

The Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Stopping Violence Against Women

by JULIE XIAO

In 2017, acts of sexual harassment and assault have drawn international attention and scrutiny. Fuelled by the #MeToo social media campaign, men in all industries have been called out for inappropriate and criminal behaviour against women. The insufficient apologies and remorse expressed by the attackers have also shone a light on how much society enables gender-based violence. This year's events have made the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women even more prevalent. At MGCI, several clubs as well as school administration organized events in commemoration of the day.

The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women began in 1991 after fourteen aspiring female engineers studying at the École Polytechnique de Montréal were killed on 6 December 1989 by a male applicant who had been rejected for admission. He claimed he was “fighting feminism.” The event, known as the Montréal Massacre, is the face of the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, and is used as an example of gender-based violence.



Photo: Justin Ye

Around 11 am, Vice President Mr. Sharp began commemoration events with a brief background on the Montréal Massacre, the day, and what it honours. The whole school then observed a minute of silence for the victims. At the same time, SAC's Social Justice and Equity Committee (SJEC) held their Silent March throughout the school. SAC members as well as representatives from various clubs held images of the fourteen victims with tea candles. The march began on the third floor and passed by every classroom before ending in the library, where the images and candles made a small memorial. Participant John Le, a representative of the Politics and Debate Club, said, “Considering what has been going on involving all the sexual allegations that have arisen, it is important to support women's rights.”

At lunch, SJEC also welcomed students to their Silent Vigil to come and pay their respects. In the cafeteria, Me to We asked students to write down what the day means to them on orange and white sticky-notes, the colours of the United Nations' Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign. The Feminist Club created a display on the bulletin board in the cafeteria as well, with images of the fourteen women.

See REMEMBRANCE on P3

The Inner Workings of SAC

by GRACELYN SHI

On 28 November 2017, Student Activity Council (SAC) held their first open meeting in the library after school. The meeting lasted from 3:30 pm to 4:50 pm, and consisted of debriefing past events and planning for future ones. There was also a question period for non-SAC members to ask SAC any questions they had. Around ten students participated in the meeting.



Photo: Justin Ye

The meeting began with discussing this year's Fall Fest. Feedback and discussion from both SAC and students were generally positive, but one critique brought up was the DJ. Grad Convenor Subaani Mathy, said the DJ's performance was lacking compared to last year's Semi Formal. The participants praised the DJ's transition between songs but complained about the songs themselves and his lack of interaction with the audience.

See SAC on P3

Serge Ibaka: Missing in Action

by JULIEN LIN and VARUN VENKATARAMANAN



Illustration: Jeffrey Liu

If there was any argument for Serge Ibaka actually being his listed age of 28, his game on December 5th would be it. In that game against the Phoenix Suns, we all caught a glimpse of vintage Ibaka. His devastating blocks followed by finger wags. His absolute command of the low block. We were reminded of how dominant the 6-10 power forward was five years ago. But the past is still the past. Even though the lumbering big man has shown flashes of his former brilliance, Ibaka simply isn't what the Raptors are sorely lacking: a consistent presence in the paint.

Ibaka was first brought in to be a defensive stalwart who battles for rebounds and guards the star centres and power forwards in the league. Even if late game isolation defensive switches occurred, he supposedly had the foot speed to keep pace with modern guards as well. Simply alleviating the defensive responsibility from Raptors stars Jonas Valanciunas and Demar DeRozan was enough for Ibaka to be effective. But during his tenure with the Raptors, has he really done that?

Top 10 Defensive Rating			Top 10 Offensive Rating		
Rank	Team	Rating	Rank	Team	Rating
1	Boston Celtics	101.61	1	Golden State Warriors	116.32
2	Oklahoma City Thunder	103.16	2	Houston Rockets	115.06
3	Portland Trail Blazers	103.38	3	Cleveland Cavaliers	114.38
4	San Antonio Spurs	103.59	4	Toronto Raptors	114.11
5	Houston Rockets	103.74	5	Minnesota Timberwolves	112.10
6	Utah Jazz	104.05	6	Indiana Pacers	110.25
7	Golden State Warriors	105.14	7	Denver Nuggets	110.03
8	Los Angeles Lakers	105.72	8	Washington Wizards	109.61
9	Toronto Raptors	106.49	9	Boston Celtics	109.26
10	Washington Wizards	106.93	10	New Orleans Pelicans	109.26

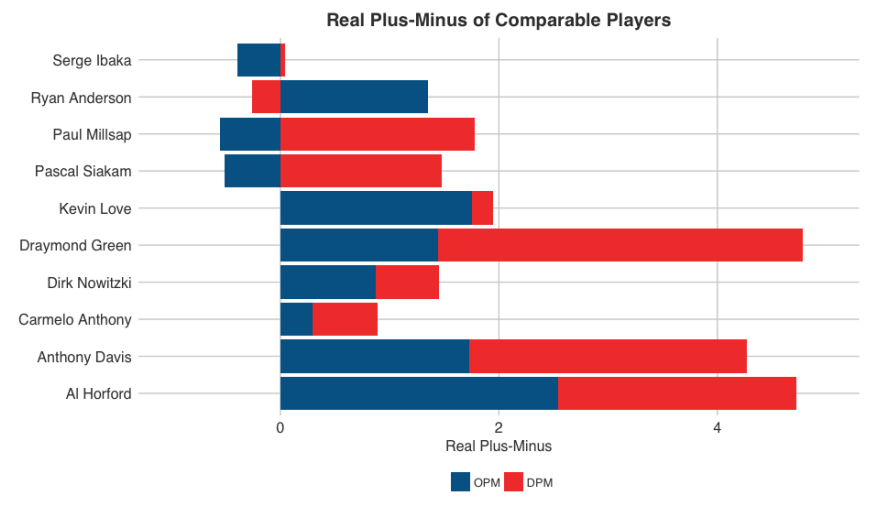
The problem with isolating Ibaka's performance is that the Raptors are one of the best teams on both sides of the ball. They are one of four teams that are top 10 in both offensive and defensive ratings, along with the Houston Rockets, Golden State Warriors, and Boston Celtics. Essentially, given 100 possessions, they would score, on average, 114.1 points and concede 106.5. In comparison, the Utah Jazz, widely thought to be one of the best defensive teams in the NBA, have a defensive rating of 104.1, a mere 2.4 points less than Toronto. Since the Raptors themselves are stacked with such potency on both ends of the court, their performance most likely inflates Ibaka's stats.

Take this into consideration: the best two-Raptor combos on the team both contain Ibaka. Both DeRozan and Lowry, when put on the floor with Ibaka, seem to perform exceptionally well, playing to a net rating of +3.5. However, the combo of DeRozan and Lowry play just as well, and the only difference is between the three pairings is a +1.7 offensive rating when DeRozan and Ibaka are playing together. This of course, doesn't mean that Ibaka causes DeRozan to play better. The difference can also be attributed to statistical noise. In other words, it just so happens that they score more when they are playing together.

There is almost no stat line that specifically correlates Ibaka's presence to Lowry and DeRozan's additional offensive rating. Ibaka's biggest calling card—his ability to take defensive responsibilities away from his star teammates—doesn't show up. Rebounding percentage with Ibaka on the floor, for example, is actually lower than if Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas is playing. In all combinations, Valanciunas consistently maintains a 3% higher rebounding percentage as well as a +3 offensive rating. The only reason Valanciunas' net rating with any of the Raptors is so low is due to his low defensive rating. But even then, it's interesting to note that the two-man combo of Valanciunas and Ibaka has a defensive rating of 111.7, the lowest of any starting pair on the Raptors. If Ibaka was playing solid defense, it is certainly not on an individual level.

A cursory review of his stats reveals a slow decline, but not enough to warrant any kind of panic. Sure, his 5.7 rebounds per game is slightly lower than his previous average of 6.8, and he has shot slightly worse from the three-point line, but the difference isn't very staggering. Without putting the situation in context, it's easy to assume that his lowered stats are simply byproducts of the Raptors' new flow offense. Since he's getting more open looks, and more shots in general, the slight slip in three-point percentage can be justified by the volume of shots he has taken. The lowered rebounds and blocks can be explained by Ibaka having to switch out on perimeter players; if Ibaka is forced away from the net, it seems obvious that he couldn't rebound as effectively. The Raptors' defense in general has declined compared to last year. From when Ibaka was acquired to the play-offs, the Raptors' conceded an average of 81.9 attempted field goals, and limited opponents to 43.7% shooting. This year, they have conceded an increased average of 83.9 attempted field goals, and have only limited teams to 45.1% shooting. If opponents shoot more accurately, on more shots, then rebounding numbers will most likely fall.

Still, on an individual level, Serge Ibaka has been pretty disappointing. Real Plus-Minus (RPM) is a stat that gives an approximate value to how much defensive and offensive value a specific player adds to a team when he is on the court, instead of merely looking at points scored versus points conceded. At the very least, you would expect Ibaka to be elite in terms of defensive real plus minus, and middle of the pack in terms of offensive real plus minus, which converges to an above average player. However, that is not the case.



Ibaka ranks 40th among power forwards in RPM in the league with -0.35, lower than the Atlanta Hawks' Tyler Cavanaugh, a player who wasn't playing on a professional contract prior to November. He has a defensive RPM of +0.04, which is nowhere close to being defensively elite. Draymond Green, winner of the 2017 Defensive Player of the Year award, and a player playing in a comparable role, has a staggering DRPM of +3.34. Ibaka, on the other hand, is closer to Carmelo Anthony (+0.6), Kristaps Porzingis (+0.4), Kevin Love (+0.2), Ryan Anderson (-0.26), and Blake Griffin (-0.74), all of whom are known for mind-blowingly bad defensive skillsets. Even 39-year-old Dirk Nowitzki, whose ankles can barely hold him up, has a DRPM of +0.58. That's how bad Ibaka is. It is true that, Valanciunas has an equally bad rating, but that's simply due to his underutilization. When Ibaka wasn't on the Raptors last year, and Valanciunas was getting more touches, the centre maintained a positive offensive (+0.76) and defensive (+0.23) RPM.

