

## A year of chaos, confusion, and questions unanswered



By Camryn Torres

What a year it has been — Kobe Bryant, Gigi Bryant, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chadwick Boseman left us, COVID invaded; protesters persisted; murder hornets buzzed and left; Beirut exploded; Australia burned, and President-Elect Joe Biden triumphed, splitting the red and blue as noted above.

## Our View

### An open letter to a new year. *We implore you.*

Dear 2021:

Please. Have a seat. Let's discuss.

We need you to be better than that predecessor. A few things went awry with him.

It's tough to say how many lessons have been learned this year and how many people have grown from all that has occurred -- there sure has been a multitude of chaotic events that all seemed to stem from last February and March.

Our divided states seem to hate each other more than ever and if it's not an actual civil war occurring, it certainly feels like one. So, now that you have arrived, there are a lot of high expectations coming your way. It's a lot of pressure. Up for the task?

First, bring back concerts. This world revolves around tunes and beats of all volumes, cultures, and anthems that cross generations. The stages have been sadly silent for so long and we desperately need live music again. Arenas, clubs, little coffee shops. Please get the rock out.

Second, we need sports. Live, loud sports. Baseball, hockey, youth sports, high school sports — all without restrictions and drastic changes. The competition, the camaraderie, the crowds.

Third, is there any way you could bring back civility and decency? No? That's on us? Fair enough.

Fourth, maybe bring back... (gulp) hugs? Or at least, the type of physical contact that allowed people the bridge to connect with others — the fist bump, the old-fashioned high-five, a pat on the back (which can go a long way in the classroom).

Fifth, look, we agree that schools should be open. They are the foundation to our future. But they need to be safe always — and if that calls for a different method to how they operate, as we have been experiencing for a few months — so be it. At least for a while. We would rather have a virtual connection with each other than have to send a "Get Well card."

Look, 2021, we know you have just begun and there needs to be a grace period. We do not expect perfection but we also did not expect what 2020 did to us. Again, we are not demanding world peace. (That's on us too, right?)

But just give us a few months of hope, happiness, health, and concerts.

With love,  
*All of us.*



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