

the

Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

A Letter From the Editor

Dear Reader,

June always seems to sneak up on me. I never see the end of the school year coming until it's right in front of me—and, well. Here it is, and here's our last print of the year. Getting this edition onto paper was no easy feat on our part, but it's one that we are all so, so proud of.

To our staff advisors and those in the office: Mr. Pearce, Ms. Woodley, Ms. Grant, and Mr. Gilmour, thank you for helping us turn dreams into reality. Your support has been, and will always be, invaluable.

To my executive team: your dedication, creativity, and perseverance has kept the paper going and kept me sane throughout it all. We have done some crazy, crazy things, and if I had to do them all again, it would be my honour to do them with you.

To the members of the Twelfth Guard: without you—yes, all of you— none of this would exist. Every article, illustration, opinion, photograph, story, post, print, and webpage is essential, so that together we can create something greater than the sum of its parts.

The Reckoner is more than just a newspaper: it is a creative outlet, it is an informational hub, and it is whatever you want it to mean. I hope you can approach your work here with awe, just as I do each day.

To my predecessors: thank you for showing us the way.

My four years with The Reckoner have not always been easy. They almost never were, actually. Being thrust into a managerial position before my Grade 9 year even ended inevitably led to some mistakes, and running a newspaper can be tough. Really. But there is beauty in the chaos, and I would not trade the sleepless nights for anything. I have given so much to the paper, and I find that it has given back.

I trust that Paul and his team will be fantastic leaders, and I cannot wait to see where The Reckoner goes from now on. Even though it's tough to say goodbye, I do so now with a smile.

To you, the reader: please cherish the little piece of history you hold in your hands. I hope that during your time at Garneau, you've enjoyed our work. Per-

haps today is your first time hearing of us, or perhaps you read one of our articles before you even came here. Regardless, I hope we have left a mark. I hope you've taken something away from our work, or felt something, and I hope that your voice can always be heard. And if it can't? Come to us. We'll do our best to work our magic.

As the school year finishes up, I wish you all a summer full of possibilities. And one small request from me: when your school newspaper returns in the fall, please keep some wonder in your heart for it. A little goes a long way.

Cheers,

Allyson Wu
Editor in Chief



hidden

by ANJALI GUPTA

painted smiles, false hope
cheerful tone and joyful words
my time is running out

and i guess i brought this on myself
ate my words, swallowed my pride
got so good at mending flaws that i forgot to appreciate them
its funny how mistakes are all they see

my inner ocean's black waters beckon
drowning in the sea isn't as scary as drowning on land
gasping for air, fighting the rising tide
but i am no mermaid
and as i get dragged back i wonder
will anyone remember me?

The following art pieces were illustrated by
The Reckoner's Life Board.

Top Left: *Morning Style* by Hannah Xu

Top Right: *Tranquility* by Elizabeth Wei

Bottom Left: *Whimsical Treehouse* by Hania Ahmed

Bottom Right: *Terrestrial* by Amy Long





NEWS

From School to City: MGCI’s Intense Badminton Season

by LILLIAN LI



Photograph: Ms. Yoganathan

After almost three months of practices and matches, the badminton season finally came to a close, with the City Championships hosted on 25 April 2023 at the Markham Pan Am Centre. Tryouts for the badminton team were held in early February by team coaches Ms. Yoganathan, Ms. Libuano, and Ms. Maharaj, and 7:30 AM practices began not long after.

This year, Marc Garneau started off by playing preliminary matches in the Tier I South region against various schools such as Northern SS, East York CI, and North Toronto CI. Each event—boys singles, girls singles, boys doubles, girls doubles, and mixed doubles—was split into A and B categories, so every school game had 10 matches lined up, filling up the entire gymnasium. Each match followed a best-two-out-of-three system. When asked about the preliminary matches, Michael Wen remarked, “The team was really supportive this year and overall it was an enjoyable experience. I think this year’s [boys doubles] opponents were a bit tougher [than last year] but my teammate and I still tried our best to secure any wins we would get.”

After each match, points were tallied up per event and per school to determine which players would move on to the Regional Championships. Top four from A categories and top two from B categories moved on.