See IBAKA on P4

Crystal Bowls for Crystal Clear Minds

by AÍMAN ALTAF

On 6 December 2017, the Mind Your Mind club held a workshop on meditation using crystal singing bowls.

Mind Your Mind's seven-member executive team organizes workshops every Wednesday, with special guests regularly invited. They have previously held a bullet journaling and a slime making workshop.

For this workshop the team invited Jessie Buck, a specialist in yoga and breathwork, to share his experiences with participants and help them meditate. Around fifteen students attended, as well as a few teachers.

Jessie began the workshop by sharing how mindfulness helped him get through school and improve his academic achievement. When talking about his school life, he told the group, “No one had ever taught me how to breathe.” He said a teacher at his school taught him diaphragmatic breathing, and that was “the one thing that turned my life around.”

He placed strong emphasis on the importance of the breath, saying that it determines where people are at emotionally. He also explained the concept of mindfulness to the group, saying, “It is about being present in only this moment; present with what is, and not the worry of what will be.”

Participants then spread out yoga mats across

the room and were encouraged to lie down if they were inexperienced or new to mindfulness and meditation. Jessie started off the meditation session by ringing his bell. He then used crystal singing bowls, which are made of quartz, to create a resonating sound by running a mallet around them.

He explained that the logic behind why crystal meditation is effective is their sound, which causes the water in your body to vibrate and enables people to clear their mind. After practicing mindfulness for nine to eleven minutes with the crystal bowls, the mind goes from beta state to alpha state. In neuroscience, there are five different brain wave frequencies, and these are two of them. Beta brainwaves occur when attention is directed towards cognitive tasks and the outside world, while alpha brainwaves occur during wakeful relaxation with closed eyes. This transfer of the state of mind is said to cause an incredible clear-mindedness. The meditation was with the ring of another bell.

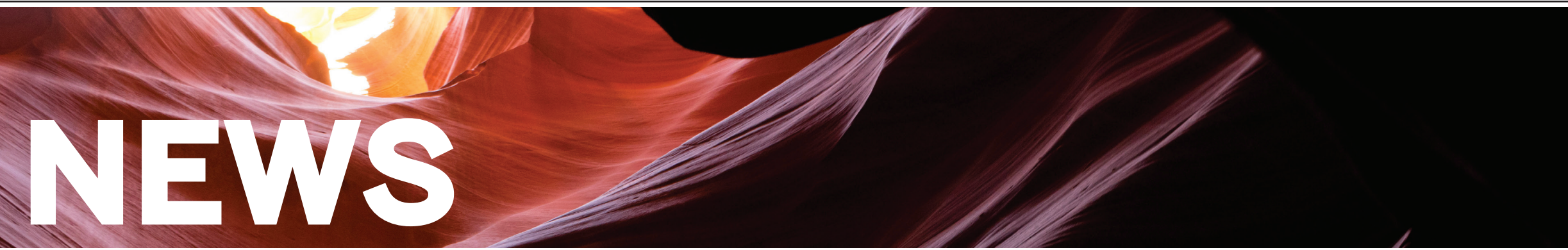
After the meditation, Jessie talked about the purpose of meditation, and its message of kindness, compassion, and self love. He said everyone's mantra should be “I love myself unconditionally.” He also encouraged the group to try to take five minutes out of their day to meditate us-

ing any online resource and turn it into a practice. A regular attendee of the workshops, when asked why she attends them, said, “They're great because they provide me with a break from school, and give me a chance just to relax once in the week.”



Photo: Ava Pun

Overall, the workshop was a success and students seemed to enjoy it. Jessie truly believed in what he did and his passion rubbed off onto everyone. When talking about what inspired him to do these workshops with students, he said, “Trying to empower youth is my intention. When you are empowered, you feel like anything can be done.” ■



Fun For All at FallFest

By JESSICA GUO

Marc Garneau held its second annual Fall Fest on 16 November 2017. Organized by SAC Social Convenor Muqadas Assad, students came together at the Toronto Botanical Gardens (TBG) for a night of dancing and food.

The venue doors opened at 6:00 pm, although most students arrived at about 6:30 pm. Strict rules were put into place regarding smoking and drinking, leading to bag checks for each attendee before they were allowed into the hall. Drinks and food were served in a buffet style at about 8:00 pm and refreshments from the TBG Organic Farmers’ Market were available near the beginning of the dance. The dance continued until 10:30 pm, after which attendees made their ways out of the hall.

Tickets were on sale from 2 November until 13 November, and SAC offered an early bird deal for anyone who bought their tickets on the first day. Early bird tickets were \$23, regular tickets for MGCI students were \$25, and guest tickets were \$30. The dance was heavily advertised on all social media platforms such as the MGCI Facebook page, and Instagram and Snapchat accounts. The event was also promoted through the announcements and by word of mouth. One hundred and eighty-three tickets were sold with most of the revenue going towards paying for the DJ, venue, catering, awards and other essential components. The remaining profit will go towards future dances.

Awards for the night included a \$50 Foot

Locker gift card for the best and most consistent male dancer, a \$50 Sephora gift card for the best and most consistent female dancer, two \$20 Cineplex gift cards for the cutest couple, and \$25 Hudson’s Bay gift cards for the best-dressed male and female attendees. The winners were announced on 20 November.

The event was well attended and many students spent the night dancing and singing with their peers. “I’m having a lot of fun,” said attendee Usrat Chowdhury, “It’s great to be able to come with all of my friends.” Students were satisfied with ticket prices and the venue, but several attendees wished for the food to be better organized, as there was a large line around the buffet tables. Attendees also had an issue with unruly student behaviour as some students were pushing and shoving each other, though this later resolved when Ms. Goldenberg addressed the situation. When asked for her thoughts on how the event went, Muqadas said, “I’m so proud of everyone, the event ran very smoothly.” In the future, Muqadas hopes to improve the process for allowing guests from other schools to attend, as the process is currently slow and lengthy. She also wishes that the venue offered more assistance in regards to preparing the hall.

Overall, the dance was a success. Both students and teachers enjoyed themselves, and Ms. Goldenberg commented, “It was wonderful. It’s great to see people come together and have a good time.” ■



Photo: Justin Ye

Eco-Ex: Green is the Way to Go

By JESSICA XIONG

On 29 November and 30 November 2017, MGCI’s EcoTeam held their annual Eco-Ex to increase student awareness of environmental issues.

Held during lunch in the Galleria, Eco-Ex offered many activities to Marc Garneau students. Complete with a large banner and six different stations, each with eye-catching posters, Eco-Ex had many unique activities for students to participate in. Like previous years, there was Recycling Roulette, where students decided whether a given waste item belonged in the recycling, garbage, or compost bin.

Eco-Ex also offered three different taste testing stations for honey, organic apples and oranges, and water. At the honey taste testing station, members of

the EcoTeam provided students with a taste of organic honey before discussing the importance of pollinators, such as bees, to our food supply, ecosystems, and economy.

At the water taste test, students were given small cups of tap and bottled water, and asked which tasted better. The goal of the station was to discourage students from drinking bottled water and encourage the use of reusable bottles with tap water. The hot chocolate station called “Lug a Mug” also promoted the same message by giving out free hot chocolate to students who brought their own reusable mugs.

Students also tried to taste the difference between pieces of an organic and non-organic apple at the organic food

booth. EcoTeam members informed students of the environmental and personal health benefits of choosing organic over genetically modified foods. Another station was the do-it-yourself station, which focused on inspiring people to reuse their items instead of disposing them. This year, EcoTeam members taught students how to make a phone stand out of foam cups and several ways to reuse food jars.

Finally, there was a gardening centre, where organizers handed out soil, seeds, and instructions on how to grow a variety of plants to encourage gardening.

The interactive stations were quite popular among students. “I personally think the Eco-Ex was very well thought out and the honey taste test station was

good. I also thought the signs and banners were cute,” says a Grade 9 student.

Jasmine Zhu, an EcoTeam executive, shared her thoughts on this year’s Eco-Ex. “I think we had a lower turnout than last year but the number of people engaging in our activities has increased. I think quite a few people showed up with their reusable containers at the Lug a Mug station.”

However, improvements can still be made. Tazik Shahjahan, another EcoTeam executive, spoke about what he thinks can be improved in future years. “I think the free hot chocolate could have been better advertised by highlighting it through social media. We’re also going to work on offering better incentives next year, so that more people are en-

couraged to try out activities such as the Recycling Roulette.” ■



Photo: Laura Lu



Ms. Masemann

By DYLAN XIAO

Ms. Masemann is an art teacher at MGCI and is teaching Grade 10, 11, and 12 art classes this year.

Q: How long have you been working at Marc Garneau?
A: I’ve been here for seven years.

Q: How did you become an art teacher?
A: I used to be an artist before I became a teacher. I was involved in ceramics and made pottery for a living. Then, I realized that I actually enjoyed teaching better and went back to school to get my teaching degree. I taught History for a while as well as English before getting the job here, which is great.

Q: How did you get into art?
A: I’ve always been into art. From a young age, my favourite thing to do was to go to my room and make things. Other people would play games and hide-and-seek but I just liked to go and draw. I got into art seriously when I was in university and took evening pottery classes because I was stressed out by my essays and became obsessed with making pottery.

Q: What did you go into university for?
A: I went to university and majored in German and History. After I graduated, I could become a translator or go back to school for ceramics. I went to Sheraton College for ceramics and had my own studio for a number of years. I made my living selling my work and then I went back to university again to get my teaching degree.

Q: What do you like about MGCI?
A: The best thing about this school is how many students there are. I like this because it means we have a lot of students to draw from for the art program and can offer lots of different things such as material arts, photography, drawing, painting.

Q: What is the most important thing you hope students will take away from your course?
A: I want them to be open-minded and know it’s okay to be different. That’s the life lesson of learning and making art. I also hope they will take away problem solving skills. I don’t expect people to become artists but the creative ways of thinking when they take art are transferable to every subject.

Q: How do you think teaching at MGCI changed you?
A: It has taught me a huge amount about this area of the city and the people who live here. It’s made me a lot more open-minded and flexible. The students here are really nice and I have fun every day. My outlook on life is pretty positive.

