STORY OF THE YEAR

SPEAKING UP

At a Black Lives Matter protest in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a young Black boy holds a sign with a powerful message. The protest was held in Old Colorado City on May 31st, 2020.
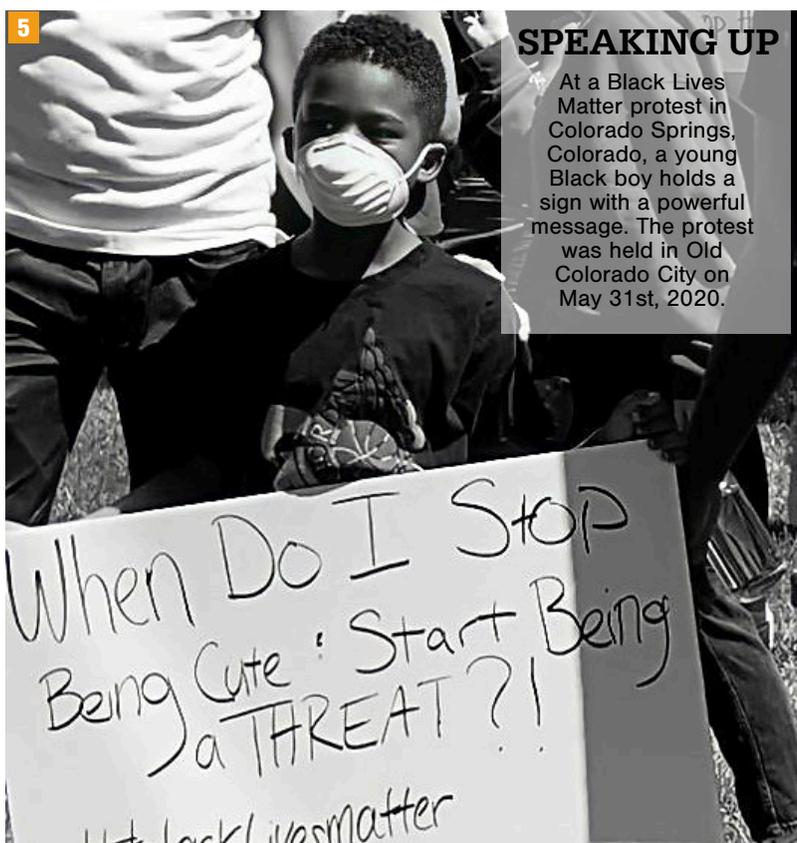
(1) Wearing his mask and ready to move, a man raises his fist in solidarity in San Francisco, California. Standing amidst hundreds of other protesters, raising a fist often symbolizes pride and defiance against oppression. **(2)** In the Center of Times Square in New York City on June 7th, 2020, a sign reading Black Lives Matter is held up above the crowd. **(3)** A group of women in Portland, Oregon stand together in the beginning of June of 2020. These women stand close with each other, knowing we are stronger together. **(4)** Americans aren't the only ones who have been protesting, though! A group of people in Hamburg, Germany stand in the street, holding signs reading things like "no justice, no peace," and "riots are the language of the unheard," which is a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. This gathering was held on June 5th, 2020.

Photo Credits: (1) "Black Lives Matter protest, San Francisco" by vhines200 is licensed under CC BY-ND 2.0 **(2)** "Black Lives Matter march in Portland, OR. June 4, 2020" by Matthew Almon Roth is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0 **(3)**"Black Lives Matter Protest Times Square New York City June 7 2020" by Anthony Quintano is licensed under CC BY 2.0 **(4)** "#BLM Demonstration Hamburg 2020-06-05" by Rasande Tyskar is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0

RISING AGAINST RACISM

After the murder of George Floyd on May 25 of 2020 at the hands of the Minnesota police, thousands of protests and riots all across the world broke out, including in areas such as Australia, the UK, and Canada, as well as all across America. Citizens were protesting police brutality against Black Americans and other people of color and minority groups, taking to the streets to shout outside city halls and march with their communities in an attempt to bring justice to some of the many lives that have been lost.

This modern day civil rights movement has managed to create a change in how police officers do their jobs. On June 11, a law dubbed Breonna's Law which prohibits no-knock warrants was passed in Louisville, Kentucky after the shooting of Breonna Taylor inside her own home in March of 2020. The Black Lives Matter movement has caused many people to rethink their own racial biases, and has many questioning the authority of our police, and the systems in which they work.

