

the Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Linsanity 2.0

by TINA MA

Friday, 10 February 2012: The stadium is electric. It's a chilly night, and thousands are huddled together in Madison Square Garden, waiting for what's to be the most noteworthy game of the season. The crowd is roaring, and fans are here from across the nation to see the most anticipated match of the year: Jeremy Lin vs. Kobe Bryant.

Tonight, Jeremy Lin drops a career-high 38 points against the Los Angeles Lakers. He breaks down their defense, driving again and again to the basket. Within hours, all of America will know his name, as well as the phenomenon that is Linsanity. "The yellow Mamba," they call him. "Winsanity," read the posters. The game finishes with 38 points and 7 assists for Lin, along with a shooting percentage of more than 57% [1]. But to millions of fans across the world, the significance of the game is so much more than just numbers: Lin's win is a symbol of hope, his story the inspiration of Chinese-Americans and underdogs everywhere.

Seven years later, "Linsanity" is merely a word thrown around as a joke by misanthropists who no longer seem to remember the value his story once held. Lin gets played slightly more than half the minutes he used to, falling short of only 11 points per game on average [2]. But we often forget why we once glorified this seemingly sub-par player.

Lin wasn't supposed to get drafted into the National Basketball Association (NBA). In high school, he single-handedly carried his school team to state victory

against national champions, yet remained undrafted by Tier 1 leagues. He didn't get scholarships. He didn't get drafted in his first year. He was kicked off of two NBA teams. He wasn't supposed to score 38 points against Kobe Bryant; he wasn't supposed to get played at all. Yet with all the

odds stacked against him in the seemingly impossible chess game, Lin managed to gain piece after piece of our faith.

See JEREMY LIN on P4

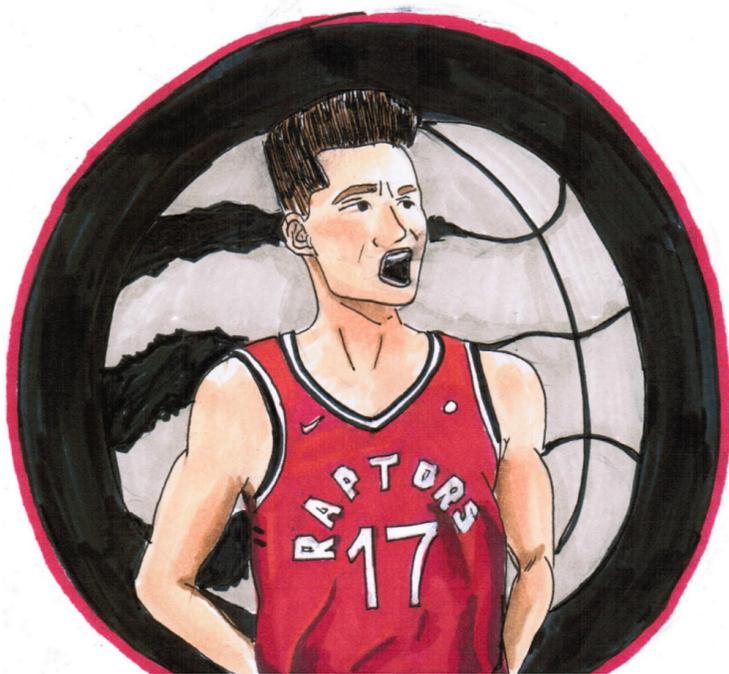


Illustration: Christina Zhang

Teacher Feature

Ms. Hermanovsky

by SADIA AKBAR and AMY PENG



Photo: Juvairiya Akalwaya

new lesson called "Beat the Teacher," in which she challenges her students to complete six laps around the track against her. As an avid runner, she typically wins. "The science behind it is to see what is going on to create an efficient system inside me even though on paper, they should be better." She begrudgingly added, "A few students in each class beat me, let that be said!" Her innovative and engaging methods of teaching are tied

back to her goal of offering a safe and welcoming space for all students and instilling a sense of curiosity and enjoyment in the subjects that she teaches. She feels rewarded when students come back after graduating and tell her the impact her class has made on them. Outside of school, Ms. Hermanovsky has quite a few interests. She adores singing and drama, even incorporating drama skits in her lectures to liven them up. She also enjoys seeing Broadway productions, naming *School of Rock*, *Kinky Boots*, and *Matilda* as the most recent ones she has seen. She has even treated herself to the luxury of seeing shows on Broadway when she visits New York City.

When she has the time, she loves travelling and has visited many places including Europe, Vietnam, and Japan. The next place on her bucket list is Australia but the distance and cost has made her put off the trip until the timing is right. In the short term, she plans on going away somewhere warm for the March Break and possibly taking a short trip to Montreal in the summer. Having travelled to so many places, Ms. Hermanovsky is undoubtedly very adventurous but one thing she is too scared to ever attempt is bungee jumping. Though she has skydived before, she says bungee jumping is just too far out of her comfort zone. "With skydiving, I know there is a parachute and there was a guy attached to me. With bungee jumping, you have to choose to jump and I'm always too scared."

While she adores travelling and theater, Ms. Hermanovsky's favourite pastime by far is running. On Day 18, she goes for a run during period 4 down the Don Valley Trail, her go-to spot. She says running is also how she likes to explore new cities when she travels and that it offers a more in-depth and authentic experience than simply visiting tourist attractions. She also exclusively runs outdoors, saying running on a treadmill takes the enjoyment out of the activity.

To share her passion for running, she recommends that the female students of Garneau join the Run for Fun Club, which will be starting in the second semester of the school year. Ms. Hermanovsky founded the club as a way to help girls enjoy running and attain its numerous benefits. Above all, Ms. Hermanovsky prioritizes spending time with family and friends. To her, socializing and catching up with the people close to her brings an important balance to her busy life.

