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FROM OUR LATEST ISSUE ON NEIGHBORS

DEMYSTIFYING THE DREAM THROUGH NATIONAL PARKS

BY KRISTEN FU

"Reading the plaques that detailed their stories of reclaiming tribal land and lifeways was both empowering and humbling. The connections between colonization and national parks became increasingly clear. Colonial violence against the Havasupai are part of what made the establishment of the Grand Canyon National Park on that land possible, yet this is not widely acknowledged outside of the reservation. Graffiti tags on trail signs that read "Respect existence or expect resistance" said it all: We must protect existence in a way that dignifies all of Creation, humans included, but also resists and dismantles all forms of oppression that threaten this dignity."

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LINKS WE THINK YOU'LL LIKE

HOW TRUMP IS HELPING TYCOONS EXPLOIT THE PANDEMIC: Vulnerable workers are technically hired by temp agencies, relieving poultry plants of accountability if documentation is lacking. Trump has weakened federal oversight of the industry, while accepting millions of dollars in political donations from some of its most powerful figures.

ANTI-ASIAN IMMIGRATION VIOLENCE IS NOTHING NEW: Instead of entering into gang life, Sarath Suong stumbled upon art classes offered by a local nonprofit. Through local community organizing, he was able to reframe the pain he saw around him. “They taught me that everything that was happening to me and my family and my people was not my fault. That there are larger systems at play. War, imperialism, capitalism, racism. My people were just being caught in it.”

ABOUT THOSE "LETTERS TO MY ASIAN PARENTS ABOUT ANTI-BLACK RACISM": “I’ve read a handful of these pieces now. Each time, I try to discern how the authors themselves would, if asked directly, explain and account for anti-Black racism by Asian-Americans. Most do not try at all – which is curious. The tenor of these pieces is that Asians must acknowledge their complicity in anti-Black racism, even if they are not white. Wouldn’t the next logical step be explaining, ‘well, why *are* Asians racist, even if they are not white?’”

TUNE IN, DROP OUT: In the face of social and professional pressure, many young South Koreans are simply opting out – and the economy is adapting to them. What constitutes being “alone” can be fuzzy, but it ultimately comes down to the physical and psychological boundaries one draws around oneself. At its core, *honjok* culture is about resisting South Korea’s establishment society and putting individual needs and desires above loyalty to hierarchy and authority.

A BEATBOXING BUDDHIST MONK: “It’s not that I wanted to gain attention for my ‘uniqueness,’ I just wanted to continue my passion for music,” he said. “In the same way someone plays the guitar or the drums, I myself am just a normal performer.” Yogetsu Akasaka was beatboxing even before becoming a monk.

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