

The Atlantic Daily: The Firsts

In the years following *Brown v. Board of Education*, thousands of children desegregated America's schools. "The task that fell to them was a brutal one," our senior editor

White parents, and their children, attempted to block Black children from attending classes—often ruthlessly—using "bomb threats, beatings, protests. They physically blocked entrances to schools, vandalized lockers, threw rocks, taunted and jeered."

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Rebecca J. Rosen writes.

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Hugh Price

12 years old ♦ Taft Junior High School ♦ Washington, D.C., 1954

Price and his family fought for him to be one of the first Black students at his all-white high school in Washington, D.C. But once he was there, he “couldn’t wait for it to be over.”

Jo Ann Allen Boyce

14 years old ♦ Clinton High School ♦ Tennessee, 1956

Boyce and 11 other students desegregated their high school in Clinton, Tennessee. Then the riots came.

Sonnie Hereford IV

6 years old ♦ Fifth Avenue School ♦ Alabama, 1963

Hereford IV desegregated Alabama’s public schools in 1963. He was only 6 years old.

Millicent Brown

15 years old ♦ Rivers High School ♦ South Carolina, 1963

Brown changed Charleston, then watched it stay the same.

Frederick K. Brewington

9 years old ♦ Lindner Place Elementary School ♦ New York, 1966

33 days remain until the 2020 presidential election. Here's today's essential read:

The most illuminating moment of the debate occurred when the president went after one of Joe Biden's children, Adam Serwer argues.

"Biden acted like a father, doing what almost any parent would have done," he writes.

One question, answered: California continues to burn. Does wildfire smoke make COVID-19 worse?

The hosts of our *Social Distance* podcast talked with John Balmes, a pulmonologist who has studied inhaled pollutants for decades, to find out.

Here's a snippet of their conversation:

John Balmes: One of the risk factors for smoke exposure is an increased risk of lower-respiratory-tract infections. That's acute bronchitis and pneumonia, which is particularly problematic in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

James Hamblin: Does it increase your risk of having more severe disease once you've been infected if you've been living in a place that has high levels of exposure to particulate matter versus someplace else?

Balmes: Yes, there's a building evidence with regard to air pollution, and particulate matter in particular, and COVID-19.