This year, she introduced a

From daily trivia competitions to dark-room lessons using glow-sticks, Ms. Hermanovsky is the teacher every student wants. When she first started teaching, she didn't settle in any one school for a long time, but that changed when she reached Garneau, where she is now completing her eighth year. She says the main reason she has stayed at Garneau for so long was because of its atmosphere and student and teacher body: "I think the student body is amazing, the students are respectful and kind and eager to learn, so I actually love this school. We are lucky at Garneau to have an amazing teacher body here working towards same goals."

Ms. Hermanovsky first decided to start teaching because she noticed that a lot of her friends "didn't want to go into certain subjects because they disliked their teachers." She said, "I was really passionate about biology so I decided I wanted to try to create some type of learning where the students were enthusiastic about it."

Reflecting on her journey towards becoming a teacher, she says it was a challenging path: "I find that there's always a difficult facet no matter how long you're teaching—it's either the marking or trying to find a way to motivate students." With challenges, however, there come rewards; she added, "My reward is the joy I get from what I do for [the students]. The impact it has on me is like watching my Grade 12 students graduate and pursue a subject they're passionate about."

In the eight years she has spent at Garneau, Ms. Hermanovsky's teaching style has changed substantially. At first, she said, she was strict but as she's gotten more confident and comfortable, she has created a better dynamic within her class where "both students and teachers can learn from each other." A unique teaching method she has is using "disgusting" images to accompany new and important concepts, claiming that it makes them more memorable for students as the image typically remains burned into their minds. "For example, if I'm teaching about hearing, I'm not just going to put a picture of an ear on the wall. I'm going to put a picture of an old man with hairy ears, full size, and they'll be grossed out but now [they'll] remember forever."

One of her favourite lessons to teach is on chemiluminescence. She darkens the room and distributes glow-sticks to all her students, and conducts the entire lesson in that atmosphere, making it memorable for both herself and her students. This year, she introduced a

See TEACHER FEATURE on P3

A Reminiscence of Loss

by INDIA DAS-BROWN

The memory is overwhelmingly yellow. It is the wearied shade of late summer, and of old, saffron-tinged paper. The hue of a musty, worn happiness, or of sunny childhood innocence. Perhaps the softer, more brownish lustre of bronzed fur. Or a furbished, coloured blur: the flash of a tawdry Mazda, or of a self-effacing dandelion.

It was the end of a submissive school day. I was walking home with my father along the residential street which was truly all I knew of life at the time—rather, I was skipping ahead, down the bleached grey pavement, leaving him with no choice but to haul my multicoloured backpack behind me. I remember noticing a yard full of high-coloured blossoms, beaming at the opportunity beckoning from the overgrowth of weeds; there was not much I could present for myself at such a young age, and thus I took great pride in

picking flowers. Inevitably I paused, stopping to reach out with my grubby fingers so as to single out a dandelion to bring home for my mother. It had to be the perfect one: a sharp yellow, but not too modest, and certainly free of bugs. Perhaps I

could find a small, glass vase in which to keep it, so as to boast its blonde allure.

I looked up from the grass, sliding the flower into the pocket of my dress, and noticed a movement up the road ahead. Squinting into the sun, I strained to make out the outline of a tawny feline, silhouetted against the daylight—evidently a house cat, though lean enough to indicate good health. I glanced back at my father, slight anxiety dampening my palms, unwilling to proceed into this obscure territory without him. I was the type of child who pretended to love animals, while in reality, I found them unsettling. Perhaps it had something to do with their obliviousness which reminded me too much of myself, or perhaps I feared the claws under such a naive charade.

See REMINISCENCE on P6



Illustration: Molly Yu

Volunteering: Step Forth on the Path to Forty

by TOM LIU

Ever wonder why you have to complete forty hours of volunteer work to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma? The requirement initially came about in the 1999-2000 year. The purpose of mandating volunteering in high school was to improve students' awareness of civic responsibility and increase their role in their communities.

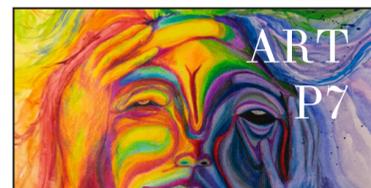
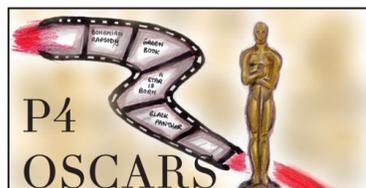
Beginning in the summer before Grade 9, students can start completing these hours and have up until the end of Grade 12 to finish a minimum of forty hours. Community service can take place in a variety of forms, ranging from helping out neighbours to working at government organizations.

Guidance counsellors introduce two main categories of volunteering activities to students: community-based volunteering and school-based volunteering. There are several local organizations that target high school students as volunteers. If students do not wish to take part in these activities outside of school, there are also many ways that they can volunteer at the school, which at Garneau include helping out with parent-teacher interviews, the morning snack program, and the library. According to Grade 11 Guidance Counsellor Ms. Lesser, the variety of activities available creates "many opportunities for the more ambitious students and those who want to stick to a school setting."



Photo: Justin Ye

See PATH TO FORTY on P2





Garneau Celebrates Black History Month

by EVAN WOO



Photo: Elmira Ahmed

Black History Month is a very well-known and recognized celebration in February throughout Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom, but how

did it start? Recognition for racial equality began with the American Civil Rights Movement in 1955, which was sparked when Rosa Parks, an African-American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white person. Following this, Martin Luther King Jr. encouraged the community to organize a bus boycott, which caused the bus line to be desegregated [1]. Around the world, leaders such as Nelson Mandela started fighting against racial inequality and working towards making the world more accepting for people of colour.

The concept of Black History Month started a few decades before the movement became widespread. The second week of February was designated “Negro History Week” in 1926 by historian Carter G. Woodson because it had the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom are widely celebrated by the African-American community. However, the week was not supported much nor was it well-known or widely celebrated. Black History Month was first celebrated at Kent State Univer-

sity in 1970. Six years later, institutions across America start celebrating it. Due to this, President Gerald Ford made the month official in the USA in 1976, and Canada quickly adopted it as well [2].

