

the

Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Teacher Feature

Ms. Duffy

by TOM LIU

Ms. Duffy is a Vice-Principal at MGCI. She joined the MGCI staff this year as the Grade 9 Vice-Principal after transferring from her role as Vice-Principal at the Scarlett Heights Entrepreneurial Academy. Ms. Duffy has previously taught at MGCI, and was assistant head of the Canadian and World Studies department from 2003 to 2009.



Photo: Russell Ijaya

A job in education wasn't initially in the picture for Ms. Duffy. She had started a job in genealogy upon graduating university, and was considering working towards a Master's degree in history at York University. She was also volunteering weekly in classrooms—an activity that would eventually inspire her to attend Teachers College and pursue a career in education.

See MS. DUFFY on P2

Pressing Questions with

SAC President Areez Khaki

by SADIA AKBAR



Photo: Anthony Chang

Last year, the students of MGCI elected Areez Khaki as their Student Activity Council (SAC) president for the 2018-2019 school year. A month into his presidency, Areez shares some thoughts on his new role. Areez was announced as President on 14 May 2018 after weeks of campaigning alongside his two fellow candidates, Helen Chen and Nelson Lee. On finding out he had won, Areez said, "I was immensely happy. I felt like I had worked hard for what I wanted and it was rewarding to know that I put in the work and the results were there." However, he immediately knew it would not be all fun and games, adding, "I also knew there would be hard work and it would come with a lot of responsibility and dedication to the job." Reflecting on his first month as President, Areez admits that "it's been hectic." He says that the combined

hardship of Grade 12 academics and the addition of new staff members has proven to be a challenge in terms of coordinating events. Along with this, he mentioned that events and ideas that had been proposed much ahead of time were unable to manifest as early as he had hoped due to unforeseen circumstances. Areez's frenzied yet ambitious start to presidency has proved fruitful. September kicked off with the Grade 9 barbecue, which SAC assisted Student Services in hosting this year. Contrary to previous years, the barbecue incorporated engaging activities including frisbee and tug-of-war in an attempt to encourage student interaction. "Generally, the Grade 9s would get their food and drinks, then just sit around and be very passive—people would start leaving and those that stayed wouldn't really do anything." In terms of the

activities livening up the notoriously lackluster event, Areez said, "It was immensely successful." Following up on the success of the barbecue were the year's first Spirit Week and Pep Rally, also big hits. Areez shared that he strived to cater the events to the Grade 9 and 10 students, shaping them into more welcoming events for the newer members of the school. "[During these events, I] witnessed lots of excitement and participation, especially from the junior grades. They were very enthusiastic about the activities, even organizing themselves into house colours for the pep rally, which was a new concept to them. It permeated through to them and they adapted quickly. They took being part of a house as being part of Garneau culture."

See SAC PRESIDENT on P2

Setting Up

for Success

by JACQUELINE HUO

Over the course of their season, MGCI's Tier 1 Junior Boys Volleyball Team played against six other schools in Pool B of the South Region. They won their final game on 31 October 2018 against Central Toronto Academy, finishing their season with two wins and four losses. The team consisted of fifteen players in Grades 9 and 10, over half of whom were new to the team this year. Team Captain Joshua Xiao commented on how this affected the team: "I think it took them a bit of time to get comfortable with the rest of the team, but we created an environment that would be welcoming to the new players. We had a lot of people on the team with experience from last year who could help the newer players." Joshua also said that getting to know the other players was an important part of his experience. "The most memorable part was the bus rides and getting to know everyone more. Especially the people that I don't see every day," he commented. "A lot of my friends are on the team but I feel like by being part of volleyball you can travel and get to know more people, not only your friends in your class but also people that you don't see every day at MGCI." David Walji, one of the team's first-year players, said that he joined after hearing about the team from his friends who had played previously. "[The returning players] helped [the newer players] acclimatise by teaching the stretches, teaching us how to play, teaching us all the rules and that sort of stuff," adding that he bonded with the other players as the season progressed. An important part of the team dynamic was the members' enthusiasm and encouragement for one another. "The team spirit was definitely [always there]. We were probably the most positive and outgoing team that we saw," said David. "We had the best bench, we were really loud and always cheering on the team that was playing. I think the mood and the atmosphere that we created was very positive."