Q: What is the hardest part of your job?
A: The hardest part is juggling so many things. Being an art teacher means you have to keep track of the materials, make sure everything is organized, have everything you need, plan lessons, and mark assignments. The most frustrating thing is the cleaning and reminding students to clean but the rewards of teaching are so great that I’m willing to put up with that.

Q: What is the best part of your job?
A: I get to know students really well because I often teach them for three or four years whereas a lot of teachers might only meet students once or twice in their courses. We have an open studio at lunch so students are always dropping in and we can develop very strong relationships.

Q: What was the funniest thing in your teaching career?
A: The only thing that I can think of might not sound that funny but it was at the time. I was teaching a grade 10 class how to cut cardboard when I cut a huge gash in my thumb but I was so focused on teaching that I just wrapped it up in paper towel and masking tape. I taught for the rest of the lesson and only realized how bad it was after I went to the office.

Q: Who is your favourite artist?
A: That’s a really hard one. I would say my favourite artist is this German abstract artist named Paul Klee.



Photo: Eric Zhao

Q: What is your pet peeve?
A: My pet peeve is when students come into the art room and ask for supplies even though I’ve never met them and they don’t introduce themselves.

Q: What is something you wanted to do but never got the chance to?
A: Well, I wanted to be a competitive swimmer. There are also a lot of places I still want to go but I’m not sure if I’ll get the chance to. I really want to go to Japan. I don’t have many regrets in my life though.

Q: What would you say to somebody who doesn’t think they’re ‘good’ at art?
A: I would say that there are lots of ways to be good at art. It’s not about drawing necessarily. There are lots of different tricks you can learn that can help you do the things you find hard. If you like it then you should just do it. In my opinion, I was quite a bad drawer even when I was making a living as an artist but through practice I’ve just gotten so much better. If you hate it and you’re bad at it, don’t bother but if it’s fun then you should always pursue it.

Q: What is art?
A: Art is a visual form of expression that communicates something from the artist to the audience. But not all art is good. The judgement of that is subjective because some people can see something in the art and find it very moving. I would argue that fewer people do for certain pieces but there are very realistic pieces that some people love and I hate.

Q: What is good art?
A: Good art is subjective but I think it has to touch you somehow. However, there are some types of art such as abstract art that I love but it leaves some people very cold. I think good art should also involve some skill or a very good idea at the least. Sometimes, artists use assistance and they don’t actually make their own art but they have an amazing idea and they get people to help them execute it. It’s very different from doing a beautiful realistic portrait of somebody but both of those can touch people.

Q: What does art mean to you?
A: This is going to sound cheesy but art is my life. Art is the thing that brings meaning to me and changes the way I see the world, especially when I’m teaching and thinking of my students when I’m experiencing new things or looking at art shows or looking at a particular scene. Thinking of ways to communicate that to my students also brings meaning to my life. ■



Seeding in Seton Woods

by JESSICA GUO

On 12 November 2017, students of Marc Garneau and members of the Kiwanis Key Clubs of the Toronto Area came together to plant trees in the Seton Woods. The tree planting was part of the biannual initiative to rehabilitate the area. Led by arborist Stephen Smith, participants planted over ninety trees, and mulched and examined trees from previous plantings as well.

The event began at 11:00 am and continued until 4:00 pm. Students met outside of MGCI at around 10:30 am to begin walking to the Seton Woods. Upon arrival, Smith taught the group how to properly plant the trees. Following the demonstration, people began working in small groups across the designated area. After planting, participants dug up dead plants and put mulch around previously planted trees. Smith also explained how to identify different trees, as each individual was given a species to count as part of the site survey. When asked about the activities, Smith said, “It was really excellent. Work was getting done quickly and people seemed to be having a lot of fun.” Refreshments and lunch were provided for participants.

Although the tree planting was mainly an event for Key Clubs and Scout groups, MGCI Key Club encouraged all students to join them and partake in the activities. The event was advertised on Facebook and executives distributed posters during Key Club meetings. Other schools that participated include AY Jackson SS, Don Mills CI, and Harbord CI, with approximately seventy participants in total.

Among the participants was Scout Leader, Key Club advisor, and former President of the Kiwanis Club of East York, Mike Young, and his son Kenny Young. The initiative was started in 1998 by Mr. Young’s eldest son, who was in the Scouts at the time, to rehabilitate the area near the Don Valley Parkway damaged by the salt from the winter. The project has since expanded beyond the Scouts, and is a focal point in the community. “My brother wanted to rejuvenate the area,” Kenny said, “I hope that soon other areas can go through the same process because more and more

places are looking less green due to urbanization.” The initiative is supported by the TD Bank Friends of the Environment fund, and in the future, coordinators hope to add plaques and signs to change the region into a trail area.

When asked for her thoughts on the event, Maggie Xu, President of MGCI Key Club, said, “It was so great to see people come out and devote their time to helping the community. I hope that more students will participate in events like this in the future.” The next tree planting will take place in April 2018. ■



Photo: Lakith Ranaweera

Taking a Shot At Playoffs

by DORA SU



Photo: Ali Bokhari

MGCI’s Junior and Senior Boys Soccer teams showed significant improvement and success over the course of their season this year. Mr. Graham coached the junior team to a record of five wins, three losses, and one tie, while Mr. Hillman coached the senior team, which finished with five wins, four losses, and one tie.

During the regular season, each team played eight games in an attempt to qualify for playoffs over the course of a month. On average, the senior team was on the field twice a week, practice or game, whereas the juniors had a total of two practices.

Within the schools in the southern region, the senior team played in the more competitive Tier 1 division while junior teams were not split into tiers. After eight games each, both the junior and senior teams successfully qualified for playoffs, ranked fourth and fifth in their respective divisions. Both teams competed in the playoffs for a spot at the city championships.

The junior team were eliminated in quarter-finals after losing to Leaside with a score 3-2. The senior team played against Harbord CI and won their game 3-1, but lost their semi-final game against North Toronto CI despite having tied 3-3 earlier in the season. When asked about the game, Mr. Hillman said, “We just didn’t have our best game at a time when we needed to.” He also said the turf field may have posed a disadvantage

to the players, who trained on grass.

When asked about their team’s success, Mr. Graham said, “They’ve exceeded my expectations for the season by a large margin and they really came together as a team.” He believes the team has greatly improved from last year’s team who lost all of their games. He hopes to improve the team next year by making sure the players are always focused while on the field. Mr. Hillman said, “We’ve been up and down. When the team puts team first and individual second, we do very very well because they’re very very skilled, but when they get selfish and start playing for the name on their back instead of the crest on the front, we’re not so good.” He said he believes that the team was more skilled than last year’s team who also finished as semi-finalists. In the future, he wishes that the soccer season could be longer since he believes that one month is not long enough to see improvement.

Although the season has come to an end, players still have a chance to enjoy the sport on the MGCI Boy’s Selects Varsity Soccer Team which has an indoor season in addition to an outdoor season in the spring. As he awaits for next year, Ibrahim Khokhar, the captain of the junior team, said, “I look forward to making the team again and with the use of being on varsity, hopefully improving my skills and leading our team to playoffs.” ■

Clubs Feature Targeting the Future

by HENRY TANG

As we grow up, we will all have to manage our money and wealth. But how exactly can we manage it effectively? How can we make sure that we’re investing in the right places, and spending money on what truly matters? These are the difficult questions that Target Alpha members answer.



Photo: Janani Satkunarajah

Each meeting, executives from Target Alpha discuss topics such as investments, finance and current issues. Contrary to some clubs in the school that

train their members only for competitions, Target Alpha takes a more long-term approach for its meetings. According to Tom Tang, co-president of Target Alpha at MGCI, the club emphasizes the development of financial literacy. “It’s not a ‘we have to do very well at each competition.’ It’s more about gaining the knowledge to be successful in the [finance and business] field.”

Throughout the year, Target Alpha competes in numerous competitions. Members of Target Alpha are currently competing in the Nipissing Stock Exchange Simulation, an online competition where competitors start off with \$500,000 of virtual money and try to retrieve the highest return. Participating in the competition also gives competitors an opportunity to practice financial concepts including stocks, options, and futures. Members will also be competing in the Investopedia National Stock Trading Competition later in the school year. This team based competition will

be the primary focus competition-wise for Target Alpha, and is hosted by Target Alpha’s Ontario Provincial Board. Target Alpha is also planning some in-school competitions later in the year.

The Target Alpha chapter at MGCI was founded this year by Raluca Gondor and Tom Tang. They started the club because they believe financial literacy is an important skill that isn’t discussed enough at Garneau. Through the lectures and discussions, they hope members will gain the skills they need to be successful in the future. Club member Jeremy Phy said, “Even though the club just started, I definitely feel I have a stronger grasp of finance topics, which has helped me achieve some positive results in the recent Nipissing competition.”

There is no interview or admission process necessary to become part of the Target Alpha. They meet every Monday at lunch in Room 242, and are always looking for new members. ■

SAC OPEN MEETING

SAC
Continued from P1

Muqadas Assad, the Social Convener, mentioned that there were some problems related to his payment, which could possibly explain the decrease in quality. Ultimately, SAC is reconsidering hiring the DJ for future events.

A detailed discussion also arose over the cancellation of the SAC ambassador program. The program was demolished this year as the ambassadors accomplished little last year due to poor coordination. SAC members argued that grade reps fulfilled the duties of ambassadors, therefore creating no need for the program. On the other hand, an audience member proposed to continue the program but alter it with better management and a smaller amount of positions to improve productivity. The attendee suggested that the ambassadors could help with promotion and spirit and brought up the program’s success in Northern Secondary School’s (NSS) student council. However, SAC conveners argued that comparing the two schools is impossible as they are extremely different. They added that the presence of spares at Garneau made promotion and announcements more difficult, as well as the size and diversity of the student body, a difficulty the ambassador program would not necessarily solve. The President had to establish order several times in the heated discussion.

A few students attended the meeting to propose an idea to SAC: using the communication app Discord for announcements, general promotion of events, and networking. The students

have created three channels, one for general chatting about school events/issues, one for announcements, and a third for suggestions. Unlike many other such applications, Discord bans the use of profanity and slurs. Huda Mukhtar, SAC Communications Convener, welcomed the idea and was interested in implementing Discord, likely for only announcements initially.