Today, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) recognizes fourteen different culture and heritage months, including Black History Month, that represent the diverse African-Canadian student population across the board. According to the TDSB’s 2011 census, black students make up 12% of the TDSB’s student population [3].

At Marc Garneau CI, the Social Justice and Equity Committee (SJEC) has historically been in charge of organizing events for Black History Month. However, the Black Student Union (BSU) was founded this year by Grade 12 student Biethel Keflu, and it has now taken over organization of the month. “The club was created to make black students, minorities in the school, feel like they belong. Going to a predominantly Asian middle school and high school, I never stopped feeling the pressure of being a

minority. I also knew that there were other students who felt this way, and that’s why BSU was founded.” On 26 February 2019, BSU members read one of several announcements reflecting on the historical significance of the month. They focused on Trayvon Martin, a seventeen-year-old African-American from Florida, who was shot by a police officer without cause in 2012 due to racial profiling. Following the tragedy, the Black Lives Matter campaign was started, amid several similar incidents of police brutality and killings by police due to racial profiling. The announcement concluded by acknowledging the importance of empathizing with the struggles of minorities to bring about change.

The BSU also spent their weekly meetings during February watching the movie *Twelve Years a Slave* and will invite Grade 12 social science classes to watch the documentary *Thirteenth Police Brutality* in the coming weeks. Biethel said, “Black History Month is a time to remember black historical figures that have gotten us to where we are today. Howev-

er, black historical figures shouldn’t just be remembered and celebrated during one month but black history needs to be integrated with the rest of history and celebrated throughout the entire year.”

Black History Month is much more than just organizing events that support the culture or talking about celebrated figures; it is about changing the perspective about people of colour. Black History Month shows us that cultural differences shouldn’t be a cause for violence, but rather a thing to be celebrated. Even though racism in the world today is decreasing, there is still more work that needs to be done. It is up to us to look past the colour of a person’s skin and appreciate them for who they truly are. ■

Works Cited

- [1] <https://www.pbs.org/johngardner/chapters/4b.html>
- [2] <http://mentalfloss.com/article/91756/why-was-february-chosen-black-history-month>
- [3] <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/research/docs/reports/PortraitsBlack.pdf>

Making the Most of the Volunteering Experience

PATH TO FORTY
Continued from P1

The Toronto District School Board (TDSB) must approve the type of volunteer activity a student performs in order for it to count towards their forty mandatory hours. Some restrictions for activities are that they must take place outside of class hours, they cannot be activities that would normally be performed for wages, and the environment in which the activity takes place must be safe. A full list of restrictions can be found on the school board website. Students are encouraged to check with their guidance counsellor prior to partaking in these activities to ensure that they are approved by the TDSB.

MGCI’s standards for completing the required volunteer hours are slightly different compared to other high schools in Ontario. MGCI students are responsible for completing the full forty community service hours before the start of Grade 11. As many students in the community start working paid jobs when they turn sixteen, Ms. Goldenberg implemented this rule to ensure that volunteer requirements were complete before this point. This rule also puts pressure on students to get an early start on completing their community service hours instead of putting them off until Grade 12, as many students do.

Many teachers and staff at MGCI recognize the importance of community involvement and the effect it can have on students. Ms. Lesser spoke about the learning experiences that are unique to volunteering: “Volunteering helps students step outside the walls of traditional [classroom] learning and learn by experience. They are also able to meet new people and make connections with organizations that can help them in the future.”

Other teachers such as chemistry teacher and science department head Ms. Woods also stress the importance of volunteering for individual growth: “I think it helps [students] see the situation that others are in and evaluate the life that they live in a positive way. Academically, it can motivate people to work harder and to not be reliant on others.”

Like teachers, students at MGCI also have high opinions of the volunteering experience. Grade 9 student Shokria Ameri currently volunteers at Valley Park Middle School. According to her, it is a “great opportunity that we get to volunteer around our community because we get to meet new people and we learn so much.”

Unfortunately, according to Grade 9 student Axel Paraggua, some students may encounter difficulties with finding volunteering activities that they are comfortable with. Choosing the activi-

ties is usually the hardest part for new high school students, but resources have become increasingly common. Students can find opportunities locally, through their current involvement in their community or through their school, or online, using sites such as Volunteer Toronto. At MGCI, the Student Services office helps connect students to volunteer opportunities through posters, volunteer recruitment letters, and contact information for organizations.

While the value of participating in community service activities was only officially recognized by Ontario in 1999, other educational programs made these activities a part of their curriculum much earlier. The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an international educational organization that was founded in 1968, and today, many Toronto schools offer the IB Diploma program. Students enrolled in the IB program are required to complete one hundred and fifty hours between Grade 11 and 12. The guidelines for the completion of these hours are also stricter than the typical Ontario requirements. The IB program requires the one hundred fifty hours to be divided evenly between community services in school, community services outside of school, and additional leadership training. In contrast, students in regular high school programs have no specifications for what types of activities are required.

Although community service activities are heavily emphasized to high school students, many MGCI students find themselves working at a paid job in addition to their community service hours. Waleed Khalid is a Grade 12 student at MGCI who has both volunteer and work experience. He described both as unique experiences, adding that each required and developed very different skill sets. Khalid said that “volunteering has really affected my perception and empathy for people—it really opens your eyes and allows you to better understand the different situations life can put anyone in.” On the other hand, he said that work experience has been more effective in teaching him to “better handle conflict, time management, task delegation and leading small teams.”

Volunteering for community service activities is a way for high school students to explore new things and gain experience in the real world. There are many opportunities available to MGCI students and they are encouraged to take the first step by speaking with guidance counsellors to identify areas which they are passionate about and make the most of their high school volunteering experience. ■

DECA Provincials: Where Dreams Come True

by HARGUN KAUR

The 2019 DECA Ontario Provincial competition was held at the Sheraton Center Hotel in downtown Toronto on 8 and 9 February 2019. Over 7 000 students competed for a chance to represent Ontario at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). This year, ICDC will be held in Orlando, Florida from 25 April to 2 May 2019.