Despite a bumpy start with some close losses, the mixed doubles A, girls singles A, and girls singles B qualified for Regionals—a total of three teams from MGCI—where the top six schools in each category competed in a full-day double-elimination tournament, meaning that a team must lose twice before being eliminated, at North

Toronto CI. As the matches piled on top of each other and the gymnasium began to clear as teams were eliminated, MGCI’s mixed doubles and girls singles A players finally secured gold and qualified for Cities.

“Regionals was surprisingly competitive this year, but with the whelp of our coaches and many early morning practices with the team it was a great experience,” said Angelina Wang when asked about her experience. “It was amazing that we had players who advanced to Cities.”

Less than a week later, MGCI headed to the Pan Am Centre for the City Championships, which also followed a double-elimination structure. With over 10 courts in Pan Am’s colossal gymnasium, matches moved much quicker, as for each category, the top four in each region—North, South, East, and West—were competing for one to two spots per event at OFSAA, the Provincial Championships hosted by the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations. “It was a fun experience meeting other talented players from all across Toronto,” Luck remarked.

Despite the players’ hard work and Ms. Yoganathan’s coaching in between matches, MGCI was unable to make OFSAA but still brought home a silver medal in girls singles. “It was nice, [but] it would have been better if we played with feather birds,” Grace Zhu noted, referring to the yellow plastic birds used for all practices and games.

Now that the nets have been taken down and rackets put away, Ms. Yoganathan reflected, “These are great accomplishments for our school and our athletes. Coaching the badminton team is always a joy for me. [I am] so proud of all players for their dedication and hard work this season.” ■

Teacher Feature

Ms. Legrow: Lifting Up Learning, the Library, and Livestock

by NEVETHA ARULLINKAM



Photograph: Justin Wei

After three years, Marc Garneau CI is saying goodbye to Ms. Legrow, the head teacher-librarian known for her bright smiles and thoughtful book selections. Ms. Legrow has been at MGCI for three years and a teacher-librarian for four. She will be moving to the school Forest Hill CI.

When she first arrived at the school, it was like a different world: months into the pandemic, the library closed to students, and her meeting some of them behind a protective screen and helping them with technology. She held onto the joy of watching their faces light up as she helped relieve some of their stress.

“But it wasn’t until a year later when I was able to open the library doors to students, that I was truly able to see the excitement and joy that students felt when they were in the library,” she noted.

Prior to working in the library, she taught Canadian and World Studies, for which she was the department head for nineteen years. Her background in teaching lies in geography and history.

The library, however, held the most meaningful work for her: it was a help desk for books, technology, post-secondary choices, learning about the school, getting to know the country, education, and life in general. Ms. Legrow summed it up: “It’s a place of learning. From each other and for each other.”

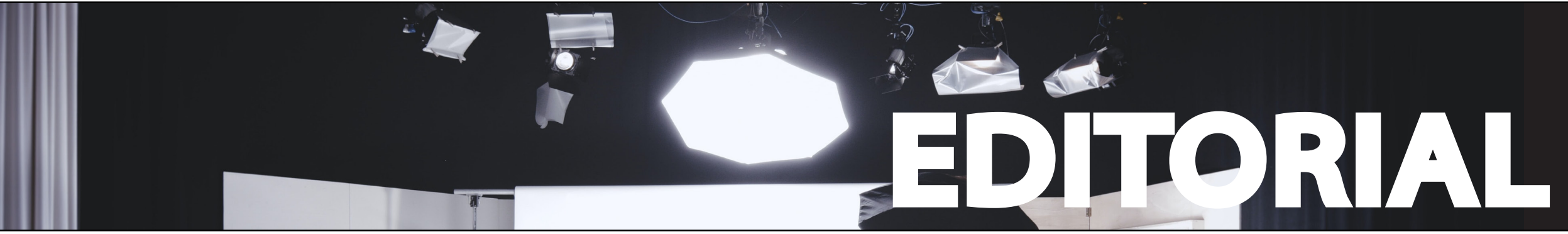
When asked about books she would recommend to students, her answer was simple: “Books that bring them joy. Books that open a window into someone else’s story. And books that make them think.”

