LIVING AMIDST A PANDEMIC

stills from a world in motion
For many of us, life over the last few weeks has felt like a paradox of sorts. We are expected to be still: stay at home, maintain distance from those around us, in a time where everything is changing: the numbers (from people infected to unemployment rate), the language used by political and government leaders, the health of our family, friends, and loved ones. We are thrown into a new understanding of normalcy, forced to adapt to uncertainty. We are living amidst a pandemic, and yet, we are expected to act stable and secure. While this is a collective expectation and experience, it is so personal and so different for each individual.

Even though we're just two students and this is by no means an expansive collection of images, we hope that it can serve as a small lens into the complex and confusing ways in which we are all experiencing this pandemic.
"in the battle against coronavirus"
"...to defeat the virus...
"officials keep calling the coronavirus pandemic a war"
"trump labels himself a war-time president"
"'they are the soldiers,' cuomo says of healthcare workers"

- quotes taken from headlines of various news agencies

"people understand what a war means, what the consequences of a war mean in terms of pain and loss and death, they understand the sacrifices that have to occur during wartime and they understand the massive mobilization of resources needed in a war." - cnn

who are these sacrifices?
PLEASE DON'T CALL ME A HERO. I AM BEING MARTYRED AGAINST MY WILL.
We paint medical workers and essential workers as "heroes", often forgetting that they are subject to long work hours and hazardous working conditions. The stress and dangers placed onto these workers, the expectations we set for them to continue working, the language we use to justify these kinds of working conditions, in a sense strips these workers from their person-hoods, leaving them as "heroes" we can afford to lose.
People of Color are at Greater Risk of COVID-19. Systemic Racism in the Food System Plays a Role.

Food apartheid and economic inequality are among the factors leading to high rates of infections and deaths of Black and brown Americans.

Morning Mix

‘Those numbers take your breath away’: Covid-19 is hitting Chicago’s black neighborhoods much harder than others, officials say

Anti-Asian hate continues to spread online amid COVID-19 pandemic

Recent data from the Asian American Justice Center and Asian Americans Advancing Justice says that anti-Asian hate crimes have more than doubled in the past year.
"same city. same police force."

"One is from the park in Harlem, the other is from the park in West Village. Guess which neighborhood has police enforcing social distancing?"
After reading the excerpt from *Oedipus The King*, we talked about how at the beginning of the tragedy, we see a "plagued city."

In the story, the city represents the collective body. The plague affects not just the individual but the whole. To save the city, Oedipus, the political leader, must act to address the plague.
GOVERNANCE
Coronavirus whistleblower says Trump administration ignored warnings and drug dangers before he was removed

Man dies after ingesting aquarium product containing chloroquine: Hospital network

The FDA is warning people not to self-medicate to avoid coronavirus
Voters in Wisconsin risk their life to exercise their right to vote after being unable to obtain their ballot by mail. When politics gets mixed with a pandemic, we can only question why the system has allowed this to happen in the first place.
Foucault’s “Discipline and Punish” illustrate that surveillance, strict social partitioning, and quarantine are among the methods used to isolate people and distribute power. In such a crisis, the normal citizen relinquishes their freedoms and power, often to the government, for the better health of society. Control is established, and tradeoffs are made between people’s rights and the wellbeing of society.
Exercising politics of control echoes how HIV “could, in theory, have been contained in the 1980s, but... striking disparities in AIDS outcomes persist, following familiar lines of race, class, and gender” (Jones).

The Mulford Act of 1967, which banned the public carrying of loaded firearms, was made shortly in response to the actions of the armed Black Panther Party shown above. Armed protestors stormed inside Michigan's Capitol building without consequence.
A Post-Covid-19 World
Going through this pandemic means more than just living. How do we afford to live?
Suddenly, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, these “illegal” workers have been deemed “essential” by the federal government.

- Alfredo Corchado
Between managing our health and our freedoms, can life return to normal?
Works Cited


Scott, Adam (mradamscott), “So the President of the United States is rising up against...the United States. Got it. Makes no sense and is deeply dangerous, putting millions of lives needlessly at risk. Happy Friday everyone!. 17 Apr. 2020, 9:09 AM. Tweet.