Students competed in oral and written events in five clusters: finance, hospitality and tourism, entrepreneurship, marketing, and business management and administration. Oral events included a written examination as well as an oral roleplay presentation, while written events involved preparing a written business proposal and then a judged presentation. Marketing cluster participants wrote their examination at the venue on Saturday, while the remaining exam-writing participants completed the written examination online at school on 4 February. All roleplays and presentations were held on the first day of the competition lasting from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Individual competitors performed two roleplays and teams performed one.

This year, DECA Ontario changed the qualification system for ICDC, with the top overall-scoring student or student team from each judge qual-

ifying rather than the top across all judges. As such, ten, nine, and eight students qualified from individual, team, and written events respectively.

Russell Ijaya, MGCI DECA’s president, said, “Without a doubt MGCI DECA has achieved amazing heights. It’s crazy that we used to be a chapter that could only dream of having ten ICDC qualifiers, we’re now one where exceeding that number is the new standard. DECA is a competition that teaches you the exhilaration of hard work paying off or sometimes the grit that comes with losing. I’ve had my fair share of both but they have added incredible value to my four years of DECA.”

A record-breaking seventy-seven of MGCI students competed at the 2019 Provincial competition. MGCI DECA was extremely successful, bringing home forty-nine awards, as well as qualifying seventeen students to the international competition.

Jacqueline Huo, a Grade 10 student who will be representing MGCI at internationals, said, “Being unsure if I’d even get into the chapter, I was very surprised when they called my name. I’m so grateful for my partner, we both put in so much work and it really paid off. Going to ICDC is a dream come true and I’m still in shock.” ■



Photo: Russell Ijaya

Fantastic Eats at SAC Food Fiesta

by JESSICA XIONG



Photo: Elmira Ahmed

The Galleria bustled with people at lunch on 21 February 2019 for the Student Activity Council (SAC) Food Fiesta. The event was similar to the Unhealthy Food Sale with SAC selling a large variety of foods instead of various clubs. The foods for sale at the Food Fiesta included the popular Krispy Kreme donuts, cinnamon rolls from Cinnabon, pizza, freezies, popsicles, and soft drinks, for cheap prices.

The SAC Food Fiesta was organized to help raise funds for various SAC Committees, who will use the funds to organize events this semester and to support school clubs. At the beginning of the year, many clubs had wanted more money from the school budget, but the SAC budget for clubs was set lower than last year. By having a food sale exclusively to fundraise for SAC, they could make more profit without competition from the sales of other clubs, leading to better events for students and more money available for clubs.

At the SAC Food Fiesta, there were four tables set up. The committees that sold food included the Prom, Social Justice, and Special Events Committees. The Special Events Committee, with the help of the other SAC members, helped with organizing the event.

The majority of the money raised from the food sales at the SAC Food Fiesta will be going towards the Prom Committee, as Prom is one of the most expensive events of the school year.

SAC Clubs Convener Jessica Guo, the event organizer, said, “We decided to rebrand the Unhealthy Food Sale to become the SAC Food Fiesta to attract more people and make it more fun and

enticing. I don’t want to keep on calling it the Unhealthy Food Sale because you have to keep on reminding everyone that it’s unhealthy food that they’re buying.”

Comparing the SAC Food Fiesta to the Unhealthy Food Sale, Jessica said, “There are [fewer food vendors] so it’s easier to sell your food. For example, the Prom Committee table is probably selling more than they usually do at the unhealthy food sales.”

Saasha Kukreja, a Grade 10 student who attended the sale, thought it was a great success, saying, “I really liked the variety of food and it’s great because a lot of students get to know more about the committees and enjoy the food as well! This time, it was a little less crowded than the last Unhealthy Food Sale, probably because there were less tables selling, but both times were really great!”

Due to the limited amount of unhealthy food days left, the SAC Food Fiesta will not be happening for a second time this semester. Overall, many students enjoyed the fun spirit and the great variety of food sold at the SAC Food Fiesta, while being able to contribute funds to help SAC initiatives. ■



Semi-Formal: A Night of Love and Spirit

by DYLAN XIAO

After a stressful first semester, students were able to relax with the first dance of the calendar year: the annual Semi-Formal. Organized by Student Activity Council (SAC) Social Convener Sumaya Mohammed, over one hundred students arrived at Celebrations Banquet Hall to enjoy a night filled with dancing and food.

SAC promoted the event through morning announcements, Facebook, and Instagram, and also released a promotional video titled “Five Things You Should Know About SEMI-FORMAL 2K19” on Facebook. Students purchased tickets during lunch at the SAC office from 17 January to 8 February. Regular tickets were priced at \$33 for MGCI students and \$35 for guests, but students who bought tickets before exam period got them at the early bird price of \$30.

The venue doors opened at 5:30 pm and closed at 6:30 pm, which is when most attendees arrived. Mr. Sharp checked attendees’ water bottles, as is protocol after students were caught with alcoholic substances several years ago. Due to unruly behavior at Fall Fest in November, he also prohibited several students from buying tickets for Semi.

Dinner was served at 7:30 pm in a buffet style, after which students had fresh fruit for dessert. The hall was decorated with heart balloons and petals in celebration of Valentine’s Day, which coincided with



Photo: Justin Ye

the dance this year. Attendees also had the opportunity to take photos in a free photo booth before dinner. Balloons spelling out “SEMI” were also a popular location for photos.

Three rounds of dance-offs occurred; one each for boys, girls, and couples. The best male dancer was Venkat Muthaly, the best female dancer was Gracelyn Shi, and in the couples category, Josephine Davey-Young and Justin Ye prevailed. Each winner received a \$25 Cineplex or Visa gift card.

Most people enjoyed the dance; MGCI student Irum Sattar said, “This was my first dance and I

didn’t think it would be this fun,” though she wished that “there was a larger dance floor,” a sentiment echoed by other students as well.

The event ended at 10:30 pm and students began to leave the venue. Sumaya felt the dance was a success in comparison to Fall Fest because “it lasted longer and there was great audience participation.”

