

Fierce Together

a TRUTH magazine

Edition Seed



colouring by Aleph

Nucchu
Territory

~Escalante Middle School Superlatives Winners~

Best Hugs----- Paloma Romero
Most Athletic-----Ximena Mendoza
Most Supportive-----Adrian Ramirez
Best Chef-----Karlie Romero
Most Imaginative----- Luca Adkins
Most Languages Known-----Alexa Lopez and
Lizette
Best Laugh-----PTISAWQUAH
Most Musical-----Adrian Ramirez
Most Artistic -----Kaleb Manheimer

Honourable Mention

LALA, Dedan Tulley, Aidan Dakari,
Sheiyo Lansing, Daeja Paecheo, Kaileen,
Lorenzo Chavez, Malicah,
Camila Almond, Ryan Montoya, Alergha,
Michelle, Ethan Flores, Raecolwin (Cole) Tso

Our apologies for misspelling of names.




Proudly Celebrating

YOUTH OF COLOR

Don't Judge
a Book BY it's

COLOR

Youth of color 

- Fun
- Awesome
- Safe Place
- Place to trust
- Kind People
- Never get Judged

This zine is an invitation for folks to **do better**



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organizations / GAMES /
Truth Report / Reparations

#1

4.26.20

Kurwa Jussiri



MADE IT HAPPEN.

Inmate Raskal,
Letters By: Marie Gallegas



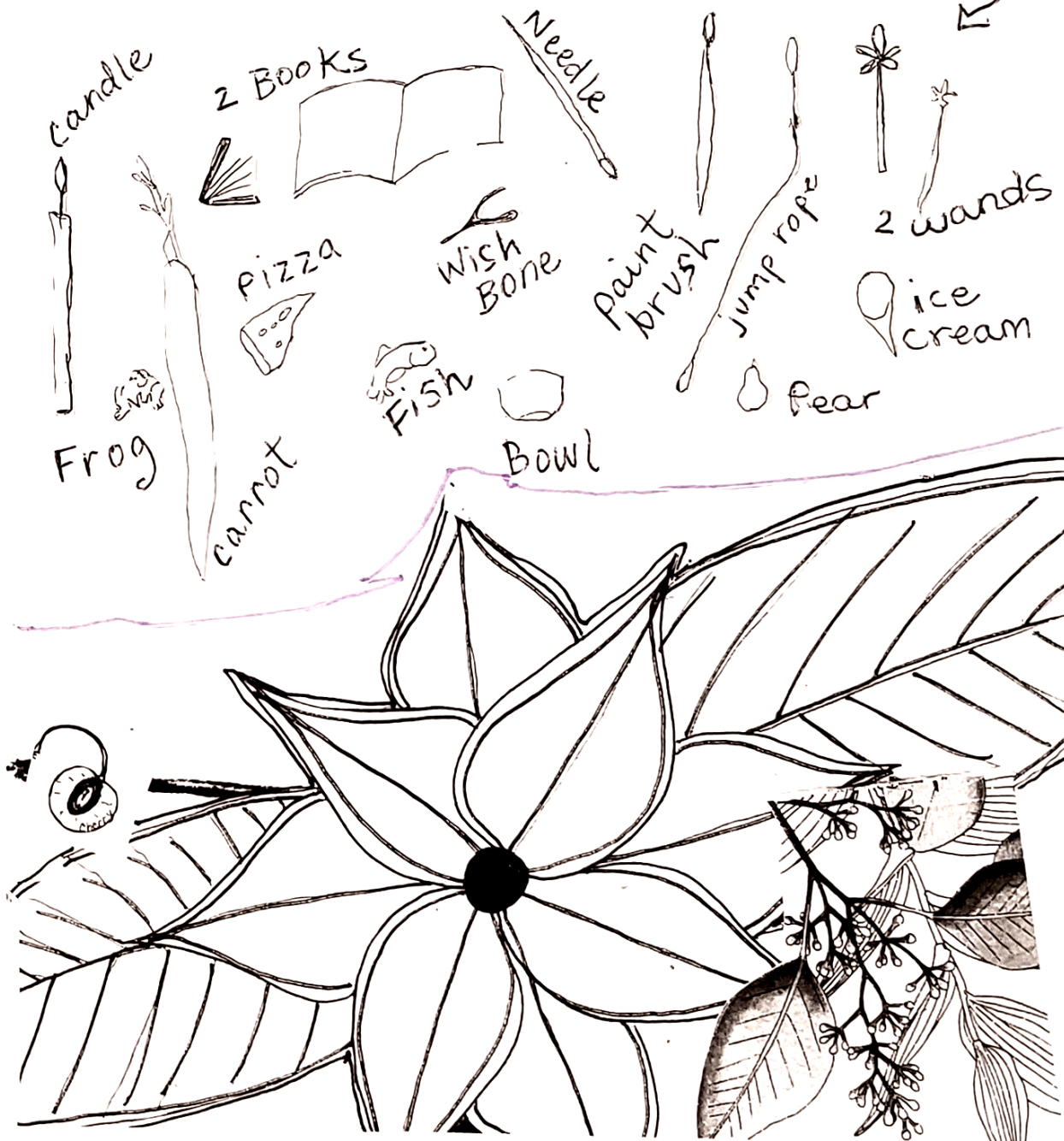
PROTECT YOUR
shine.

