

I Know You're Sorry — Leonard Sumner

All is not forgotten
When someone is forgiven
Words I say to soften up
The hardness that I'm livin'

I hate to say indifference
Is becoming my religion
But I haven't learned to pray
In ways to satisfy tradition

When I think about identity
I think about my language
And how my folks were taught
It would be to my advantage
To learn a foreign tongue
They could not foresee the damage

Damn shame when it happens
you don't see it til it passes
So where's all the support
For Anishinaabemowin classes?

Assimilation tactics
left no room for us to practice.
And I really wish I could adjust.
I really wish I could have just
Listened with my heart and not my ego

I was fragile
Conditioned by the world to think my culture wasn't
passed down
But I learned the generosity
It's in my genealogy
So f#*k all the bureaucracy
And keep all your apologies

I know you're sorry but...
You're more lost than me
Your land's across the Ocean
and I'm right where I should be.

I reckon this damn nation
Will force reconciliation
Down the throats of our survivors
And the people it's displacing

I know you're sorry.

And now you call on me
To fix the broken hearts
Created by your policies

These are the things that I think I know
I am but a leaf on a tree that grows
With roots in the ground,
Like a seed that's sown
In the dirt of the earth
Is where I was born
And it's where I will return
When this journey ends
And I've earned what I have learned

So tell me to get over it
I'm so f#*!*@n' over it
Steal everything in sight
And teach me 'bout -private ownership
Bleach everything you like
And preach me 'bout pride of ownership
Leech my inherent rights
And tell me that I never owned this shit

As generations pass
You'll act as if you never noticed it
While there's kids committing suicide
As a way out of the hopelessness

I know you're sorry.

You say you're not to blame.
Fill your heart to brim with guilt
But not an ounce of shame.
Break branches off our family trees
And tell us times have changed

But the focus of this genocide
At root remains intact,
So instead of killing Indian kids
Why don't we kill this Indian Act.

“The first recorded slave purchased in Canada was a child of eight years of age, Olivier Le Jeune. He arrived in 1628.”

- Dr. Rosemary Sadlier

IMAGE: **Black protestors protect a police officer separated from his squad in Kentucky** – Michael Clevenger /Louisville Courier Journal
SEE: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/06/06/breonna-taylor-protesters-protected-lone-impd-officer/3166914001/> (3 down)

Tyrone Edwards shares why he can no longer remain silent about racism | The Social

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/H0gdHA-W5hA>

“Do you see it? Do you see it?” - **Islamaphobia**, by Rudy Francisco, Natasha Hooper, and Amen Ra

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/8Qf9onCjdUA>

Shadism, by Nayani Thiyagarajah, Trailer - WATCH: <https://vimeo.com/216592552>

“The definition of a ‘racist’ is not only a measure of the frequency, intensity and duration of racist acts, nor is it connected only to acts of violence...(it) is related to race-based differential treatment involving notions of superiority and inferiority of one race over another, enforced by power.”

- Dr. Rosemary Sadlier

When you ask me what white privilege is, I would say it is this power you have to not notice. When you ask me what white supremacy is I would say it this power that you have to be angry when I notice...” DeReau Farrar, Musical Director at First Unitarian Portland (Testimony) - WATCH: <https://www.firstunitarianportland.org/director-music-dereau-farrar-offers-testimony/>

“..To the colour blind, no disrespect but if you don't see colour you don't see me neither”

- **The Warriors**, Snotty Nose Rez Kids - WATCH: <https://youtu.be/1lyZlj1GrTs> (warning: some explicit content)

Schooling The World Trailer. A documentary, by Carol Black, on how white colonialists have and continue to use education as a tool “to create an extractive economy that serve(s) the few at the expense of the many” WATCH: https://youtu.be/FnzVNO_J6sk

“It is urgent for us and our churches to acknowledge our complicity and participation on the perpetuation of racism, slavery and colonialism, or we are not credible.” - Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network Steering Committee

More Than Hate Crimes – Noor Cultural Centre on Islamophobia WATCH: <https://youtu.be/ZfXni1R8fvg>
LINK to others in series: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0o7l-8OT0aLrmK8hsljwPA>

I cannot continue to emotionally exhaust myself trying to get this message across, while also toeing a very precarious line that tries not to implicate any one white person in their role of perpetuating structural racism, lest they character-assassinate me...The balance is too far swung in their favour. Their intent is often not to listen or learn, but to exert their power, to prove me wrong, to emotionally drain me, and to rebalance the status quo. I'm not talking to white people about race unless I absolutely have to. If there's something like a media event or conference appearance that means that someone might hear what I'm saying and feel less alone,

then I'll participate. But I'm no longer dealing with people who don't want to hear it, wish to ridicule it and, frankly, don't deserve it.”

- **Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race**, by Reni Eddo-Loge – READ/LISTEN: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/30/why-im-no-longer-talking-to-white-people-about-race>

'Polite' racism infects Canada says Olympian who was on front lines of Oka protests 30 years ago.