See VOLLEYBALL on P2

The Khashoggi Legacy

by UMAR YOUSAFZAI

Over the past few weeks, the world has been horrified by the disappearance of Saudi journalist and government critic Jamal Khashoggi after he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. Saudi Arabia initially denied being involved with Khashoggi's disappearance, and continued to alter their story before finally admitting that Khashoggi had died in their consulate. Saudi Arabia's clumsy attempt to silence a vocal critic came as a shock to the entire world, especially as newly-minted Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS) has been lauded as a progressive reformer willing to drag Saudi Arabia into the twenty-first century. While Khashoggi's death had been widely condemned by many countries around the world, the United States (US) under Trump's leadership has remained silent. This attitude is not surprising, since the West's alliance with Saudi Arabia has always been a strategically convenient partnership, rather than a friendship founded on respect of basic human rights.



Illustration: Lauren Liu

Saudi Arabia has been a critical ally to the US in maintaining strategic control over the Middle East. The US's alliance with the Saudis has allowed the Western world to have a steady and secure source of oil while the Saudis have become the largest buyers of American arms. Between 2011 and 2015, Saudi Arabia was the destination of nearly 10% of all US arms exports [1]. This strategic importance of US-Saudi relations has caused the US to turn a blind eye to the activities of Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Government has long been criticized for its medieval stance towards human rights by organizations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International. The 2018 World Press Freedom Index rated Saudi Arabia the 9th worst country for freedom of the press as it has no independent media organizations or independent human rights groups, and charges such as blasphemy or defaming the king are frequently brought against dissenting journalists [2]. Another facet of Saudi domination that has hardly been reported by media organizations is the war in Yemen that Saudi Arabia and the United States are actively involved in. Around 50,000 people have died from famine alone, 500,000 are estimated to suffer from cholera, and thirteen million are at risk of starvation within the next few months [3]. The United Nations' first report on the war in Yemen claims this to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis and further, that both governments may be responsible for war crimes such as rape, torture, civilian bombing, and the use of child soldiers. Despite all of this evidence, the US continues to support Saudi Arabia, citing a commitment by the Saudi government that "everything humanly possible" would be done to prevent the loss of innocent lives.

See KHASHOGGI on P3

A Contractual Conundrum

by RAYYAN ESMAIL and JEFFREY QIU

William Nylander was a frequent first line player and a staple of the Toronto Maple Leafs offense during the 2017-18 National Hockey League (NHL) season. He put up a commendable 61 points over the eighty-two regular season games and helped carry the team to a third place finish in the Atlantic Division. But currently without a contract, he has yet to play an NHL game in the 2018-19 season – and he never will if he doesn't sign by the fast approaching 1 December deadline. Despite his absence, the Leafs have still been performing quite well thus far in the 2018-19 season. With an 11-6 record they sit at second in the Atlantic division and are tied for the fourth most goals scored in the league, as of 10 November 2018. However, as good as their standing is, it doesn't reflect their mediocre 3-3 record in the past six games which were played without their star player, Auston Matthews. Matthews, a top scorer and a cornerstone of the team, suffered yet another shoulder injury against the Winni-

peg Jets on 27 October and has been out ever since. Without him, the Leafs have noticeably suffered. Nylander is the player that the Leafs need to solidify the lineup and alleviate some of the dependence on Matthews. Nylander was among only 13% of NHL players who scored over 20 goals last season [1]. He is undoubtedly a vital offensive asset, one that the Leafs could very well use as the team makes a run for the Stanley Cup this season. Unfortunately, it's not a simple situation for the Leafs and their general manager, Kyle Dubas. They have been insistent about signing Nylander for \$6 to \$7 million annually, a remarkable amount for a 22-year-old. He has been equally adamant about receiving at least \$8 million annually, as part of a long-term deal. While this is a sum that Toronto can certainly afford, the problem goes beyond a couple million dollars a year [2].

See NHL on P3



P2 HALLOWEEN



ART P4



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An Interview with the President

SAC PRESIDENT
Continued from P1

Looking forward, Areez shared that SAC is busy planning events for the upcoming months. He is well into organizing November’s Fall Fest, stating he wants it to also be suited towards the junior grades. “We’ve planned early because we want to make sure the events we plan at Garneau that are only done once in a while are deemed successful.”

When asked about the most prominent issue at MGCI, Areez responded that it was student isolation. “There are many specific groups of people whether it be TOPS, the regular stream, or SHSM, and people feel isolated in the school’s environment. I feel student council helps fill that gap because it brings people together. In SAC, everyone knows they’re a part of MGCI.”

