



RUTGERS GREEN PRINT

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Hello Green Print Readers,

In the resonating words of Martin Luther King Jr.:

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” - Letter from a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963.

Consider the thought experiment, the Veil of Ignorance, put forward by the philosopher John Rawls in the “Theory of Justice”. A group of people are given the task of designing a brand new society. However, they are placed behind the “veil of ignorance”, which prevents them from identifying their own place in this society. They are completely unaware of the class, race, gender, sexuality, religion or socioeconomic status they will possess, forcing them to act as an impartial group.

This thought experiment is important because it illustrates the biases which are formed by the human experience. Our ideas of what is ‘just’ and ‘unjust’ are based on our individual perspectives and positions in society, often blinding us to the privileges we possess.

For our April Issue, our writers delve deeper into some of today’s injustices, and their intersectionality with the ongoing difficulties of the pandemic. Our circumstances have driven us to rethink our current systems. The question remains: if we were to rebuild this society from scratch, would we build an equitable one?

Love,
Samhita Vadapalli
Editor

Want to Live Longer? Get to know these Longevity Molecules!

By Henry Velasquez

The research of aging has made powerful breakthroughs in the past few decades. At the center of attention has been a handful of molecules that have yielded breathtaking results. To find out more about these compounds and what they do, read on.

NMN: Also known as Nicotinamide Mononucleotide, NMN is a precursor to NAD⁺, a molecule that allows our body to carry out important cell functions such as DNA repair, immune responses, energy creation, and more. NAD⁺ declines as we age and our bodies become less efficient in carrying out said cellular functions. NMN is made from nicotinamide, or NAM, which is a form of vitamin B3, and it is found in various different meats, fruits, and vegetables. Recently NMN has been administered to animal models in drinking water and the NAD⁺ levels of the mice involved were restored to the levels found in younger mice, while younger mice seemed unaffected. Currently, NMN is undergoing human clinical trials led by Harvard University professor Dr. David A. Sinclair.

NR: Nicotinamide riboside is another precursor to NAD⁺ that has exhibited the ability to increase NAD levels in human blood, but not in other areas of the body such as

muscles, the liver, heart, eyes, and kidneys. NMN is able to increase NAD⁺ in these tissues and can also be created from NR.

NMNH: A new study suggests that NMNH, or reduced nicotinamide mononucleotide, could have advantages over both NMN and NR. The results of the study showed that NMNH was more efficiently turned into NAD and also raised NAD levels in both the blood and multiple tissues, but to a higher level by using the same amount. This could prove to be a much more effective molecule than both NMN and NR.

Honorable mention: Resveratrol is a compound found in grapes, berries, and red wine and has been able to increase the lifespan of yeast, worms, and fruit flies.

As for NMN and NR, these molecules have been available to the public as dietary supplements for a few years. However, this is not dietary advice! Until more research is invested into these molecules, conduct your own due diligence before deciding to purchase them for yourself or someone else. Soon, we may be able to spend a little more time enjoying this gift we call life.

Why We Should Get Rid Of The Electoral College

By Nadia Qazi

The original electoral college that the constitution's founders designed is not the same electoral college we use today. The first discussions on the electoral college began in 1787 by 55 white men who "represented" America. The first red flag here is that there were no women, and no people of color. At that time, people were still enslaved. That's how little those people knew about right vs. wrong, and that's how little their opinion should matter.

During the discussions of writing the constitution, one of the main topics of discussion was how Americans should vote. There were many different ideas and opinions, like Congress choosing the president, governors voting for their state, or a regular popular vote. Congress choosing the president was rejected for fears of

corruption and lack of separation of power. The regular popular vote was rejected because the country seemed too dispersed, and it would be hard for Americans to be familiar with all the possible candidates – a cop-out for the real reason which was that the South would lose every time. The South feared that since a large number of their population were enslaved, the North would win every election. The compromise between the North and the South was the electoral college, and in that agreement, black people would count for three-fifths of a person to inflate the South's population numbers and give them a larger number of electors. In this system, states with smaller populations and a large slave-owning population, like Virginia, had an unfair advantage. This resulted in the first seven out of twelve presidents being from Virginia.

