

MONDAY 8TH JUNE 2020

ROGUE

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George •

EDITORIAL

BY ZOYA LULU KIRMANI

29. There are 29 names on the cover of this issue. 29 out of thousands. Thousands of cases just like George Floyd's. Cases of grossly unjust police brutality against black lives based on racial prejudices.

However, don't get caught up in the idea that the US is some alien territory and such atrocities only occur there. Just because our nation's media doesn't show these things happening, it does not mean they aren't happening. Police brutality and racial profiling is not exclusive to America. Sign petitions, donate to charities and help spread awareness; the UK is just as guilty.

George Floyd's murderers have thankfully been charged testimony to the power of protest against the injustices of systemic racism. However, there are countless others who have had their lives ripped away from them without consequence for the perpetrators. We cannot, we must not stop here. George Floyd was not the first and he will not be the last. As the protests have shown, more black lives have been lost because of centuries of institutionalised racial prejudice and the idea that some people are superior to others based on something as trivial as skin colour.

Humans are said to be created in God's image. This applies to all humans – black, white, purple, green, pink.

Whatever colour you are, you are equal to and worth just as much as the next person.

Do not ever let anyone tell you your life is inferior or insignificant based on the colour of your skin, your body, your disabilities or "imperfections", your personality, who your parents are, your religion, nothing. Nothing makes you inferior, nothing makes you worthless. The only people who are inferior are those who would hold these against you.

Remember, racism and prejudice don't always come in the form of directed, outright verbal or physical abuse. Casual racism is something that can make matters even more complicated. You could be speaking to a friend who makes a sweeping statement or a stereotypical comment about people of colour which neither of you might not even register as racist. That's how normalised racism has become.

If someone ever makes you feel uncomfortable and you feel you're helpless, tell someone. Standing up for yourself and your friends can be scary. Confrontation can be terrifying. Although I'm nearly 18, I'm still wary of confronting someone, especially a friend, no matter the justification.

Speaking up, though, doesn't always mean a shouting match. A calm conversation can go a lot further than an

accusatory, self-righteous rant.

"Matter is the minimum. Black lives are worthy, black lives are beloved, black lives are needed."

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ROGUE NEEDS YOU!

We're looking for contributors, whether that's weekly or just a one off, no journalistic experience is required we're open to all! Rogue is not just looking for articles, we're also looking for any content you feel others might enjoy. Have you heard or seen something funny on Microsoft Teams, got a picture of a pet working from home, heard some good gossip, learnt a new skill you'd like to share, want to set a quiz, got a good (clean) joke or just got a question that needs to be answered? We want to hear from you!

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A WALK IN THE GARDEN

100-year-old Dabriul Choudhury from St Albans has raised an amazing amount of money for those who have been affected by Covid-19 in the UK and Bangladesh. Born on the 1st of January in British Assam, now known as modern – Bangladesh, Mr Choudhury went to London to study English Literature in 1957. He has now become a very respected figure in his area and has done many projects for the improvement of his community. This inspirational gentleman vowed to walk 100 laps of his garden by the end of the holy Islamic month of Ramadan, while fasting!

His initial goal was to raise £1000 for his cause. However, he smashed this goal within a matter of hours and donations rose rapidly in support of this amazing man. Choudhury was inspired by the now legendary veteran Captain Sir Tom Moore who nearly raised £33 million for those doctors and nurses who are part of the NHS that are risking their lives in order to give us a better one. Mr Choudhury congratulated Sir Thomas Moore for achieving his knighthood by saying "I would like to congratulate Captain Sir Thomas Moore for being knighted for his exemplary efforts to raise funds for our NHS." Mr Choudhury also addressed those who donated to his just giving page and said with great gratitude "thank you for your generous donations. We have proved that we can stand hand to hand and shoulder to shoulder during the most unprecedented time of our lives." Mr Choudhury has certainly given us light during this tough time.