Areez added that what he is looking forward to most this year is exploring the power given to SAC by the administration and the liberty to make changes that comes with it. One such example is the renowned International Show, which “is under reworks.” Expanding, Areez said, “[SAC is] most likely going to have a new idea suggested by the administration to rebrand the whole event. So this year, it might not be International Show, or it might. It might not be a night show either. We’ll see.”

As a believer in bringing change and taking risks, Areez stressed that “it is our experiences that define us and make us into unconventional people—people who are different. Taking risks and being part of something bigger than yourself gives you a chance to have valuable experiences and see what you’re capable of. Take more risks and don’t worry about what other people think about you because at the end of the day, those risks will contribute to your success.” ■

Meet the Junior Boys’ Volleyball Team

VOLLEYBALL
Continued from P1



Photo: Evan Woo

In addition to their six regular season games, the team also played at an invitational tournament at Danforth Collegiate and Technical Institute on 3 October 2018. There were eight teams in total, and the tournament consisted of four round-robin style games followed by playoff and final games, which gave all the players a chance to play. Because the games at an invitational tournament are just for fun, the coaches have a chance to try different line-ups and strategies. Grade 10 player Arthur Xu said that he thought the tournament was a good opportunity for the team to improve and added, “That’s the one ‘practice’ where you get a lot of game-play with eye-level opponents. We were getting a lot of wins as well, so I guess it’s a confidence booster.”

Due to the gym scheduling, the team was only able to practice one to two times each week. As many of the players did not have a lot of prior experience, the team faced some challenges. “Definitely communication was a challenge. At the beginning of the season, we kind of lacked communication and it led to a lot of points for the opponents, but we did improve on it,” said Joshua. “Another challenge was serving. We had a lot of missed serves under pressure. A lot of our sets were pretty close. There’s a lot of pressure when your opponent is a couple of points away from winning the set. I think sometimes we fell under pressure and missed.”

Joshua added, “I think that it can be both discouraging and encouraging when you’re playing against a really good team that hasn’t lost a game, and you only lose by two points. That encourages you and it makes you feel like you’re at a similar level to the top team in the division. Losing a really close set also has a negative impact on you because you feel like you could have won. You reflect and think back on what you did wrong and it could affect how you play in the next game.”

Throughout the season, the team bonded, improving on and off the court. “Their skills got better, their communication improved, and they really became a team over the course of the season,” noted team coach Ms. Wiltenburg. “Their confidence in their ability to play volleyball was really obvious to me at our last game. I am very proud of how they improved their skill level and became a team.” ■

Halloween Happenings at MGCI

by SADIA AKBAR



Photo: Eric Zhao

“It was a graveyard smash!” MGCI was spellbound by the spooky festivities organized by Student Activity Council (SAC) for the annual Halloween Spirit Day, which took place on 31 October 2018 in the cafeteria at lunch. SAC advertised its initiatives in the weeks prior to Halloween via posters and social media posts. Students were encouraged to dress up in costumes or wear black and orange clothing to earn house points.

Students and teachers who dressed up were able to show off their costumes in the Costume Fashion Show which happened in the cafeteria. Approximately fifteen teachers and students participated, with costumes including an octopus, a Twinkie, Harry Potter, and a knight. Six competitors assembled on stage for the subsequent costume contest and the audience cheered for whichever costume they liked best. Grade 10 student Syed Ahmadi won the competition with his unicorn costume and received a prize of one hundred mini chocolate bars.

When asked why he decided to dress up, Grade 10 student Ryan Chang, who dressed as a lobster, said, “School spirit is important and it’s always good to contribute. Plus, it’s Halloween so might as well have fun!” Even students who didn’t participate were in on the Halloween action. Mariel Pigao, a Grade 9 student who dressed as a spooky mime, said she dressed up to celebrate both Halloween and her birthday, which fall on the same day. Mariel added that her favourite Halloween tradition is “telling scary stories at midnight!”

Among the other activities offered was the donut-eating competition, which costed fifty cents to enter. The winner of each round was awarded with yet another dose of sugar—a full-sized chocolate bar.

Grade 11 student Elmira Ahmad, who attended the costume contest and fashion show and participated in the donut-eating competition with her friends, said, “This year has been the best [Halloween Spirit Day] so far be-

cause I feel like more people dressed up and all the costumes were so diverse. It wasn’t just scary makeup; people actually wore all kinds of different, creative [costumes].”

Face-painting was also offered for \$0.50 towards the back of the cafeteria. Grade 12 student and Special Events Convenor Zimman Yousuf was the designated artist. She said she painted whatever the students asked for, the most popular requests being skeletons and clown faces.

