Welcome back to a·loud

We are an antiracist, anticolonial student-run newsletter that shares work by BIPOC voices within the Steve Hicks School of Social Work

Storytelling is POWER
A black and white photo of a beautiful Taiwanese woman looking to the left and upwards with her head resting on her hand. Behind her head are red rays with concentric circles behind her in blues, greens, and teals. The background is a dark teal.
Race: any one of the groups that humans are often divided into based on physical traits regarded as common among people of shared ancestry – Merriam Webster

SHSSW puts a large emphasis on understanding our own identity and background. A large portion we talk a lot about in our classes being our ancestral history.

One of the questions that commonly asked was, “What race do you identify yourself to be?”

I am a Korean international student, who moved to the states 13 years ago. I identify as an Asian, but I was always uncertain how to respond with the race question.

Few years back, couple of pre-k students I use to tutor asked me what color skin I have, as we were learning about different colors.
I was hesitant to say “yellow”, as most people will tell me, as I find that most people use the term “yellow” in a derogatory term to describe Asian descents.

When I was reaching my hand to pick the yellow crayon, one of my students picked up a “salmon” color and said “Peach! You are not yellow! You are a peach person!”

Since then, I thought a lot about what I can say in empty boxes of interactive activities asking what race I consider myself to be. I appreciate my ancestry of being fully Korean and I appreciate the diversity at UT with students and faculty members with different backgrounds.

However, I find myself always being stuck on this one question – “what race do you identify yourself as?”

Because the answer is – I do not know.
I wake up to darkness, confused how it has gotten so cold inside my apartment. Rolling blackouts were supposed to be in effect.

I check the news on my phone to see my area has been declared a “non-critical electricity load”.

“Non-critical load?”

I can’t even begin to process this between stuffing towels under windows to minimize heat loss.

In the morning, I throw on another sweatshirt and check the news again. I see that phrase again, “non-critical load”.

“What does that mean?” I wonder, while I empty out my fridge of food that has spoiled.

I walk through inches of snow to the local gas station only to find it’s closed. With only cans of tuna, I think about how “critical” my needs are right now.

Huddled in my car for warmth while my phone charges, I continue to check the news. “It’s complicated,” they say to those of us without power.

I am exhausted. I go inside, it’s time for bed.

I light two small candles; they are not a significant source of warmth, but they comfort me.

As I fall asleep under a mountain of blankets, I am haunted by a phrase. “Non-critical load”

The next day my pipes are freezing and beginning to leak. My breath is fully visible inside my apartment.

Again, I think “Non-critical load”.

I realize this is just a nice way to say unimportant, disposable, and sacrificial.

Along with hundreds of thousands, I shiver in darkness for days. Waiting not for my government, but for my community to rescue me.
The Antiracism Student Task Force conducted a survey to understand how active SHSSW courses are in antiracism. The following are results from 65 student responses across BSW, MSSW, & PhD programs.

An average of 1.84 courses effectively promoted antiracism in Fall 2020.

An average of 2.59 professors acknowledged current social movements and social movements in the classroom in Fall 2020.

My courses this semester have:

- 2.59 professors acknowledged current unrest...
- Of the professors who acknowledged current unrest, these instructors only engaged in conversation about current social movements and antiracist action when students brought it up first.
We want to hear from you

Let your voice be heard through your art, songs, rants, essays—your creative musings in all forms. Below we offer some prompts as creative launch pads—these are prompts that sparked curiosity in the a·loud Newsletter Team, but these are not meant to limit your creative genius.

Respond to any of the prompts in the following page. Share your response through any medium or expression that feels right for you.
SEEKING HEALING JUSTICE

What does healing justice mean to you?

A LIMITLESS SPACE

This publication is constantly transforming, and it is your space. What do you feel compelled to share? What do you want your peers and the School of Social Work to know? Please use this section to share any content you feel needs to be shared.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, DIGITAL DESIGNERS, AND CREATIVE BRAINS!

A·LOUD is looking for a student created t-shirt design. We welcome any form of creativity. If you are interested in designing a logo for the A·LOUD t-shirts and getting paid for it, we would love to collaborate and connect with you at ALOUD.STF@GMAIL.COM
THE FINE PRINT

DUE TO A·LOUD’S POSITION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION, A·LOUD IS UNABLE TO PUBLISH CONTENT THAT EXPLICITLY NAMES INDIVIDUALS OR COURSES. THAT BEING SAID, WE WILL GLADLY COLLABORATE WITH YOU TO ENSURE THAT YOUR STORIES ARE TOLD AND HEARD WITHIN THESE BOUNDARIES.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

TO SHARE YOUR WORK, SUBMIT TO THIS LINK BY MAY 12, 2021. STUDENTS WHOSE SUBMISSIONS ARE PUBLISHED WILL BE PAID $25.00. WRITTEN WORK SHOULD BE NO MORE THAN 750 WORDS IN LENGTH, AND IMAGERY SHOULD BE CLEAR AND SAVED IN JPEG OR GIF FILE FORMAT.
Our mission is to elevate voices, support and amplify stories of people of color. This month, our communications team curated this round-up of a few of our favorite Austin artists of color.
Lifestyle Photographer

Artwork by Levi Thompson

@levijpg
www.levijpg.com
Seeking BIPOC Perspectives

Be a part of our team!

Would you be interested in reviewing submissions for this newsletter?

We are always looking for more folx to collaborate with. If you identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Student of Color and would like to play a part in reviewing and selecting submissions, please email us at Aloud.STF@gmail.com. This is not a recurring commitment. If you would like to offer your time once, we would love to have you. Rather stay awhile? Please do. Your input matters.

We also invite all students to join the Student Task Force conversation on Slack, by clicking here.