3

4

BIG NEWS:

Find these in the next image



COLOUR + PLAY



People Of Heritage Skills Directory

Seeds , Wellness Literature, Gardening
Authentic Creations Publishing Apothecary
Nyankontson Asani -
ArtisticApothecary.wordpress.com

Massage, Abdominal Therapy, Immigrant Advocate
Wendolyne Omaña - 970 946 8045 - Español

Mutton - Meat, Wool, Manure, Weaving. Cow Meat
Colleen Biakeddy - 928 940 0895, text message

Attorney At Law
Rhonda L. Tuni - 970 247 1755 rtuni@mbsslip.com

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Disability Advocate, Indigenous Music Networker
Ptisawquah - ptisawquah@gmail.com

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970 946 8495

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Kamaljit Punia - 970 903 9461



People Of Culture owned / centered Restaurants

China Cafe - 1525 Main Avenue

Himalayan Kitchen - 922 Main Avenue

Mongolian Grill - 1135 South Camino del Rio #230

Shops

Concrete SK8 Shop concretesk8.com

Happy Nails - 351 South Camino del Rio Unit F

Fort Lewis Clubs

Black Student Union

Native American Center

El Center de Muchos Colores (970) 247 - 7654

Community Groups

Compañeros -

Southern Ute Museum and Cultural Center -

Leaders Of Colour Luncheons -

Southwest Rainbow Youth - (970) 306-3555

Youth Of Culture Groups -

Add your contact email BeBraveGather@riseup.net

“Bring [this] into your life so that you can dismantle the racism in the white spaces of your life that People Of Color cannot even reach. People Of Color, talk to your people about race. Examine and confront your internalized racism. Make space to heal and rejuvenate.

Take care in your conversations, remember that you are dealing with real hurt of human beings. But be brave in that care, be honest in that care. These conversations will never become easy, but they will become easier. They will never be painless, but they can lessen future pain. They will... always be worth it.

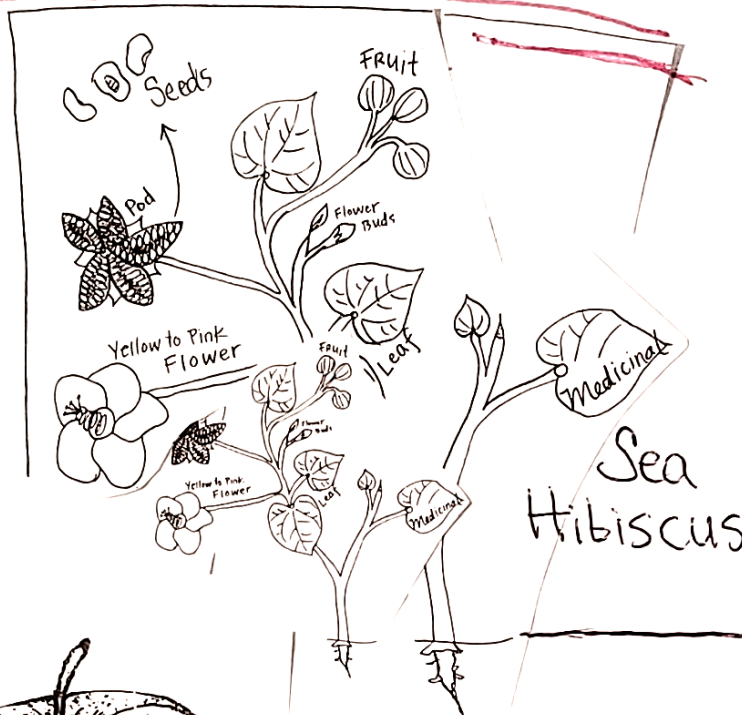
**-Ijeoma Oluo,
*So You Want To Talk About Race***



