Además, Aguilar expresó, “La administración tiene el poder de hacer cambios en las reglas de inmigración, por ejemplo, cambios de como obtener la ciudadanía, asilo, o residencia permanente. Para cambiar todas las políticas y leyes de inmigración tienen que ir vía al congreso. Todo esto a ocasionado urgencia dentro de la comunidad ya que han complicado las cosas y hay más requisitos”. Clark comentó sobre los que están siendo afectados por los cambios de reglas de inmigración, “La mayoría de mis clientes son familias. En realidad la mayoría de ellas son madres con niños

*“La noción de que estos niños pequeños y sus padres que están haciendo todo lo posible para cuidarlos como algo peligroso o una amenaza para la sociedad es simplemente ridícula y desgarradora.”*

- Kate Clark

pequeños, tengo varios clientes que tienen hijos de la misma edad que mis hijos. Lo que más me llama la atención es el sentido general de que las personas que están siendo atacadas son familias y personas que no representan ningún tipo de peligro para la comunidad. La noción de que estos niños pequeños y sus padres que están haciendo todo lo posible para cuidarlos como algo peligroso o una amenaza para la sociedad es simple-

que saber que tipo de orden es, administrativa o judicial. Además, hay que tener un número de un abogado y una organización a la mano”.

Tal y como se puede apreciar estas organizaciones están dedicadas a ayudar a la comunidad inmigrante. Por lo tanto, los inmigrantes no están solos y con el apoyo de grupos como los mencionados en este artículo pueden lograr el sueño deseado de una mejor vida.



Story by/Artículo por:

Anna Fisher Lopez

Alzahra Rodríguez

Art by/Arte por:

Shashi Arnold





B6, March 2020, "Latinx"

This article was about the gender-neutral word Latinx. I wanted to express that this word is being used to encompass a diverse range of people without being limiting, so I chose to draw a diverse group of kids each holding up a letter proudly.

# La Esquina Latina

C1

Silver Chips el 11 de marzo de 2020

## “Latinx”, ¿americano o latinoamericano?

### ¿Por qué es tan usado este término?

Por: Ariel Godoy Lemus y Río Sánchez

Escritores

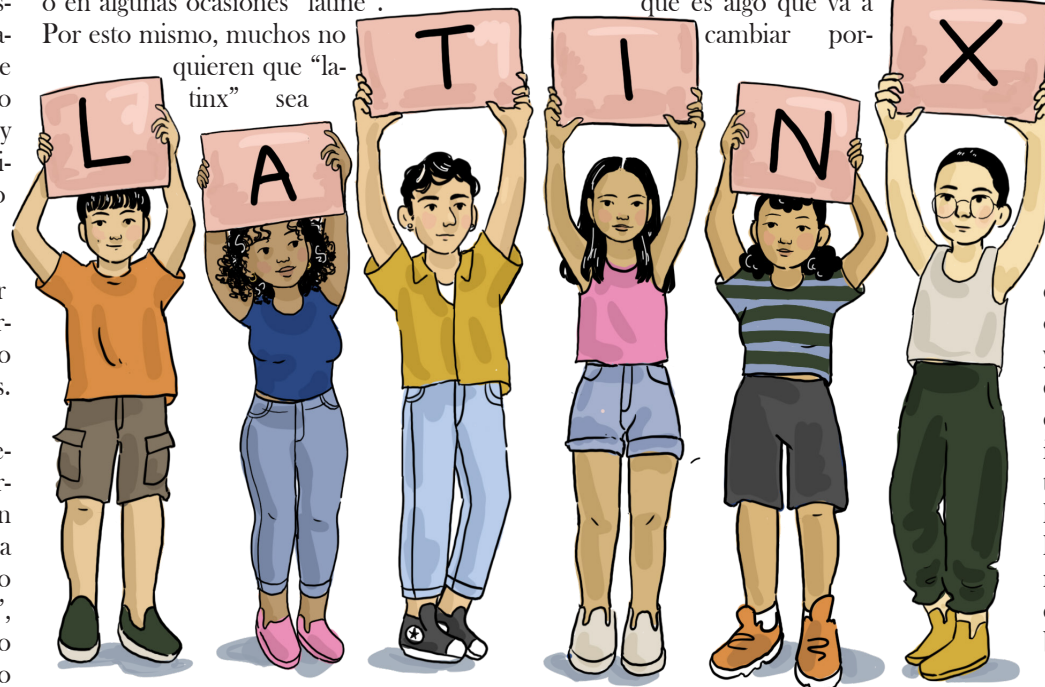
Las palabras que usamos diariamente están repletas de nuestra ideología; en el español, una regla clave es indicar el género de una palabra. El término “Latinx” fue creado para tener una opción de género neutral y fue mayormente adoptado por la comunidad LGBTQ+. Es usado en vez de latino o latina, usualmente por personas jóvenes con el propósito de ser más inclusivos. ¿Cómo puede una simple palabra generar tantos debates y controversias? Lo importante con las palabras no es solamente cómo se usan, sino lo que se quiere decir con ellas. Las palabras pueden causar revoluciones.