As for books that had impacted her? At the top of the list was the famous science fiction novel Dune by Frank Herbert and its five sequels. She had loved books her entire life, but started reading Dune when she was twelve and read all six books by high school, finding that it stayed with her. She described it as “this world-building series that had all the genres in one book.”

Another story that had an influence on her but in a different way was “Lily’s Chickens,” a short story by Barbaray Kingsolver. “It inspired me to raise my own backyard flock of chickens,” she said, “which I was able to start this spring.”

Ms. Legrow plans to teach for another five or six years before retiring, when she says she will be growing as much of her own food as she can. She currently spends her free time baking bread and treats, reading, and crafting, as well as taking care of her ducks, dogs, and the aforementioned chickens.

She leaves with a message of hope: “I hope that students will continue to enjoy the diversity of books in the collection, and see their stories, their voices, and the voices of others they have yet to meet. I hope that the library continues to open the doors of learning even after we all leave Marc Garneau.” ■



“Do No Harm”, Says Hippocrates - But When Will Healthcare Extend The Same [Respect] To Women?

by SUSANNAH WELKE

First, do no harm.

This is the oath uttered by thousands of medical students across the country every year, an anthem of healthcare advocates for decades. They are the words which fundamentally motivate physicians today. First, we must do no harm—this is the Hippocratic Oath.

For two thousand years we have followed in the words of Hippocrates, allowing his axioms to weave through the statues of modern medical principles. We have followed the scriptures of a man who belittled and corrupted women’s health, a man who set the centuries-old pattern of blaming female illnesses on what he called “hysteria” [1].

The physician theorised that when left unused, the uterus tended to create toxic fumes. If not blessed by the honour of housing the male phallus, a woman’s reproductive organs could spread their deep dissatisfaction to the rest of the body. It was wholeheartedly accepted that the evil fumes of a dry birth canal could cause anxiety, tremors, convulsions, and paralysis.

This lens through which Hippocrates saw has tinged the vision of medical professionals since medicine was created. Throughout history, every issue in female-specific medicine was once explained by either a lack of sexual activity or too much of it. It was said that hypersexuality could cure breast cancer, that endometriosis was the punishment for too much libido. The first skeletal sketches were deliberately manipulated to present a female body with widened hips and a smaller cranium, further emphasising the cattle-like role women present in society [2]. In every instance, science was twisted through the lens of reproductive optimization. Women are objects of breeding, compartments to house man’s offspring.

And although this method of thinking seems ancient history, it’s ingrained in the medicine practised today—fed to rising students, built deep within the framework of how we treat patients.

In emergency medicine, women are screened first for mental health issues or psychosomatic explanations before even discussing the possibility that their symptoms might be accurate. A woman walks into the emergency room having a heart attack, and she is seven times more likely than men to be dismissed and discharged [3]. She is pushed out of that ER under the pretence that her crisis is exaggerated. She is sent home, and her emergency will be rationalised by her doctors as stress or mental illness.

After major surgeries, women are half as likely to be prescribed painkillers during recovery [4]. Although women report more intense pain [5] than men, we are half as likely to receive treatment for it [4].

Even drug trials are not extended to assess reactions in women. They hold back on testing 50% of the global population, for fear of killing their eggs [6]. Age, fertility—even whether or not the patient wants children—are considered irrelevant. All that matters is the preservation of the clump of cells that might one day become a human. When these drugs are produced, they are manufactured for wide-scale use without ever being tested on a single woman. Millions of women are being administered a drug that wasn’t made for them, putting their lives at risk to protect potential humans. Not the real, live, functional humans, but a microscopic ball of matter.

To this day, we are still blaming the uterus, leaving women to suffer from long-standing healthcare practices designed for men. We live in a world where men’s problems are real, and their health matters, but a woman’s issues are all in her head, because her only purpose is to procreate.

The prioritisation of the male agenda continues to kill millions of women every year. Ten thousand women will die in motor vehicle crashes because their vehicle’s safety was only tested on male dummies [7]. Seventy-eight thousand will die during illegal abortions because they were forced to carry a child [8]. Two hundred and five thousand will die of breast cancer because it was first misdiagnosed [9].

