Kaylee Warfield

Penny Dearmin

November 3, 2016

Manifesto

Wake America Up Again

 On November 9th, 2016 at 3:12 am, republican candidate Donald Trump was elected as the next President of America.

 After hearing the news, I sat awake on my bed complete silence. I remember feeling like I should call someone; maybe my mom or dad or something… Almost like that cliche call you’re supposed to make before the world ends. But then I realized, who was I supposed to call at a moment like this? And what would I say if I made that call?

 I kept telling myself that if it’s in God’s will, then it was meant to be for a reason, and that reason would work out. But how could I continue to trust God when he could allow this tragedy to happen? I could not believe that this is what our country, the United States of America, truly is. Of course some didn't like Bush, and some didn't like Obama, but this is different. Forget dislike. Many are genuinely fearful now. This is new.

 I sat in my bed, heavy hearted and hot. My body was in shock and I couldn't move. There were no words to describe the way I was feeling at that moment, besides numb. Although I was so angry, so embarrassed, and so devastated that the Unites States allowed this asshole to be elected into office, I became numb to the situation. I had to be numb.

 As an African American Woman, I no longer felt safe in my country. I didn't even feel safe in my own home. I had to be numb to it all, in order to survive. What this election has shown me are all the closeted racists I used to think of as friends.

 This so called “great" country we live in made an even greater error in judgement. By electing Trump into office, America has taken 20 steps back in terms of progress we have made in our country; our society as a whole. African Americans, Hispanics, Muslims, Women, LGBTQ or any other oppressed groups in America must stick together stronger than ever now because more than half of this country doesn't care about you. Ok, got it. I heard you loud and clear white America. What a privilege it must be to be able to look past the racist morals of the United States next President because it won't ever affect you.

 There have been many times in my life where I have been angry or disappointed. But I can truly say that after the results of this election, I have never been so angry and disappointed in my life. I didn't think this was who we were as a country, but I guess I was wrong. Very wrong. And of course I want to believe that this is all part of God’s will, and I know that he wants me to trust him right now; I know God wants us all to trust him right now… but I don't know how at this point in time.

 How does America go from their first black Presidents to a President endorsed by the KKK? How? This was a white lash. This was a white lash against a changing country. This was a white lash against a black President. That's the part where the pain comes from, and Donald Trump has a responsibility now to reassure that he will be President of all American people, even those he has assaulted, offended, or brushed aside. When he says he wants to take his country back, there are a lot of people who feel that they’re not represented in that.

 In this election, the adults who have helped raise me told me that rape, sexual assault, racism, and xenophobia is okay if it means lowering taxes. In this election, boys who have been like brothers to me are saying it's okay to treat women grotesquely and cruelly. As a woman, I am devastated. As an environmentalist, I am grieving for our planet. As a friend, I feel broken for the LGBT community and the progress they have made. As someone who was taught to see different races and colors as beautiful in this country, I am furious. I am furious that a contrary belief permeates this country. I am furious that a lot of the people who instilled this in me seem to have forgotten. And because of this, I am a mess of raw emotion.

 Yet as embarrassed, disappointed, and just disgusted I am in America, it is important that we identify the hate that still fuels a majority of the country. So the fight begins. The fight for equality, acceptance of religion, all around love, and the American right to feel protected when starting a new life here. I will not let Obama's legacy become unhinged because of the man our country has mistakenly elected into office. Donald Trump has tarnished the value of what it means to be President.

 What we must come to realize is that all of the ignorant citizens who have elected this monster into office either didn't take time to educate themselves on behalf of both candidates, or voted for him because their privilege will only be heightened as a result of making him America’s President. Even after all of the despicable and unforgivable things Trump has done or likely said during this election run, he was still elected, and that infuriates me to my core.

 But this is what I do know. I know that America is already great, and has been great for decades. I know that the millennials of our time have most likely been better educated than the old time conservatives who do nothing but watch Fox in their lazy boy all day. I know that our country’s future has the potential to be better, but only if we stand up, together, hand in hand, and fight for what is right for what we want tomorrow to be. In my heart, I know that there will be a better tomorrow because I know the strength and intellegence this generation carries. I can feel it in my bones that there is about to be a revolution, and we all need to be ready to fight together; to fight against bigotry and hate with education and love. If we fail to do this, his reign over our country’s past legacy will continue to be destroyed only pushing us back further in time. And so it begins America…this will be a revolution to be televised.