Overall, the event was well-received by staff and students. Principal Ms. Goldenberg said, “It was a great night and everyone was fabulous.” SAC plans to hold its next dance, Spring Fling, in April but has not finalized any plans yet. ■

Setting the Stage for Science

TEACHER FEATURE
Continued from P1

Along with her hobbies, Ms. Hermanovsky is an overall passionate person. She is a dedicated admirer of Betty Friedan, the author of *The Feminine Mystique*, who is also one of her biggest inspirations. In fact, she once dressed up as her for a school project, giving a presentation in character as Friedan, showcasing her passion for Friedan’s work and beliefs. Friedan is her top pick of any celebrity to have dinner with. She added that another possible choice would be meeting “the powerful figures of today,” not necessarily to speak with them, but to simply observe their conversations amongst each other and see what they are thinking regarding current events.

Ms. Hermanovsky is also passionate about the future, particularly about technological advancements. If she was given the power to travel through time, Ms. Hermanovsky says that she would only use it to go into the future, not the past. She says she is happy with the way the world is today, in terms of equality, multiculturalism, and freedom, and does not see the point in heading to the past. She would, however, love to get a glimpse into the future to “see

where we are in the evolution of biotechnology and genetic engineering.” She would also want to know if any diseases, like cancer, have been cured.

Throughout her teaching experience, Ms. Hermanovsky has gained wisdom and advice that she hopes to share with her students. Asked to share some tips for academic success, Ms. Hermanovsky advises Garneau students to “review lessons after you have been taught, ask teachers for help, ask questions in class, and try to teach yourself or someone else what you’ve learned.” Having seen her students “shaking before tests” and “coming to school without any sleep,” Ms. Hermanovsky’s personal philosophy that she strives to embed in her students is “in order to survive the system and pursue whatever job you want to, you have to find places to have fun, to relax, and enjoy the ride. Let’s not take ourselves too seriously.”

Although her job can be tough, she looks forward to waking up every day because of how much joy and laughter she gains from teaching her students. For Ms. Hermanovsky, there’s no other job she’d rather have than teaching. ■

Garneau Swim Team Races to the Finish

by EVELYN JIANG



Photo: Evelyn Jiang

Loud cheers could be heard from the bleachers as the MGCI swim team spurred on their teammates at the South Regional Championships, held at the Etobicoke Olympium on 4 February 2019. The team raced against hundreds of swimmers from other high schools, fighting for the chance to compete at the upcoming City Championships.

The competition took place at the same time as the West Regional Championships, so the 50-meter-pool was split in half to accommodate the two separate events. Swimmers warmed up for about an hour starting at around 8:00 am. Throughout the rest of the day, a total of sixty-four events took place varying by stroke, age group, distance, and level. Events consisted of up to eight heats, with a maximum of eight competitors in each heat. In previous years, regional events have experienced significant delays and schedule mixups, but this year’s event showed a significant improvement, with the competition running smoothly and according to schedule. To participate, MGCI swimmers were required to compete in two mini-meets held at Monarch Park Collegiate Institute on 11 December 2018 and 15 January 2019. As well as providing seeding times, which determine preliminary rankings for the Regional Championships, Team Captain Jeffrey Qiu pointed out that the mini-meets provided less experienced members with valuable competition experience that helped prepare them for Regionals.

This season, the team gained six new members, making it the largest swim team Garneau has had in the past several years. “It was really exciting to see the team come together at Regionals and show how much they improved from the beginning of the season,” Jeffrey said. Garneau’s swim team started practicing in late November and regularly trains twice a week at Don Mills Collegiate Institute, coached by Ms. Woods.

On the team’s performance at Regionals, Molly Yu, a senior member of the team, said, “this year’s team has probably been one of the most successful so far. I’m incredibly proud of everyone for their dedication and for swimming their best at Regionals.” She added, “A huge thank you to Ms. Woods for arranging the prac-

tices, meets, and for always cheering us on.”

To qualify for Cities, students had to either place first in their event or rank in the top twenty or thirty in the city, depending on the event. Owen Huang, Gabriel Luo, Alex Guo, Hanlin Cheng, Jessica Guo, Jeffrey Qiu, Eric Wang, Eric Zhao, Frank Fan, Michael Kim, Evelyn Jiang, Julia Shen, Larissa Long, and Kelly Wang qualified to compete at the City Championship, which was held on 14 February 2019 at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.

At the Toronto City Championships, fourteen athletes from MGCI competed in hopes of securing a spot at the provincial championships. The Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre’s 50-meter-pool was split into two 25-meter-pools, with one designated for warm-ups and the other for competition. Warm-ups commenced at 8 am and continued throughout the day. Live results were displayed on a large television screen, and medallists were announced after results were collected for each event. Competitors qualified for the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) Swimming Championship if they made the OFSAA cutoff time in the finals.

“Cities was a lot more competitive and nerve-wracking, but I enjoyed the experience all the same,” said team member Kelly Wang. The Reckoner congratulates the following students for their performance at Cities:

- Owen Huang: 1st place – Men 200 SC Meter IM Open, 1st place – Men 100 SC Meter Breaststroke Open
- Alex Guo: 1st place – Men 15-17 50 SC Meter Breaststroke SR High School, 2nd place – Men 15-17 100 SC Meter Breaststroke SR High School
- Gabriel Luo: 2nd place – Men 100 SC Meter Freestyle Open, 3rd place – Men 100 SC Meter Breaststroke Open

Owen Huang, Alex Guo, and Gabriel Luo will be competing at the OFSAA Swimming Championship, which will be held from 5 March and 6 March at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre. The competition will wrap up another successful season for the MGCI swim team. ■

Eureka! A Day of Discovery for Teachers

by JACQUELINE HUO

Although there was no school for students on 15 February 2019, the classrooms of MGCI were crowded with those eager to learn. Around five hundred math and science teachers from across Toronto attended the annual Secondary Eureka! STEM 2019 Conference, which ran from around 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Started around ten years ago, the purpose of this conference is for science teachers to network and learn new teaching strategies with a focus on social justice, sustainability, and the environment in STEM subjects.