Medicine fails women. We must deconstruct this complex web of patriarchal patient care, starting with its providers. Medical professionals must receive extensive education on the presentation of disease in the female anatomy. Studies show that women even describe their symptoms differently, telling a narrative rather than succinct bullet point symptoms. Bedside manner and medical recording must be taught in relation to the female experience as well as the male one. The legitimacy of studies should only be verified once they’ve been performed on both sexes, rather than extrapolated to accommodate both.

Only once these practices are routine can medical students truly swear to “first, do no harm”.

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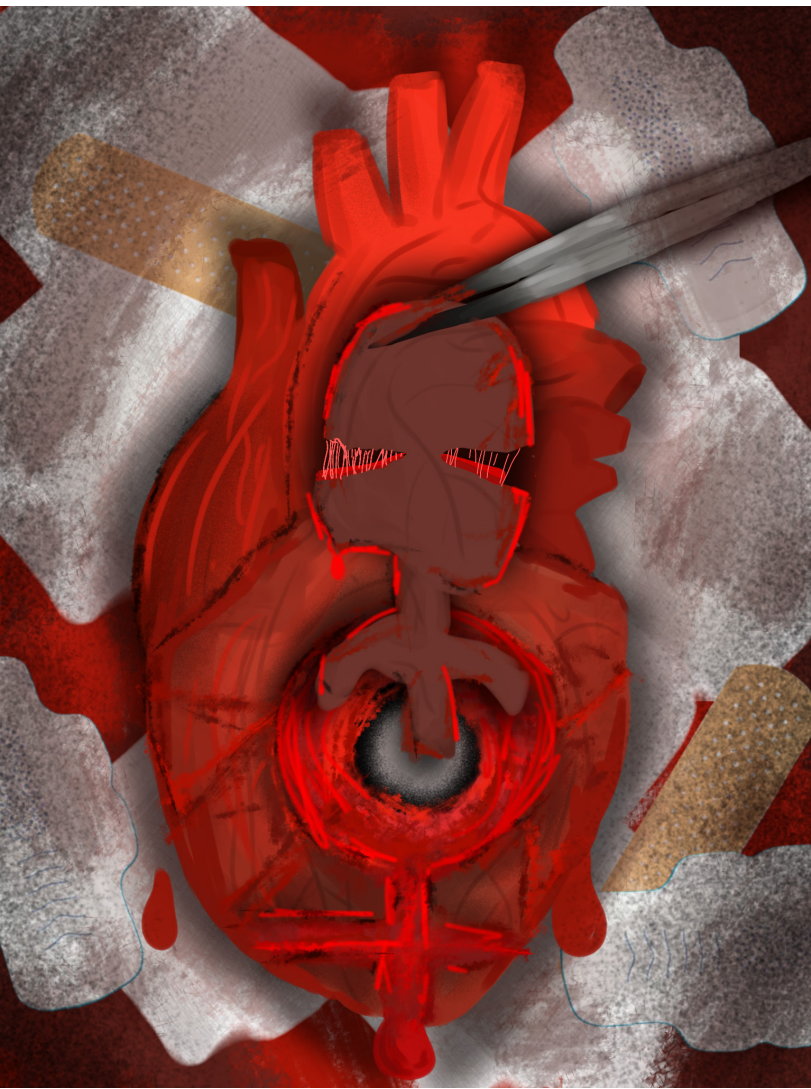


Illustration: Elizabeth Soutchanski

AI Doesn’t Get A Free Pass

by ORIANA ZHOU

On March 22, 2023, Elon Musk led a group of researchers from Microsoft, Google, Meta, and other companies calling to end the development of systems that are “more advanced” than GPT-4 for six months, during which a rigid protocol and independent auditing body should be developed to monitor and guide future development [1]. In the past few decades, technology has been growing at an incredible speed and reaching new heights that we’ve never imagined would be possible. In an ever-changing world, the development of artificial intelligence will likely be rapid and unpredictable—and we should reasonably be wary.

It is rational to conclude that there are numerous benefits of artificial intelligence. AI has caused a reduction in human error, constant productivity, performing repetitive tasks at high rates, rapid decision-making, and identifying patterns [2]. Most importantly, AI causes better AI development as new researchers and scientists are constantly willing to develop new technologies, so AI can further drive its own innovation.