Spirit Convenor Nithya Uthayakumar said she believes the addition of the donut-eating competition and face-painting encouraged greater participation. “I noticed a lot more people dressed up and participated this year.” She said the organization of the event went extremely well and without many issues. The only suggestion she had was to host the donut-eating competition on the stage next time in order to increase awareness and make it easier for people to observe. The money earned from face-painting and the donut-eating competitions will be going towards the upcoming Fun Fair

Nithya is organizing as well as to the Spirit Committee for other events. Spirit Day was not the only Halloween-themed event taking place at MGCI—the Gay-Straight Alliance club (GSA) hosted a screening of the classic Halloween film *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* on 30 October 2018 at lunch and afterschool to celebrate. Key Club also took part with its “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” initiative, collecting donations for UNICEF’s “Eliminate Project” which provides tetanus vaccines for mothers and children in need. They distributed orange donation boxes to each classroom in the school during the weeks leading up to Halloween and will be collecting them on 1 November.

The Halloween festivities organized by GSA, Key Club, and SAC gave students at MGCI an opportunity to show tons of school spirit. A spook-tacular success! ■

Finding Futures: The Ontario College Information Fair

by IVY DING and AMY PENG



Photo: Justin Ye

Hundreds of eager students crowded outside Enercare Centre’s Exhibition Hall B on the evening of 23 October 2018, waiting for the doors to open. Inside, representatives from various colleges and student aid organizations were setting up for the fifth annual Ontario College Information Fair (OCIF), which was held that day from 5 pm to 9 pm, as well as the next day from 9 am to 2 pm. The event required no admission fee and was open to anyone interested in attending.

OCIF aims to help students understand and explore their post-secondary options in Ontario. All twenty-four public Ontario colleges had designated areas in the hall, each with numerous representatives eager to share information. Speakers from each college also distributed booklets detailing their offered programs. Attendees were encouraged to reach out and discover new opportunities by speaking to the professors, recruitment advisors, current students, and alumni of the various schools.

Each college offered a wide range of programs and unique specialties. One example that stood out was Collège Boréal, one of six colleges affiliated with StudyNorth, a partnership of Northern Ontario colleges that aim to add to students’ college experiences and offer unconventional options for their education. Collège Boréal, as one of only two French immersion colleges in Ontario, gave attendees different options. “When you study French, you have a better chance on the job market, as it is very competitive,” said Kevin, a representative from the college. Another StudyNorth college, Sault College, stood out through its aviation and outdoors-oriented programs. Tanya Running, a Sault College representative, emphasized the unique nature of the programs, saying, “We have an outdoor lab right across the street. Our students do around two hundred field trips per semester, so they are outdoors quite often. We have a fleet of airplanes that we train our pilots on.”

Also among the exhibits were bursary and grant program booths, general college information booths, and educational travelling program booths. Several presentations were scheduled in secluded rooms to help students familiarize themselves with the college application process. This included sessions for individual colleges, the application process, credit transfers, and more. Donna, a representative of StudyNorth, said she thought the fair was a “great opportunity for all the students to be able to see all the great colleges in Ontario in one location. It’s a great opportunity to speak to faculty, staff and recruitment.”

To many, the event was highly beneficial, not only for high school students, but also for parents wanting to familiarize themselves with the education options in Ontario. “I know so much more about my program, how to apply to it, and what I’m going to be doing each semester. It’s like now I know everything,” said Mikayla, a high school senior who attended the fair. Parents and students alike left the event satisfied with newfound information and a better sense of their future options. ■

Welcoming the New Vice-Principal

MS. DUFFY
Continued from P1

In her nineteen years in education, Ms. Duffy has worked at six institutions, both as a teacher and an administrator. Her favourite part of the job is being able to work closely with students and teachers, sharing both knowledge and opportunities. She says that she sometimes misses teaching in the classroom because of this: “In the classroom I have a very different rapport with students. You can establish your space with students much more easily than you can as an administrator. But I also do feel that I enjoy what I do right now as [Vice-Principal] to support students and teachers.”

Although Ms. Duffy spends much of her time working in the office or classroom, some of her most valuable memories actually take place outside of the school. In her opinion, field trips are where some of the most interesting and exciting learning experiences can happen. She enjoys seeing kids relate to different things that capture their attention and witnessing the spark when something inspires them.