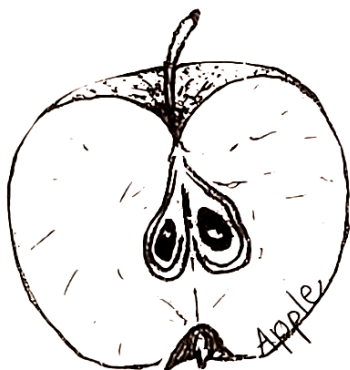
**SLAVE ECONOMY
INCOME INEQUALITY
REPARATIONS**



GAMES



Sea Hibiscus



Apples

Frogs



of each type
of image in
Zine

LOCAL NEWS

Truth Report

May you start and end mindfully. A reminder this is heavy work tied to generational trauma, if emotions arise for you stop and address them. Continue again intentionally when you are ready! Thanks for taking this on.

Music: My People Come From The Land By: Frank Waln,
Prayer: May we remember who we are and go boldly.

From direct requests from our community we enter our **10th year** of service and programming. We are a BY US, FOR US People Of Heritage focused grassroots organization. We also refer to ourselves with terms like People Of Colour, People Of Culture, and the Global Majority.

Long before this virus there was **racism- a global pandemic.**

capitalism
is a virus



colonialism
is a plague



indigenouaction.org

Over this decade, I, kuwa jasiri Indomela, have **stewarded this organization** while houseless and experiencing housing insecurity. Much of our work was supporting those in Nucchu Territory, “Durango, Colorado” and on the Dine’ Reservation. Due to my own negative experiences in “Durango” I have since relocated much of our solidarity network temporarily to Arapaho Territory, “Boulder” although we still have a vibrant connection to programming in Nucchu Territory.

“My Ancestry has been waiting for someone with my strength to carry their name.” - Bola Juju

“Durango” is a rural mountain town where we occupy 13.16% of the residency while 20% of us live below the poverty line while our white neighbours average 95,000\$ in net worth. In general, national hate crimes are on the decline but increased 16% in 2018 in “Colorado”; this may be tribute to the regional **Klu Klux Klan headquarters** in “Bayfield” that is still very active and sends recruits to Fort Lewis College in “Durango” where the suicide rate is 3 times the national average corresponding with inflated rates of mental illness and depression. We have about twenty public People Of Heritage focused organizations although few focus solely on health equity - like we do- they usually pop-up and fade out due to lack of centralized efforts or are college campus based and geared towards students who tend to leave the community.

Upon request we are adding a feature to this newsletter a **truth reporting platform** to amplify the narratives of our community. For you and other folks in the community that want to share your story and receive validation in a way that centers autonomy and safety.

In general, **accountability** is important to us along with **transparency**, so we want to be upfront about what we have in place to hold harmful people and establishments accountable. In general we offer mediation for restorative justice processes along with truth reporting, filing complaints, advocates trained in harm reduction, and a suicide crisis hotline.

“If you are seeking comfort you will not find truth, if you are seeking truth you will find comfort.” -Unknown

For the past 6 years many families we support, in particular those demanding respect, experience recurring instances of racism, sexism, genderphobia, classism and silencing where restorative justice circles were dismissed or used to further systems of power. Writing and reporting their stories here is a way to outlet the truth. Truth puts these families in greater risk of **harm and harassment from the white gaze**, so private details like names of people and places are kept, just that, private.

