

“NOBODY SHOULD FEEL UNSAFE JUST WALKING AROUND THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD, [LET ALONE BEING] AROUND PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT AND SERVE.”

JAXON WELLS '23



1. A protester holds up a sign in reference to Gov. Kim Reynolds's response on the pandemic. "I think there's a better balance between keeping our sanity and being safe than Kim Reynolds managed to achieve," said Grace Ingersoll '23. "A mask mandate would have been nice."

Photos by Caroline Barker

2. Protesters gather to hear speakers at the Pentacrest June 3. "It's just really cool to be a part of something bigger than you and to make an impact to really help people," said Bralyn Bigley '23.

WE STAND TOGETHER

AFTER THE KILLING OF GEORGE FLOYD BY POLICE OFFICERS MAY 25, 2020, nationwide protests sprung up to address police brutality and reiterate the importance of the words "Black Lives Matter." Many West High students attended these protests for the first time. "I had never done anything

like it before, so it felt really different, but after a little bit, it felt like I belonged because I am a minority," said Jaxon Wells '23.

As the summer came to a close, students like Emma McPearce '23 were left more motivated to continue the fight for equality.

"The movement will continue

going until the people being affected by the structure of the system feel that their demands have been met," McPearce said. Others, like Wells, looked at the impacts of the protests.

"I think that [the protests] have [done] very little, which isn't necessarily a bad thing," Wells said, "People need to realize this won't be an overnight

change. You can't just protest once, post something on Instagram or Snapchat one day and then the next [day] everything is done. This process will probably take years before anything significant happens, but that also means we can't let up."

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EMMA
MCPEARCE '23



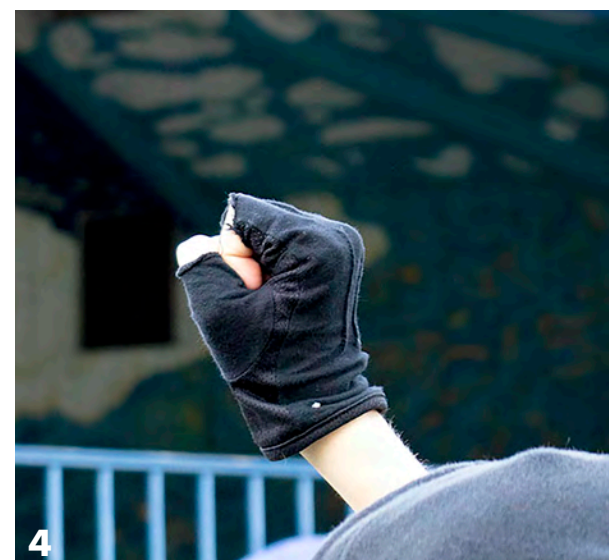
COMMUNITY DIVIDED Jaxon Wells '23 holds up a sign he made at one of the summer protests in Iowa City. Photo used with permission

“HAVING EVERYONE WITH THE SAME GOAL IN SIGHT MADE IT FEEL LIKE WE WERE MAKING A BIG DIFFERENCE.”

JAXON WELLS '23



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3. Filling the streets, protesters are not only prepared for COVID-19 with masks but also for teargas as they carry traffic cones that can be used to contain the substance.

4. The symbol of the Black Lives Matter movement is a raised fist. A protester listening to the powerful words of activists raises his fist in respect and agreement.

5. Protesters march around downtown Iowa City chanting and holding signs June 3. Photos by Caroline Barker



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LET'S TALK ABOUT IT Emma McPearce's view of Iowa protesters taking on Burlington St.