SCHOOL’S OUT FOR SUMMER: BUT FOR MANY MIGRANT KIDS, THE HARD WORK IS JUST BEGINNING

You have to be at least 16 to get a job in the United States... right? It turns out that in the past five years, there has been a 70% increase in the number of children illegally employed by companies, according to the Department of Labor, and at least 10 states have introduced or passed laws rolling back child labor protections in the past two years.

An exposé published in March in the New York Times uncovered that migrant children under age 16 have been taking on very dangerous and grueling jobs, many that even adults don’t want to do. The exposé revealed that around the United States, predominantly migrant kids, some as young as 12 years old, are being hired to work in factories, meatpacking plants and even on construction sites.

Carolina Yoc, a 15-year-old who came to the United States alone from Guatemala, works night shifts in a Cheerios factory. She said to the Times that working all night and going to school all day has taken its toll on her health. “Sometimes I get tired and feel sick. But I’m getting used to it.” Kevin Thomas from Grand Rapids, Mich., began working for a company that manufactures car parts for Ford and General Motors at 13, according to the exposé. His shifts end at 6:30 a.m., making it difficult for him to stay awake during school. “It’s not that we want to be working these jobs,” explained Kevin in the report. “It’s that we have to help our families.”

Pushed by economic desperation made worse by the pandemic, the number of kids entering the United States has exploded over the last few years. When Biden’s presidency began, faced with the issue of having thousands of kids in cages—thanks to Trump’s child separation policy of 2018—the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) pushed for a policy of quickly and carelessly releasing migrant kids to sponsors. The exposé found children working for companies, laboring over giant ovens producing Chewy and Nature Valley granola bars, Lucky Charms and Cheetos.

Federal child labor laws, which are laws that restrict the age that someone can have a job, have been in place since around 1938. However, the Cheerios factory where Carolina works was full of underage workers, all of them at risk of serious injury, even death, because of the dangerous machinery. The exposé found children working for Hearthside Food Solutions, laboring over giant ovens producing Chewy and Nature Valley granola bars, Lucky Charms and Cheetos.

Lawmakers all across the country, instead of pushing to help these kids, are proposing bills in an attempt to roll back the child labor laws which protect them. A bill presented by Minnesota state Sen. Rich Draheim would make it legal for 16-year-olds to work on construction sites. A proposed bill in Iowa would allow for children as young as 14 to work in extremely dangerous industrial facilities. Nebraska senators want to allow companies to pay minors less than minimum wage. Many are also pushing for kids not to be covered by workers’ compensation, meaning that employers are not responsible if workers get injured or killed at work.

Top Senate Democrats sent a letter to HHS and the Department of Labor in March stating they were “deeply disturbed” that “large numbers of unaccompanied noncitizen children are being placed with exploitative sponsors and working long hours in dangerous conditions,” and were demanding answers. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives introduced a bipartisan bill that would increase nearly tenfold the fines on employers who illegally hire children. “Children should be in school,” said Democratic Rep. Hillary Scholten of Michigan, who introduced the bill, “not factories with dangerous working conditions.”
Will TikTok’s New Safety Measures for Kids Actually Keep Them Safe?

By Malyah Ledesma • age 11

In the world we live in today, we rely on technology more than the second, so it’s important to educate young kids on how to be safe online. TikTok announced in March that they would be implementing a new default setting with safeguards for young users. Kids under 13 now have a 60-minute app limit for TikTok applied by default. Over the age of 13, a parent will have to enter a password that extends the screen time by 30 minutes. Meanwhile, kids 13 or older can get access to their own private and continuing content. Similar to Facebook, TikTok will also continue to monitor the transactions that they spend and will not remove content if it is not required to set their own limit, though they can easily bypass this with the code.

TikTok believes these measures can influence teens to be a little more conscious with the time they spend on social media. However, many believe that these measures aren’t enough. It seems like teens to be a little bit more conscious with their time on social media. However, many believe that these measures aren’t enough. It seems like teens can easily bypass this with their code.

Now, More Than Ever, Trans Kids Need Our Support

By Anya Rothman-Cimino • age 11

Recently, legislatures across the country have been slowly but surely taking many trans youths’ rights. According to the White House Press Secretary, Jen Psaki, approximately 400 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced already this year. During an interview on The Daily Show, President Joe Biden spoke out against the anti-trans bills in Florida, saying, “What’s going on in Florida, as is my mother would have said, close to the heart. Florida has been aggressively targeting trans rights for some time now, including restricting anti-trans bathroom bills, attacking their healthcare and enacting stripping parental rights from parents who support transgender children through therapy. “The same leaders that test freedom,” said Diane Pierie of the Florida House in a press release, “supported the law for their freedom. Their law is not available to everyone. We can all work toward a future where our children are supported by the law. The high death toll in Turkey is a result of the lack of governance on the region to set up buildings without planning permission or proper safety regulations in place. This is usually allowed by authorities for short-term financial reasons.