In the later half of the meeting, the discussion shifted to the Christmas show happening before winter break. Muqadas voiced frustration at the lack of support and awareness by administration and staff members which would affect the level of attendance. Despite that barrier, SAC hopes to have higher attendance this year as only around one hundred and fifty people came last year.

Another matter that was brought up was the changes to the names of the four houses. Potential new names are: Dawson (Green), Dakota (Yellow), Marvyn/Hudson (Red), Hamilton (Blue).

Refreshments such as chips, cans of pop and cookies were provided and shared by SAC members and attendees during an intermission.

Overall, SAC President Lisa Wang said, “The audience turnout was lower than we had hoped for, but those in attendance were very vocal and shared valuable feedback! The intermission for refreshments also helped to boost the energy of the event.”

The next open SAC meeting is scheduled to be held at the beginning of second semester. ■

The Silent March

REMEMBRANCE
Continued from P1

In front of the library, teachers Mr. Langford and Ms. Longpre asked male students to sign the White Ribbon pledge, promising to end violence against women. Ms. Longpre said, “The White Ribbon pledge is a pledge to stop the culture that perpetuates violence against women in any way. Not only in just extreme behaviours such as rape, but also in ways that seem harmless like sexist jokes.”

Many students participated in the various activities. Grade 12 student Sonia Balani said, “Violence against women is not acceptable and I found that MGCI paying their respects to those who

were killed and wanting to take and talk about action towards no violence was nice to see.”

Mr. Alexander, a teacher advisor for SAC, said, “[SJEC] did [these events] because these girls matter. They were getting an education, a right any Canadian has, and their lives were cut short by somebody who was angry about something.” He added that the issue is important for everyone to remember, saying “There are so many people who don’t know about the event, an event that happened in Canada. And as Canadians, I think we have a responsibility to know what happened in our country,

and [violence against women] is very modern and everyday.” SAC SJEC Convener Rahma Khedr added, “Our main focus was to give students knowledge of how violence against women affects everyone’s lives, whether it’s our family, family friends, or others.”

In the future, SJEC hopes to have more of the student body participating in activities on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. They also wish to make gender-based violence not only a one-day discussion but an ongoing conversation through initiatives, such as Dress-ember, during the year. ■



EDITORIAL

TDSB Brain DRAIN

by TAZIK SHAHJAHAN

The TDSB Equity Committee’s recent recommendation to abolish all specialized programs has been met with widespread acclaim across Toronto. The proposal came amidst rising concerns over the concept of having programs for students with ‘special’ needs.

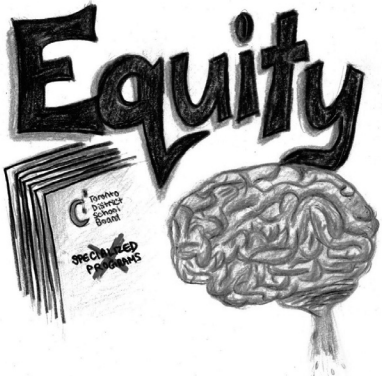


Illustration: Amy Chen

The committee released a 99-page document for the public to read, featuring a plan to ensure that students flock by the thousands to the York Region District School Board, as well as various foolproof measures to establish equity. One avid supporter of the proposal, a 15-year-old student who wished to remain anonymous said, “I personally haven’t read the document and neither has anyone that I know, but I still support the notion of getting rid of all these specialized programs. I mean, this is 2017: whatever happened to equity? I don’t see why a kid who plays 20 hours of piano every week from Grade 1 to the end of middle school or a Grade 8 kid who independently studies multivariable calculus should be given ‘enrichment’ opportunities. Equity means that everyone should be on the same plane, so I really appreciate the TDSB’s effort to ensure that the term “Canadian” is no longer synonymous with talent.”

However, the delusional teenagers in these specialized programs have taken to the streets

alongside their parents. “I know this isn’t really fair to all the people who never really worked to be on the same playing field as myself, but I still don’t want to lose my enhanced curriculum,” said one student who currently attends the SOFT program at Cougarsville Collegiate, being a common, although obviously misguided, chant. Committee chairperson Frank Trudge, who played a key role in writing the recommendations, says, “I think the fact that an issue such as this is even being debated is outrageous. We don’t have any concrete facts to support our recommendations, and yet, we made them nonetheless. What these kids fail to realize is that we don’t really care about the effectiveness or need for such programs; as Canadians, we should all firmly oppose the very notion of there being specialized programs. Some of these kids have the audacity to suggest that I have a personal vendetta against these programs! Did I get rejected from all 3 arts programs I applied to? Yes. Did I then spend my first year of high school trying to convince everyone that enrichment is a excuse made by neoliberal capitalists to justify their own success despite myself having grown up in a 5-bedroom house in the suburbs with my own butler? Yes. But do I bear any personal grudge against these programs? No. Actually yes, but only because they threaten the very fabric of communism which holds Ontarian society together.”

Communist Party chief Justin Wynne is in accord with Mr. Trudge. “This is by far the TDSB’s best initiative to promote equality, an ideal so holy and sacred that it is worth sacrificing any semblance that Canada may have had of economically thriving and not losing its well-educated graduates to the United States. I applaud the efforts of my government and the People’s Republic of China in enabling this smooth transition to a Marxist-Leninist government.”

No Serge, No Problem

IBAKA

Continued from P1

It’s not like Ibaka has been lights-out on the offensive end either. He has an offensive RPM of -0.39. In other words, he’s literally holding DeRozan and Lowry back on offense. Of course, Ibaka isn’t the worst offensive power forward in the league. In fact, 49 of the 93 eligible power forwards are contributing negatively on the offense. But the difference is, they make up for it by being the anchor on the defensive end. Toronto doesn’t need another offensive weapon: DeRozan and Lowry contribute a combined +6.58 offensive RPM, but also are liabilities on the defensive end, with a combined DRPM of -1.28. Ibaka is exactly what the Raptors don’t want: mediocre offense, combined with terrible defense. Even rookie OG Anunoby, who consistently has to guard the opponent’s top players (a la James Harden), still puts up a higher DRPM (+0.73) than Ibaka.

To the naked eye, Ibaka simply doesn’t fit into this iteration of the Raptors. He’ll hit some of his three-pointers, but once he goes cold, he doesn’t have many backup offensive options to turn towards. Since he is, by definition, a stretch-four, standing at the

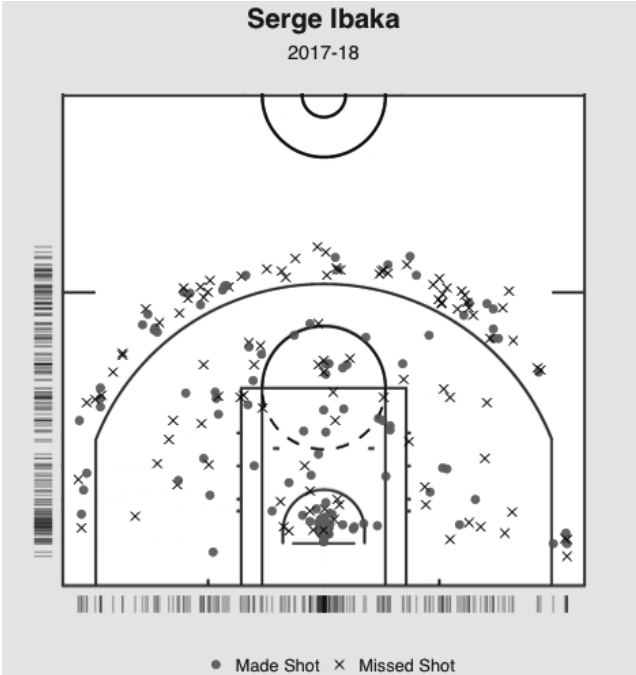
three point line doesn’t help the Raptors get second chance points at all, hence the lack of offensive rebounds. The Raptors rank 21st in offensive rebounds and 22nd in 2nd chance points. On defense, when Ibaka is switched on to smaller guard, he either doesn’t seem to have the foot speed to guard a driving player, or simply (and frustratingly) fouls. His presence on the board is also never found, as Toronto ranks 24th in 2nd chance points conceded.

The Raptors, being one of the most efficient offenses, often attempt several three pointers in a game. As Toronto does not have the sharp-shooters that Golden State have, most of these threes end up as a rebound opportunity. This, theoretically, should give Toronto plenty of chances to find 2nd scoring opportunities. For a team that is relying on relatively unreliable supporting cast of shooters, maintaining control of offensive chances is crucial, especially if CJ Miles or OG Anunoby freeze up down the stretch. On the other hand, taking advantage of opposing missed shots is pivotal in the transition offense that the Raptors run. Think about it: inbounding the ball requires time, and gives the opposition time to set up. Rebounding and running, on the other hand, create transition scoring opportunities that wouldn’t be there otherwise. They need defense. They need rebounding. They don’t need offense. And Ibaka gives Toronto what they never needed.

Either way, shots are still falling and Toronto is still winning. But at some point, the Raptors will remember that the playoffs are never as kind as the regular season. What happens when shots start missing? Or when Kyrie calls isolation on Ibaka? Will the Raptors live with Ibaka’s lacklustre rebounding and defense? Or will they finally address the fundamental need in their new offense? If they do change, maybe, just maybe, we’ll finally beat the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Note: All stats were updated following games on 7 December 2017.

Charts by Varun Venkataramanan



Zimbabwe’s Winds of Change

by JASMINE KANG

There has scarcely been a more successful leader in the modern era than Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe. Thirty-seven years ago, after a bloody civil war earning the country independence, Mugabe was elected President of Zimbabwe. At the time, Zimbabwe was one of southern Africa’s most prosperous countries, boasting vast amounts of arable land and the powerful Zambezi river. Mugabe had inherited the jewel of Africa.

