



# Contributor Page

My name is Sage Bellot, I am a Junior at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber and I remember back at my first school all the shifted perspectives on history we learned about,. I wouldn't say the school was racist or anything but we would focus a lot more of things like the the Revolutionary War instead of anything remotely related to slavery or the lows of America so ever since I transferred schools I always thought that this was a topic that needed more coverage.

My name is My'zhae Smith, I am a Junior at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber and I remember my old school focusing on telling people's stories that are often overlooked, like Claudette Colvin. I thought that it was great to find out the truth behind the false stories that are often told and believe that we should work harder to debunk the stories that have been instilled in people's mind from such a young age, taking away from the truth.

My name is Elijah Allen-Morris, I am a Junior at Science Leadership Academy at Beeber and I remember learning about all topics types of history topics and I went out, saw many pieces of media based on history and some of it was completely or mostly different that the history that the media was based on. People can take a piece of history, change it, and some people just accept it without ever knowing the truth. I always thought that this was a topic that needed to be adressed.

I am Rashad Norwood. I am a highschool student who has gone through life taking a lot of the information that was fed to me at a young age at face value. I will never forget the 3rd grade class where I was told that Christopher Columbus was celebrated for discovering America. It wasn't until later on in life where I would find out the truth. It is stories like my own which are why I contribute to this zine (that and my grade for english). Being able to shine a light on truth and expose the skeletons in the closets of the people who have been spoon-feeding us lies for as long as we remember. (check out "The Shadkast" on Spotify, new episode this month.)

### IN HISTORY

If you tell my story

Make sure you tell the truth

The truth they tend to

Faint a story used for good

Like to educate the youth

For I have strived to live a life

That'll go down

That'll go down

History

If you speak of my ancestors
Make sure you paint them good
Not as broke thugs
Who grew up up in the hood
Not as slaves
And just the pain that they endured
With whites wishing well
And then suddenly they're cured
For they have lived a life
That'll go down
in
History

If you paint a hero Make sure you paint them all And not a white man Who wouldn't dare catch me if I fall Make sure its someone fearless And risked their life for me Like the powerful ones Who made my people free Make sure they're full of love Love that doesn't come with conditions Like the fake politicians Make sure they care Being selfless Even when nobodys there Just then They have lived a life That'll go down In History

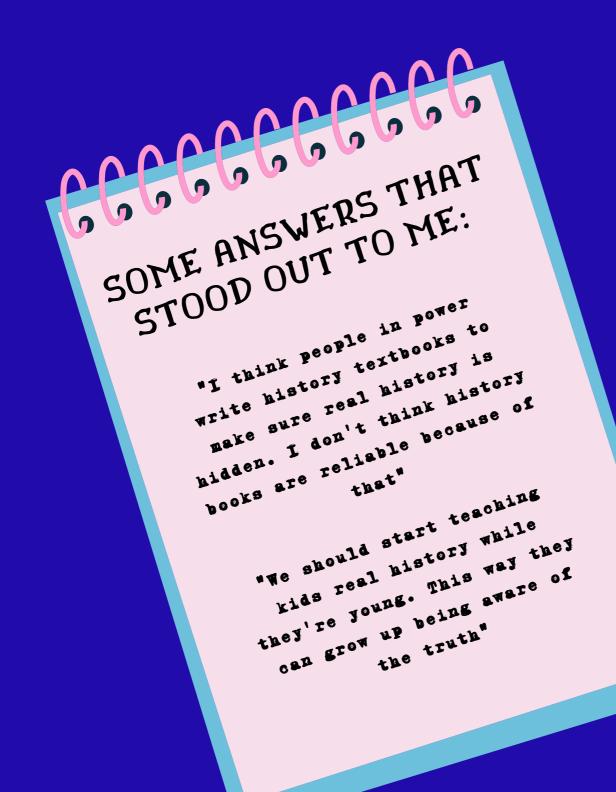




# INTERVIEWS

I interviewed three people about their opinions on history and the way its taught





#### Questions:

Thinking back to school, what was one of your favorite history lessons?