After the messy and complicated election of 1800, where there was a tie in votes for the two presidential candidates causing confusion on who would become the vice president, the electoral college was changed through the 12th Amendment. This “second” electoral college is the same one we have today. The first electoral college system didn’t have separate votes for the president and vice president, but the 12th Amendment required each electoral college member to put in one vote for the president and one vote for the vice president. At this time, there were discussions about having a direct election, which the South once again dismissed. The South was winning, and they had no intention to give up that advantage. There were no consequences for the South, and they were essentially awarded the Presidency for suppressing Black voters. Even after the three-fifths rule ended in 1868, the South still benefited from the electoral college, this time with Black voters’ suppression.

In my opinion, the electoral college should be removed. All it illustrates is that white populations will always be treated like they are valued and worth more in this country. The idea that every persons’ vote counts is a nice sentiment until you read the fine print and realize that this system is deeply flawed. James Madison himself stated that the electoral college was the “product of haste

and fatigue”. If we look at the time period it was created in, most of the ideas, values, and morals Americans had are very different today. In this day and age, Americans love to talk about how this is the land of freedom and look down at other countries who oppress their people. But if you take a closer look, you’ll realize how deep the oppression runs here too.

The fact that we still have an electoral college is just one example of how America upholds white supremacy traditions and our slaveholding past. We boast about patriotism and democracy when all the electoral college does is undermine those values.

The 2020 election is a great example of how the votes of people of color, and more specifically black people, are still being suppressed today. The 2020 election showed how hard people in Georgia had to fight to get their vote to count. Stacey Abrams and her team went door to door to encourage black people to vote, trying to undo the suppression that has gone on in the South for hundreds of years. Making it harder to vote by mail, waiting in long lines, misinformation spread via the internet, and no time off of work to be able to vote are just a few of the many forms of voter suppression we have today, which all disproportionately affect people of color. The electoral college is an outdated system that serves no purpose in today’s America.



Short Story Fiction:
The Encounter

By Roque Cabrera

The air was thick with the smell of gunpowder and the dilapidated buildings made what used to be Victor's old town seem like a new planet. The war was declared in the year 2025, when the north and south waged war for reasons still unknown to the north's populace. The atmosphere had turned gray in contrast to its old colorful and cheerful streets, filled with farmers and vendors happy to sell their days wares. Victor made his way through the ruins of his old life. A quick flashback reminded him of the television announcements that declared further escalations of violence between northern and southern forces. Then came the

inevitable announcement of war followed by acts of violence in the border between the two states. As a young sixteen year old it was ignominious and animalistic how an entire country could be split into two halves and declare themselves different countries. That was four years ago.

The war progressed in a manner that seemed to consume Victor's small town like fire does a lit tissue paper. It went past the border and rapidly made its way North. Before the young Victor knew it, Northern troops made their march through his town, singing their war cry "the North shall prevail." Then the bombs came.

It first began with military stations just outside of town then progressed to markets, movie theaters, schools, and parks where Victor and his friends once played without a care in the world. Passing through that part of town, now one can only see craters and the barely standing walls of what used to be a school.

Victor had taken refuge in what used to be a small well next to where his house once stood. He dug out a big portion of the inside of the well and excavated a man sized hole leading to the surface, where he could escape the room if he ever needed to. There, Victor arranged some old almost charred furniture he found in rubbish heaps here and there. It was a bit of his old home that hadn't been blasted away by the bombs. Rations were running low and Victor decided to search for food at an old super market a couple miles from his hiding spot. He had grown accustomed to stealthily hiding between rubble and crouching when the slightest noise made its way into his ear canal.