Mugabe’s success stems from his extensive understanding of politics, or, rather, his understanding of what it takes to stay in power. During the civil war, the struggle against the white rule of the Rhodesian regime was spearheaded by two parties: Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU-PF) and Joshua Nkomo’s Zimbabwe African People’s Union (ZAPU). When the war was won, Mugabe formed a coalition government between the two parties and reached out to the white community in reconciliation, preaching cooperation and forgiveness. He was so convincing that the international community donated \$900 million (Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, 2011) to help him run the country. In a wave of popular support, Mugabe had everyone right where he wanted them.

In 1982, Mugabe purged Nkomo from the coalition, causing tensions between the Shona majority that backed ZANU-PF and the minority Ndebele that backed ZAPU. Beginning in 1983, Mugabe’s North Korean trained Fifth Brigade carried out a series of massacres known as Gukurahundi, claiming the lives of over 20 000 Ndebele civilians [1]. He had sent a clear message to his political opponents. Of course, such action could not have been possible without compensation; the army commanders who directed the Gukurahundi killings held key positions in the government, such as current head of Zimbabwe’s air force, Perence Shiri. By 1987, Mugabe held absolute control over ZANU-PF, establishing a de facto one-party rule.

Mugabe had successfully retained power all those years by ensuring no one could become powerful enough to oppose him. In the 1990 general election, opposition candidate Patrick Kombayi and five other opposition members were shot. The shootings were allegedly carried out by ZANU vice president Simon Muzenda’s bodyguards [2]. The rest of the election was likewise marred by violence. In 1999, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), led by Morgan Tsvangirai, emerged as ZANU-PF’s first real opposition. The 2002 election was widely seen as fraudulent by the West and MDC supporters, but Mugabe won with a 62% ma-

jority [3]. Tsvangirai also spent time in court fighting off a treason charge, conviction of which carried the death penalty. The Daily News, Zimbabwe’s only independent newspaper was shut down for circulating MDC’s message. [4] The 2008 election was again fought primarily by Mugabe and Tsvangirai. However, violence against MDC voters forced Tsvangirai to withdraw a week prior, resulting in another victory for Mugabe [5]. But election results cannot simply be dismissed as rigging. ZANU-PF’s military connections give a sense of unity and purpose to its supporters, many of whom fought in Zimbabwe’s liberation war. Thus, Mugabe was re-elected again in 2013 despite usual claims of fraud.

If Mugabe was so successful in winning these elections, why did Zimbabwe as a country decline? In order to stay in power, Mugabe needs backers. No ruler can rule a country alone. And these supporters need to be paid. The military, for one, has been instrumental in Mugabe’s regime. Intimidation is one of the most effective ways to quell opposition, and the military’s loyalty comes first. Starting in 2000, armed gangs and ZANU-PF officials began occupying Zimbabwe’s white owned commercial farms. Millions of farm workers were displaced and faced starvations. Owners who refused to give up their land were harassed and even killed [4]. But this was the perfect campaign, appealing to the black majority as land reform and empowerment. Unfortunately, the land did not go to the 130 000 odd peasants who helped take the farms. The wealth went to the ruling party members and Mugabe’s close friends, securing their loyalty. The backers were paid.

As a result, Zimbabwe’s economy went into fast decline. Maize production dropped from 1.5 million tons in 2000 to 55 000 tons in 2003. Tobacco

production, a vital part of foreign currency earnings, dropped from 265 000 tons to 66 000 tons [4]. Inflation began running rampant, reaching 11 million percent in 2008. Unemployment was at 80%. 20% of the population is infected with HIV [6]. While the government attempted to address the HIV epidemic with an AIDS levy tax to fund prevention and treatment, the money mysteriously (or perhaps not so) disappeared. While this may seem like bad policy to an outside observer, it is a brilliant move on Mugabe’s part. With Zimbabwe’s economy in shambles, no one has the power to revolt against him. People are too busy trying to get by and the Mugabe had the military’s loyalty secure.

So what went wrong? How did Mugabe get removed from power? Age was one major factoring working against him. When he was re-elected in 2013, Mugabe was already 89 years old, leading many to question who would succeed him. Any supporter would be worried about where their pay will come from. At first, Joice Mujuru, a veteran of the civil war, was a prime candidate, but Mugabe had other plans. In the past few years, he maneuvered his second wife, Grace, into positions of power such as head of the ZANU-PF’s Women’s League in 2014 [7]. Mugabe dismissed Emmerson

Mnangagwa from his vice presidency in early November, paving the way for his wife to take power. But that was just the mistake Mnangagwa had been waiting for. When the military seized power on 15 November, forcing Mugabe to resign, Mnangagwa stepped up and was sworn in as President in the following weeks.

It’s not to say that Mugabe failed. Although he has been removed from power, he has been granted immunity from prosecution. He will have a pension, housing, and health insurance, among other

luxuries [8]. In other words, he’s had an incredibly successful political career.

Mnangagwa’s career, on the other hand, has just begun. Zimbabweans, along with the rest of the world, have high expectations. Many hope that he will change the country, addressing corruption or creating a new, diverse Cabinet. The news so far has not been good – the new Cabinet is simply a reshuffle of the old one that has held power for the past 37 years [9]. The question is, will they rule in the same way Mugabe did? The government doesn’t have to be democratically elected. In the end, people all want the same thing: a safe home to live, to work, to raise their children. To achieve this, Zimbabwe’s economy needs to be revived, perhaps by returning some private titles to the land to stimulate production. The country’s currency needs to be stabilized, perhaps with cyber currency such as Bitcoin. But most of all, leaders such as Mnangagwa need to keep the country’s best interest in mind. Otherwise, the cycle will just start all over again.

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Debate Column Sidewalk Labs

by UMAR YOUSAFZAI and ANDREW ZOU LI

Sidewalks Labs, a sister company of Google founded in 2015, is developing a “smart” neighborhood on Toronto’s east waterfront. After winning the competition created by Waterfront Toronto to redevelop the area, the company is set to join forces with the federal, provincial, and municipal governments to complete the project. The area will be renamed as Quayside and become the new home of Google Canada’s headquarters. Sidewalk Labs has already dedicated \$50 million to the proposal and planning of the project. It is introducing advanced technology such as machine learning and data monitoring to form a sustainable and ideal urban city for innovation, but also creates questions. Will the project provide an opportunity for Toronto to become the ideal urban city? Or is it just a radical idea set for failure to begin with that only endangers our personal privacy?



Illustration: Jeffrey Liu

YES

Toronto is on the verge of becoming one of the leading cities in technological innovation and urban development. The development of a smart neighborhood will increase opportunities for residents of Toronto, leading it to be renowned as the prime city for company investments. What’s not to like?

The project aims to create a futuristic neighborhood on the waterfront that continuously improves itself by collecting data from around the neighborhood. From variables such as the level of air and noise pollution, traffic and the number of pedestrians, the futuristic concept of machine learning will be implemented to analyze swathes of data. Smart technologies such as autonomous vehicles will also be used in this neighborhood for things such as transit and garbage collection. Furthermore, once other areas adopt the same technology, housing will eventually become more affordable across Toronto. This will go a long way towards helping families who would otherwise not be able to afford a home in Toronto’s current real estate market, as housing affordability hit a record low earlier in 2017.

[1] This proposal, if successful, will create an incentive for other large tech companies to relocate and invest in Toronto. This will help revitalize the Canadian economy—which is especially critical as it has shown limited growth over the past couple of years. The rising business competition from new firms will bring in thousands of skillful immigrant workers, along with major firms such as Amazon. Toronto will become an even more multicultural and skilled city than it currently is.

Once complete, the Quayside area will also be home to the new Canadian headquarters of Google. This will bring many opportunities for Canadians to lead research in cutting-edge fields such as artificial intelligence and biomedical engineering. Many of these talented workers will be able to apply their skills in improving the city with new innovations and attract even more technological firms to Toronto. New specialized programs may also be created to help students who want a career in STEM. The city of Ann Arbor in Michigan, houses a large Google Office and has an unemployment rate of just 3.9%. [2]

The proposal also aims to improve the healthcare system using technology. The goal is to make administrative tasks more easy to complete and create personalized healthcare for any individual. The proposal also wants to look at the underlying social and environmental factors that affect medical needs to improve healthcare and decrease costs in the long-term. Access to healthcare will be greatly improved by technologies such as remote monitoring. For example, healthcare providers would be able to detect if a medical condition of a patient is worsening. Anyone would also be able to ask for a consultation 24/7 from a medical professional. Social services will be invested in to inform citizens about healthy eating and exercise to prevent medical conditions from developing in the first place. This new system will also collect social-needs data about a particular neighborhood and identify the citizens that need healthcare services the most. All of these new innovations will allow our current healthcare system to be more efficient and far more affordable while decreasing wait times. The data collected will also be used to get patients the care and services they need.

Toronto is already known for its excellent quality of life, innovative technologies, and abundance of skilled, multicultural workers. It is clear that Sidewalk Labs will improve the quality of life for all residents of Toronto and present more opportunities for education and work in Toronto. With new innovative technologies, Toronto will be a world leader and role model as the ideal urban city. ■

NO

Toronto is fine without Sidewalk Labs. We don’t need large American companies to dictate how our city runs. We don’t need another project that unleashes roadblocks and chaos into our downtown core. We don’t need to throw money at another radical project many consider impossible. Why should we allow businessmen hundreds of kilometers away to decide our future? Sidewalk Labs was only founded two years ago, yet it claims it can handle a multibillion dollar operation after adding Wi-Fi kiosks to New York City as its largest project.

The project aims to collect data and use Toronto as an experimentation ground, with no regard for the fact that nine in ten Canadians reported concerns over personal privacy in 2015 [3]. Sidewalk Labs claims it is using the data collected from the neighborhood to improve itself through machine learning technology, but neglects to mention that collected data will be used to develop advertising revenue. It is unknown who will own the data and be responsible for monitoring or safekeeping the technology. Will proper regulations and ownership of data be put in place or will the government and company take full advantage of the situation? As a rising threat to privacy and security, collecting data and information must have policies set in stone. If Google wants Toronto to accept their new pet project, the least the public deserves is transparency.