To advocate for others I had to face my own trauma. My lowest moment in this town was when I was making Art Modeling my career. I proposed two galleries show works of my genderqueer brown body. The truth is both venues canceled their showings of me two days before opening night after two months of planning. I still carry that rejection - truly so may my children - from a town I wanted to grow old in. I have since moved physically out of that area to focus on myself and receiving validation. stay rooted in the social network I nurtured while a resident.



We value supporting people directly, in inspiring ways that allow them to shine authentically. This Incidents Report in a labour of love, passion, hope, and truth.

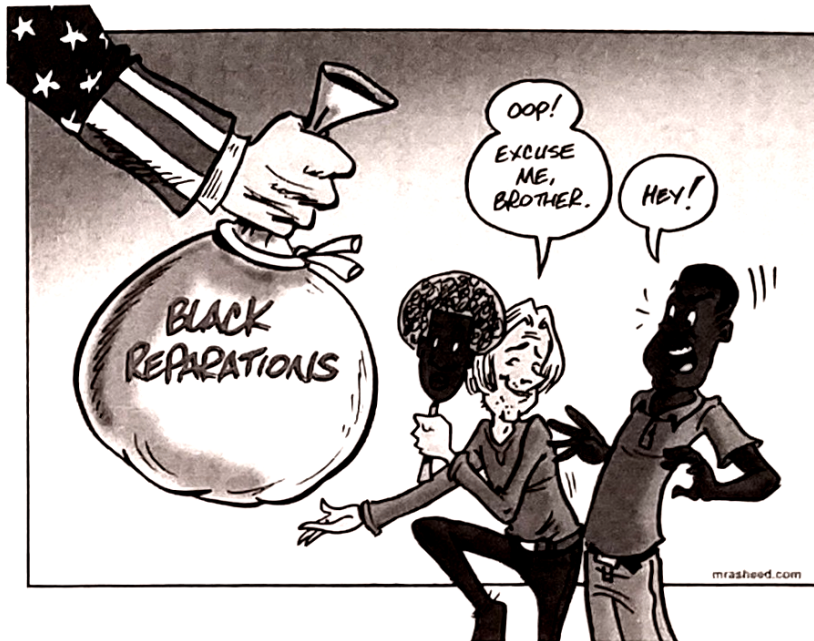
Privilege is rampant, worse yet unchecked privilege. Which has been fueling a campaign designed to demonize houseless folks such as the Sit Lie Act which prevents folks from lingering in public spaces.

Many folks we support are parents that have to navigate the **9-R School District** so their youth can receive a free education. This district is known for using restorative justice processes to assert their power and disproportionately suspend young men of color.

“Durango” claims to be a sanctuary town for immigrants even though **Immigration and Customs Enforcement** has an office, holding cells and targets folks at their homes and jobs.

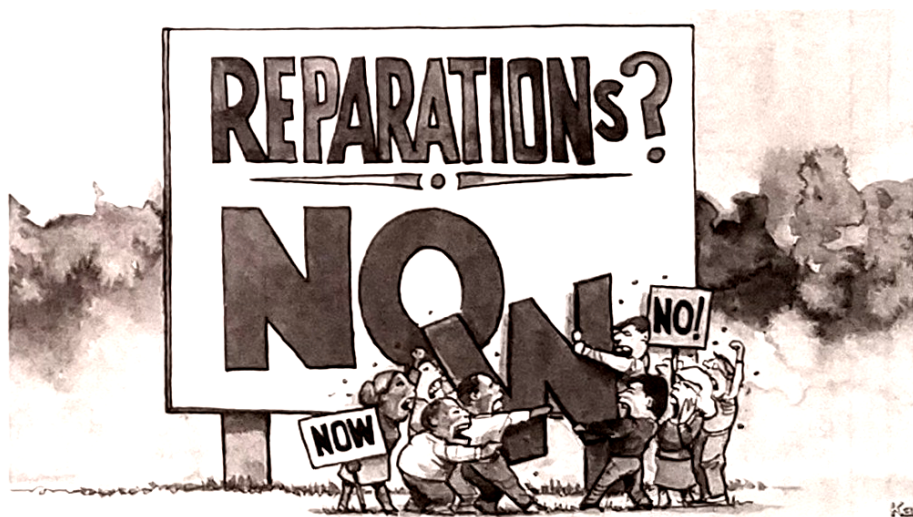
Durango Natural Foods Cooperative, decided to do nothing, after several reports of harassment and a direct request to deny service to abusive white males. Although the Deli has agreed to stop serving these problematic members of the community.