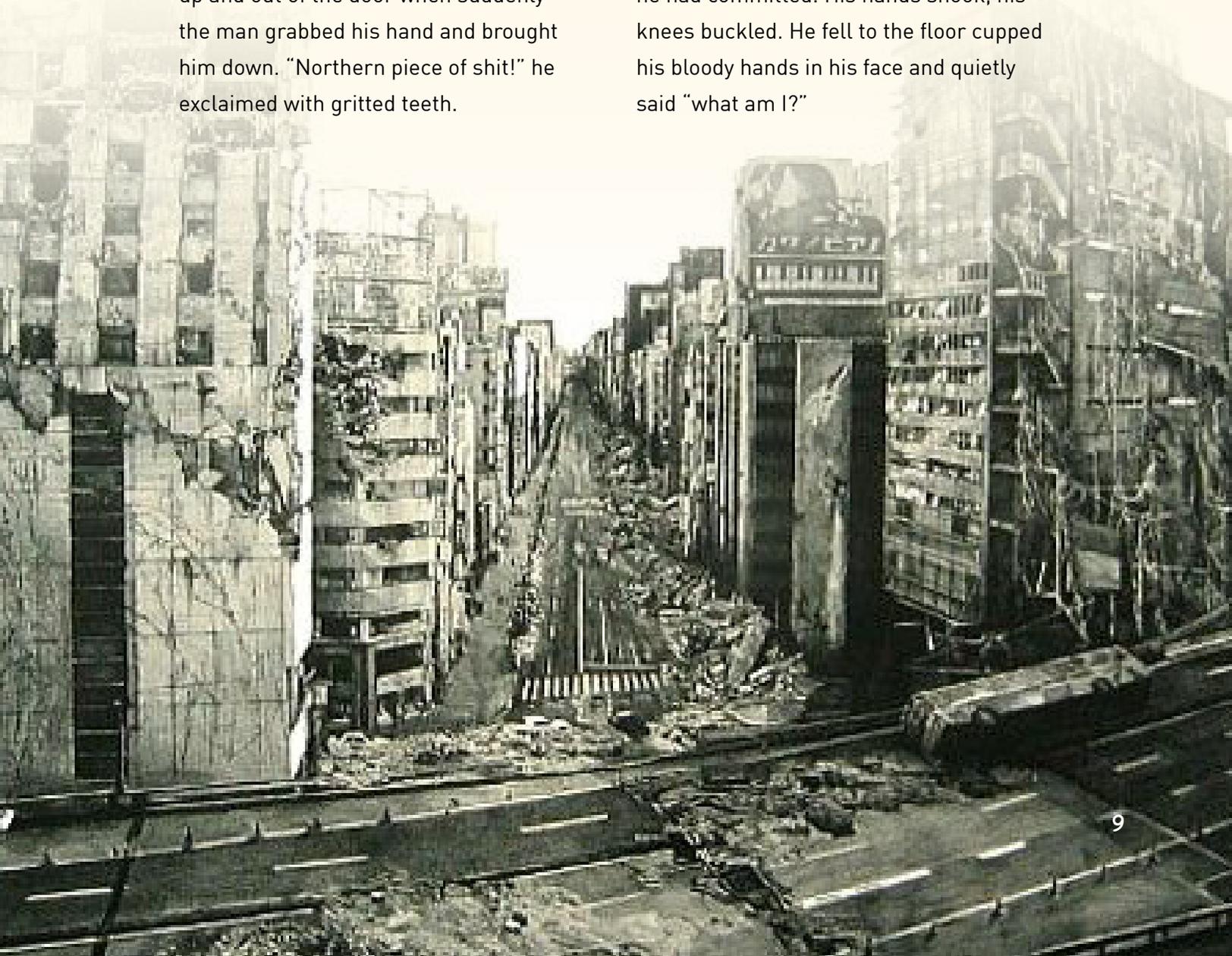
Victor reached the old super market. From there he crept inside and into the old food storage made of intertwining hallways. He kept an eye out for the ubiquitous brown

uniforms with black face paint and helmets to match. He searched door after door until he finally found an old bag of potatoes that had been somewhat preserved by the bag which carried them. After stuffing the bag of potatoes in this backpack, Victor stealthily made his way down the hallway. He would always stop whenever he got to a corner, peered his head slightly to check for southern troops and make quick sprints to get where he needed to. He had reached the doorway from which he had originally arrived when suddenly he heard strong, but slow footsteps behind him. He ran the opposite way of the door and waited behind a turn down the hall. He took a quick look and saw them. They sported large rifles. The telltale sign of southern troops, the big white "S," spray painted across their backs. Victor could not make out what they said because they spoke in military sign language, composed of head nods and quick limb movements.