Eureka! is organized by a small committee from the Leadership and Learning department of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), which focuses on professional development for teachers. They begin planning the conference as early as September. “Organizing a conference such as Eureka! takes a lot of time and preparation, so that on the actual day everything runs smoothly and any unforeseen issues can be dealt with quickly,” said Mr. Lang, one of the conference organizers.

In addition to the teachers who organized the conference, over forty students volunteered their free time to help ensure that it ran smoothly. Stage crew members ran the audiovisual equipment while others assisted with the setting up and cleaning up of the cafeteria, gym, and classrooms used. Volunteers also greeted teachers as they arrived, checked them in, and helped them find locations around the school during the day. Joshua Xiao, one of the student volunteers, said, “It was just great to get to know how they organized the event and get to know some of the teachers. It’s cool to know what goes on outside the classroom and

see it from the teacher’s perspective.”

The day began with the attendees gathered in the cafeteria to listen to this year’s keynote speaker, Curtis Carmichael. Following his speech, the attendees were directed to the exhibitors’ hall set up in the gymnasium. Many science-related organizations such as FIRST Robotics Canada, Ontario Science Centre, and Boreal Science set up display tables showcasing educational materials and providing information about different programs and opportunities they offer.

Teachers also chose from a variety of workshops during three seventy-minute sessions, one of which took place in the morning and two in the afternoon. Science and education professionals led a wide range of sessions covering different strategies for teaching science and math. These presenters demonstrated different activities and technologies that can be used in classrooms. One session allowed attendees to experience the TDSB’s new Digital Star Lab, which is an inflatable planetarium. “I thought it was really cool to be able to be

inside and be able to see virtually the entire night sky. We saw close-ups of planets, stars, and galaxies. I think my Grade 9 science students would be really excited to experience this,” said Peter Wiles, a high school science teacher.

Along with a few of her students, Ms. Gunn, who teaches hospitality, prepared lunch for the attendees, presenters, and volunteers. Lunch was served in the cafeteria around 11:30 pm and consisted of samosas, a variety of salads and baked goods.

The event ended with a raffle draw for the attendees. The prizes were donated by several science companies, many of which had displayed their products in the exhibitors’ hall earlier in the day. Prizes included science equipment, textbooks, and passes to the Ontario Science Centre.

The Eureka! Conference was a day where teachers had a chance to be the students. They met with like-minded professionals and learned about new teaching strategies and resources, with the common goal of providing more learning opportunities for students. ■



Photo: Evelyn Jiang



And the Oscar Goes to...

by MARZAN HAMID, NICOLE PERI KOLOGLU, RENA LIU, and ANGELA PANG

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Queen, the legendary rock band, makes a terrific return to pop culture as *Bohemian Rhapsody* is welcomed into theatres. Named after their classic song, the drama-biography is an impeccable tribute to the immortal Freddie Mercury and the innovations that Queen brought to the music industry.

The film begins with Queen's lead singer, the late Freddie Mercury, changing the history of a small band called Smile, which at the time featured future Queen members Roger Taylor and Brian May. As Mercury joins the band alongside bass player John Deacon, Smile evolves under Mercury's stereotype-crushing wings to become Queen, the marvelous band music listeners know and love today. Producing a completely new sound, and taking advantage of Mercury's passion for classics and opera, Queen's evolution into the biggest band to emerge from the rock-opera genre is highlighted by the film.

Perhaps the reason why this movie is so precious in many fans' eyes, both old and new, is because of the attention to authenticity. Even though it is not an accurate timeline of the history of Queen (unlike in the movie, Freddie Mercury was diagnosed with AIDS after the Live Aid concert), the effort, emotion, and detail put into this film doesn't go unnoticed. Especially with Roger Taylor and Brian May on the set of this movie, it is natural that this movie holds emotional value. With many major scenes mirroring the image of the original events, up to and including the Pepsi cups on the piano during the Live Aid concert, the support it gained was well-deserved.

Despite the excitement among fans, *Bohemian Rhapsody* failed to resonate among critics, with complaints focusing on a lack of subtlety, shallow writing, and a disregard for the truth in favour of sensation. With only 61% on Rotten Tomatoes [1] and 49% from Metacritic [2], *Bohemian Rhapsody* ranks among the least critically-acclaimed Golden Globe and Academy Award nominees of all time. Despite an underwhelming critical reception, it was able to conquer thousands of fans dedicated to Queen, with a score of 7.9 User Score from Metacritic [2], and 87% Audience Score from Rotten Tomatoes [2]. *Bohemian Rhapsody* may not be the greatest telling of Queen's journey, but it is more than sufficient as a nostalgic homage to the legendary rock band.

A STAR IS BORN

A Star is Born is a musical-drama remake of the classic 1937 film of the same name, starring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga as the leads. This shining movie is Bradley Cooper's directorial debut and Lady Gaga's acting debut. The movie follows Jackson Maine (Cooper), a famous musician struggling with substance abuse. One night after a concert, he heads to a drag bar and sees Ally (Lady Gaga) performing onstage. They converse, and the story begins. Ally shares her battles in surfacing in the competitive music industry and Jackson decides that he might be able to help her.

After this encounter, the film blossoms into a journey where Jackson pushes Ally into the spotlight. As her career develops, the two of them encounter deeply personal challenges filled with emotion and reconciliation. The film encapsulates relationships in their rawest and most distilled form, giving Cooper and Lady Gaga a chance to show off their acting chops. Their chemistry lights up the screen; the compelling duo provides a much-needed fresh dynamic amidst the dramatic storyline and ultimately adds tragedy to the film's ending.

The "star" of the film is undeniably the soundtrack and music. Given the musical roots in both the plot and the cast, the film features Gaga singing solo complete songs on screen. Movie moments like these hold the audience on the edge of their seats with goosebumps running down their necks, as Cooper complements Gaga's voice with his own.