La Real Academia Española (RAE) rechazó el uso de la “x” y la “e” como alternativas neutras y aclaró que la terminación masculina debería ser la predeterminada porque también incluye el femenino. Pero si la RAE agrega palabras como “tuitear”, “jonrón”, “bluyín” y otros anglicismos, o palabras prestadas del inglés, al diccionario español, una equis no debería causar tanto tumulto.

La raíz de la palabra latinx ha generado mucha controversia porque es un término americanizado y técnicamente abarca abarca los géneros femenino y lo masculino, lo que tendría sentido hasta que se menciona a

personas que se encuentran fuera del género binario. Pero el término es utilizado más en los Estados Unidos que en Latinoamérica, donde es más común escuchar latino o en algunas ocasiones “latine”.

Por esto mismo, muchos no quieren que “latinx” sea



SHASHI ARNOLD

aceptado por la RAE.

Maddox Comee, un estudiante del noveno grado, comentó que ha escuchado este término en conversaciones casuales o en

artículos. Ella dice, “Bueno, entiendo los problemas que la gente tiene especialmente con personas que son más abiertas respecto a ser del género no binario. Yo no pienso que es algo que va a cambiar por-

que el idioma entero vaya a cambiar”. Sobre la controversia que rodea el término Comee opina, “todavía hay mucho prejuicio entre la comunidad, creo que viene desde el trasfondo cultural pero es algo que definitivamente debería de ser considerado y todos deberían de sentirse bienvenidos”.

Otro alumno Edgar Hernández de décimo grado dice que ha visto algunas veces el término “latinx” en el internet y que piensa que sería una buena idea hacerlo parte del vocabulario diario porque tiene mucho que ver con la cultura Latinoamericana. Él dice, “Pienso que cada quien tiene su opinión acerca de que usar o que no [usar] y que si la comunidad LGBTQ+ ha adoptado esta palabra deberíamos seguir el mismo ejemplo”. Él también dice que no se siente identificado con el término hasta el momento visto que él no lo ha usado y no lo han llamado por este término. Aunque esta palabra ha causado mucha controversia ya que muchas personas siguen prefiriendo no usar el término debido a que ya están acostumbrados a usar el término latino/latina.

Los idiomas evolucionan con el tiempo y se debe considerar un término progresivo como este para hacer que todos los miembros de la sociedad se sientan incluidos y sin prejuicios. A pesar que mucha gente tiene diferentes puntos de vista acerca del tema, debemos respetar la opinión de cada persona.

## Desafíos impiden soñar con una mejor vida

### Inmigrantes centroamericanos enfrentan injusticias

Por: Alzahra Rodríguez Gómez

Editora

Miles de centroamericanos emigran a los Estados Unidos cada año. La razón principal suele ser escapar de la violencia que existe en sus países de origen. Los Estados Unidos crean una imagen de seguridad y prosperidad económica la cual trae esperanza en la vida de varios centroamericanos. Las políticas del presidente Donald Trump y su administración han afectado a los solicitantes de asilo ya que han hecho el proceso más complicado. También, han hecho que miles centroamericanos sean deportados y que ahora tengan que enfrentar la violencia de la cual habían escapado.