What is one thing that you believed was true, but later found out was false/ How did you feel about that?

Who do you believe writes/ makes history and how do you think that affects our lives?

Two Truths and a Lie (i did two rounds):

Christopher columbus didn't discover America, Jewish slaves built the pyramids, Vikings didn't wear helmets.

Did any of these surprise you?

How do you think we can stop painting false narratives in history?

Do yo think social media makes it easier to spread the truth and can help for generations to come?

## Man Made Myths

## About Women's Rights



Maya Salam "Women's History Myths, Debunked" The New York Times

March 1st, 2019. The article speaks about a lot of false accusations brought upon women's rights history and replaces it with the truth. Over the years it has been proven that a lot of history is false and paints the narrator as th heroin, which in many cases is the white male, Due to them having so much power and control over how stories and history is taught, they often change the story up to have the audience automatically be on their side. The writer of the article brings up Sally Wagner, a woman historian who brings up many of the shocking truths about women's history. Some believe that women didn't have rights until they began marching in the 1900's, when in reality native American women had power for 1,000 years. "Many people believed that women didn't have rights and that the movements started with them wanting to be able to vote, when in reality, women have been leading places alongside men before 1920. The article also brings up contraceptives. Contraceptives are still debatable to this day as well as abortions.

Many people believe that it is a modern day thing that shouldn't exist when in reality contraceptives date back past the 1800s. All in all this article only brings up a slither of the false narratives that America has put out and taught to children in school, and we the people

should fight for the truth.

Rewrite History



The Woman King
A movie based on the Dahomey,
A false narrative,
Paints over a dark history
& soon a story is accepted
As the truth,
They rewrite history
& and paint a pretty picture,
Empowerment
& Inspiration.

They rewrite history
& leave the masses without the truth.
We must dive into the research
and find the truth ourselves
When we have the truth,
We see past the lies,
Their pretty picture is worthless
When we know the truth of the Dahomey,
of what they did
They cannot try to rewrite this history.



Until lions have their **historians**, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunters.







The Woman King is the first significant film feature to tell the story of the Agojie in the United States. It also discusses Dahomey's involvement in the slave trade. Still, it glosses over the fact that the kingdom's participation was only momentarily halted in 1852 by the ruling monarch at the time.

The story of many characters is interwoven in "The Woman King," released last week. However, Viola Davis' portrayal of General Nanisca, the leader of the Agojie, in what she dubbed her "magnum opus" performance, receives the most attention. However, there is little written about the Agojie warriors, and the events that gave rise to the movie happened before photography was invented. Since the film is not a documentary, several depictions of the Dahomey world are the directors' opinions. However, according to cinematographer Polly Morgan, the team performed as much research as they could, locating any existing pictures of the women, examining the remnants of the palace's architecture, and learning about the lifestyle of the Dahomey people. The Woman King begins in 1823 with a successful raid by the Agojie, who liberate captives from the Oyo Empire's (a strong Yoruba polity in what is now southwest Nigeria) grasp who were headed for slavery. Dahomey had long paid homage to the Oyo, but under the direction of Ghezo and General Nanisca, it is starting to assert itself. In a separate storyline, Nanisca, who opposes the slave trade because of the horrors she witnessed firsthand, implores Ghezo to break Dahomey's tight ties to Portuguese slave traffickers and switch the nation's primary export from slaves to palm oil. Although in history, the bulk of those taken prisoner by Dahomey was sold into slavery overseas, a sizeable portion stayed in the country and worked on royal farms, in the army, or at the palace. In reality, it took years of pressure from the British government—which had abolished slavery in its own colonies in 1833—before Ghezo finally consented to stop Dahomey's involvement in the slave trade in 1852. Although Ghezo once looked at palm oil production as a potential alternative source of income, it turned out to be much less profitable, and the king soon resumed Dahomey's involvement in the slave trade.



### **President's Day**

They say history is written by the victors

But what if there was no fight?