As a remake, there is an inherent comparison to be made with the original. This film is a reminder that some stories are timeless and that with the right direction, editing, and acting, each re-iteration can be just as good—or even better—than the last. *A Star Is Born* reveals the intimacy of personal relationships and carefully weaves in beautiful music to accentuate the emotional journey in the film. The film deservedly received a handful of nominations and is qualified enough to have won them all.

BLACK PANTHER

Black Panther is a 2018 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name. Directed by Ryan Coogler, the movie stars Chadwick Boseman as T'Challa/Black Panther, and follows T'Challa's journey as he is crowned king of Wakanda after overcoming a myriad of trials and tribulations. The film is largely set in Wakanda, a fictional African country that is the most technologically advanced in the world.

In 1992, Wesley Snipes showed interest in working on a *Black Panther* film, but the movie was postponed for more than twenty-five years. *Black Panther* was announced in 2014, and by 2016, the film's cast had been chosen. The movie became the first Marvel movie with a predominantly African-American cast in history, and is the ninth highest grossing film of all time [3].

Black Panther was widely praised for its authentic depiction of African culture, action-packed scenes, and meaningful screenplay. Peter Travers from *Rolling Stone* wrote, "There aren't many superhero films that blow you away with thunderous effects and also tackle ethnic and gender issues, crush racial stereotypes, celebrate women and condemn Trump-era notions of exclusionism." [4]

The acclaim was common between moviegoers and critics. The film received a 97% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes with an average rating of 8.3 out of 10. Metacritic gave the film a score of 88 out of 100, signalling "universal acclaim." The movie was nominated for four Oscars and has won numerous awards for its screenplay, costume design, production, and sound.

Black Panther is an epic tale that balances traditions with modernity. It regales its audience with humour, action, and powerful themes while showcasing a culture that is all too often underrepresented in the movie industry.

GREEN BOOK

Though the winner of Best Picture at the Oscars this year, *Green Book* has faced much backlash from both fans and notable critics in the film community. The lowest-rated Oscar winner in over a decade, its meager 79% rating on Rotten Tomatoes seems to be a reflection of the industry's dissatisfaction with its take on racial issues.

The film, a biographical comedy based on the story of African-American pianist Don Shirley, captures the relationship between Shirley and his white driver, Tony Lip, as they embark on a concert tour in the Deep South. The two are forced to confront issues of racism and discrimination along the way and must reconcile their differences to keep their tour on track. Admittedly, the film uses a good combination of witty jokes and heartfelt moments, and viewers will certainly walk away feeling light-hearted from *Green Book's* portrayal of a genuine friendship. If you're looking for a nostalgic, pleasant film for the family that touches on the subjects of race or class in a more digestible manner, this year's Best Picture is the one for you.

However, there's no denying that the film fails to portray an accurate picture of an issue as complex as systemic racism. Critics describe the film as a "white saviour" film, where prejudice becomes a simple problem for the white protagonist to solve. In a year where other films discussing race issues featured more actors of colour—see fellow nominees *BlacKkKlansman* and *Black Panther*—the film suddenly appears lazy and self-righteous. Reinforcing this, the family of Don Shirley has claimed that the movie is a "complete lie" and that the producers did not seek them out to provide context and accuracy to the story [5].

All in all, the film might not have deserved Best Picture amongst the list of perhaps more meaningful nominated films, but that doesn't mean that the entertaining *Green Book* does not provide an engaging and accessible perspective on racism in America.

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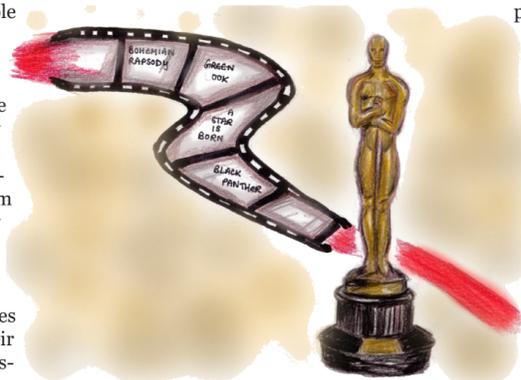


Illustration: Amy Chen

17 in the Six

JEREMY LIN
Continued from P1

Despite the countless cynics and the pessimistic player reviews, I know the height of Lin's career hasn't passed yet: Just a few months ago, Jeremy Lin put up 20 points in thirty-five minutes against the Toronto Raptors, carrying the Atlanta Hawks to a close win of 101-104. With Lin's fireball energy on court, the lowly Hawks persevered and kept a close lead up until the remaining five minutes. On another occasion, Lin put up 12 points in twenty-two minutes, ending the losing streak for his team just as he had done seven years ago for the New York Knicks [3]. Most impressively, he popped back with 23 points in twenty-three minutes, making headlines once again [4].

Almost exactly seven years after his debut in 2012, Jeremy Lin's back in the spotlight on 13 February 2019. Hours before the tip-off against the Washington Wizards, Lin's flight has just landed in Toronto. From being an undrafted player, to Linsanity, and getting traded to five teams in five years, Lin has gone "full circle." Millions of Torontonians fans are excited for this new start. On this new veteran team, Lin is still learning the ropes. He's still meeting the players, familiarizing himself with new plays, and getting to know the team's culture. Still, through all the pandemonium that comes with changing teams mid-season, Lin

doesn't look a single bit disoriented as he rounds up 8 points, 5 assists and 5 rebounds against the Wizards [5]. For a first game played after only hours of practice with a completely new team in a brand new city, even critics can't argue his performance was substandard. It seems Lin's enjoying his time in the Six, too: "Every time I come to Toronto, it's always felt like a home game ... It doesn't matter what team I've played for" [6].