Once the troops had made their way through the door, Victor waited a while. Once they were gone, he made a quick dash for the door. With his heart pounding inside his chest, he rushed with every step bringing him closer to his freedom. As his hand touched the cold metal of

the door handle, a quick pressure to his head brought him down on his side. A sudden glance up revealed the end of a rifle staring at him. "Don't fucking move!" exclaimed the soldier. Victor reached into one of his socks and pulled out a knife made from rusty metal and scotch tape. Victor buried the knife deep into the knee of the soldier making him fall over. He turned the knife and pulled it out of the soldier's knee. He tried to make his way up and out of the door when suddenly the man grabbed his hand and brought him down. "Northern piece of shit!" he exclaimed with gritted teeth.

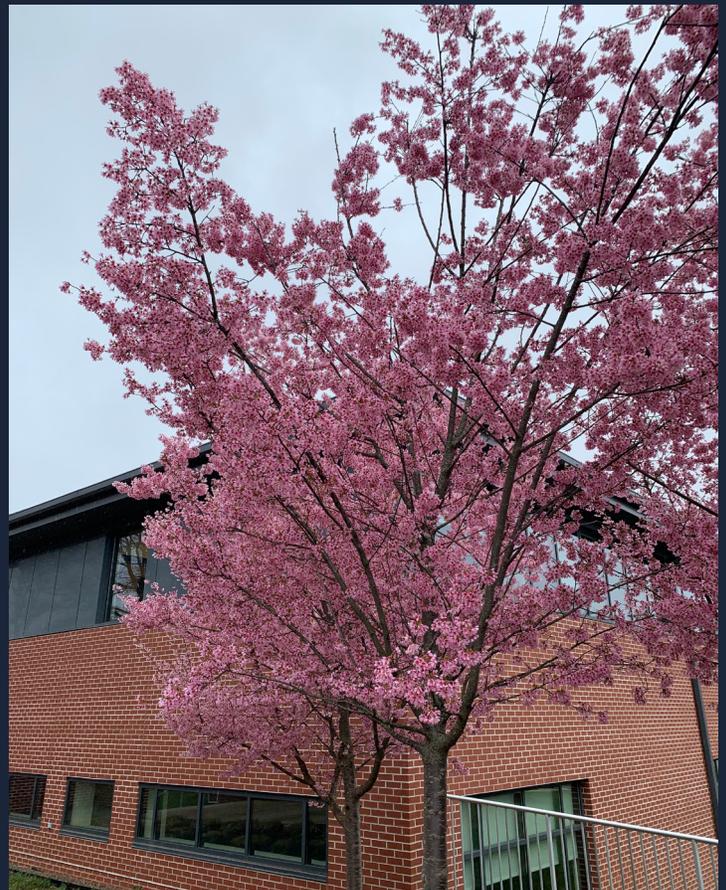
Just then Victor flashed the bloody knife and repeatedly stabbed the soldier in the neck. Warm blood decorated Victor's sleeve and trickled down his forearm. Victor could not tell when the others would arrive. He got up, opened the door with a new found force and ran like he had never before. He didn't remember much of his way back to his hideout only that he was not followed. Once safely inside, his blood soaked arms reminded him of what he had committed. His hands shook, his knees buckled. He fell to the floor cupped his bloody hands in his face and quietly said "what am I?"