With that being said, there are many ethical concerns about AI—specifically relating to its applications. The most notable one is biased artificial intelligence. Issues within search engines cause bias, as search engine results often lack neutrality because they produce results based on popularity, not crude information [3]. Often, faulty algorithms result from unrepresentative data, reliance on flawed information, or historically inaccurate results or documentation[4]. Humans are also designers in AI, meaning that our inherent biases often influence algorithms. A common concern of bias is racial profiling. Due to unrepresentative data among other reasons, certain races are discriminated against by AI algorithms, causing harmful consequences, especially in law enforcement and security. Perhaps Musk’s letter has merit in this case, telling us that there has to be more oversight and accountability for AI before it can be implemented and cause racially biased or gender-biased results. Researchers say that the ideal remedy is for more collaborative AI that drives innovation and also corrects

problems within AI itself [4].

The rise of technology has also created a plethora of legal issues. Since cell phones have stored more and more personal information, case law around privacy has developed, the rise of AI could only mean that the judicial system would have to adapt to privacy concerns around artificial intelligence. AI could be potentially dangerous due to the large amounts of collected and processed data. In the status quo, we already live in a world where we voluntarily give up our data to technology firms, an issue that will only increase under the further development of AI. The problem is that security breaches could be potentially harmful, and data in the wrong hands could be used maliciously. Moreover, privacy concerns are exacerbated when many functions in society rely on artificial intelligence and where we live in a world where individuals do not have a conscious choice but to give up large amounts of their data. The question becomes, how much is too much? More concerning is the lack of regulation on AI. The law cannot properly examine privacy breaches or new developments because very few individuals understand how it works. There is also no prevention mechanism for bias and privacy concerns, so we lack accountability to fix these problems. Developing AI without understanding and having a way to prevent negative consequences can only be harmful.

But what is the solution? Musk’s letter calls for regulation and ethical standards of artificial intelligence. Legal standards and regulations will likely take time to develop, but it’s worth creating a robust system to ensure accountability and ethical practices. The criteria are simple. First, legal developments and oversight should keep up with the pace of AI developments. They should strive to consider future challenges that are brought about by additional growth. Secondly, there has to be global coordination because cybersecurity and technological developments impact everyone. Sure, different countries may have slightly different laws on privacy and technology, but there should be a basic standard that all countries should agree to. This ensures better coordination and accountability against hostile development but also monitors research and development. Third, there needs to be effective oversight. Jason Furman, a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, states that governments need a better technical understanding of AI to push legislation [5]. AI will be applied to different industries, such as automobiles and medical developments. Furman argues the best oversight should be left to experts in the industry itself. Instead of having one large AI body, automobile AI regulation should be left to transportation boards, while healthcare should be left to the health department.

I do not know what the future of AI will look like. What happens in 30 years may not be what any of us have imagined. That does not change the fact that unregulated or poorly regulated development of AI will still be a problem. AI is already advancing at alarming rates, so credible oversight and standards must be established. Procrastinating on this issue will only enlarge future problems. Musk and other signatories of the letter, such as researchers and representatives of large tech companies, signed the letter in good faith. When the time comes, let us hope that billionaires and corporations will also play by the rules—once they have been established, of course. ■

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Illustration: Yuewen Gao



Two Men With Green Vests Carrying Ladder Break Into The White House

by KENNY ZHENG

Previously this week, two unidentified men broke into the Oval Office while the President of the United States, Joe Biden, was inside. The two men were wearing high-visibility vests and appeared to work on fixing the vacuum-sealed fluorescent light bulbs within the White House.

Upon closer video footage, they were actually using a screwdriver, hammer, and calliper on the wall and ladder, while also feeling the lightbulb up with their gloved fingers. They did this across 15 different rooms, over the course of 3 hours. The alarm was raised only 24 hours after the two men left due to an employee reviewing security footage to find who ate their lunch.

One of the security guards at the entrance of the building was shocked, “I thought they was just meant to be here, they got the vests, the helmets, toolbox, hell they even got the ladder. Man, who gon stop’ a man who got to do what they go to do; they work hard, live hard, and sleep hard. They don’t get paid enough to deal with your #####.”