Then I would say history is written by the leaders

George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and more

History is deceived by the writers

Treating their slaves worse than the gum on their shoes

History is altered with white out

Hiding facts and revealing lies

Slaves sleeping on the floor like the rats they slept with

Slaves building the white house from the black ashes

Slaves waking, making, raking, aching, shaking

History was written by the victors





This collage has a fancy figure (the closest I could find to a president) looking away from slaves working on a white house-like building. It's supposed to represent how they had slaves working on the white house at all times and how they wouldn't care for them and look away from them.

By: Sage Bellot

#### Presidents and their slaves

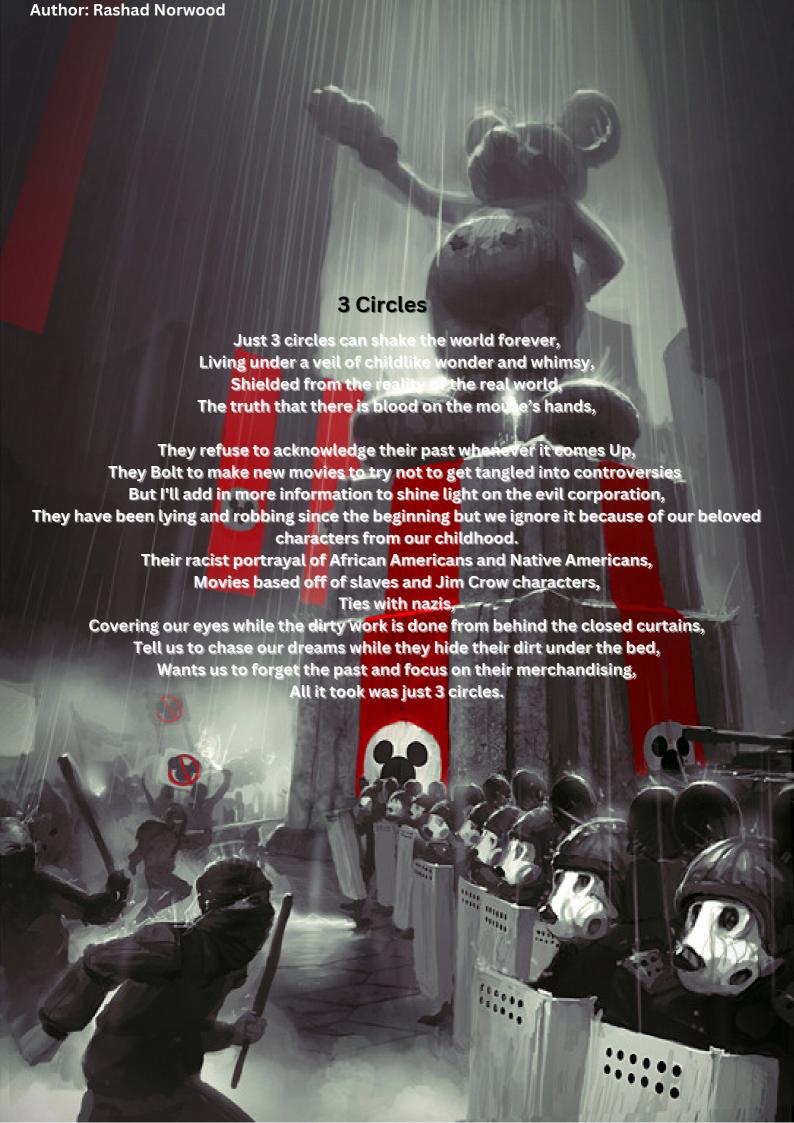


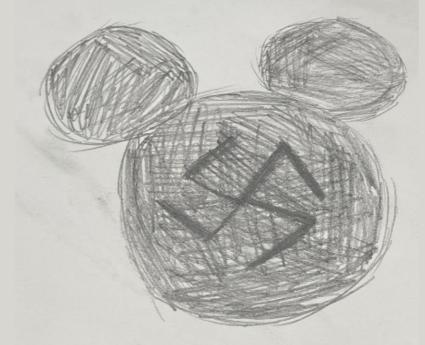
The glorification of history is no first world problem, but is a practice still used in many places including schools to this day. The lies whether intentional or not spread from generation to generation, increasing in numbers each time, leading more people to believe a false past.

