

Bethany Dain Illinois State University - Impromptu (Done)

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SPEAKERS

Bethany Dain

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The field of candidates entering the 2020 election for the Democratic need Democratic nominee is crowded. And Mayor Pete Buttigieg wants to join the field, but Buttigieg knows he doesn't have the name recognition that a lot of other people do. But he thinks he can get in the act because he wants to restore our faith in American politics. Well he's gonna try, but the fact that Buttigieg looks to the division in America and that is where he wants to start repairing wrongs moving forward, is exactly what is reflected from Alice Walker's words. "Healing begins where the wound was made". What Alice Walker is reminding us is that there's a lot of hurt in this world, but in order to correct it, we have to go back to where that hurt began and we'll agree with Walker on the basis that we do have a duty to trace things to their origin. And we'll see if this is true for two reasons. First, because it allows us to correct the mistakes. And next, it lets us find a collective future. But we'll see the first reason that Alice Walker was reminding us, "Healing begins where the wound was made," reminds us
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we have a duty to trace things back to their origin

is because it allows us to correct our past mistakes. And we'll see this through Alaskan bears and through Bethany Dain, but first Alaskan bears. There is a state park in Alaska where the bears get super, super, super fat. And the community didn't really understand why. So the National Park began an ad campaign to correct the fact of the bears were just getting fat, but that it's literally a survival tactic. And sometimes bears eat an entire amount of food for three months, but they still don't survive the winter. So they began Fat Bear Tuesday which turned into Fat Bear Week and it corrected the notion for people that the bears were just getting fat in the winter, because it was easy for a bear to do so. No, it literally was a matter of survival in the wildlife for the area to be preserved. So by using educational tools to trace it back to the origin, the misconception allowed them to correct a past mistake and will now see this through Bethany Dain. I was fortunate enough last year to advance to the final round of impromptu at AFA and I mispronounced the name Maya Angelou. Maya Angelou was an incredible woman a fierce advocate and she deserves to have her name said correctly. And tracing that all the way back to the fact that I messed up the name of someone who should never have their name mispronounced remind us it was my mistake and nothing else. But tracing it back to the fact that I messed up lets me correct that wrong. Say it correctly. Maya Angelou was an advocate that deserved to have her words in a final round, and her name said correctly. So through fat bears and Bethany Dain's mistakes we recognize, tracing things back to their origin gives us an opportunity to remind ourselves that we need to move forward. But we can't move forward alone. We need to do it collectively. And so when Alice Walker tells us that we can only do this by starting to heal from where it began, she's reminding us that we need to find a collective future. And this is true through Nadia Murad and through Ben Platt. But first Nadia Murad. Nadia Murad was given the Nobel Peace Prize because she is trying to end sexual violence as a tool of war. She was captured and kept as a sex slave for months, and she's part of the Muslim minority. And she is not supposed to speak out against these crimes because of her culture. But she's spoken out to multiple journalistic outlets across the world, trying to end the practice. Moving forward she wanted to speak out because there are plenty of other women around the world also oppressed by religions and institutions. So in order to find a collective future she had to go where the hurt began. The fact that she was told not to speak out in the first place. But this is also true for Ben Platt. One of my coaches hates Ben Platt. Hey, Spencer. But I don't, because Ben Platt has fantastic music, but also an important message. To be fair, Spencer likes the new album. But Ben Platt released a video called "Ease my mind", it was about the difficulties of having anxiety in a relationship. But it was more important than that. Platt has been out to his family for since he was 12 years old, but he hasn't been out publicly as a gay man. And to ease my mind was about a relationship he wanted to have an actor play his boyfriend. Now he chose an actor that was one of his close friends because he wanted to go back to the origins, not feeling like you could comfortably come out was a personal

struggle. So he wanted the antidote to be personal. When Alice Walker tells us we have to go back to where that hurt began she's reminding us that we can only move forward together by looking at it in a way where we include ourselves in that together. It's why Ben Platt realizing he wanted his message to be public. He had to start with himself to start that collective effort. Returning today to Alice Walker's words, "Healing begins where the wound was made". We recognize we have a duty to trace things back to their origin. First because it allows us to correct mistakes, but next it allows us to work towards a collective future.