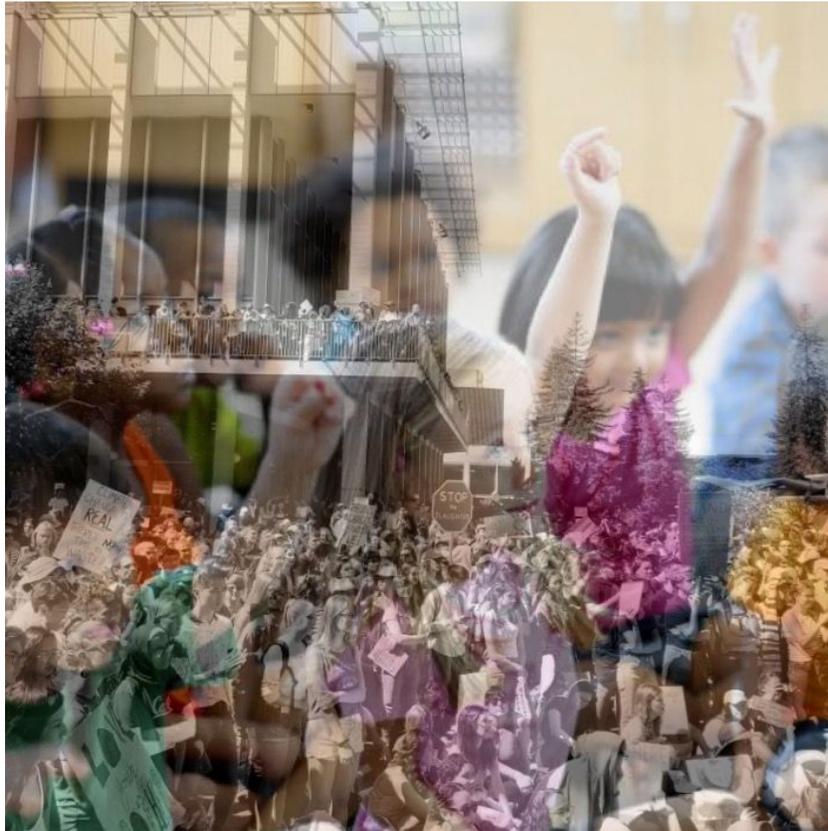


Day 1: Greener



I was standing by my friend as she took this photo of the climate strike at my university two Fridays ago on Friday, September 20, 2019. This photo is a snapshot of what my own eyes saw on that day. What the photo doesn't capture is the sheer experience of it all: we were standing on the steps in front of Sproul Hall, which is located on the infamous Sproul Plaza at the same place where Berkeley students protested for civil rights in the 1960s. In front of us and all around us, we saw, heard, and felt the energy of my fellow students who had skipped their Friday classes to join the strike and learn from the teach-ins that Students for Climate Action organized. I remember feeling a myriad of emotions: hope from witnessing the estimated ~1,200 students come out for the strike; despair as I heard from various speakers about the need for climate action and thought about the future; a swirl of frustration and motivation as I thought *it's up to us, the youth, to do something now* and *why haven't the adults acted and why can't they do it now?* I chose this picture to represent the world as I see it today. I experienced this one strike at my school in one city, but on the news, I saw the youth climate strikes in many cities around the world.

The second photo is what I hope for the future: children raising their hands in school as they listen to a story—a story about how we beat climate change. I envisioned the story as being so compelling that several children can't help but raise their hands to ask questions. First of all, this

image is a striking contrast to all the images of the future I was conjuring up in my head as I held my sign and stood under the sun at the strike. I could have put a photo showing a desert like what was shown in Prince Ea's video or an image of the sea where an island nation used to be.

Instead, I envisioned a future where a teacher is telling a class of children (all of whom are in class and not skipping school to demand climate action, by the way) about their experience at the 9/20 climate strikes and the subsequent story of how we successfully beat climate change. These children are healthy, and instead of living their days worrying about their future, are learning and playing and doing what children should have the freedom to do. I edited the 9/20 strike photo to be in black-and-white to be like a textbook photo to resemble that we are currently living and making history. Future generations will look back at the present and learn about, critique, analyze, and dissect our actions today. Hopefully the future is that future children, who have yet to be born, are listening to the story of a human victory over climate change. As I made this photo, I ask: this is our present. What will our future be?