Patriotism has been proven to be dangerous again and again leading to several deaths but one big stem of it is the glorification of history. Lies of the past that makes us more devoted to our country as we don't see the clear problems that were there. Phys.org says "The huge difference found between the participants in different countries have led Bobowik to conclude that 'the narratives of the past, the ones that determine how people understand history, likewise determine people's response to contemporary conflicts, and may go as far as influencing their willingness to get involved in specific military actions."

Many presidents such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, and several others have been praised for being great presidents but have also held slaves and done awful things that go unrecognized. There was always a myth that George Washington used to have wooden teeth but actually would be a combination of ivory, metal and teeth of his slaves (history.com). Teddy Roosevelt was a white nationalist even though being one of the most well known presidents.

Looks can often be deceiving, especially when there is bias in play. Even though they did do good things, that shouldn't overshadow the bad they have done and harm they have caused.





Disney is a very well known family household name. This juggernaut of a company is responsible for some of the greatest cartoons and animated movies targeted towards younger audiences. However we cannot ignore the dark history that Disney tried so hard to sweep under the rug. With Disney+ you can watch decades of Disney shows and movies from the comfort of your own home, but there may be a few movies or scenes that you won't find on the streaming site. With the addition of many of their older films, Disney has cut out movies like "Song of the South" and racist scenes in the beloved movie "Dumbo". "Song of the South" was an old Disney movie made right after World War II about a slave on a plantation who encounters a small caucasian boy and helps him cope with his family problems by singing songs of imaginary animals who magically come to life. Of course you could see why Disney did not want this kind of media on their platform in today's age. The infamous "Dumbo" scene that was cut from any modern copy is the one with the crow named "Jim Crow", depicted singing, dancing, and posing in the Jim Crow fashion. Lets not forget the iconic animation of Donald Duck yelling "hail hitler", surely Disney remembers such a gem. Now being as though Disney is still the giant empire that it is, it is safe to say that they are in a position where even though all of this is public information, they will still make billions regardless. It is kind of sad but there is only so much we can do, plus Disney owns marvel now and I wanna see the new Deadpool movie.



**Author: Rashad Norwood** 

#### Artist statement

I would think my most creative part of the zine would be my collage, the problem is I couldn't find a lot of the images I was looking for so I had to substitute them for similar things, I also think that my poem had information and flow behind it my biggest problem is I think it's a bit loosely connected. For my poem and poet I used Alice Walker's Torture because as it was part of our previous project I was already similar with how she had lines of repetition that slightly varied. My creative submission was basically showing what the poem was describing but again it might be a bit hard to interpret because the images I found weren't the closest to my topic.

I used images from the movies as well as images of what they actually looked like to give people a visual of the difference between them. I also added a quote of without the truth of both sides we would have a false narrative. I based my poem on Alice Walker's poem "Desire". I made the stanza similar in size and used hyperboles as she did in the poem. The best part of my section in the zine is most likely the Article. There weren't many photos of the Dahomey or other images from the movie that I could use for the collage but I think it is simple and looks nice

#### My' zhae

I think that the images I used on my pages helped contribute to the theme.

I based my poem off of Maya Angelou, I think its most in common with "Still I Rise" and "Phenomenal Women" because of its confident and empowering theme. Some political devices that I used were: repetition and alliteration. I tried to set my stanzas up in a similar way and used her method of speaking towards the audience in her poems.

My creative submission was a collage which has historical references and I added an image of a woman with a megaphone, I think that contributes to the article I read and my poem because it shows someone standing up and taking action towards changing history.

Rashad: For my poem, which was based off of the writing style of Alice Walker, I made sure to add metaphors along with imagery all while adding my own style to the poem. I wanted to add play on words and double entendre based off of popular disney movies. I wanted my art to be simple yet effective in the message that it is trying to deliver. My informative article does it's job at being the most informative of the three. I go into detail about the overall gist and history of my topic, which I am very proud of.

#### **References Page**

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