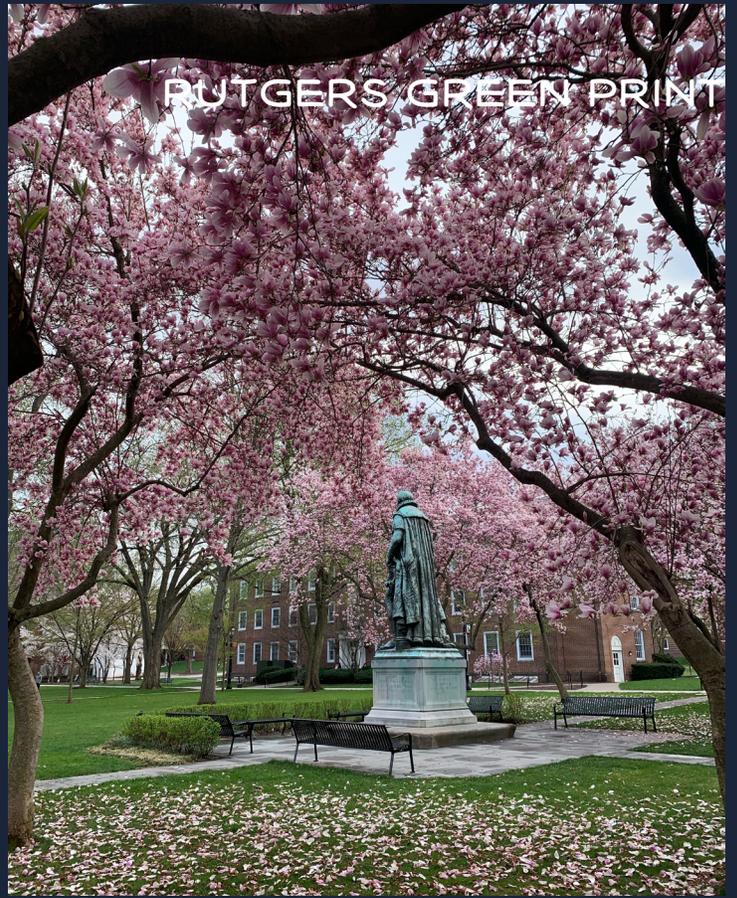


Tree Hunt at Rutgers

By Myah Rios

Spring is upon us and everyone at Rutgers knows what this means. Not only will kids be pouring out of their dorms to enjoy the nice weather, or standing in line at the local ice cream shops (both Surreal Creamery and Thomas Sweets are amazing), but most importantly, all the trees will be in bloom! I've compiled several photos of the most beautiful blooming trees from all around Rutgers. See if you can figure out where each of them is located!





Answers Listed In Order: Zimmerli Art Museum, Theological Seminary Building, WWII Memorial Plaza, William the Silent Statue, Academica Building, College Avenue