The security guard was later fired for fraud. This incident occurs less than a week after the Oklahoma-Kentucky Freeway Crisis where an unidentified individual with a pickup truck containing an orange light on top replaced all the highway signs with Subway Ads, exclaiming “EAT FREEEEESHHH” in bold letters

One onlooker explained, “When they were taking the sign down we thought they were just replacing them. Then the Subway Ad went up, but, they clearly knew what they were doing. It’s not my business to interfere with an honest man’s line of business.”

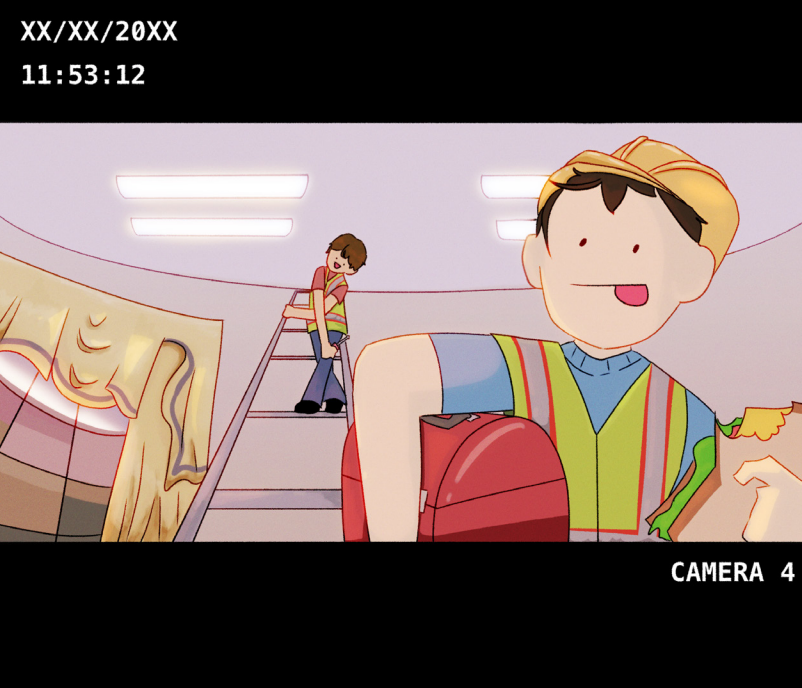


Illustration: Shiloh Zheng

Teaching Toddlers About Death 101

by SOHA SAKHIANI

I think I was five
Or maybe even six
A Summer morning
...or maybe it was Spring
None of this matters though
I’m giving you time to brace
Because now I will show
The scene of this murder case
Something resonated and crunched
Beneath my light up sneakers
Eyes widened and voices hushed
I felt this sudden bleakness
Not knowing that life could stop
But knowing I’d done something wrong
The silence wasn’t pin drop
More like the one before a song
But not a song of joy or unrequited love
But of a warning, a cautionary tale
I squinted my eyes and looked up above
This isn’t deep, I just saw Tom with the mail
My knowledge of death very limited indeed
But I knew someone grim was involved
Carefully I was told to move my feet
Now you will see the murder resolved
Underneath my shoes
The scene of the crime
Still flashing red and blue
A ladybug ready for bedtime

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Because it’s not my fault

i told you i’m queen, and it’s always the same

by VIVINI XIANG

I am absolutely RIGHT
Take more and more (honey) and devote to me

Because it’s not my fault
I am innocent as everybody desires
I am relieved, I am always the drama queen

I’m talented. Everything goes my way. See, haven’t I proved it?
Shouldn’t the fact that I’m on the right end of a gun prove it?

“Please, Noir, you don’t have to—”

“Give it up. He’s not going to listen. At least go out with a bit of dignity.”

She says nothing, but just laughs. Laughs so bitterly and so dully that for a moment I consider keeping her alive just so she can finally finish and make it leave my mind.

“What you’re talking about doesn’t exist, Weiss. Not for us.”

“Do you really want those to be your last words?” I say sharply, and she gives a tiny nod. Something so small I wouldn’t even have noticed, if I wasn’t made for it.

Bring it.

I squeeze the trigger, and with the sort of ability she has I almost expect the gun to be empty, or to jam, or to do anything other than exactly what it was made to do.

But it doesn’t. And neither do I.

“I hope you’re happy.”