Desde enero del 2018 la administración de Trump ha implementado una política llamada Protocolos de Protección de Migrantes (MPP) que obliga a los solicitantes de asilo, que intentan ingresar a los Estados Unidos por la frontera, a permanecer en México mientras esperan los procedimientos judiciales de inmigración. Según la Unión Estadounidense por las Libertades Civiles (ACLU) hay más de 42,000 personas solicitando asilo varadas en México esperando. La espera puede tomar meses o años y mientras tanto la gente vive en malas condiciones. El Observatorio de Derechos Humanos (HRW) ha dicho que tan solo el

cuatro por ciento de estos solicitantes logran ser representados por un abogado y que menos del uno por ciento logran conseguir el asilo. También, HRW ha encontrado 816 casos de solicitantes de asilo que han sufrido abusos sexuales, torturas, desapariciones y robos mientras se encuentran en México esperando una respuesta.

Todas las personas indocumentadas corren el riesgo de ser deportados. El problema es que una vez que son deportados su vida corre peligro. Los salvadoreños se han llevado el foco principal ya que HRW ha identificado 138 casos de salvadoreños asesinados después de ser deportados de los Estados Unidos. HRW está consciente que existen más casos pero es difícil identificarlos porque casi no son reportados por las autoridades. Otras cosas que varios deportados salvadoreños sufren son abuso sexual y tortura la mayoría del tiempo perpetradas por maras.

El artículo catorce de la Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos (UDHR) establece que todos tienen el derecho de solicitar asilo en otros países. Por lo tanto, durante el proceso para recibir asilo los solicitantes deben de estar en un lugar seguro. Además, las personas que corren el riesgo de sufrir violencia en sus países no deberían ser deportados. Esto casos de infracción a los derechos humanos más básico no pueden ser ignorados por la sociedad.



SHASHI ARNOLD

A2, October 2019, Montgomery County implements the CROWN Act

This article was about a new act that prevents discrimination on the basis of natural hair or other protective styles like locks, twists, and braids. I illustrated several girls, one with twists, one with braids, and one with her hair out naturally. I hoped to both give a visual to the hair types described in the article and also show the beauty and serenity of these women to acknowledge that black hair is beautiful.

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DHHS facility proposed in Takoma and D.C.

Public controversy arises over potential child detention center

By Teddy Beamer
Charlie Wiebe
Columnist & Staff Writer

In early August, the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) hired a federal contractor to buy a space to house 242 detained migrant children. The contractor, Dynamic Service Solutions, chose a building at 6896 Laurel Street NW, Washington, D.C., as the location, about four miles from Blair.

The shelter is expected to house unaccompanied migrant children from ages 12 to 17 as they await an adult sponsor or an asylum hearing.

Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser expressed opposition to the plan. "We have no intention of accepting a new federal facility, least of all one that detains and dehumanizes migrant children," she said in a statement to The Washington Post.

One week after the plans to create this shelter were revealed, Bowser passed emergency regulations that require the Child and Family Welfare Agency to deny licensing to any party planning to house more than 15 individuals, according to local news organization WJLA.

Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart said that the regulations restricted the number of children that a single building could house. "It was technically an executive order to stop [the shelter] from moving forward," Stewart said. "In D.C., there is a restriction on how many young people you can house in one facility and this far exceeds it." The order will last until December.

In addition to Bowser, Ward 4 D.C. City Council member Brandon Todd has published letters via Twitter to both Dynamic Service Solutions and Douglas Jemal of Douglas Development, stating his opposition to their plan. "I, along with an overwhelming majority of my constituents and neighbors, do not support this type of facility in our community," Todd wrote in his letter. "I am asking you to reconsider and terminate this agreement."