Reconstruction is estimated to cost $78.4 billion, according to the Turkish Interior and Business Confederation. Experts say that rebuilding should happen with new zoning change and zoning laws in mind. Buildings can be redesigned to withstand weather conditions by reducing walls of insulation, thinking about sun exposure, building reflection roofs, and installing window treatments.

U.N. Reaches Agreement to Protect the High Seas

The world’s governments reached an agreement in March that the U.N. High Seas Treaty, an international pact to protect marine life and stop overfishing, will go into effect. The high seas are international waters where no nation can claim ownership, and it is where a lot of pollution and overfishing happens. The high seas are home to thousands of marine species, but they have never been fully protected under international law because most fishers are not from a country that has a coastal claim. The treaty will allow countries to create marine reserves to protect species from overfishing and pollution. It will also allow for the regulation of fishing practices and the protection of marine biodiversity. The agreement is a significant step forward in protecting the world’s oceans and their inhabitants.
## Did Colonialism Pave the Road to a Climate Crisis?

F or the first time in its 30-year history, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report used the word "colonialism" when discussing the impacts of climate change. The IPCC report, which was published in April 2022, stated that colonialism has exacerbated the effects of climate change and has made particular communities more vulnerable to its effects.

Colonialism is defined as the premise of power and access to valuable resources like wood, oil, and even people. By plundering Native lands in order to obtain resources, colonizers posed the way for the destruction of ecosystems, which in the long term has severely affected our climate.

The IPCC report states that colonialism is an ongoing driver of climate change. "Officials and countries from around the globe now recognize the significant role colonialism has played in heating our planet and destroying many of the "miracles," said the report. Climate change is viewed as the exploitation Earth’s land, which is also a fundamental principle of colonialism. Many Indigenous communities collaborated for the protection of the environment, but now more research gain at the expense of our planet.

During the early years of colonization, Native American agriculture around the world was replaced with cash crops such as sugar, cotton, and tobacco, which were exported to boost the European economy. This was detrimental to the local ecosystem, negatively affecting soil health and biodiversity, and made countries particularly susceptible to diseases. This is not a system—or, the growing of single crops instead of many—which led to the local ecosystem becoming more vulnerable and affected soil health and tobacco, which were exported to boost the European economy.

### Interview with Native American Scholar, Charlie Amáyá Scott

#### NIKOL SARBES • age 9

#### Charlie: The first language that I learned was Navajo, which is my own community’s language. But when I became a kindergartner, and then went through middle school, I had to become more fluent in English in my own language. And unfortunately, I’m not fluent in my Native language anymore, and it has taken the basic structures in it high school education, when I was able to take a Navajo language class.

#### NIKOL: How do you think not being able to use your first language in school impacted you?

#### Charlie: Language is really important, because how you understand yourself, how you share yourself with the world is really rooted in how you’re able to speak about yourself. With me being unable to speak my own language, there’s a loss in that, because I can’t be able to share myself in a way with other people. In Navajo, (when you meet someone), you’re able to tell them who you are, where you come from, but also who your relatives are, just by the way you introduce yourselves. And yes, you can say it. In English, but there’s more meaning behind it when it’s done in Navajo. Colonialism also affected our language use, as there are stories that we are now unable to translate because (many of us) don’t have the fluency needed. As someone who loves my culture and my community not being able to speak the language is a real hard thing.

#### NIKOL: In your opinion, do you think that colonialism still creates problems within our societies today?

#### Charlie: Yes, colonialism is still a big problem today. And the thing is, it not only impacts Native people. It actually affects everyone within the United States. That is because colonialism as this system which has assumed ways of being and ways of living that really affects the land and to people. Indigenous people think of land as a relative, like a brother, a mom, or a grandpa. (Within colonialism), land is seen as a resource, as something you can own, lease or steal. This means that land is no longer seen as something to protect and live side by side. Rather, it is somewhere we can save nature. And that type of idea also affects how people interact with each other. So instead of people seeing each other as friends and family, we [begin to] see people as enemies, or only care about how we can use people for our own benefit, our own gain. It makes people feel like they have to be take, take, take instead of give, give, give.

