The world is doomed

By Solé Scott
Editor-in-Chief

The world feels like it is slowly crumbling, and I am petrified of the future.

Ever since COVID-19, we have witnessed a surge of hurricanes, wildfires, wars and a plethora of other disasters internationally.

The United States has been on a steep decline, as food prices continue to increase, job losses are at an all-time high, buying a home is nearly impossible and healthcare costs are skyrocketing.

We have now rapidly begun to socially decay. Digital connection has replaced in-person interaction, which has harmed an entire generation.

Politically, we are divided like never before, as we have divisive leadership that is frustrating citizens and separating us from the rest of the world.

I cannot even fathom why we are being abandoned by our world leaders during our most-toughest years.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP benefits, was shut down on Nov. 1. This happening before Thanksgiving and Christmas is revolting.

The government has been shut down for the last 38 days, breaking a previous record of 35 days back in 2018, again under Trump's administration.

The Federal Aviation Administration is now currently cutting flights, as workers are not being paid during the shutdown. Air traffic controllers are not operating.

On Oct. 31, there were two airplanes almost collided with each other in the air at Los Angeles International Airport. This incident displays why we need government activity to resume for basic safety.

Also, ICE is taking over and wrongfully arresting and kidnapping brown and Black U.S. citizens for being "suspected illegal immigrants" without any proof.

There is information that we are still waiting for surrounding the Epstein list being released. Unfortunately, as expected, it is being covered up.

That is just what the United States is dealing with, at least from what I can remember off the top of my head.

In other parts of the world, things do not look that good either. There are genocides still going on in Sudan, Palestine, Congo and many other countries are going through a widespread, severe humanitarian crisis.

Climate change is another issue that scientists have been trying to warn us about. This serious environmental change has been obvious in recent years.

For example, just recently, Jamaica was hit by Hurricane Melissa, which was deemed a Category 4 once it made landfall.

The ice in the North Pole is melting at a very alarming rate, and that is ruining habitats for native species.

I am so exhausted and concerned about the future because I cannot help but wonder if we are too far gone. I also cannot help but be weary of what will pop up on my news feeds and on social media.

Artificial intelligence is here just like we have been warned about for decades. AI is not completely accurate and is also harmful to the environment.

In the 1950s, the global fertility rate was five children per woman, so that is eye opening.

This decade was really plagued with a pandemic that I thought would just wipe out the entire world population.

I am so exhausted and concerned about the future because I cannot help but wonder if we are too far gone. I also cannot help but be weary of what will pop up on my news feeds and on social media.

We are living through hard times, and it is natural to feel scared and apprehensive. I do not know how or when this will happen, but we need to raise awareness and use our voices, or else the world will collapse soon if we do not choose to act now.



PHOTO | LIVESCIENCE

An artistic depiction of Earth exploding in space, sorrounded by fire, debris and bright energy bursts.

CUFBOYS completely changed the rap scene

By Jay'Mi Vazquez
Managing Editor

During the explosion of SoundCloud rap in the mid-to-late 2010s, few creators captured the energy of the movement quite like the YouTube channel CUFBOYS.

While the era produced icons like Lil Peep, XXXTentacion and Lil Skies, it was CUFBOYS, led by Cameron Haller, who gave fans a bridge between artists and audience.

Through reaction videos, artist interviews and personal vlogs, CUFBOYS did not just document the SoundCloud generation; the channel helped define how it was experienced.

At its peak, CUFBOYS' YouTube channel was a cultural meeting point.

Cameron and his mother, affectionately known online as "Mom," became internet staples through their genuine reaction videos.

Unlike the polished, click-chasing reaction content that would later flood the platform, their videos stood out for their authenticity.

When Cameron's mom teared up listening to Lil Peep's "Awful Things," it showcased the love for music. At the time, that video alone encapsulated how emotionally raw the SoundCloud movement was.

What made CUFBOYS great was their timing and understanding of culture.

The SoundCloud rap wave was a raw, DIY movement: young artists recording in bedrooms, posting tracks without labels and cultivating communities online.

CUFBOYS mirrored that same energy.

Cameron was not a detached journalist or a critic; he was a fan and sometimes even a friend to the artists.

His relationship with Lil Skies, for example, led to early behind-the-scenes content that gave viewers rare looks at a rising star before he broke into the mainstream.

Beyond the music, CUFBOYS also captured the emotional reality of an era shaped by loss.

The deaths of Lil Peep, Juice WRLD and XXXTentacion left deep scars on the SoundCloud community.

CUFBOYS' heartfelt tributes and reflections provided a space for grieving fans to process those tragedies together.

It is easy to underestimate the channel's' impact now, when reaction and commentary channels are everywhere. But CUFBOYS helped pioneer that format in the context of modern rap culture.

The channel humanized artists who were often dismissed by mainstream critics as "mumble rappers." They showed that behind the face tattoos and distorted 808s were kids with true musical talent.

In doing so, the channel legitimized an entire wave of music that would go on to influence pop, fashion and internet culture at large.

Even years later, old CUFBOYS videos still circulate online, with comments from fans reminicing about the golden days of sound-cloud rap. For many, those clips serve as digital capsules.

The SoundCloud era was short lived, and likely will never be replicated, but content creators like Haller are the reason why its influence still lingers.



PHOTO |YOUTUBE

CUFBOYS podcast hosts share a laugh during episode No. 41.



PHOTO | YOUTUBE

Cameron Heller and his mom reacting to videos from rappers on his YouTube channel.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers: Cindy Simoneau, Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com
Newsroom Phone: 203-392-6928
Fax: 203-392-6927

Mailing Address:
Southern Connecticut State University
Adanti Student Center Room 222
501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515

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