People of all different ages have gone to protests to show their support and demand justice for the Black lives that have been taken. "I went to a protest in May, and the whole thing was very peaceful. Seeing so many people there from all different walks of life was really cool, just knowing so many different people can come together for the fight of human rights. It was nice to know that we were part of something we truly believe in," said Freshman Amelia Harding.

Solomon Latimer, 09	Erin Bettner, 11	Elijah Watson, 12	Tahlaya Biglow, 09	Katherine Troutman, 12

"The Black Lives Matter movement has been able to move the world in a lot of different ways. It's really amazing to see, and I feel like I've learned a lot about how the real world works. I was shown the real world and now I know how to become a better man in the future because of it."
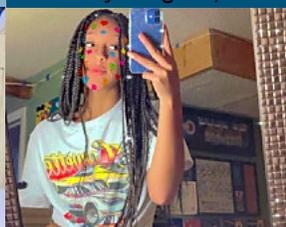
"I think the Black Lives Matter Movement has finally brought serious attention to an issue that should have always had that attention. It has influenced me to want to be more involved with petitions and simply talking positively about the movement to people around me. Every single person deserves to be treated equally in society, and we need to make sure we are establishing that change."

"I think it's really important that everyone expresses their opinions how they want to because not everyone is going to agree with you. It's just been so controversial that this country is so divided by the movement even though we're on the same side, but I think it's really important that we learn from the past and what has been happening around the world so we can be better."

"I feel like the BLM movement has impacted the world in so many ways, like helping build up low poverty communities, and helping Black owned businesses grow. It's also allowed different groups of people to come together and create a community. I've gained and lost some relationships from the movement, and it's affected how comfortable I am in public. This has brought light to a lot of problems surrounding race in America."

"I have seen the Black Lives Matter movement impact the world by bringing more attention to the hardships and unfairness minorities go through in every day life. I learned more about how to support the Black community and the truth about how minorities are treated every day. There needs to be more unity in the US and across the world,and the BLM movement has helped people come together and fight for equality for everyone."

Voices
from the
Crowd

INPUT FROM AN ARTIST

Sparta's students have always had many ways of showing the world what they are most passionate about. For some students, this is through voicing their opinions to others, going to protests and rallies, or creating art pieces to display their emotions on certain topics.

For Freshman Marley Harlow-Tafoya, the many movements that came about in 2020 and 2021 were enough motivation to draw the piece illustrated above. "I originally made the piece because I wanted to somehow work with the prompt for a PTA contest. The prompt was 'I matter because,' and the first thing that came to mind was the BLM movement and a lot of other major events of 2020. I made the hands reaching up to the ballots because I feel that it can be a struggle for people to speak their minds and be heard, trying to rise and and stand up for what they believe in," said Marley.

Other students have taken a more direct approach to their vocalization. Many have been spending their time educating others as well as themselves, whether it's through social media, personal discussions with friends and family, or reading books on topics that they're interested in. No matter how they choose to present it, Doherty students make sure to be loud and clear when it comes to putting "We Before Me."

Photos from Creative Commons Sources and the Doherty Community
Captions and copy by: Levi Schiff

What was the most memorable part of this past year?

Taryn Lindsey, Senior

"I'd say that finding out we could actually have a basketball season this year. That was definitely the best memory this year and I'm so thankful for that."

Maura Craig, Freshman

"Despite how dark 2020 was, the most memorable part was moving to Colorado and meeting all of my closest friends. It was the most amazing time and they've all helped me through so much."

Robert Root , Senior

"The most memorable part of this year for me was all the things I was able to do with my friends, like going to Pike's Peak, going camping, and driving around the city. It helped me realize that the pandemic wasn't going to stand in the way of my friendships."

Amelia Kuettner, Freshman

"The most memorable part of 2020 was 100% the beginning of lock down. I feel like that was one of the most stress free times of my life. There were no online classes, homework was easy, and the pandemic wasn't as bad. Plus I got way more educated on important topics like Black Lives Matter, and I really learned a lot about myself."

David Garza, Junior

"I went on a search and rescue call on Pikes Peak where we had to carry off an injured hiker who had broken her leg. After a long and exhausting 22 hours of work, we finished with the feeling of pride and accomplishment."

Jasmine Weeden, Sophomore

"The most memorable part of the last year was definitely when the pandemic started in early March and people were stocking up on tons of toilet paper."