The community leader is also a very passionate poet. He is inspired by the poet William Shakespeare and often recites his poems for his pleasure. He often attends local book clubs and poetry associations to talk about his passion with those who share it. To this date, he has raised over £200,000 which I think we can all say is astonishing and Mr Choudhury will certainly be a hero in my eyes.

BY HAMZAH MUGHAL



IN TWENTY YEARS...

BY CHLOE SHIELDS

As I'm sitting here writing this I'm thinking, what was life actually like before Corona Virus? What could and couldn't I do? I'm already forgetting what classrooms, teachers and friends look like after only being in my own home and speaking to my family for nearly 12 weeks. We have all had to adapt to this "new normal" but we have also had to change our perspective. Not just in relation to coronavirus but to help fight against injustice in previous weeks sparked by the murder of George Floyd in America. We have all had to educate ourselves in order to support and spread awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement and help people effected

by racism. In this time of great social and political change, it's hard to think about what the future might hold but what will the world look like in 20 years?

There is no way of knowing exactly what will happen, but we are all aware that the way our country is run and the way we do day to day things will change due to this pandemic. Being quite a social country, we might become more distant from each other, we may lose some of our high streets' favourite shops and restaurants due economic pressure and the "staycation" may become the new big thing. Also, hundreds of thousands of people have

joined together to help the NHS and their community during these difficult times. A lot of people are now talking to neighbours, helping people and there is a big increase in communities helping and celebrating each other. I for one hope that this sense of community remains after this pandemic, making us a more united nation.

Due to the lockdown, pollution has decreased as a result of the reduced use of planes, factories and cars. This has meant we have seen some very beautiful events. These include, wild animals in the streets such as sheep in the UK and Bulls in Italy, the canals

in Venice have run clear for the first time in years and the hole in the Ozone layer in Australia has started to repair itself. Even though we have not yet seen the end of our climate crisis, I hope in 20 years we will still be able to see instances like these and remain on this journey to a better, safer climate.

I do also hope that the world will be closer to equality in 20 years. I hope the peaceful protest taking place in America and also some UK cities, along with signing petitions and greater education, will mean that we will have racial equality in 2040, that we will have put an end to institutionalised racism.



THE CONSOLATIONS OF LITERATURE - PART III

Will it all turn out okay? A lot of us will be wondering that now. There has been much uncertainty caused by the pandemic and it eats into almost every aspect of our lives. What sort of book could possibly help with this feeling? What can we turn to for a sense of security, a sense that everything will be alright in the end? There is no real answer to that, but whilst we are cooped up indoors, it might be time to turn to detective fiction.

Since Edgar Allen Poe's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, detective fiction has been hugely popular. Why? Detective fiction offers us a view into a world of crime, but with the added advantage of a sense that everything will turn out alright in the end. The villain will be unmasked, the crime will be solved, and the detective will explain away the mystery, leaving us extremely satisfied and somehow comforted. Conan Doyle created perhaps the most iconic detective in Sherlock Holmes. Indeed, Holmes was so popular with the reading public that when Conan Doyle decided to kill the character off on the Reichenbach Falls, there was a public outcry and he was forced to resurrect his character from his watery grave. If Sherlock Holmes isn't to your taste though, there are many alternatives to choose from.

Walter Mosely

Mosely created the character, Easy Rawlins, an African American private detective who lives in the Watts area of Los Angeles. The novels span from the 1940s to 1960s, and the first of them, *Devil in a Blue Dress*, was named as former President Clinton's favourite novel. Easy Rawlins has a tough time in LA, and initially becomes a detective after losing his job and agreeing to help a friend find a missing woman. We meet unforgettable characters along the way, such as Easy's oldest friend Mouse, who is superficially charming but utterly coldblooded and cruel. The series of books show the grim

side of Los Angeles, whilst also exploring racial inequality in America.