Medical Apartheid in Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic

By Moazima Ahmad

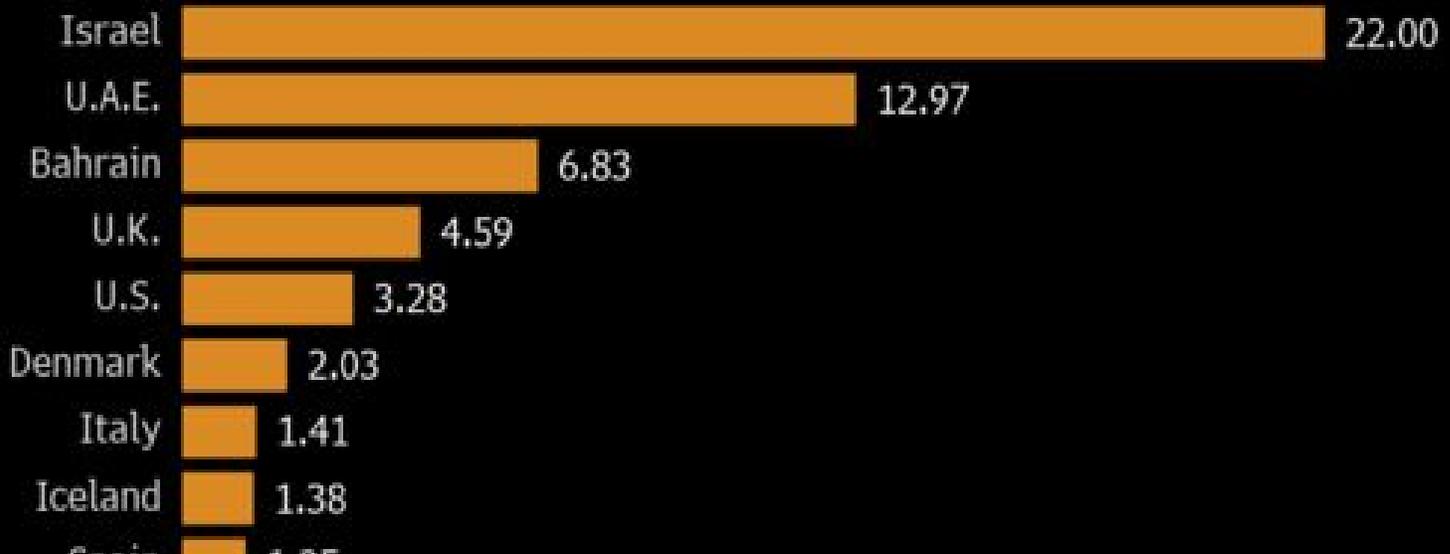
As Israelis rejoice in the streets marking stellar progress in reducing COVID-19 cases, Palestinians, specifically in the occupied sectors of the West Bank and Gaza, continue to exhibit striking manifestations of the virus, with numbers climbing over 200K cases. When the virus presented itself as a deadly, infectious disease, the Israeli Health Ministry immediately took preventative measures to ensure cases were contained before it disseminated throughout the entire country. However, Israel's comprehensive vaccination campaign came at a price; the grand pharmaceutical company Pfizer agreed to provide an advanced supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines in late December of 2020 in exchange for biomedical data of the country's progress.

Yet, Israel has failed to adequately provide sufficient vaccines to Palestinian citizens, many of whom have pre-existing conditions that would potentially worsen alongside contracting this new virus. As an occupying power, Israel has a moral, as well as legal, obligation to provide Palestinians with the necessary medical care to inhibit the spread of contagious diseases and epidemics, as outlined in Article 56 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. Undoubtedly, the coronavirus falls under this category and as such, should be implemented as per international law. While the country's efforts to promulgate an all-encompassing campaign to vaccinate all Israelis have proved successful, their efforts to support the Palestinian people continue to

Top 10 countries with the fastest Covid vaccine rollout

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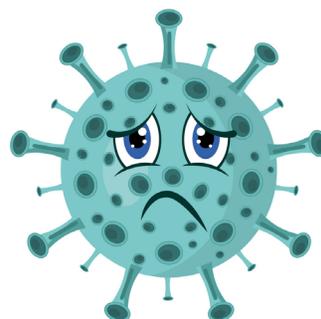
■ Doses administered per 100 people



prove substandard. Nearly 50% of the Israeli population has received both doses, while only Palestinian workers in occupied East Jerusalem with Israeli residency have been afforded the right to be vaccinated. In this regard, Palestinian bodies have been rendered disposable; the open-air prison in which they reside will only exacerbate their conditions as a colonized people.