#### NIKOL: Would you say that colonialism has had a significant impact on climate change?

#### Charlie: Yes, I do think colonialism is a factor in creating climate change. Because of all the take, take, take, resources are being taken away from people and moved to other places, which changes how the land moves. When the United States government killed all the buffalo within the Dakotas, for example, that created a huge problem within the ecosystem, because the animals that rely on the buffalo no longer have a food source, as well the trees. And then the land is moved to the point where they aren’t able to recover. In my community, they over-tapped the old environment, and that it should stay within the ground. But because they’re no longer tending the ground, it affected how plants grow, and ultimately the whole ecosystem. Colonialism is related to where you are and the point to where they aren’t able to recover. In my community they created a lot of oil and gas, and then it’s toxic. Burning oil or burning fossil fuels is also causing more to be in the world or to stay in the world, which is not helping us. And does this mean any decolonization mean to you?

#### Charlie: No, what steps can we all take to decolonize our society?

#### NIKOL: I think the most important demand of Indigenous peoples is really important for decolonization. The thing is, how can we really make decolonization happen is that we must start understanding, of course, that Indigenous peoples have their own language and their brilliance. And we’ve really got to listen to what they have to say, especially when it comes to the environment.

#### NIKOL: What can we do about the language?

#### Charlie: Well, when it comes to delivering the message, there are a lot of ways. For example, when it comes to the environment, there are a lot of ways. There are stories, songs, and dances about it. But the most important thing is that we learn from them. And when it comes to decolonization, it means to say that we must respect the languages and the people of the Indigenous peoples. And, it’s really got to listen to what they have to say. There is no other way to do that.
A FREE PAPER FOR KIDS, BY KIDS

Meet IndyKids Reporter: 9-Year-Old Nikhil Sabnis! INDYKIDS STAFF

Nikhil Sabnis • age 9

The devastating consequences of a world without animals

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ • age 10

I was so excited to find IndyKids. I was trying to think of ways to show other youth that have just as much of an impact to our community as anyone else, and IndyKids was it. I think that we should have more youth voices, especially when it comes to social justice news, many people would not be aware of these

Nikhil: What motivated you to become a kid journalist?
Nikhil: I have always been interested in the news. I have watched the TV show Frozen Zebras on PBS space. I was little, and I was learning about social and political around the world I was so excited about the opportunity to become a published journalist and write about social issues that care about.

Nikhil: What did you get involved with IndyKids, and what do you enjoy about your workshop?
Nikhil: I wanted to learn how to be a journalist and started researching on my own. I was so excited to find IndyKids. The workshops are amazing! They assign you a topic in line with your interests and mentor you through the entire process.

Nikhil: Why do you think social justice news reporting is important?
Nikhil: It's important to raise awareness about issues concerning fairness, equality and equity. Without social

JEREMY RAMIREZ • age 11

S

straw and coil them up

whether or another sheets into tight straws. Roll the ends of the paper with tape or glue.

Once you have enough newspaper

The Youth Climate Strikers, led by FFF, made another Youth Climate Strike on March 13, 2020, to protest against climate change. As the sun rose, the chants of “People our profit” rang through the air. This annual event was to protest against climate change and to support the frontline workers fulfilling the demands of climate activists.

The decision to ignore the whole climate crisis, making it even more crucial to continue to advocate for environmental protection and restoration.

The devastating consequences of a world without animals

JENNIFER HERNANDEZ • age 10

We Didn't Know We Needed

LUCA CANTAGALLO • age 13 and INDYKIDS STAFF

The 40 Fruit Tree

We didn’t know we needed

The Tree of 40 Fruit does exactly what its name suggests: It grows 40 different fruits in one tree! Sam, the founder and executive director of the nonprofit Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, believes that the tree is an excellent way to educate the community about the native fruits and also engage younger people.

At present, Sam has created 16 such trees, placed at community centers around the country. Sam’s latest project is a community rooted in Maine, where he hopes to educate the local community about the native fruits and also engage younger people.

As the group grew, the chants of “People over period. Period, period, period.” Despite this, on March 13, the Biden administration approved the

Amáyá Scott was a 28-year-old transgender scholar, advocate and social media influencer who lives in Aurora, Colo. She grew up in Chinle, Ariz., in the center of the Navajo Nation. Charlie, who uses “she” and “they” pronouns, is currently working on her Ph.D. in education at the University of Denver.

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To help the next generation to

We Didn't Know We Needed

JEREMY RAMIREZ • age 11

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation presents: Upcycled Newspaper Picture Frame!

INDYKIDS STAFF

Worrying what to do with that pile of newspapers? Why not create cute crafts and upcycle some old picture frames!

What you'll need:

• Scissors
• Old newspapers
• Glue
• Tape
• Old picture frame
• Knitting needle or toothpick

First:

Start by cutting the newspaper sheets into tight straws. Roll the ends of the paper with tape or glue.