And unlike her, he sounds genuine. Sounds like the schoolboy he was supposed to be, unlike us. At least he’d actually been given a chance at a normal life. But he was going to throw all this away, for what? Loyalty to a girl who knew nothing more than her higher purpose? It’s worthless. It’s all so worthless.

“I know I am.”

There’s no doubt this time. He’s just ordinary. And the bullet travels as straight as it did with her.

It hits me. I’ve won. I’ve proved that I’m better than her, than both of them, and that I will always be. Even now, it seems impossible that I could possibly have been anything else, that I could possibly have been that helpless imitator girl left driven to distraction by a petty little musician. It’s impossible.

I’m the best weapon in the city, and I’ve never been anything else. Everything will fall into place now.



Illustration: Syeda Sadaf Jaffary

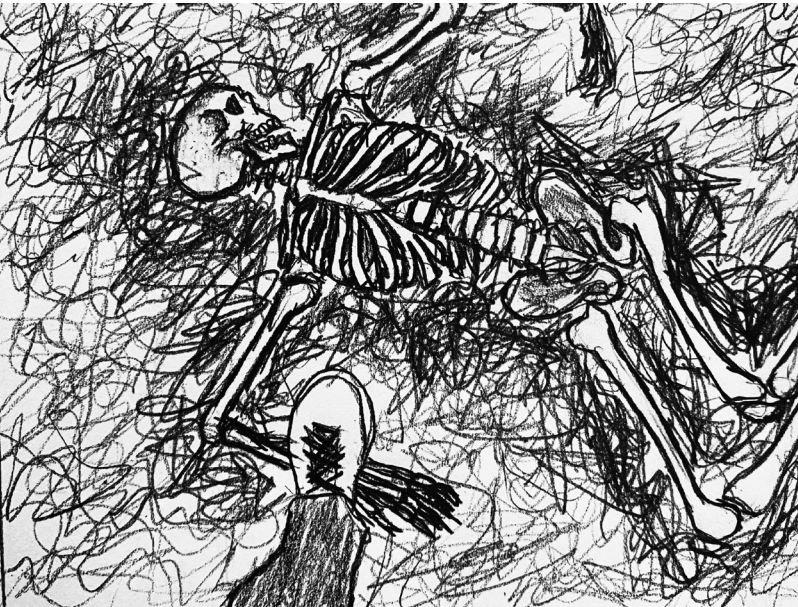


Illustration: Zaid Azhar
thereckoner.ca

Most Effective Way to Order a Subway Sandwich

by BAILEY MIN

Social interaction is hard, so here’s a foolproof method to follow to a T to order a Subway sandwich.

Drive to the nearest understaffed Subway, making sure to cut in front of 3 cars while honking at them for being in your way.¹

Take up two spots in the parking lot because you’re a busy person and don’t have time to park properly.²

Stride into the shop and assert your dominance by forcing the person who was in the middle of exiting to step back and let you pass.³

Cut halfway through the line and gaslight everyone into thinking you were in that spot all along.⁴

Come your turn, rattle off the vegetables you want on your Sub before the single teenage employee saving up for tuition can ask about anything else⁵. (The sooner you begin after they turn around from their last order the more effective)

Haughtily concede to telling them what bread, size, meat, cheese, and toast status you want, ensuring that you list them fast enough to make the employee scramble⁶. This gives a 10% chance of error that you can leverage in the next step

If they make a mistake in their scramble, exacerbate the situation by yelling at them for getting your order wrong and asking to speak to the manager. If not, lie until they believe they made a mistake and continue.⁷

Tell the manager to fire the employee and demand your sandwich be free.⁸

When denied, throw a tantrum and stomp out of the Subway. As a bonus, turn around and grumble that you will give them a bad rating and take them to court.⁹

¹ Don’t.

² Please don’t.

³ Literally no.

⁴ You are a bad person.

⁵ Hideous.

⁶ Atrocious.

⁷ I will toilet paper your house if you do this.

⁸ Okay Karen.

⁹ For legal, moral, political, physical, metaphysical, and spiritual reasons, for the love of all that is even a smidgeon good in this word, do not do any of the above. It is strictly satirical.



Illustration: Elizabeth Soutchanski