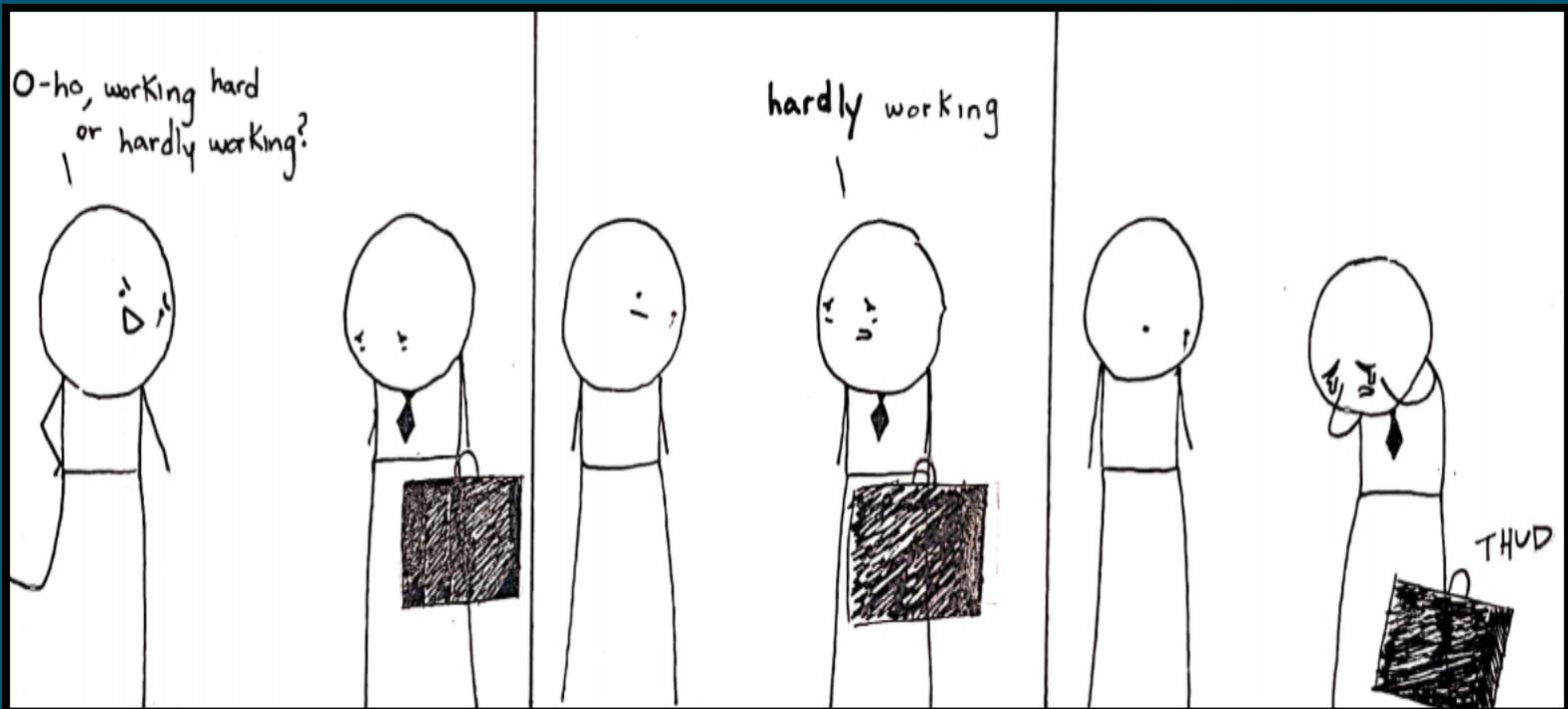
In failing to vaccinate millions of Palestinians, the settler-colonial state of Israel has sprung up nine slots to now slot #5 of Bloomberg's international COVID-19 Resilience Ranking (Bloomberg). This was in large part, made possible with the deal made with Pfizer, as it produced the fastest COVID-19 vaccine rollout than any other country. According to

Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker, for every 100 Israelis, 22 doses were administered with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) steadily behind in second place, administering 12.97 doses per 100 people. Countries with both economies of scale and grand military power are the only true victors in this game; for the Palestinian people, this game has resulted in the demolition of innumerable homes, seizure of native Palestinian land, and the massacre of every unabashed Palestinian against the colonization of their people. Where the Israelis carouse and frolic at an ill sense of normalcy and delight, Palestinians continue to endure the whiplash of two pandemics: the unforgivable COVID-19 and the aftermath of an imperialist, militarized state that reigns itself as conquerors of Palestinian land and culture.



COMIC Of The Month

By Joe Gonzaga



Bucket List for the (Tri-State) Traveler: South Mountain Fairy Trail

By Jeremy Lewan

I recently discovered the most magical hiking trail in New Jersey! The Rahway Fairy Trail, located within Milburn's South Mountain Reservation, is a wonderful and safe place to enjoy outdoors and an easy and short hike.