Henning Mankell

The Swedish author Henning Mankell gave us the character Kurt Wallander, who ticks many of the boxes of your typical modern-day detective – middle aged, miserable, struggling to do his job, and perhaps drinking too much. Set around the southern part of Sweden in Ystad and Malmo, Wallander has to contend with his elderly, infirm and angry father, and his equally angry daughter, whilst also solving crimes and dealing with a complicated personal life. While the novels are detective fiction first and foremost, they also look at wider issues in society such as immigration, the effects of personal trauma, and politics. Wallander is a complex character, frequently questioning whether he should be a police officer at all and despairing of the world he sees around him.

Sara Paretsky

There are nowhere near as many fictional female detectives as there are males. Miss Marple might be the most well-known, but if you wanted something a little more modern and less sedate, you could try Paretsky's *V I Warshawski*. Warshawski is the daughter of immigrant parents in Chicago and grows up in a grim neighbourhood. As a rather wild teenager, she learns how to fight, which helps in her later career as a detective. Many detective novels focus on violent crimes and murders, but Warshawski often deals with white collar crime, where the rich and powerful exploit and manipulate others for their own financial benefit. Again, these novels don't just deal with crime, but with social injustice.

BY MS PRINGLE



DRAGON SIGHTINGS

Up, up and away! 408KM to be exact. NASA's SpaceX Crew mission has been cleared to launch. Astronauts Douglas Hurley and Robert Behnken are the first astronauts to have left Earth from US territory in 9 years. Douglas and Robert are flying on SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, lifting off on a Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A in Florida.

Douglas Hurley was selected as an astronaut in 2000 and is a veteran of two spaceflights. He was the pilot on STS-127 and STS-135 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. Before joining NASA, he was a fighter pilot and test pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps. Robert Behnken was also selected as an astronaut in 2000 and is a veteran of two space shuttle flights. He flew STS-123 in March 2008 and STS-130 in February 2010, logging

during six spacewalks, and has been on several other extra-terrestrial missions. Robert has a Bachelor of Science degree in physics and mechanical engineering, a Master of Science in mechanical engineering, and a Doctorate in mechanical engineering.

Crew Dragon accelerated its two passengers to approximately 17,000 mph and put them on an intercept course with the International Space Station. Once in orbit, the crew and SpaceX mission control can verify the spacecraft is performing as intended, by testing the environmental control system and the displays and control systems. This high-tech spacecraft can dock autonomously, but astronauts aboard the spacecraft and those at the space station, of course, monitor the approach and docking and can take control if necessary.

On Sunday the 31st May, 19 hours after lifting off, the two astronauts had successfully docked and joined the Russian and American Crew on the International Space Station. They have been welcomed as members of the Expedition 63 Crew. They will perform tests on Crew Dragon in addition to conducting research. The duration of the mission is yet to be confirmed by NASA, but the operational Crew Dragon spacecraft can stay in orbit for at least 4 months.

Best of luck to the Crew! If you're interested, check for updates at <https://www.spacex.com> or <https://www.nasa.gov>.

BY GRACE SCOTT

more than 708 hours in space, over 37 hours

BLACK

SPECIAL

LIVES

REPORT

MATTER

THE SPARK

On the 25th May, George Floyd was killed by a police officer (Derek Chauvin) who knelt on his neck for over 8 minutes. This horrific event soon went viral all-over social media and made national news in the US, highlighting how terribly black Americans are treated by police officers. Since this event and many other cases of police brutality including those of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, the Black Lives Matter movement has grown in popularity with many sharing posts on social media platforms such as Instagram and Twitter to show their support for the movement and their outrage over the death of George Floyd as well as other victims of police brutality.

Soon many petitions were being signed, donations were being made and many celebrities were also sharing their feelings on the matter in the form of Instagram posts and hashtags, with some also making donations to various organisations such as the Minnesota Bail Fund. On Tuesday, many people shared photos of black squares with the caption 'Black Out Tuesday' to show their support, as well as sharing information about petitions people can sign and organisations that people can donate to.

