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SPAN 370 - Chicano Community

May 18, 2022

Working in the Field: Behind the Curtain

For my artistic piece, I have decided to draw two images, which will make the title of the piece more understandable. The inspiration behind my artwork piece is my experience working in agriculture as a field worker, in different field work like raspberry picker, strawberry picker, grass cutter, and the ones that take down the tents and tubings from the fields. One of the images is a false image of perfection that the agriculture companies try to portray to the public about working in the fields and their workers. The second image is the true reality that most field workers have to experience while working for these companies, this portrays a harsh reality.

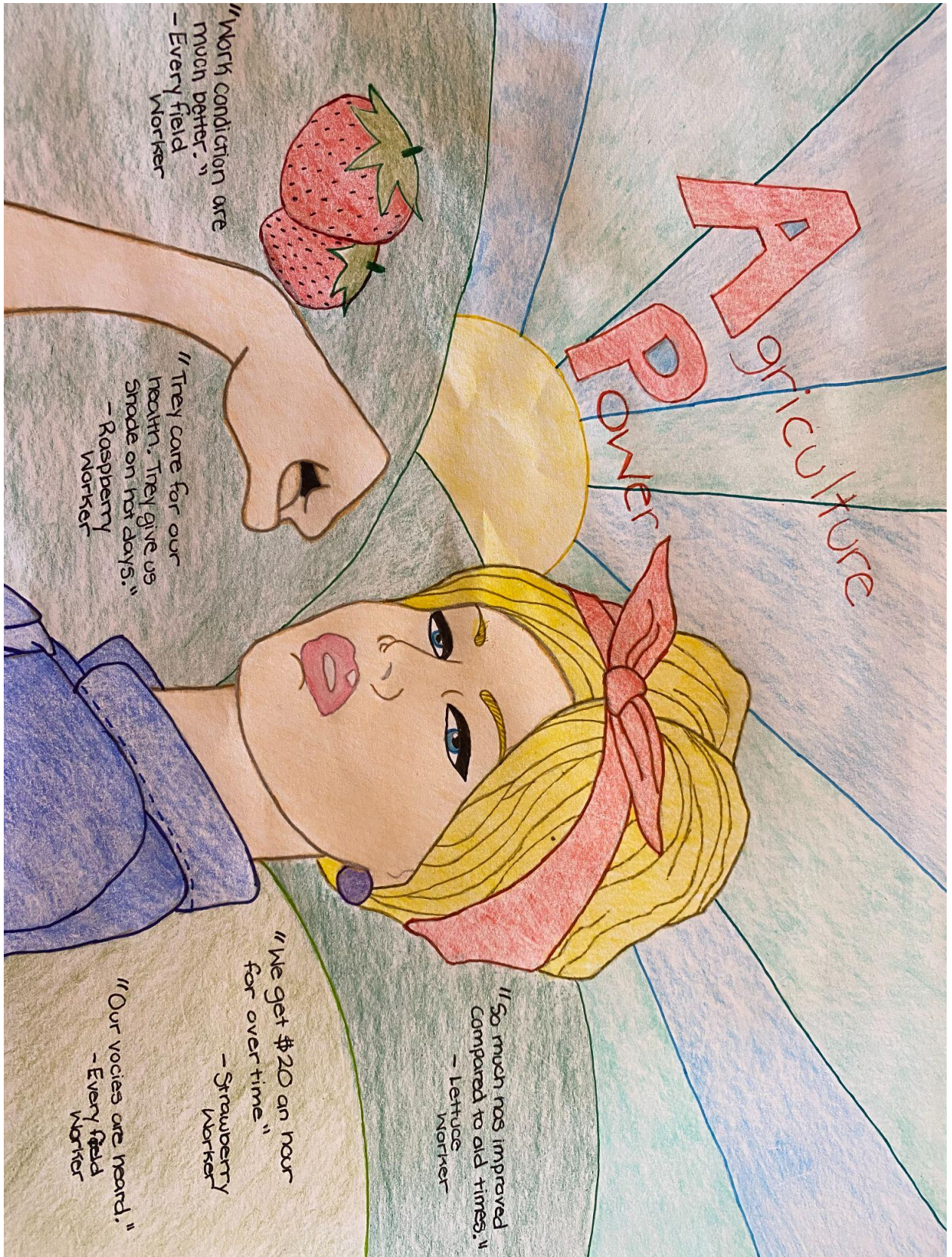
In the false reality art piece, the image has the image of a woman, a hard working woman, in the middle of fields with the powerful words, "Agriculture Power." Around the image are phrases that express the positivity of working in the fields. The reasoning for the woman is to show the all American image, the lady is a white woman with blue eyes, what most people would consider as the all American woman. The reasoning for the phrases around the lady is to give the agricultural companies a good image for all the positive changes that they have made for the work environment and positive changes for their field workers. For instance, one says, "We get \$20 an hour for overtime." This is shown as a positive image for the companies because it is expressing to the public that they give their workers a good pay for their hard work. Another of the phrases states, "They care for our health. They give us shade on hot days." This also is shown