Next:

Once you have as many newspaper straws as you need, flatten the straws and cut them up into tight circles.

Lastly:

Decorate your old picture frame by putting the newspaper straws down into a pattern.

Send us your pictures on Instagram to dinkids JAVA!

LUCA CANTAGALLO • age 13 and INDYKIDS STAFF

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A Snapshot of My Life, by IndyKids reporters

My biggest strength / My favorite thing about me

Both my biggest strength and my favorite thing about myself is my ability to adapt in many different situations. No matter where you put me or what you do to me, I will find a way to make it advantageous for me.

Aisha Biddiqua Hassim, age 13

I’m really good in awkward situations and have a talent for art. I find myself to be a hard worker, as well.

Clara Wenig, age 14

I’m really good at writing. If I have to do writing work, I don’t worry so much since I can always figure out what to write.

Chris Ramírez, age 11

My favorite thing about me is that I’m kind and funny.

Abigail Bodden, age 10

I’m very good at social studies. My favorite thing about myself is that I joined the debate team in my school, which is something I never thought I could do.

Ayna Rothman-Cimino, age 11

I’m good at learning things fast. I’m also very good at doing sketches and giving them highlights.

Yoremaily Maldonado, age 10

My favorite thing about myself is that I am good at many languages.

Muhammad Hasanin Hassim, age 10

My biggest strength is being flexible when it comes to new hobbies. I am always open to trying to find a new thing that I may enjoy. My favorite thing about myself is that I am good at listening to and helping others.

Juan Cintagallpa, age 13

My favorite thing about me is my ability to paint. I find it so calming. My biggest strength is reading chapter books and creating my own ideas to create a new story.

Jennifer Hernandez, age 11

I’m good at learning things fast. I’m also very good at doing sketches and giving them highlights.

Yoremaily Maldonado, age 10

My favorite thing about myself is my personality.

Kaylany Minaya, age 10

Getting Wild With... Orangutans!

Orangutans are apes which are found deep in the forests of Indonesia. Orangutans only live on two islands, Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia; however, 100 years ago, they could be found all around Southeast Asia. With an arm span of up to seven feet, they have no problem moving through trees. They can weigh more than 90 kilograms, making them the heaviest tree-dwelling animal. Orangutans spend 80% of their time in trees and can live up to 40 years. There are three species of orangutan: the Bornean, the Sumatran and the newly confirmed species (as of 2017), the Tapanuli. However, there are just 104,700 orangutans left in total.

These beautiful orange creatures are threatened by deforestation, where trees are cleared usually for agriculture or infrastructure purposes. Many forests are cleared to make way for palm oil plantations. Palm oil is often used in the food industry and can be found in chips, peanut butter and pastries, as well as thousands of other items.

Orangutans are also often killed by hunters. They are big and slow and are easy targets. Many are killed for food or because they have destroyed a farmer’s crops. Sometimes, orangutans will eat crops because they can’t find any food in the forest.

If nothing is done to save these friendly giants, they will soon go extinct forever. The World Wildlife Fund has been working on the conservation of orangutans since the 1970s. It attempts to conserve orangutan’s habitats, prevent poaching and promote sustainable agriculture. The Orangutan Project has also been working to safeguard the remaining rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra.

We can all try to help orangutans by seeking eco-friendly replacements for palm oil, such as olive and grape seed oils. These animals need our help if they are going to survive and not meet the same fate as the Tasmanian tiger and the dodo.

KAYLANY MINAYA • age 10

IndyKids STAFF

P I M P E R I A L I S M G J A
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Wordsearch

Migrant Earthquake Pronoun Colonialism Language Conservation Bipartisan Legislation Billionaire Culture Inequalities Amnesty Transgender Treaty Imperialism Orangutan

Thank you for your continued support!

Now more than ever, we need sources of media for our youth that center the stories of people of color, immigrants, women, workers and LGBTQIA+ communities. IndyKids is the nation’s only social justice-oriented newspaper written by kids for kids. Now in its 18th year in print, IndyKids is distributed to classrooms and households in 35 states, helping thousands of youth think more critically about the news of the world. Plus, it’s free and ad-free!

Subscription costs cover only the cost of mailing issues to subscribers. We rely on donations to cover all other costs of producing IndyKids and running our Kid Reporter Program, through which more than 800 youth have been trained as journalists.

Can you contribute today to help us continue printing IndyKids and training the journalists of tomorrow? Thank you for your continued support!

Give online today at:
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To donate via mail, send a check made out to “IndyKids” to P.O. Box 2281, New York, NY 10163