Douglas Development, the company that currently owns the property, has not taken the property off their website, and has not released any statements in regards to their involvement with the issue.

On Aug. 28, local religious and political leaders held a protest outside of the building. The event included speeches from community leaders, Native American drumming, and a praise band.

According to event coordina-

tors, an estimated 600 people attended the protest, coming from Washington, D.C. and Takoma Park, Maryland to speak out against the Trump administration's treatment of detainees.

"We're here to make it clear that... the immigration policy right now of this administration is criminal... and amounts to concentration camps, and it amounts to the abuse of families, of nations, and of children," Reverend Graylan Hagler said at the protest. Hagler was an organizer of the protest and is a member of local anti-cultural erasure activist group Don't Mute D.C. "We do not want this to take place here in Washington, D.C. and Takoma," he added.

A major point of focus from speakers at the rally was that Jemal would profit from the proposed center.

Protestors and Hagler also criticized Jemal for backing out of an agreement to open a new halfway house in D.C. "At 3400 New York Avenue, Douglas Jemal owned a building there that he

"The immigration policy right now of this administration is criminal" - Rev. Graylan Hagler

last active halfway house in D.C. for male prisoners to re-enter normal life and has been set to be replaced through a contract by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons with a non-profit organization named Core, according to The Washington Post.

This is not the first time that Jemal's ethics have come into question. In 2007, he was found guilty of wire fraud for "sending false documents to lender Morgan Stanley to illegally obtain \$430,000," according to the Washington Exam-

website, she intends to create jobs through "community focused investment," "supporting local businesses," and "attracting quality retail to the county."

The building at 6896 Laurel St. NW. is four stories tall, 69,735 square feet, and was not intended to house young children. Officially, the land is listed under "office space." The building's description on the Douglas Development website says it has "classrooms, offices, library, cafeteria, kitchen and [a] chapel," but only 50 rooms for administration and post-secondary student residence.

Some protestors were incorrect in their identification of which organization was to manage the proposed facility. Many held signs protesting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the police. Both parties are unrelated to the housing in question.

ICE housing facilities are primarily for detention—to hold individuals who have crossed the border illegally before their

as reported in multiple news sources. DHHS housing, though not the focus of recent scrutiny, has been identified as a source of abuse and terror, particularly towards youth. Lawyers in a continuing investigation of an ORR unaccompanied minor center in Homestead, Florida have found that the treatment of children was similar to prison or boot camp, according to the Miami Herald.

The treatment of the children in Homestead has lead to a court case based on a violation of the Flores Agreement. The 1997 Flores Settlement Agreement stems from a 1987 California suit Flores v. Reno. According to the National Center for Youth Law, the agreement says that the government may not detain unaccompanied minors for longer than 20 days and it requires that "children who remain in federal custody be placed in the least restrictive environment and mandates provision of information, treatment and services."

In 2008, Congress dictated through their Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act that unaccompanied undocumented children must be "placed in the least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child." The abuse and crowding reported by Florida lawyers as occurring in federal migrant detention facilities likely violates these laws as evident through the treatment of children at the Homestead facility.

No penalties for violation of the act have been dealt and background checks are only conducted on the potential sponsors of children.

Gabrielle Medina-Tayac, activist, historian, and speaker at the Aug. 28 rally, expressed concerns about fitting almost 250 adolescents into a single home without any defense or aid, which she suspects can lead to misuse of power.

"There's been really high documentation of sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse in these facilities," said Medina-Tayac. "That's why we don't have those 400 bed orphanages. You don't do that with children anymore... These are young people and because their status is different, it doesn't mean that their needs are any different than any other kids."

Tayac also expressed concern over the restrictive environment that the children are being held in. "It's not like it's a group home in the neighborhood and like the kids go to school," she said. "The kids can't go out."

Under the DHHS "Unaccompanied Migrant Children Frequently Asked Questions" page, the "[Unaccompanied Alien Children] in ORR do not integrate into the local community."