There is also concern about the practicality and plausibility of the project. Self-driving cars, garbage robots, and modular buildings may seem like great ideas in urban innovation, but they come hidden with major safety and ethical issues. Technology is not ready to make moral and ethical decisions for us. How will computers understand emotional intelligence and issues? In a dire situation, where all options result in harming people, self-driving vehicles end up relying on “statistical analysis”. Until we are able to quantify morality and future consequences, self-driving cars should stay in the future. Meanwhile, technology is not safe from hackers and malfunctioning equipment. At the end of the day, who really owns the equipment and land? Who is going to pay for the failed experiments and enforce the privacy protection? There are too many risks to make Toronto an experiment zone. And if we are bold enough to accept that failure is inevitable to some degree, who will be held responsible for public concerns, damages, and unsuccessful promises? Consequences will follow if the city charges blindly into unstable or undeveloped technology proposed by a private corporation.

Furthermore, the infrastructure and communities near the location of development will be disturbed for years to come. Under Canadian construction, there is no set date for these futuristic proposals to be completed. The noise and debris from construction will tarnish our downtown core, while the aging Gardiner Expressway will be more congested than ever. The project will disrupt communities and cultures for something they probably won’t benefit from. If anything, the project will only benefit those who can afford living in this new area. Public activists have already tried to reorient the project to focus on affordable housing. However, there is little middle ground for advanced architectural technology and affordable housing even if the maintenance costs are efficient. The amount of research and development needed will drastically increase the cost of living, making the area inaccessible to most Torontonians.

The government cannot let Sidewalk Labs impulsively make operations changing the lives of thousands if not millions to benefit a small population and their business. There are too many risks and changes to our privacy, safety, and livelihoods. Toronto isn’t just some testing ground for unstable technology and large foreign companies. Toronto is a growing centre for innovation and technology, a place to acknowledge our local potential, and an ideal urban city that doesn’t need Sidewalk Labs. ■

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Hollywood Rape Allegations

OP-ED by EDMUND KONG

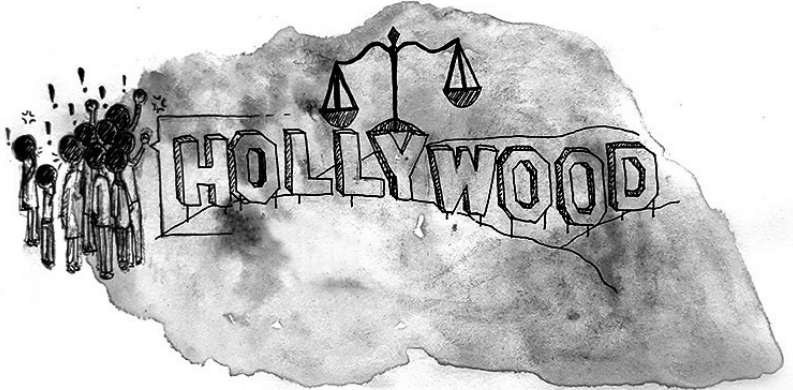


Illustration: Sheri Kim

With the current slew of celebrity accusations of rape and sexual misconduct, social media has been brimming with demands, apologies, or a futile defense of one’s behaviour. Though perpetrators of sexual violence should undoubtedly be dealt justice, a bigger problem arises when the generalization and prejudice of all accused men appears.

Beginning with Harvey Weinstein’s fall from grace, it would appear that every distinguished male actor, producer and television personality in Hollywood cannot escape the snowball effect which has ensued. The snowball gained momentum, rolling around Hollywood’s executives dealing powerful/crippling blows to powerful men. Those who used their position inappropriately to commit sexual violence were spared no mercy. Eventually, the snowball grew so large that those who were touched by it were hit heavily, regardless if they were merely glanced or slammed head-on.

In Hollywood, legal proceedings are buried under public opinion and judgement. In fact, public opinion delivers punishment far more swiftly, especially when dealing with appeals and all the bureaucracy in the American legal system. Nonetheless, a key element of North American legal systems is that you are innocent until proven guilty. Society recognizes it is better to let many guilty people walk free, than to incorrectly prosecute an innocent person.

Presentism involves the use of modern ideals and social norms upon an incident that occurred in the past. Louis C.K. was accused of 5 instances of sexual impropriety in the early 2000s, and apologized profusely when he admitted to his wrongdoings. In his defense, he claimed he was not aware of the wrongdoings in his actions at the time. This claim has its merits, given that feminism and the issue of sexual misconduct was far less discussed at the time, especially in a formerly male-dominated and controlled industry like Hollywood. Sexually toxic men degenerate the men around them just like how courageous women can empower those around them to speak up for themselves. Some claim Louis C.K. might have been lying about his lack of knowledge in his wrongdoing, and perhaps have truly been a sexual predator. However, the public should give him the benefit of the doubt unless proven otherwise, just like how the legal system would do.

With that said, it goes without a doubt Louis C.K. should be punished. Nonetheless, to peg him on the same boat as Weinstein, who already has 50 accusers/victims and counting, is to sentence an assault perpetrator like a murderer. Not only may this encourage sex offenders to continue with their acts since they have already sinned once, but it is morally unfair. An eye for an eye, not two eyes for one. (Unless its black Friday, in which case yes, it’s buy one get one free)

To end this off on an unbiased note, females like Ellen deGeneres also faced grossly disproportionate accusations for her actions. After tweeting a photo of herself gawking at Katy Perry’s breast, men outraged at her sexual “harassment” and even compared her to Harvey Weinstein. In context, there was a perceived notion of double standards in which women would not be punished for what men would be. Although there may be double standards, this was the wrong example to use. The fact that the tweet could be compared to Weinstein’s actions, regardless of Ellen’s gender, is quite preposterous. This can be ended with an admonishment to her behaviour especially given it is her “first offense.” Anguishing as it is to ALL victims of sexual misconduct, society must establish a hierarchy for how heinous an act of sexual misconduct may be and draw a line between Ellen’s sexual impropriety and Weinstein’s’ rape, just like how society has divided murder and assault. ■

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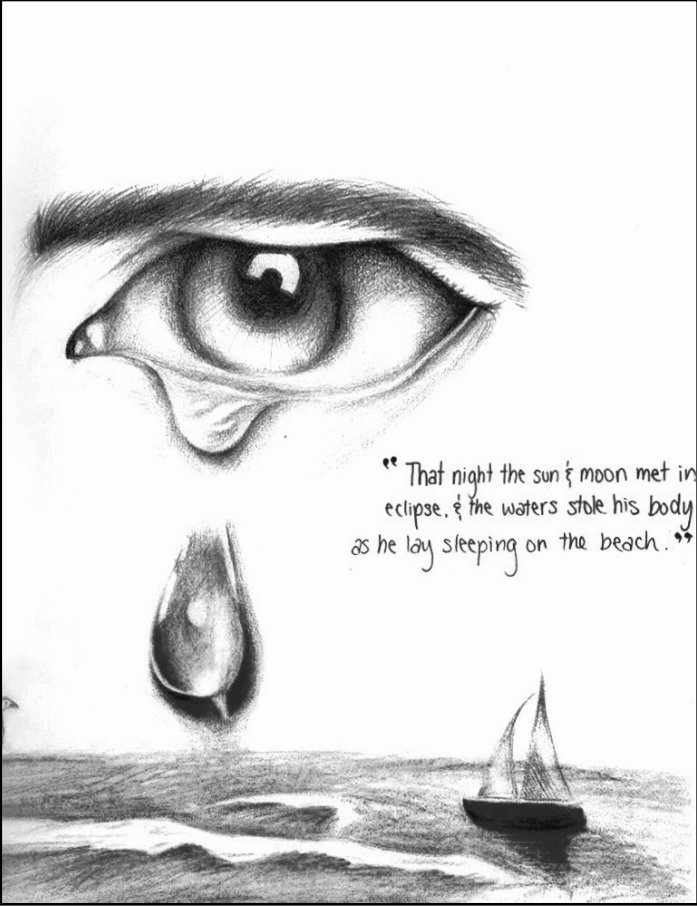


Illustration: Sophie Yang

When he left for the ocean many years ago, it was because he was convinced that he had become a fish. He cried so often that, in addition to the permanent streaks staining his cheeks, he had gained the ability to respire in salt water. He needed the sea, couldn’t live without it—you could even say he loved it.

In the beginning, they would not let him leave. (Had he been a couple heartbreaks older, they would have let him

go as they did their revolutionaries to the guillotine. But he was young, and still had people to miss him.) “I love you!” one screamed as he turned away from the world. “Come back! I love you!” He knew her words were a lie—screams of love are always less than whispers. Time scattered with each breath as the silence grew too large for him to make a reply. Or maybe he whispered. When you miss someone you only have two volumes.

The people tried to forget him after he had left, as though he were a toy that a child had forgotten on the beach. They tried to erase every word he had written; bury each footstep he had taken; abandon all things that smelled of him. (Everything.) Yet the ocean breeze carried these back to them, sealed in glass that shattered in their hands. It was then that they knew that they must leave. Husbands pulled their wives along by their soft, fleshy hands, mothers coaxed daughters and sons with promises of love and sugar, and children pressed playthings to their chests. They left the shards of glass and their homes and the blurry man by the ocean lying with his heart locked in a small black chest. They left for aunts and uncles and distant grandparents and cats, all of whom lived further inland. They left, and their doors closed with a solemn finality.

The wind brought him news of their migration. Hearing this, he grew a dorsal fin as his heartbeat shrank, muffled by the chest. He missed the ocean even as he was surrounded by it.

One morning an ash-white gull alighted upon the sand. It stood in front of him, head tilted in immortal question at the sun.

“Have you, dear bird, ever fallen in love before?” he asked of it. The gull plunged its beak into the sand. “I swear to god, your behind looks just like that of—wait!” The bird was already ghost.

That night, the sun and moon met in eclipse, and the waters stole his body as he lay sleeping on the beach. If there had been anyone left for him, they might have found a key in his place. ■

match

by MADHUMITA NATHANI

you struck me made me blaze at my brightest, set me alight.	i fell in love with the fire but you didn’t; felt alive but you wanted me dead
i watched, as my insides churned and i turned into something as radiant as the sun.	could’ve started a fire with me but instead chose to burn me down.
i turned eyes, a smoking hot flaming red-orange masterpiece but not to you.	just a bit too harsh i quivered, the light flickered
you used me then put me out tossed me away as if I was nothing more than just a tool.	i went out, left in the darkness damaged.