One major method of raising awareness that quickly grabbed the attention of news reporters and politicians was the method of protesting. In Minnesota, many attended the protest to bring the issue of institutionalised racism in the police force to the attention of leaders such as the mayor and of course the President. It did receive the President's attention, however, he was quick to go on twitter and call the protestors 'thugs' as some buildings caught on fire in the protests, as a result of looting. Despite Trump's disapproval, many other cities and countries were inspired by these protests with more taking place in cities such as New York and Los Angeles as well as other countries such as the UK, New Zealand, Finland and Australia.

However, things soon went south as heavily armed police officers would also attend protests, with tear gas and rubber bullets to deter protestors. Pictures soon surfaced of officers violently handling peaceful protestors by tear gassing them, shooting and pushing them, leaving some with serious injuries. Things were only made worse by the President as he would constantly tweet about the protests and share his displeasure, including using the phrase 'law and order' which was also used during the civil rights protests of the 1960's to involve the police and deter campaigners. He even went as far to compare the Black Lives Matter movement to Antifa which is a terrorist organisation. He even revealed that he wanted to send the National Guard and mentioned the military getting involved.

Even though George Floyd's killer initially only got charged with 3rd degree murder, this later went up to 2nd degree with 3 other officers also being charged. Although, this is a great start, there is still a long way to go before this fight is over and true justice is served.



BY SAMANTHA EDWARDS

AN INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

BY IRIS NUREDINI

America is the epicentre of the Black Lives Matter movement due to the harsh police brutality and oppression that the African American community faces every day. We should have overcome this decades ago but unfortunately racism reigns through judicial systems (not just in America), the people who are supposed to protect us and our highest leaders are untrustworthy and they refuse to see people of colour as equal; they invalidate and belittle victim's feelings and continue to turn a blind eye to guilty police forces allowing them to go ahead with no consequences.

Peaceful protests and some riots are happening all over America to fight for justice and the mix of the two means that it's finally gaining the attention it deserves. Yet President Trump refuses to listen and continues to utilise the military, rubber bullets and tear gas; media stories continue to be misconstrued but the Black community and its allies are stronger than ever and will not rest.

It seems that many, the police included, retort with 'all lives matter.' This is wrong and a simple analogy can prove that: if a lifeguard sees a person drowning in a pool they will go tend to them first. Someone who is floating perfectly fine saying 'my life matters too' is unnecessary, someone else is in more trouble than them. This is an example of the white privilege that some feel doesn't exist, despite the fact that they don't get pulled over for no reason, can see tv shows that represent their race, can go shopping without being followed. All lives can't matter until Black lives matter.

It took all 50 states, 11,000 arrests, millions in property damage, 18 international countries protesting and the power of Twitter to get the 4 cops involved in the murder of George Floyd charged after 9 days. Officer Chauvin was charged with second degree murder as he pinned Floyd to the ground with a knee in his neck as George repeatedly said, 'I can't breathe.' This is not police training and completely against the law. This is not the only case and many others have been attacked and killed because of the lack of gun control and negative racial stereotypes.

I asked for opinions on the BLM movement and this is what Thea Savva and Jaslyn Allen had to say:

'How can there not be anger? George Floyd is the tip of the iceberg and has resurfaced feelings of fury and upset. This spark has ignited a fire that will only be put out when there are shown signs of change. Leaders cannot morally show anger towards the recent looting when colonisation was theft. This conversation should not have to be had in our modern society; however, it seems that people's idea of an equilibrium in society is confused. Maybe it's due to the lack of systematic education of what history really tells, or maybe it's just ignorant eyes. Take this opportunity to play your part and contribute to the fight for one human race. Sign petitions, donate money to charities that support the cause, even succour a friend who may be heavily affected by these world issues because believe me, when you feel like the world is against you simply because of the colour of your skin, it takes a toll on your mental wellbeing. We are the people that will bring up the next generation, so let's do it with less hate! Teach love and support for each other as it is all our young people should know. "Do not repay evil with evil ... Repay evil with blessing to this you were called that you may inherit a blessing" 1 Peter 3:9'

