



10-2020

Pandemic Profiles: Matt Yanuck, Renaissance Man of the New Zeration

Lakotah Battle
Whittier College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/covid>

Recommended Citation

Battle, L. (2020). Pandemic Profiles: Matt Yanuck, Renaissance Man of the New Zeration. *The Pandemic Profiles* Retrieved from <https://poetcommons.whittier.edu/covid/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the COVID-19 @ Whittier at Poet Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in COVID-19 @ Whittier by an authorized administrator of Poet Commons. For more information, please contact library@whittier.edu.

The Pandemic Profiles

Matt Yanuck, Renaissance Man of the New Zeration



Lakotah Battle [Follow](#)

Oct 10 · 4 min read

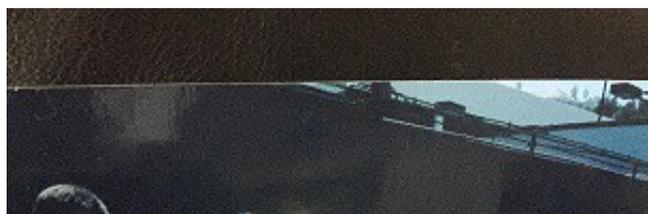


Tennis Champion/Philosopher/Law Student-Matt Yanuck

When speaking with California native, Matt Yanuck, you immediately feel noticed and that you matter. His ability to understand and read his surroundings is stealth-like. This self-aware, 21-year-old Philosophy major completing his senior year at Whittier College is no stranger to adaptation and taking hold of the reins as he consciously creates his desired reality. Yanuck possesses an essential trait somewhat lacking in our current civic culture: an unabashed need to speak the truth. “When the pandemic hit, it was just another time to be self-reliant and have even more work ethic,” Yanuck says with conviction.

Having traveled back and forth from Los Angeles to Louisiana throughout his youth, Yanuck quickly learned to adjust to his environment as his family dynamics evolved and changed radically. He began to make life-changing choices on the fly with confidence.

Directly after graduating high school in Louisiana, young Yanuck drove straight to California as his sights were set on attending Whittier College to participate in their active Tennis program as he is a state champion tennis player who has been playing since age three.





Yanuck's first days on the court

After serious consideration and comparing several different Southern California Inner Collegiate Conference Schools, he accepted the offer from Whittier College and took his place on the tennis team with the understanding that he had to work extremely hard and be quite diligent to maintain his position on the team. This scenario appeals to Yanuck, as the diverse careers of his parents (his mother being an artist working at Disney and his father being a criminal lawyer in Los Angeles) have contributed to his ability to stand on his own and face any challenge to achieve his dreams as he did when the current pandemic came into play. “COVID initially effected my junior year-by March 23, my whole tennis season had been canceled.”

When this life altering event hit, Yanuck took this in stride and

buckled down even more. His dream of attending Pepperdine School of Law is alive and well as you see his expressive eyes sparkle when he describes the beautiful campus that awaits him and you sense the thrill of his dream- to become a lawyer- well within his grasp.

“As of now, academically, I am not affected,” Yanuck says with confidence. “I have been a hard-working student-athlete for over three years now. I have management skills and a good routine that works for me.” Yanuck’s hard work is evident as he holds a 3.87 GPA “And I don’t see it getting any lower, despite the remote learning.”

Yank explains that deciding upon his choice to be a philosophy major was, “an accidental-perfect mistake.” He explains that going to law school has always been his goal and after researching what philosophy actually was, it felt to him like a perfect fit. He realized that he has a natural affinity for philosophy and says it has given him an essential foundation for law school.

“It provides me with great reading comprehension and reflection skills.”

“I should have been born in 1968 or

something like that!”

Yanuck’s eagerness to express himself is rewarding and he can hold his own in any discussion while allowing all involved to feel included and heard. He speaks with ease and thoughtfulness which sets him apart from the “norm” if you will. When asked about his feelings concerning the characteristics defined by pop-culture’s popular term: “Generation Z” and if he agrees with the notion that they tend to disengage with society at large and live in their social media constructed bubble, Yanuck abruptly sits up and reveals more of his inquisitiveness and is quick to disregard blank statements that generalize any group of people.

“I don’t know what generation X or Y means, really. I was born in 1999, but I truly feel like I lived through the 80s and 90s... I’m so different from the kids my age and even more to the younger they get,” Yanuck says, “I should have been born in 1968 or something like that!”

One can only imagine the impact that Matt Yanuck would have had on the world if he were alive in the historic decade of the 1960s but it is certain that he is alive and determined to succeed and manifest his dreams in this historical time of the 2020 decade and beyond.