



SUMMER 2020

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THE PEOPLE'S ISSUE

CRISTAL STATEN

Monticello, New York native just graduated from PACE University amid a pandemic, and an era of surging momentum in the Black Lives Matter movement. Gaining local notoriety as a vocal participant in protests from Sullivan to Ulster Counties has forced her to confront her loyalties as a twenty-one-year-old Black American woman raised in a predominantly white region with a veteran NYPD dad at home.

By JANET MERCER Photography MICHAEL DAVIS

Janet Mercer: PACE has a campus in New York City and Westchester County, but of course, schools were remote for most of your last semester. Where were you when the protests started gaining traction?

other way around, especially when you invite a state trooper to embrace you. Your father is a longtime veteran of the NYPD. How does he feel about you not only protesting but being super visible and vocal

a little extreme to lose friends over politics?' I said, 'It's not politics, it's human rights.'

JM: Why do you think you've made such an impression

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