"Racism no longer exists in our modern society". A statement that often escapes the lips of the ignorantly privileged. Recent news events have brought to light the injustice that people of colour face in our western world to this day. Historically we have come a long way from what racism and discrimination used to be however, it does not mean that the issue is extinct. The recent news about George Floyd, may he rest in peace, has taken the world by storm. Together, communities of different races have stood together to fight systematic racism and it is a beautiful thing. Although, despite having all these educational resources at their fingertips, there are still people that fight for inequality as they're frightened of losing the privilege that comes with their light complexion. By white privilege, I do not mean economically, I mean lack of prejudiced actions from authoritative figures. Some people argue that

this is an American issue. If white privilege exists globally then so does injustice for people of colour! Mark Duggan, Julian Cole, Stephen Lawrence to name a few are victims of recent racist attacks in the UK. Do you have no remorse after these innocent lives were taken? Other people argue that the protest and riots are 'disgusting' and 'inappropriate' which to some extent is agreeable due to COVID-19 pandemic, a non-discriminative killer. However, people's pain and search for justice should be able to be expressed because there are discriminate killers roaming the streets "I don't stand for black man's side, I don't stand for white man's side, I stand for God's side." Bob Marley.

Thea Savva, 16

'I decided to go the BLM protest. I went knowing I could have been injured by the masses of people there attending and I went knowing that I could have fallen ill due to the pandemic that has brought the UK into a standstill. However, there was no way I could not go.

This protest was not only for George Floyd and the disgusting and inhumane way he was killed but for the multiple other lives taken by police brutality and the racist law system in America. The country that is known as the 'land of the free' is only that for someone with a white complexion and that is unjustifiable- the USA is built on racism and its law system shows its prejudice by incarcerating black people at a higher rate with higher sentences and allowing officers to get away with killing them on the spot without following protocol with no punishment. A black citizen cannot go for a run, cash in a check, lawfully carry a weapon, walk home with a packet of skittles and Arizona tea and countless other activities without fear of people killed. We cannot breathe without fear of being killed.

The question that has been said by so many of the ignorantly privileged recently is: why protest about something that is happening over

4,000 miles away? The answer is we aren't. The UK is not innocent. We have the blood of lives that were not meant to be taken, but were due to racial profiling and prejudice - Belly Mujinga, Mark Duggan, Sean Rigg are three names on a long, long list of people taken too soon- taken because of racist beliefs.

This is why I went; this is why I had to use my voice and speak out. I do not want to live in a country which ignores and belittles racism and pushes down those who speak on it. Silence is complicity. The protest was peaceful and brought those who felt the same as me together. There were people of all colours, nationalities, sexualities and religions coming together to make it heard that all lives matter, but black lives matter too.'

Jaslyn Allen, 16

We can all do better.
Please donate and sign petitions.

We won't be silent anymore.

I'm not black but I see you.

I'm not black but I hear you.

I'm not black but I mourn with you.



SIGN

Justice for George Floyd

#WeCan'tBreathe

Justice for Breonna Taylor

Justice for Ahmaud Arbery

Justice for Belly Mujinga

#DefundThePolice Petition

Mandatory Life Sentence
for Police Brutality

Justice For João Pedro

Suspend UK export of tear
gas, rubber bullets and riot
shields to the US

WATCH

13th

The Hard Stop

Time:
The Kalief Browder Story

Farming

The Death and Life of
Marsha P. Johnson

Black Sheep

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Explained: The Racial
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Detroit

Strong Island

Black and British:
A Forgotten History

Black Is The New Black

READ

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