Among her favourite memories from her own schooling experience were the relation-

ships she had with friends. She also remembers many teachers and professors that had a strong influence on her. In fact, it was because of one of her professors that she chose to pursue an undergraduate history degree: “I didn’t start out thinking I was going to do a history degree, but I just became very interested in history because I had great teachers. They inspired me to delve into history and issues around social justice. I would say I’ve had lots of formidable people, especially teachers, in my life.”

Outside of her job, Ms. Duffy has many other interests. Primarily, she adores travelling, having been to almost fifty different countries. She loves the Egyptian pyramids and the floating markets in Vietnam, but she says she “couldn’t pick any place and say that it’s the best in the world. There are so many places in the world that have great cultural experiences, history, and stories to tell. All places are amazing for different reasons.” Ms. Duffy brings the culture of the countries she visits home with her through her food—she enjoys cooking and trying foods from around the world, with spicy

foods being her favourite. She is definitely not finished travelling yet, adding that she is eyeing Machu Picchu in Peru and the Great Wall of China as her next destinations.

Along with travelling, Ms. Duffy likes to spend time outdoors and stay active, especially by going canoeing, doing hiking trips in the summer and fall, and doing karate. She is also an avid reader and her favourite book is *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry.

If that isn’t enough inspiration, Ms. Duffy concluded her interview by sharing some valuable advice with Garneau students: “Believe in yourself and follow your own destiny—not all paths are straight—I really believe that when one door closes, another door opens. You don’t know what’s behind that other door and it could actually be something transformative. It could be connections you’re making that could change your life that you have no idea of at the time. I love Gandhi’s quote, ‘Be the change you want to see in the world’, because I really do think that everyone can make a difference.” ■



Toronto’s Taxing Troubles

by ADIL HAIDER

On 22 October, Torontonians re-elected John Tory to a second term in office, and with him a mandate to continue his SmartTrack transit plan, provide wide reaching incentives to developers to build affordable housing, and create a massive new park [2]. While all that is well and good, who’s going to pay for it all? Toronto will face a \$388 million funding deficit by 2019, growing to \$1.42 billion by 2023, and that’s not including the \$30 billion in projects that have been approved, but not funded [1]. How did we get into this situation, and more importantly, how do we get out? To understand that, first we have to talk a little bit about municipal taxes, but I promise I’ll make it interesting.

While the provincial and federal governments can levy sales and income taxes, municipal governments can only levy property taxes. In that case, we shouldn’t have any issues—Toronto real estate prices are through the roof! Unfortunately, it’s not that simple.

Property taxes are decided annually based not on the absolute growth of the property, but on how much it’s grown compared to the citywide average. So if your property doubles in value, but the rest of the city’s does too, you still pay

the exact same amount in taxes [4]. The only way the city can increase tax revenue is either by increasing the absolute tax rate, or increasing the tax base by giving developers permits to build more properties. It’s the latter that City Hall has been relying on to make ends meet for the last eight years, a strategy responsible not only for the rash of condos we’ve seen popping up everywhere—condos are taxed at almost triple the rate of individual homes—but for the Municipal Land Transfer Tax (MLTT) as well. Under the MLTT, the city takes a cut of every real estate transaction in the city. Given how active Toronto’s real estate market has been up until recently, the city was able to make ends meet fairly easily with the huge influx of MLTT cash they were getting. But as the real estate market began to cool, and developer interest in new condos began to wane, the city was left with a huge hole in their budget, and no way to fill it. Now they have two equally unappetizing options in front of them: raise property taxes, or cut city services.

Raising property taxes has long been considered politically impossible in Toronto, with both Keesmaat and Tory promising not to raise taxes [2]. Toron-

to already has the lowest property tax rates in southern Ontario, despite also having the highest expenses [3]. Even as we keep demanding more and better services every year, city council refuses to raise taxes beyond the bare minimum required to keep up with inflation. So we’re forced to deal with cuts, or as city council calls them, “efficiencies”. The Eglinton Crosstown has been pushed back by three years already, TTC fares were raised earlier this year, and soon we might see slashes to bus service and even library hours. In the worst case scenario, the city is considering privatizing Toronto Hydro and Toronto Parking Authority, with all the inequalities that could imply. Parking on city streets, waste disposal, and even water could be passed into the hands of private companies [1].

None of the above sounds desirable, so the question remains: what is to be done? During the election, Jennifer Keesmaat proposed two major measures to cut this deficit. The first is a “progressive property tax”, a 0.4% surtax on homes worth more than \$4 million [4]. She also proposed lowering costs by making better use of city property, properties like the five city-owned and -oper-

ated golf courses currently sitting idle. These seem like reasonable and common-sense ways of raising city income, and may in fact be implemented once election fever has worn off somewhat.



