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Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, from the state of Colorado, has fought for the environment since he was a small child. His parents are also activists as his mother, Tamara Roske, founded Earth Guardians, and his father, Siri Martinez, helped lead the 1995 Children's Hope of Torch. At age 6, Martinez spoke on stage at a local environmental rally explaining that the earth was sacred and how we can help protect the earth. He also told parents to educate their kids on climate change. Since then, he has continued to speak at rallies and protests since. "His mother claimed she did not indoctrinate him — that he chose to be an activist," (Colorado Peak Politics blog) and he continues to be an activist for climate change, fracking, and other issues because Martinez firmly claims that "[he has] a personal investment in them" and that "[he] recognize[s] that this issue going to effect all people, but especially people of color, indigenous people, and youth," which is why he continues to fight and stand up everyday. At age 15 he spoke before the UN General Assembly about the critical need for action on climate change. In this assembly, he told the UN, that "What's at stake right now is the existence of my generation". He has also been on many other TedTalks and talk shows to share his experience as an activist and specifically how we, as a individual person, can take charge and stand up for issues we believe need change. He pushes all people to stand for change, whether young or old, black or white, he realizes the amount of power each person can hold. "It's not about being an activist. It's about recognizing the power you have to make a difference."

(<https://www.denverpost.com/2014/05/28/xiuhtezcatl-roske-martinez-14-wants-to-save-the-world/>) By age 12, Martinez organized more than 35 rallies and protests. He also helped co-organize the biggest iMatter youth march, over 2,000 people participated. Also in 2012, he was chosen by the Campaign for a Presidential Youth Council for the 24 Under 24 young leaders. In 2015 Martinez and 21 other youth filed a lawsuit against the US Federal government, Juliana et al. v. United States et al. Their stance is that the federal government is denying their constitutional right to life, liberty, and property by not combating climate change. It is an ongoing case that they continue to work on, even though it has been attempted to be dismissed multiple times.

Martinez also writes and performs music as a hip-hop artist. He writes with his siblings and is currently performing in the United States. (He will be in CA during PGC Finals...) His music is another way he shares change and stands up for issues. In one of his songs he sings, "I can see it in your eyes, born to be a freedom fighter." He also talks about "we are not the future we are in the present and we are here now"

He is the youth director of Earth Guardians, which is an organization to ensemble youth to stand up for change, specifically focusing on environmental protection for human health. Earth Guardians are in about 50 countries with thousands of youth all around the world. He says that “I’ve been working my whole life with the Earth Guardians. It gave me an outlet to use my passion and use my voice, and it was very empowering.” Earth Guardians is a global movement of young people all around the world.

Martinez has helped in many aspects of the environment and the world and his encouragement to others to use their voices and be the change has really resonated with me.

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/xiuhtezcatl-martinez-explains-why-hes-fighting-climate-change>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o2V2yVkedtM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sus-1rZG8c>

If you were to meet this person, what would you share with them about how they have impacted you?

There was a time when I was discouraged, my mind was overloaded with so many reasons the earth was on the verge of destruction. It was very discouraging, almost made me break down... but then I was challenged to watch a video about a young boy talking to the United Nations to take action and “stand with us” on climate change. You know what that did? It inspired me. Not to be super cheesy or anything, but it really did give me motivation and courage to continue on this environmental activist path. My question to you, is what made you realize the need to stand up for the environment at such a young age? Why do you continue to do so? And what keeps you motivated to continue even when the future looks grim?

Gmail interface showing an email from Cheyon Sheen. The email content includes a greeting, a paragraph about environmental activism, and a closing signature. The interface also shows a sidebar with folders like 'Compose', 'Inbox', 'Starred', etc., and a taskbar at the bottom with various application icons.

(no subject)

Cheyon Sheen
to xiuntezcali

10:55 AM (0 minutes ago)

Hello!

I would just like to share how you personally have impacted me...

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Thank you for your continuous efforts.
Sincerely,
Cheyon Sheen

Reply Forward