ON THE FRONT LAWN Protestors chant outside 6896 Laurel St. NW during the Aug. 28 rally against the building's use as an unaccompanied child migrant center.

agreed to rent to a halfway house of returning citizens from prison to come and restock their life," Hagler said during his speech at the rally. "And then, mysteriously, without announcement, [he] reneged on the agreement, basically jeopardizing returning citizens services in Washington, D.C."

Currently, Hope Village is the

iner. Jemal was sentenced to five months probation and was fined \$175,000.

Jemal has also contributed to local political campaigns, another focus of speakers at the protest. In 2018, he contributed \$4,098 to State Attorney Angela Alsobrook's campaign for Prince George's County Executive. According to Alsobrook's campaign

relocation to other facilities or for deportation. The proposed DHHS shelter is for unaccompanied minors, including some who have been through ICE centers, who do not have sponsors or are awaiting trial.

ICE detention centers are the focus of stories of children separated from their parents and kept in inhumane conditions

Montgomery County implements the CROWN Act

By Khayla Robinson
Staff Writer

Montgomery County Council members Will Jawando and Nancy Navarro introduced the "Creating a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair" (CROWN) Act to Maryland's County Council on Sept. 24.

The bill aims to prohibit discrimination on the basis of natural hair or other protective styles such as twists, braids, or locks.

The CROWN Act, first created by California State Senator Holly J. Mitchell, received a 69-0 vote from the California State Senate on June 27. On July 3, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill, making California the first state to implement the act.

New York became the second state to implement a version of the bill when Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed it on July 12.

Jawando and Navarro expressed high hopes for the bill and the positive impact it could have on people, especially those of color. "This bill is another step forward for advancing racial equity in Montgomery County," Navarro said. The bill will receive a public hearing on Oct. 15, and if approved by the Council, will receive another public hearing on Nov. 5.

In an article on ABC's Good

Morning America website, Mitchell wrote that hair discrimination has a negative impact on black people in the workforce. "The history of our nation is riddled with laws and societal norms that equated 'blackness' and the associated physical traits

hairstyles has affected her mother, a doctor, in the workforce. "For years she would

served a shift in friendliness and how she was treated when her hair was straightened, compared to when it was natural. "The way people would act around me when I had it straightened... some people would be nicer," Cook said. "Some people would invite me to things that they may have not invited me to with my hair out."

Hair discrimination does not only



to a badge of inferiority, sometimes subject to separate and unequal treatment," she wrote. "This perspective permeated the workplace, where professionalism was, and still is, closely linked to European features and manners."

Sophomore Camille Wyatt explained how the idea of "professionalism" in relation to black

straighten her hair until she got into a much higher position, then she started wearing her hair natural," Wyatt said. "She told me how her peers, who she works over, have definitely said stuff about her hair and... changing her looks, saying how she should look more 'professional.'"

Junior Kai Cook also ob-

work environments. When she wore her hair out in school, Wyatt stated that the reactions from her peers was different than when it was styled in other ways.

"I definitely wore braids throughout middle school but then, early on, in elementary school and stuff, I would wear more of my natural hair," Wyatt said. "It's an immediate different reaction... they're like, 'You look

different,' or 'So that's what you really look like,'" Wyatt said.

Whether or not the actions are outright discrimination, becoming aware of the differences in natural hair compared to western

hair standards can affect how children and adults perceive themselves.

In a letter written to the editor of The Washington Post, Jawando wrote that his daughter once questioned him about the appearance of her hair in comparison to someone else's shown on TV.

"I'll never forget the first time one of my daughters asked me why her hair wasn't straight like that of the girls on television," Jawando said. "I told her she was beautiful the way she was created, and that I would fight to ensure that no one would force her, or her hair, to be otherwise," Jawando wrote.

While introducing the act, Navarro expressed its importance from her perspective. "As a mother of two amazing Afro-Latina daughters, I know the struggles of a society that puts arbitrary constraints on one of the most personal expressions of culture and ethnicity—a person's hairstyle," Navarro said. "Montgomery County is a welcoming, diverse community, and our structures must be updated to better reflect who we are as a county."

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