Illustration: Sophie Yang

Unfortunately, if we just stop there, we’re still leaving a massive gap. Keesmaat’s property surtax is only expect-

ed to bring in about \$80M a year [4], assuming the real estate market stays hot, and no one really expects a few golf courses to turn the city’s balance sheet around. Compare that to just a one percent increase in property taxes, which will bring in \$30M a year, regardless of the market [1]. Adding a small surtax here, or cutting a few thousand there isn’t enough to pay for the education our children deserve. It isn’t enough to pay for the transit our commuters need. It isn’t enough to pay for the infrastructure our lives depend on. No, if we want a city to be proud of, we can’t keep expecting the government to make something out of nothing. We need an absolute, across the board tax raise. We need to pay for the city we want to see. ■

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Fading Freedoms and Falling Facades

KHASHOGGI
Continued from P1

Turning a blind eye is the foundation of the US-Saudi partnership anyways—for decades the US has cherished its close relationship with Saudi Arabia while overlooking the Saudi government’s misdeeds. However, it does seem that Khashoggi’s killing has brought a great amount of attention to the war in Yemen and the US’s involvement in it. From the beginning, the US had very little oversight in the war and primarily just assisted Saudi Arabia. However, since the Democrats have taken control of the House of Representatives, interest has been expressed in rethinking the US’s involvement in the war in Yemen. While the killing of one journalist will not completely change this relationship or the outcome of the war in Yemen, it does bring much needed attention to what is currently the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

What makes the killing of Jamal Khashoggi particularly disturbing is the way he was killed and the message the Saudi government was trying to proliferate. While the Saudi government does finally agree that Khashoggi was killed in its consulate and that his murder may have had been premeditated, it is still putting the blame on rogue killers within the government. However, analysts believe that if an order did come directly from the Saudi government to have Khashoggi killed, it must have come from high up in the government, possibly from the crown prince himself. By killing Khashoggi, the message that the Saudi government sent was simple: they are willing to take any measure whatsoever to silence dissidents. Saudi Arabia realizes that in today’s world, a critical article written against the Saudi government in Washington can be read by a person in Riyadh easily. And for a country that has survived mainly due to the unwavering support of its citizens, any form of dissidence is a huge threat to the future of this monarchy. Since the Arab Springs erupted in countries in the Middle East such as Syria and Egypt, Saudi Arabia has begun to grow increasingly afraid of a possible uprising within its borders.

Jamal Khashoggi’s disappearance is not the first time that a high profile journalist has disappeared with-

out any explanation from the Saudi government. In February of 2018, fifteen journalists and bloggers initially went “missing”, and were later found to be arrested for “crimes” such as insulting the royal court [4]. What makes Khashoggi’s killing so remarkable is the fact that there finally seems to be consequences for MBS’s actions. Khashoggi’s killing has also been a fixture of media coverage as it is seen as an attack on Western journalists. Ever since MBS was made the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, his reforms for women’s rights and social rights have been praised by countries around the world. Thanks to moves such as lifting the ban on women driving and limiting the influence of hard-line Islamic clerics, his image in the Western world is that of a progressive leader who is willing to bring major social and economic reform. However, behind MBS’s progressive facade is a man that has been heavily consolidating power since he came into power. Before becoming crown prince, MBS was the defense minister of Saudi Arabia and led the Saudi-led coalition to war against Houthi rebels in Yemen. And while MBS did allow social reform that gave women the right to drive in Saudi Arabia, he arrested many women’s rights activists on baseless charges. The immense media coverage for Khashoggi’s killing finally indicates that the world has learned to uncover MBS’s image and that world leaders are finally willing to do something about his brazen decisions.

Apart from generating a huge media storm, Khashoggi’s killing has brought little consequences against Saudi Arabia or MBS. The United States, in particular, seems unwilling to take punitive action. President Trump in an interview cited the historic \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia which he said would bring millions of jobs to the US. This was surprising as it was expected that the US would denounce the actions of Saudi Arabia and try to distance itself in the spotlight of the media. What the murder of Khashoggi really shows are the meager standards the Western world has for Saudi Arabia. MBS is applauded for giving basic rights to women

while the other horrific atrocities he commits are overlooked. This is a good arrangement for the US as it can maintain strategic political and economic control by using MBS as a facade. Khashoggi’s murder also shows the increasingly authoritarian government of the Saudi regime that has been transformed from government based on royal consensus to one royal prince holding most of the power.