Horn-Miller was stabbed in the chest by a soldier's bayonet while racing her four-year-old sister, Kaniehtiio Horn, to safety. The bayonet missed her heart by a centimetre. "I looked at one of the soldiers and I said, 'I know you.' I pointed at him and put my four-year-old sister behind my back to protect her and that's when I got hit in the chest," Horn-Miller recalled, fighting back tears. "I was in such anger and pain and sadness and rage. I thought my body was going to explode." Horn-Miller didn't receive medical treatment for 22 hours, held captive inside a bus in a makeshift military base – Devin Heroux, CBC News - SEE/READ: <https://www.cbc.ca/sports/olympics/waneek-horn-miller-oka-crisis-racism-canada-1.5598757>

This Is not A Humanizing Poem, Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan - WATCH: <https://www.facebook.com/roundhouseLDN/videos/10155509509406180/>

“I would rather die upon yonder gallows than live in slavery.”
- Samuel Sharpe, organizer of an act against slavery strike and rebellion in Jamaica, captured and executed with 137 other rebel slaves in 1832 which led to the British final Emancipation in 1838.

in a distilled nation of orphan tongues,
estranged from the taste of Motherlands,
first generation histories just *roll*,
off slippery undeveloped palates,
mournful of birthrights unknown
- **I Am Not A Threat**, by Niki Andre
WATCH: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyEZWxh2Lc&t=34s>

The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being you; they are unique manifestations of the human spirit.”
- Wade Davis

Following a spinal tap procedure...River said he visited more than five hospitals, and on separate occasions, he claims he was accused of being a drug user, a drug dealer, and imagining his symptoms, which included intense pain at the back of his neck, vision issues, loss of senses, and severe sensitivity to light. Despite the seriousness of these symptoms indicating a larger problem, River said it took him 60 days to get the emergency procedure... He believes he finally received the treatment because of his platform and his medical story going viral on social media. WATCH John River's account - **Racial bias in Canadian healthcare**, CityNews Toronto - WATCH: <https://youtu.be/40V43z0QCM>

IMAGE: **A protester takes a knee during a #SanJose protest** - Dai Sugano
SEE: <https://twitter.com/daisugano/status/1266620213073637380>

“In reclaiming Black pride and dignity we should remember the patterns of an abuser in an abusive relationship. We cannot afford to allow multiculturalism to lead us blindly into an appreciation of all cultures while often expecting us, like an abused victim, to ignore our past.”
- Everton Gordon

Very high numbers of Black youth, especially males, report being stopped regularly or searched by police – approximately double the rate for white youth... An analysis of 10,000 arrests in Toronto showed that Blacks were 50% more likely to be taken to a police station for processing after arrest, and 100% more likely to be held overnight than were whites... Blacks are over represented in federal prisons by more than 300% vs their population, while for Aboriginals the over representation is nearly 500%. The same disparities exist in provincial jails... Once in jail, these minorities are more likely to be subject to disciplinary procedures and less likely to be paroled. - **Race, Crime and Justice in Canada**, John Howard Society of Canada - READ: <https://johnhoward.ca/blog/race-crime-justice-canada/>

Please acknowledge that you have benefited from a system of white supremacy in this country, and then do something to change the system... and stop falsely postulating that we are better than the United States. I don't want your sympathies, your guilt, or your attempts to mollify my emotions... I need our churches to not only pray on Sundays, but to also offer a prayer through a lifetime commitment to systemic change...

Do something, for God's sake.

- **What I need from white people right now**, Adele Halliday – READ: <https://broadview.org/what-i-need-from-white-people/>

Joyce Echaquan's death prompts Manawan Atikamekw Council to turn to United Nations. The council specifically also asks for investigators to visit Canada and probe systemic racism in government services, as well as to implore the country to adopt Joyce's Principle.- Kalina Lafra Laframboise, Global News
WATCH/READ: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7683670/joyce-echaquan-united-nations-letter-indigenous-rights/>

“Someone who is striving to be antiracist is actually willing to admit the times in which they expressed racist ideas. They're willing to admit the times in which they sort of support racist policies because they're in a process of changing.”

- Dr Ibram X Kendi

WATCH: <https://youtu.be/dCUOX3NMd4U>

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride towards freedom is not the White Citizen's Councillor or the Klu Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to “order” than to justice... Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will...I njustice must be exposed, with all the tension its exposure creates” **The Letter from Birmingham Jail (White Moderates)** - Martin Luther King Jr.
WATCH: <https://youtu.be/gfFWzacEgAl>

COVID-19 will eventually be eradicated. Racism will continue to mutate unless we make collective efforts to stop the spread.

- **COVID 19 and the Racism Pandemic We Need to Talk About**, by Kim Uyede-Kai, Minister, Communities of Faith Support and Right Relations, Shining Waters Regional Council, United Church of Canada
READ: <https://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/covid-19-and-the-racism-pandemic-we-need-to-talk-about/>

“Why are people so invested in fighting the symptoms instead of the cause?” - **The Atlanta shooter blamed a specific race of people for his problems, and then murdered them because of it. If that's not racism, then the word has no meaning** - Trevor Noah, The Daily Social Distancing Show
WATCH: <https://twitter.com/TheDailyShow/status/1372368730093670400>