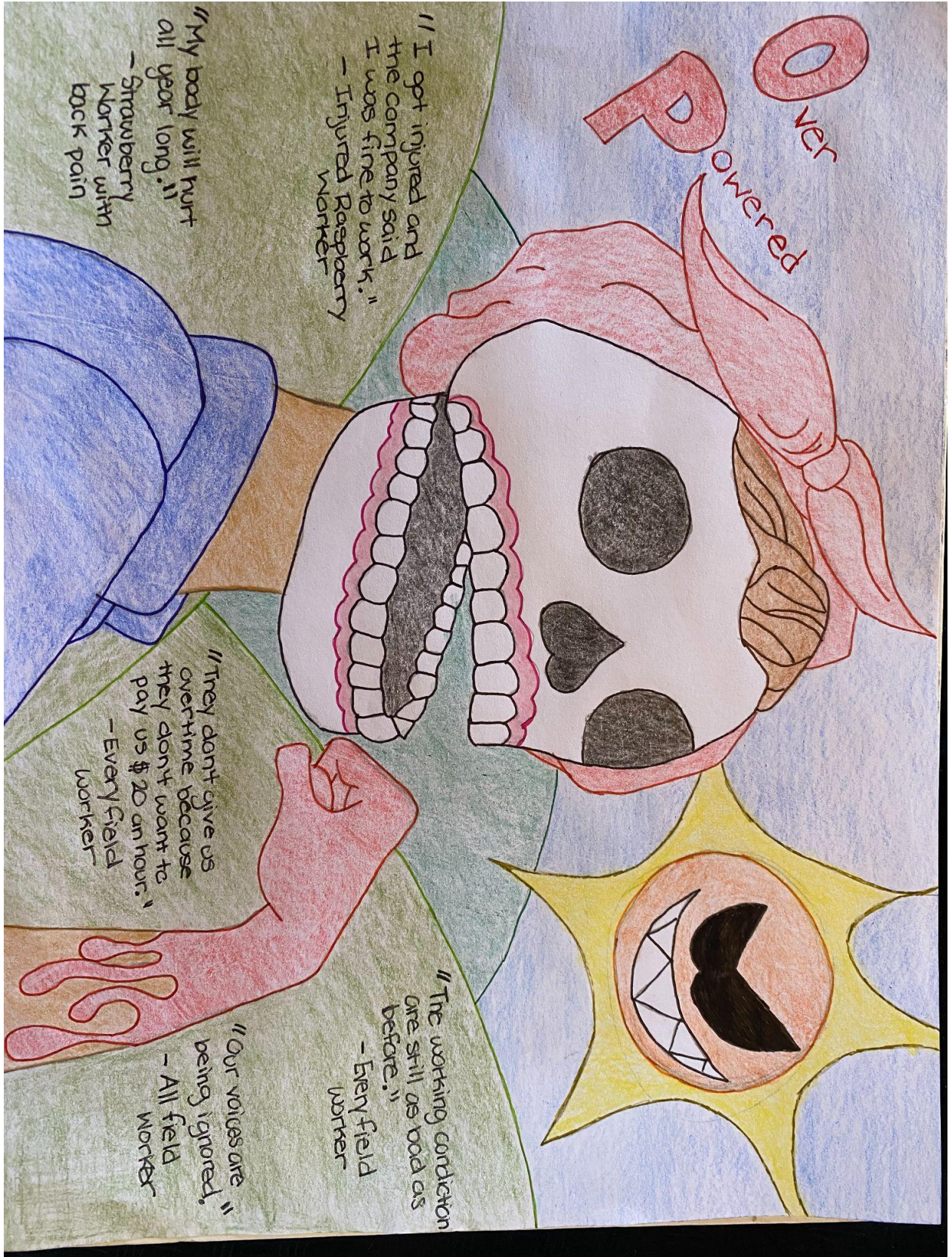
to give the companies a great image for caring for their workers health like giving them shade and ice cold water for days when the weather is hot, and sending their workers home, when the weather is too bad, like rainy days. Lastly, the bold words of , “Agriculture Power,” was inspired by billboards that would announce places, products, movies, etc, with a big title and reviews, in this case “Agriculture Power” is the title announcing how great the agricultural business is, with the phrases at review of the fields.

For the second image, the harsh reality, it portrays the same woman, in the same position; however the skin tone has changed to a darker shade because the true reality is that most workers of latinx people of color. Instead of a normal face, it is replaced with a skull face to represent how one feels after getting out of work, dead or lifeless. It can also represent a sugar skull because a lot of the workers tend to be Mexican but it has no designs because working in the fields is not a beautiful image. In the background of the art piece, there is a big sun with an evil face. This shows that the sun can be a workers’ enemy because the heat will tire the workers and will feel a burn while working under the sun. In the image it also shows that there is no shade around to show the reality that companies will not provide their workers with any shade, and when they do, it is small that not all workers can fit under it.. Just like the other image, it has phrases that could be seen as reviews. In one of the phrases it says, “They don’t give us overtime because they don’t want to pay us \$20 an hour.” With this phrase, it shows that many companies will give their workers 8 hours of work, not more than that, to avoid paying them \$20 an hour for the workers. This shows how tough it is to get paid for doing all that hard work for a low pay. Another phrase states, “I got injured and the company and the company said I was fine to work.” with this fake review, it shows that the company does not really care about their workers health because they can be badly injured but the company will say they are fine to work so they can

avoid a lawsuit or losing workers. Just like the other image, this one also had a billboard-like title, this one states, “Over Powered,” which represents the reality that most field workers are overworked and end the day tired with little to no energy left for the rest of the day.

In the end, this artwork is to show the false and true reality that the agriculture industry has on the field work and their field workers. This shows issues from bad pay, receiving little money for all that tiring work, to bad working conditions like non shade and uneven pathways for workers to walk on. The purpose of this art piece is to show the voices of the field workers that are being silenced and ignored because companies do not want a bad image and have it ruin their reputation.





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