With a unique miniature house-made of stick ladders, stone doors, and moss roofs-in nearly every tree and stump, it's hard to believe that the largest fairy community doesn't actually live here. The longer you look, the more houses seem to appear, and the more intricate you realize they are: full with hand-crafted wooden furniture, tiny mushroom pillows, and complete with vine swings on their porches!

Brainchild and production of local mom Therese Ojibway, these fairy house "exhibits" were a labor of love. Ms. Ojibway has always had a deep connection to the reservation: it served as a calm and safe space for her son for many years, who is diagnosed with autism. She has spent countless hours crafting her artworks to showcase on the trail, bringing a smile to visitors' faces and encouraging them to appreciate and respect nature.

To get to the trail, park at the Locust Grove entrance of the reservation, across from the Millburn Library. Don't forget your mask and your imagination!





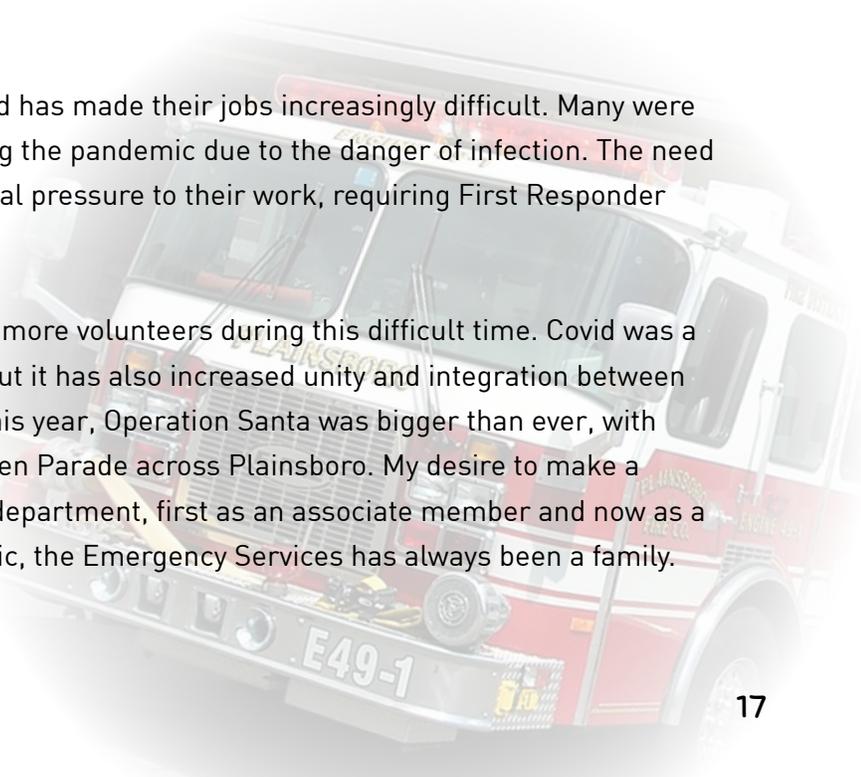
A Tribute to All First Responders During Covid-19

By Subhodeep Chakrabarty

My interest in the emergency services first began when I was a community service officer with the Rutgers Police Department in Newark. Prior to the pandemic, I became a volunteer at the fire department by my house and I am now certified to go on fire calls. Whenever the pager goes off, I am always rushing out the door. I remember my first night when I went to put cones to redirect traffic when a wire was on fire.

For many EMTs and police officers, Covid has made their jobs increasingly difficult. Many were afraid to go home to their families during the pandemic due to the danger of infection. The need for a vast amount of PPE added additional pressure to their work, requiring First Responder Agencies to restructure their budgets.

Many agencies are currently looking for more volunteers during this difficult time. Covid was a huge test for the Emergency Services, but it has also increased unity and integration between police officers, firefighters and EMTs. This year, Operation Santa was bigger than ever, with a parade at Princeton Hospital and a Siren Parade across Plainsboro. My desire to make a difference motivated me to join the fire department, first as an associate member and now as a fire police member. During this pandemic, the Emergency Services has always been a family.



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Bucket List For The (Tri-State) Traveler: South Mountain Fairy Trail

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