Trauma becomes ailments in our bodies. Health care and mental health professionals tell us to “develop a better skill set for people who are harming your life”. A clear indicator that they think we are the problem instead of the folks causing harm.



"...we can designate, dictate and deliver change ourselves. Not wait for politicians to grant us our humanity."

-Sumudzi and Anderson, *As Black As Resistance*



“dear friend, [when] you are feeling angry or hopeless try to remember why we are here. Take a break, breathe and we will hold your spot. We will persist together. We are here. And we are not leaving. Remember that keeping your heart soft is a radical form of resistance and even more powerful, persistence. -Liana Rios

At **government assisted apartment** complexes, there are neighbors (white men), who say “stay in your lane”, “watch your body” or else, “nigger”.

The apartment staff continues to ignore ongoing reports of abusive neighbors by several tenants for the past 10 years.

The **Southwest Center for Independence** specializes in disability justice although has over the years failed to support their clients of heritage sustain housing and employment.

This disrespectful behavior continues when threats escalate and the local **Police Department** is called. They are always a last resort for few instances, like robbery, physical threats, breaking and entering. The cops respond with “what do you want me to do” and “we do not like being called for domestic abuse”. We have many reports of law enforcement officers racially profiling, refusing to open cases, failing to investigate facts, inaccurately recording details and an increase of undercover cars.

The Herald, a local newspaper, routinely omits the narratives of our community of culture instead centering only whiteness.

Across the board, people, spaces, organizations, and institutions fail to report incidents, follow through with reports, or center marginalized folks, and too often side with abusers, systemic oppression and the status quo. More often the outspoken folks of culture and houseless folks are the ones that receive this extremely negative treatment.

**AMERIKKKA
PAY YOUR BILL
WE WANT OUR
REPARATIONS
NOW!**





EVERY BREATH MAKES YOU FEEL CLOSER TO NATURE.
+ NATURE FEEL CLOSER TO YOU.



**REPARATIONS
NOW!
WON!!**

REPARATIONS ORDINANCE FOR BURGE
TORTURE SURVIVORS PASSES IN CITY
COUNCIL! #RAHMREPNOW #REPARATIONSWON

Access Health Crisis hotline has men responding to emergencies involving toxic masculinity and takes over 50 minutes to respond to callers. To use this free health care it takes 3 attempts to schedule appointments.

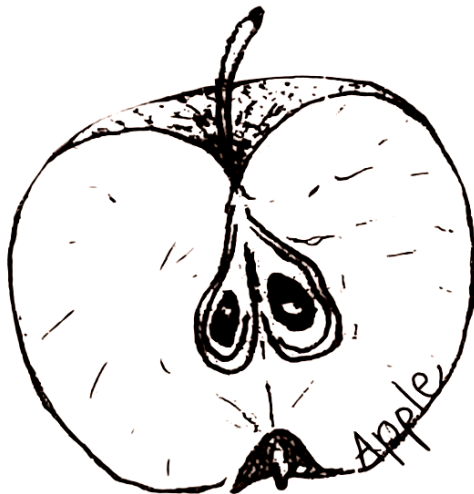
Where is the integrity “Durango”? If you thought differently we want to ensure you know “Durango” is NOT safe for the global majority. There is however a group of folks making space for us and continuing to warrior for truth. We are fatigued and are **demanding Allies to help us**.

We know the all so real generational treatment of our peoples. A trauma of physical harm without repercussions, accountability nor justice.

Being offered these exclamations “Bitch, Psycho, Cunt, Nigger” while parents hold hands with their children around the neighbourhood. A reminder hatred is taught by example.

*We ask that you pray for these members of our community
As much as ever this report shows why the need for our BY US, FOR US model is so necessary and truly one of the few resources with follow through.

This archive of truth is an opening for pale (white) folks to join our Ally team, offer resources as reparations and donate to our efforts.



Welcome To

TOGETHER: Multi-Cultural
Center

and
Heritage Garden



a BY US, FOR US

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

COMMITMENT
TO OUR
COMMUNITY

CARE

EDUCATION