Illustration: Amy Chen

JUDGMENT DAY

by AYMAN KAZI

Disclaimer: This is very opinionated. You’ve been warned.

Confession time: I am a judgmental person. I refuse to deny this. But before you burn me at the stake, please hear me out.

Every day, whether I am walking down the street, grocery shopping, or watching videos on YouTube, I judge people. I am infected—no, that’s not the right word. I am overwhelmed by this extreme need to judge those that I see (let’s be honest, even those who I only know or hear about). These judgments are not necessarily racial, or sexual. But they are judgments. I judge people at an incredibly mind boggling pace and I do not know how to stop. I do not know if I even want to stop. Let me explain why.

I know that my judgments are superficial. I know that I may be wrong. A lot of people do not feel comfortable admitting this but in my mind, every judgment passed, plan thought and decision made is transient in nature. They, like all other elements of life, are subject to change. And no change is irrevocable. No judgments can be final. Only once we accept this can we move on.

Whether it’s done subconsciously or consciously, we are all guilty of judging others. Passive or active in our pursuits, our instincts draw from the experiences we have had, the stories we have been told, and the things we have seen. Some of us deny this, even to ourselves. Some of us do not. I am part of the latter group. I believe we all should be.

Judging is innate. Evolutionarily, it was a prerequisite for survival. It is a form of risk calculation, one that may not fare as well in modern times. However, instead of denying that we have this less than ideal quality, we should learn to live by it. We should learn to guide our judgments constructively and use them to learn more about the world around us.

I am a judgmental person. I judge people on a daily basis. I do not necessarily have a metric for it, nor do I have a specific scaling system. I judge people by the way they talk, the way they walk, the way they behave. I judge people by the things they do, the things they say and the things they try to hide. I judge people by their acquired characteristics, not their intrinsic ones. Or at least I hope I do.

But I judge people. And so do you. It is time to own it. ■



Illustration: Sophie Yang

To You

by ANJING LI

Dear [...]

We’re both in high school now, aren’t we? The snowflakes falling signal another year fading by, and our heavy backpacks feel lighter as the holidays approach. I imagine you’d be greeting friends with the same expressions as before—with overly enthusiastic smiles and laughter. For all I know, you might be halfway across the country. Are you still happy? Did you manage to get that phone you wanted? Do your parents still argue?

Have you ever asked yourself those questions about me? If we passed each other on the street now, both bundled up against the cold, would we exchange any words aside from a reluctant greeting? Or would we walk together to go somewhere warm to catch up, but not bother to talk again for months after? I still remember the hour long phone calls becoming short texts, where replies took days until the eventual silence.

I can still picture fleeting moments of the days I’ve spent with you. They are memories that have me oscillating between needing to forget and needing to remember. Our grins were as genuine as

the love we shared, but with each passing season, the images become blurrier. The times we spent hiking, or marathoning movies, or throwing food into each others’ mouths— they all seem like a part of our past. Something that doesn’t fit with aging, or the snow, or 2017.

I’ve seen you around though—as glimpses of you appear in conversations. In a way, it wouldn’t be right if I began talking to you now. Our conversations naturally dissipated. We’ve met different people, and, slowly, our once identical paths diverged. But would it be wrong to hope to meet again? Not as friends but as strangers. As people who know so much but so little about one another—the perfect paradox.

Wherever you are, I hope you’re happy, loved, and still living the carefree life we’d once shared. Maybe some inevitable shift can make our lives align again. Maybe not. In a way, either would be acceptable, but this sense of longing will still remain. It’s been a while. Signing off for another year—

Thanks for the memories.
Happy holidays.



Illustration: Molly Yu



Winter Blues

by ROGER LI



One Medium Heart Attack Please

by IVY DING

Rehearse the line
a million times
Over and over and over
again.
Have to say it right
just relax, messing up is not
a crime.

“Hi, sir,
could I get a cheese-
burger?”
That’s it, just a sim-
ple phrase
couldn’t be much
easier.
This time make sure
no mess-ups occur.

“Hello, how are you
today?”
He threw a curve-
ball, make a smooth
play.
“Yes.”
You idiot, you moron, all you had
to say was “I’m ok.”
Shrug it off, so he doesn’t think you’re
insane.

“I mean, uh, me good, you too?”
Wow, that was really smooth.
Well obviously this interaction has failed.
This kind of thing is not what normal people
do.
This is why no one thinks you’re cool.

“Um.... could I get-”
Forehead’s starting to sweat
a cheeseburger, that’s all you want.
Just don’t say something you’ll regret.
Hurry up, others haven’t ordered yet.

“Just uh, a cheeseburger, please.”
You did it, now you can finally breathe.

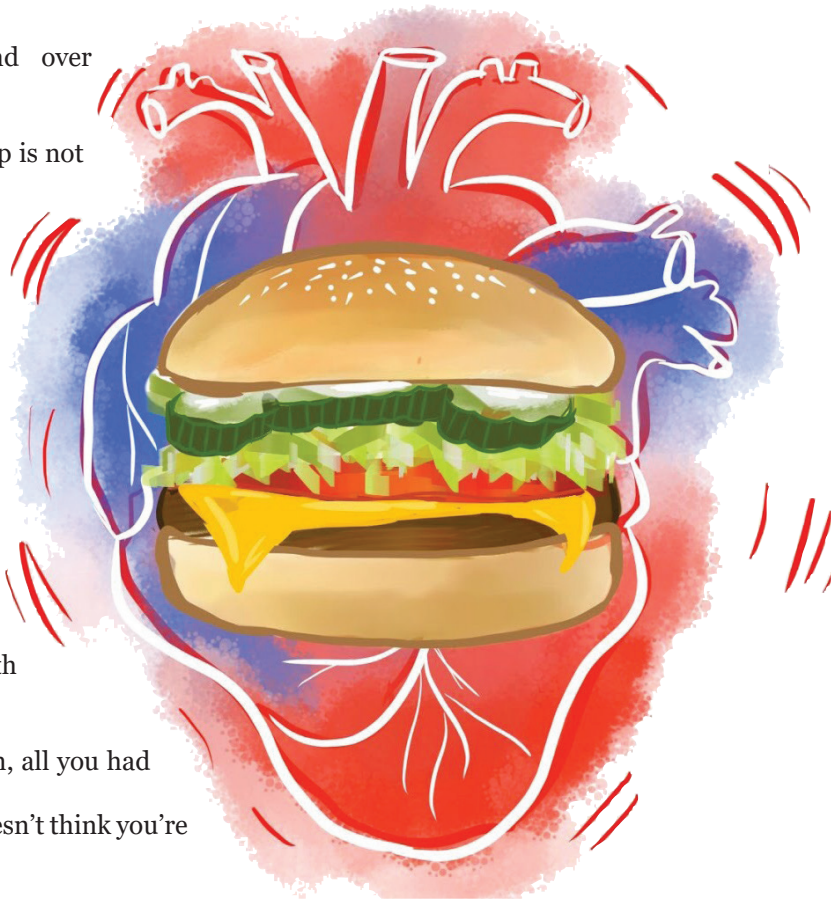


Illustration: Christina Zhang

So much built up anxiety.
You’d think you could say a sentence with
ease,
But it’s so difficult with everyone staring at
me.

Honestly, why does this feel so hard?
It’s like I’m playing chess in this game of cards.
My own brain’s the one tearing me apart
Can everyone hear my beating heart?

I just wanted a cheeseburger.

CHARACTER WARS

Best Pet

by MADHUMITA NATHANI and CARYN QIAN



Illustration: Christina Zhang

TOOTHLESS

When it comes down to the best pets, dogs and cats are so in the past. Why settle for a pet beagle when you can have a dragon? In terms of who chose the better companion, Hiccup from *How to Train Your Dragon* certainly scored more brownie points than Charlie Brown. Not only is Toothless far more adorable than Snoopy, but boasting about your pet dragon sounds way cooler than claiming you have a boring old dog.

Think about it: do you really want to walk and play fetch with your pet every day, even those when you slept for only thirty minutes, are surviving off of a single cup of coffee, and feel like the walking dead? Or would you rather be treated to a peaceful, scenic flight by your fire-breathing pet dragon? I mean, there’s really no competition: Toothless’s abilities and talents are far superior to any other pet.

Running late to school and missed your last bus? Hop on Toothless and you won’t have to explain to your English teacher why you were late for the fifth consecutive day. Don’t like somebody at school? No biggie, Toothless will tower over your worst enemies and make them run for their lives. Have a physics test tomorrow but are severely underprepared? Have your dragon breathe fire on the school, and you’ll finally have a decent reason for pulling the fire alarm. “*There was legitimate danger, Ms. Goldenberg!*”

But don’t worry about Toothless being *too* cool; he’s not one of *those* friends who one day decide they’re more popular than you and leave you in the dust. No, this guy will stick with you through thick and thin, and is there to be your best friend. He’ll hate your enemies, adopt your mannerisms, and tease you about the hot girl you’ve had your eye on. Toothless is pretty much as loyal as friends get, so you don’t have to worry about losing your sidekick.

Now, I do admit cats and dogs are cute, but if they are a ten, Toothless is more like a thousand. From his huge green eyes and perked-up ears to his half-crooked smile, Toothless is the most *kawaii* creature ever. How could you not melt looking into those big, round eyes?

But really, no other pet is even a close match for Toothless in this war. Toothless is far superior in terms of skills, personality, and appearance. He’s the perfect mixture between protective, faithful, and lovable. Beat that, Snoopy.

SNOOPY

Snoopy, the lovable pet beagle from Charles M. Schulz’s comic *Peanuts*, has been one of the most prominent animal characters of all time, and rightly so. Though Toothless’s abilities might be attractive, the heart and personality of our favourite beagle are enough to win anyone over.

On the surface, Snoopy seems to only care about being fed. Though being fed is something he greatly values, there is much more to him that makes him a truly lovable sidekick. When Charlie contemplates life, Snoopy is always by his side with some reassurance. Once, when Charlie lamented to Snoopy that we would all die someday, all Snoopy said in reply was, “True, but on all the other days, we will not.” Truly inspirational.