The Saudi people need to take control of their country’s politics and prevent increasingly aggressive repression, and they need external help to do so. The murder of Jamal Khashoggi shows how far MBS is willing to go to have absolute power in the country. If the world wants Saudi Arabia to be held accountable for its actions and prevent pointless wars in the Middle East, international powers must pressure the US to stop backing the Saudis militarily. And many countries are already doing so. Canada has already put a hold to an arms deal that would have sold light armoured vehicles to Saudi Arabia. Countries in the European Union have also halted approval for future arms deals to Saudi Arabia due to pressure building over Khashoggi’s killing. Even top companies are adding pressure, with many pulling out of Saudi Arabia’s “Davos in the Desert” conference. Within the kingdom, there have also been rumours that MBS might be forced to resign and be replaced by another Saudi prince. And while that is unlikely, it seems that MBS’s reckless actions have finally been brought to the attention of the entire world. If the world remains indifferent to the murder of a journalist in a Saudi consulate in Istanbul, MBS’s actions will be further emboldened. How the kingdom moves ahead from this scandal and how the international stage reacts to this is vital for the position and influence of Saudi Arabia in the future. ■

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The Nylander Freeze

NHL
Continued from P1

As an unsigned Restricted Free Agent (RFA), Nylander needs to reach an agreement before the deadline if he wishes to play in the NHL this year. The Leafs, on the other hand, are already looking towards next season. With the Leafs making their biggest offseason acquisition of New York Islanders captain and star John Tavares, the team’s budget has been constrained for the upcoming seasons. They will also need to negotiate new contracts for Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner in the offseason, both young priority players for the team who will demand hefty salaries. As a result, they are trying to get Nylander to agree to as little money as possible to free up the cap space for those signings. Not only will granting Nylander a higher salary take up valuable cap space, it could be used by Marner and Matthews to strengthen the case for a sizeable bump in their own pay.



Illustration: Helen Sun

For Nylander, the stakes are just as serious. While the extra million dollars he is asking for is just a drop in the bucket to the Leafs, over a long-term contract this is life-changing money for him and his family. It would also grant him a great deal of certainty through the looming expiry of the collective bargaining agreement in 2020, and the potential of a work stoppage.

Nylander does have a strong case for the high salary he’s demanding. Not only was he one of the top scorers in the league, his Pri-

mary Shots Contributions per 60 minutes is in the 96th percentile of the league, which is to say that even when not scoring goals, he’s creating scoring chances for teammates at top-in-the-league rates [3]. His ability to elevate the performance of those around him can be easily overlooked when comparing him to potential replacements, but will prove vital to the Leafs’ offence as they look to go deep into the playoffs this season.

With no party backing down, it’s easy to blame one side, whether it’s the ultra-rich team ownership trying to shortchange Nylander because of his RFA status, or Nylander being greedy asking for a couple extra million more than he deserves on his multi-million dollar contract. However, it’s clear that both parties are making reasonable demands from their points of view. Nevertheless, with the deadline looming an agreement must be reached for Nylander to be able to play this season. Skipping out on the 2018-19 NHL season would be a huge loss for both sides: Nylander’s value and reputation would plummet, and the Leafs, in addition to missing the valuable playmaker, would be setting an undesirable precedent.

In the end, Dubas and Nylander both know what they’re doing. As long as cooler heads prevail and both parties don’t succumb to posturing and blame, a compromise will be reached. There need not be any losers and winners, only a Maple Leafs team more prepared to hunt for a Stanley Cup than they’ve been in decades. ■

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The Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

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Paper Cranes

by KATHERINE MA

If your entire brain fit into a notebook, what would it look like?

My notebook would be as messy as my thoughts. It would have scribbles all over the margins, some pages crinkled to no end, some about to fall out. And every word would be written in ink, with no hope of being neatly erased.

Which is unfortunate, because there are many words I would like to erase. There are pages that I would like to be able to reread without stumbling upon thoughts I wish had never crossed my mind. There are others with slashes other people made on my pages, with their own pens, in their own ink. There are no pages that I want to tear out completely, but there are many small sections of pages that I would like to rip out. Many of them. I suppose I am not the only one.

I think everyone rips out these smaller sections differently. Some people forcefully rip pieces from the paper with their hands, rough but quick. It may seem easy, but the edge of the paper left hanging onto the notebook is ugly and frayed. You can tell something has been ripped out - you can tell something was supposed to be there. Other people take a pair of scissors and carefully cut the pieces out. I

am one of those people. It takes effort, and care, and precision, and time, but it leaves a clean edge. The cut looks purposeful when I reopen the notebook and then reread the page, as if I was sure that my story was better without that piece.

