

Storm Surge & Coral Reefs Comic | Bryan Almendarez



Comic strip shows fish swimming off the shore of a city. Hands cup a fish in the water as a voice says, "I got you little guy." Meanwhile, a wave with an evil face rises from the stormy sea and advances toward the city. A news program displays the chyron "Cat 5 Force Winds Warning" while a reporter on the beach says, "It's not looking good out here Tom. Waves are rolling high, we're going to – Oh my god!?" as the wave approaches. Suddenly, a beam of energy strikes the wave: "In the name of oceanic justice ... I am Coral Man" The wave: "Blasted!! I thought the last of your kind was bleached!" As triumphant Coral Man punches the wave out of existence: "Cuuurse youuu!!" To Be Continued?

Artist Statement

Today in 2018 coral reefs are rapidly dying around the world; after hurricane Irma struck Florida Floridian coral reefs sustained immense damage. A lot of people my age are not aware of the significance that coral reefs play in Florida's sustainability. The way I want to approach this issue is with an advertisement campaign that spreads awareness through visual media. The method I chose to demonstrate this idea was a digital short story comic. My short story is about a sentient humanoid coral reef that is unbelievably powerful and chivalrous. He is a super hero called "Coral Man" that stops natural disasters from occurring.

The story of Coral man will feature dynamic instances based on over exaggerated sciences, like how scientifically we know coral reefs defend shorelines from storm surges and prevent destructive erosion. "Erosion" would also be a reoccurring villain alongside Storm Surge in this story. This idea can grow further, with developed plot

lines, supporting casts and more villains. It can grow from being just an online web story, to an animated television show, to something as big as a movie one day.

The reason I am approaching this issue in the form of a super hero is because younger audiences love a good super hero, someone they can empathize with and connect to in a deeper level, someone to cheer on through rigorous battle.

In reference to the Nancy Grimm presentation, I truly believe that my proposition will ensure a level of resilience within the younger communities; they will learn to empathize and connect more when it comes to the issue of climate change and become more actively involved with solving these issues. We must endure the rough path ahead; we need to start with inspiring the youth, for they are the future of this world.