Snoopy is the most relatable pet I have come across. I mean, the dog loves pizza, is claustrophobic, and can hear someone eat food from miles away; he sums up my entire existence. Not only that, but he’s insanely lazy and sleeps *way* too much. He also has *quite* the relationship with chocolate chip cookies, and claims that they call to him. Me too, Snoopy. To top it off, he is the manifestation of the hopeless romantic inside all of us, with his never-ending stream of poetic woes always ending abruptly and quite simply.

Having Snoopy is like having a wise old philosophical man by your side at all times. He has lessons on everything from friendship, to life, to love, and I promise you they’re not too sketchy. When Charlie questions the sudden disappearance of dinosaurs, Snoopy is quick to answer, hypothesizing that they must’ve run out of cookies. According to him, girls are like cookies; every once in a while, you’ll find some that you just don’t get. While I don’t know anything about anything, Snoopy seems to have something to say about everything. We all have something to learn from him.

Not to mention, his self-indulgence and everlasting confidence are pretty amusing, but quite admirable at the same time. When Lucy calls him stupid as he sits watching leaves fall off a tree, he simply dismisses her as being jealous of him for being content. One of his greatest accomplishments involves being a (self-proclaimed) world-famous writer, which he’s somehow achieved by starting off (and ending) his “novels” with the *exact same* line each time: “It was a dark and stormy night...”. Meaning, they are one-line “novels”. You do you, Snoopy.

Snoopy’s wit, charm, and tactics make him an extraordinary companion and definitely the one we all truly wish we had. He might be just a dog, but he’s one very special dog: one that you can relate to and have fun with, and one that can make you laugh *all* the time. If you still don’t believe Snoopy is the best, that’s okay. All you’ll get is a *very* disappointed beagle, you monster.

SHATTER

by JASMINE ZHU



Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Maria

30 November marked the end of 2017's hyper-active Atlantic hurricane season, which proved to be the costliest hurricane season on record. Two major hurricanes landed in the US: Hurricane Harvey, the costliest natural disaster in US history; and Hurricane Irma, the strongest hurricane of the Atlantic basin ever recorded. Hurricane Maria, the deadliest storm of the year, caused the most infrastructure damage in Puerto Rico, creating a major humanitarian disaster in the country. These three hurricanes occurred from mid-August to end of September, and made up almost all of the \$368.66 billion of total damages.

Saudi Arabia "Anti-Corruption" Arrests

Since early November, Saudi Arabia's anti-corruption committee, headed by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, has arrested hundreds of government ministers, businessmen, and Saudi Arabian princes. The anti-corruption probe challenges those of royals and powerful figures who have long been considered to be above the law. However, some see the arrests as a part of Prince Mohammad's goal to eliminate his potentials competitors for the throne, while others consider the purge to be a way for the government to gain money. The arrest has affected the economy worldwide, as many of the people arrested hold substantial stocks in international companies.

Mass Tragedies

A number of major terrorist incidents occurred in 2017.

On 1 October, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock fired more than 1100 rounds into the crowd attending the Route Harvest music festival on the Las Vegas Strip. This is the deadliest mass shooting carried out by a lone gunman: fifty-eight people were killed in the attack and another five hundred and forty-six were injured.

A suicide bombing occurred during an Ariana Grande concert in the Manchester Arena on 22 May, killing twenty-three people and injuring over five hundred others. The improvised bomb was packed with shrapnel in the form of nuts and bolts, and was detonated as the crowd of 14,200 left.

On 14 October, a truck bombing in Mogadishu, Somalia killed five hundred people and injured three hundred and sixteen, with another sixty-two people still missing. The attack is the third-deadliest terrorist attack in history. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet, but it is believed that the militant group Al-Shabaab was involved.

On 24 October, a terrorist attack in Sinai, Egypt targeted a Sufi mosque. The attack involved several bombs, followed by a gun attack from several gunmen that ambushed the worshippers in the mosque. In total, at least two hundred and thirty-five people were killed, and a hundred and nine people were injured. The perpetrators of the attack have not been identified, but the attack bears similarity to attacks of ISIS.

North Korea: ICBM

Since February, North Korea has fired twenty-three missiles in sixteen tests from its capital city, Pyongyang. On 4 July, the country fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) which is supposedly able to reach anywhere in the world. On 29 November, the Hwasong-15 was fired, reaching 4475 km in altitude, the record for any North Korean ICBM. Many countries, including the USA, South Korea, and Japan, fear that these tests are a threat to their countries and international peace overall, and the UN is currently discussing ways to eliminate the nuclear threat.

Rohingya Crisis

While outbreaks of violence between the Rohingya, a group of ethnic Muslims, and the Myanmar government trace back to the 1970s, recent attacks led to many Rohingya Muslims fleeing the country. On 25 August, twelve security officers were killed in Myanmar's Rakhine State by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). Due to the incident, the government saw ARSA as a terrorist organization which led to military and government action including the burning of Rohingya villages, the refusal to citizenship, rape, execution, torture, and the denial of basic rights. In result, more than 600,000 Rohingya Muslims have left Myanmar to seek refuge in Bangladesh.

US Paris Climate Agreement Withdrawal

On June 1, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement in November 2020. The Paris climate agreement, signed by 195 countries, is a landmark global accord that works to minimize global warming. However, the newly elected US President Trump believed the agreement would weaken the US economy due to the strict environmental standards it would impose on American companies. The decision, which was made despite many warning the President of the consequences, led to numerous protests across the United States.

#MeToo Humanitarian Crisis

UN Humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien announced on 10 March that the world is "facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the United Nations". He cited that more than 20 million people in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and Nigeria are at risk of starvation and famine, and \$4.4 billion in funds are needed to avert the crisis. More than two-thirds of Yemen's population are in need of aid, and more than seven million are facing starvation, partly due to the country's ongoing civil war. South Sudan is facing a similar crisis due to its civil war, putting 4.9 million people at risk of starvation. Similarly, in Nigeria and Somalia, attacks by extremist groups have contributed to food insecurity and have restricted foreign aid.

Cassini-Huygens Spacecraft

On 15 September, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft ended its mission by plunging into Saturn's atmosphere. The \$3.2 billion project was launched by NASA as well as the European, and Italian space agencies in October 1997, arriving in Saturn in June 2004. From the spacecraft's thirteen years of important observations and photographs of Saturn and its satellites, scientists suggest Saturn's moons Titan and Enceladus have potentially habitable environments. In order to avoid contamination of these environments with microbes from Earth, the spacecraft's final plunge into Saturn's atmosphere marked the end of its successful twenty-year mission.

Donald Trump Inauguration & Women's March

Donald Trump, the 45th US President, was inaugurated on 20 January amidst much controversy; following his inauguration, on 21 January, five million people worldwide participated in the Women's March protests. The Women's March on Washington alone had over 500,000 participants, and was a direct message to Trump, who had been accused of sexist remarks and sexual misconduct.

Brexit Negotiations

Negotiations between the United Kingdom and European Union (EU) regarding Brexit began on 19 June in Brussels. The first major issue in the negotiations is the rights of British citizens living in EU countries and the rights of EU nationals living in the UK. The second issue is regarding the money involved with Britain's hefty "divorce bill", money that the membership countries contribute to the budget of the EU, mostly used to stimulate the economy and create jobs. There has also been extensive discussion about the border between the Republic of Ireland, part of the EU, and Northern Ireland, part of the UK. Future negotiations will also address the trade relationship between the EU and Britain, and deals are to be finalized by October 2018 with Brexit occurring in March 2019.

Canada 150

In 2017, Canada celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary of Confederation. On Parliament Hill, around 25,000 people gathered together to celebrate Canada's birthday in a ceremony involving Prime Minister Trudeau, Prince Charles, and their wives. In Calgary, many partygoers gathered at Confederation Park and opened a time capsule from 1967, while in PEI, where the Confederation was signed, a book was put into a capsule to be opened in 2167. In addition to the celebrations on Canada Day, all national parks were free of charge for the whole year.

President of Zimbabwe Resigns

After thirty-seven years, Robert Mugabe resigned from his position as the President of Zimbabwe on 21 November after a military coup. Mugabe was once seen as a hero as he ended the white-minority rule in Zimbabwe, but public opinion turned during the later years of his presidency. Protests against the former President began when Mugabe fired the Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa, with intentions for his wife Grace Mugabe to step in. Mugabe was placed under house arrest as the military took control of the country and soon stepped down from his position, leading to celebrations throughout Zimbabwe. Since then, the former Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been sworn in as the President of Zimbabwe.

Great American Eclipse

Nicknamed "The Great American Eclipse", the solar eclipse of 21 August was the first one that could be seen across all of mainland US since 1918. Its path of totality ran across fourteen states, and it was also partially visible in various other countries. Communities that had an optimal view of totality were bombarded with thousands of visitors hoping to experience the once-in-a-lifetime event.

London Grenfell Tower Fire

A giant fire that swept through the Grenfell Tower, a residential apartment in London, on 14 June left seventy-one residents dead. The flames took a day to put out and left the twenty-four-storey residential tower in ruins. Twenty-two nearby residential complexes were damaged as well. The cause of the large blaze has yet to be discovered, but, it is known that the fire started on the fourth floor. The incident also exposed severe residential code violations; according to fire safety experts, the tower's cladding and insulation allowed the fire to spread extremely rapidly. Surviving residents of the tower were provided financial aid and homes from the government and necessities from charities.

Zealandia

In February, after ten years of research, scientists officially announced the discovery of an eighth continent, Zealandia. The 1,800,000 square-mile continental crust lies underwater below New Zealand and various other small islands such as New Caledonia. Though it was once above the sea millions of years ago, Zealandia is now 95% underwater. However, because it has the features of a continental crust rather than an oceanic crust, Zealandia is considered a continent, albeit a unique one. Geologists are currently searching for fossils in Zealandia to acquire more information about undiscovered history of this continent.

THINGS that happened IN 2017

BY MEI YI NIU AND DORA SU