Everyone gets rid of their pieces of paper differently too. Some people crumple them into a ball and throw it at another person's face. Others throw all their pieces into a trash bin and they build up into a stack of shunned thoughts that stay stashed in the corners of their rooms. Some fold each piece into a clean but quick paper airplane, and let it glide out their window. They watch it fly out of sight until it disappears into a point in the sky as if it never existed. I don't do that. I can't. I can't pretend thoughts never existed.

So instead, I fold each of them into careful paper cranes. I tape a few of them onto a string in intervals, until I have a few of these strings. And then I hang them from my ceiling, like they're coming down raining. They spin whenever I open the window and there's a breeze. The cranes look like they're flying, even if they aren't.

And then they are no longer the ugly words spread all over my notebook of thoughts like a virus. They look beautiful.



Illustration: Sheri Kim

An Ode to Arcimboldo

by INDIA DAS-BROWN

She is an inconclusive artist who wields the breath of her children as the paints for her masterpiece.

Her ever-changing palette morphs alongside her mood: Bare rock is her canvas; Beauty is her intent; Life is her creation.

Her murals speak of her aura: As the warmth of the Sun's burnt gold flame brings tears to her eyes, which in turn reflect the greenery called to dance and sway around her.

Alas, her robes of mist catch fire and flake, Her hair feathers into rust; And so she finally retreats in shame of her ashen complexion; and buries herself in a blanket of Snow.

Until a graze of daylight reminds her, that with warmth, she is beautiful. And so she arises to awaken the Sun with a fresh cry of Encore.

Poor Pumpkin

by SUMEDH DHANVANTHRY

October 25th: I watch a lone pumpkin sitting on a porch in the street. It has six days to prepare for the only day that matters.

Hallowe'en is not an occasion that this pumpkin awaits eagerly. Where a heart full of well-wishing spirit might sit, a void lies, surrounded with barbed wire of malice and hallowed hatred.

This is all because of the events preceding our protagonist's placement on the porch. I shall skip the details of our friend's mutilation to spare you the nausea. What I do feel appropriate to divulge is that he does not look the same as when he basked in the glorious rays of the sun in the hometown of his upbringing. This pumpkin's being has been mangled into a grotesque figure, paralyzed in a facial expression alien to the contents of his mind.

Unjust? Perhaps. But I look on indifferently, as I have had to do for many years. I look now into his newly-carved eyeholes. It saddens me, marginally, on an existential, perhaps even biological level, to see an entity of such potential be hollowed out for this superficial utility. Still, it is what it is, but what it is, I cannot say. What could I do but feel pity for this forlorn creature?

I calculate that what this pumpkin must be feeling is not sadness, but anger. I visualize the mind of this organism: a canvas drenched in an effulgent rage, a feeling of unhappiness permeating—the colour of dark orange blood. An epic sight, perhaps, to a woodland animal, but not to me. This scene was a diorama of human intervention; no regard for the being that is, only ever

bothering to contemplate what it could be after the filthy hands of humanity have thoroughly soiled it.

But it is almost trivial—I'm sure you would agree if you were in this position—for me to glance upon the ants of humanity and feel any kind of emotion. The pumpkin is entitled to feelings. I, am not.

Be that as it may, I cannot help but allow my eyes to drift back onto this set piece. This blue planet I observe is a model of organic animation: life. This one is unique in that it is being manipulated from the inside out. The others that I've had the fortune of witnessing have been at the mercy of the supernatural, of me, even. This planet, Earth, however, is inhabited by creatures determined to take the reigns, seemingly oblivious to the eyes looking down from outer space. But, no. I am not here to philosophize; I'm here to watch. Now, I can hear the pumpkin crying. Unacceptable — my senses will not be distracted by this drivel. Yet the crying continues. Except that now, it is howling. He calls for help, not through words, but through this pulsing, irregular pattern of decibels; this pumpkin is chanting at the moon and the sky and anyone else who listens.

I've never heard this before, it will surely drive me insane. Maybe I've already gone insane. I can't bear to look upon it any longer. But even with my eyes averted, the shrieks of pain pierce me to my core. There is only one solution, one truth that presents itself among this deafening fog.

I must leave this place.



Illustration: Zoe Cheng

The Big Blow

by ROGER LI



Megamouth

by AVA PUN