Lin feels home, because, in a sense, he is home. Here in Toronto, Jeremy Lin is playing for a city with one of the largest Asian fan bases in North America. Toronto fans are unlike any others and we should give ourselves credit for that: we wait patiently in lines that stretch for hours, sometimes with the shivering teeth that come with cold Canadian winters, all for a chance to catch a glimpse of him outside of our television screens. Asians cheer for Lin regardless of the team, city, or court, because they want him as a person to succeed. For them, Lin's identity as an Asian-American is representative of their culture, pride, and sacrifices made for future generations. To younger audiences, his underdog story empowers their ambition, proof that the underdogs can truly rise to the top. The impact his story has on millions of Asian-Americans and Canadians cannot be overstated.

Perhaps because he lacks the hard statistics to fill his résumé, it seems skeptics will always remain in doubt of whether the meaning behind Lin's allegorical journey still holds true value. But this season, Lin also has a chance at a comeback on the scoreboard. With Fred VanVleet temporarily off the court due to a thumb injury, Lin is willing and more than able to fill his shoes. His arrival in Toronto couldn't have been at a better time, as he proves an invaluable alternate for Lowry. And with Lowry's infamous inconsistencies during post-season, perhaps even Lowry needs to watch his back.

Here's to a *Linsane* 2.019. ■

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Hot Take: Measles—WHO Cares

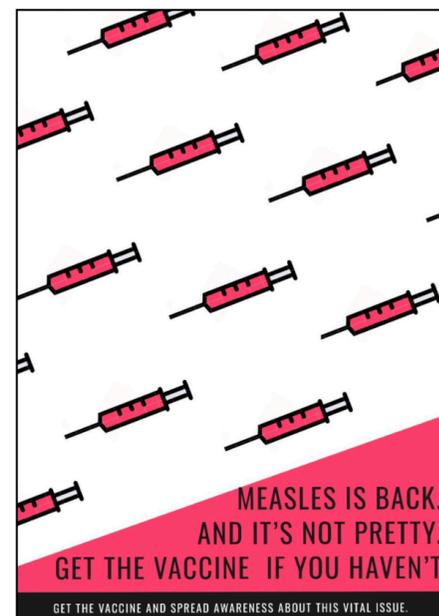
by ANDREW LIANG

Measles is back. And it's not pretty.

The measles virus is the root of a highly contagious disease—measles. And by highly contagious, I mean uber-contagious: an infected person could sneeze on the streets and walking on that same street hours later could infect you. Fortunately, there's a vaccine for measles!

Unfortunately, not everyone is taking this vaccine. And therein lies the problem: a few people go unvaccinated and bam! All of a sudden you could have thousands of cases in a matter of days. Here's the thing: there's a little something called herd immunity. Essentially, it means that when a population has an 80-95% vaccination rate against a disease, the infectivity rate of that disease lowers significantly. Unfortunately, there are people who have immunodeficiencies who aren't able to get vaccines. Others might be allergic. That means that people who choose to not get a vaccine put not only themselves, but also others at risk.

Long story short? Get the vaccine if you haven't. Get it now. The long version? Get the vaccine in a prompt and safe manner if you haven't already, and make sure to spread awareness about this vital issue so that everyone can stay safe. ■



Graphic: Sophie Yang



Editorial Reviews: Keyboard Layouts

by BRIDGET HUH

Many of you have probably seen me floundering in front of a standard QWERTY keyboard over the past couple of months and thought me an idiot, illiterate, or something worse. Friends, fret not for my mental integrity; I switched over to the Dvorak layout in December, and naturally, my QWERTY fluency has taken a hit. But now that I have more or less perfected my Dvorak—I can sustain 150 words per minute (WPM) for a few seconds, but average around 110—it's time to settle, once and for all, which layout is superior: Dvorak or QWERTY?

Contrary to popular belief, the QWERTY layout was not designed to address the mechanical failures of early typewriters, namely keys jamming when keys on the same side of the keyboard were hit in rapid succession. It was not invented to slow typists down, or even to separate common digraphs (two-letter combinations) on the keyboard. Two Kyoto University researchers tracked the evolution of the typewriter keyboard in a 2011 paper, concluding that QWERTY emerged as a result of how it was used, and not the mechanics of the typewriter. Telegraph operators who needed to quickly transcribe messages found the first alphabetical layout confusing for translating Morse code, and the paper suggests that QWERTY developed as a result of input from these operators. This was the layout that the five largest typewriter manufacturers adopted as the standard back in 1893 [1].

Decades later, alternatives to QWERTY began emerging, the most prevalent of which is the Dvorak layout. It was invented by Dr. August Dvorak, who researched the letter and sequence frequency in the English language for a decade and then designed the Dvorak layout with the goal of increasing typing efficiency. He claimed that his layout took less time to learn, was much more accurate, and was significantly faster than QWERTY. He attributed this to the fact that the most

common digraphs could be typed with the stronger finger, and with a minimum of "hurdling", referring to hopping over keys as if they were hurdles. Dvorak also estimated that when the fingers of a QWERTY typist would travel between twelve to twenty miles, but a Dvorak typist's fingers would only travel about one mile with the equivalent same text [2].

I assume everyone knows what QWERTY looks and feels like, so I will only outline the design principles of Dvorak. The layout looks like this:

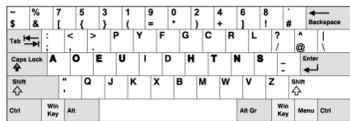


Image: Wikipedia

Note the location of the most frequently used letters in the English alphabet. They are mostly in the home row, the row on which your fingers rest when not typing. Statistically, 70% of all keystrokes are in the home row for Dvorak, while for QWERTY only 30% are in the home row. This means Dvorak typists' fingers travel less distance from the home row. All of the vowels are on the left side of the keyboard's home row, and all of the common consonants are on the right side. Because vowels and consonants often alternate in the English language, this supports the alternating use of right and left hands, which many people find faster and more comfortable. But on QWERTY, many words must be typed with only one hand, requiring hurdling, or else ridiculous flexibility, or slower typing times.

But what does all of this mean for the average typist? We may compare Dvorak and QWERTY more meaningfully with respect to five factors: learning time, speed, comfort, accuracy, and convenience or compatibility. If you cannot touch type—a truly vital skill—and want to learn how, the time it takes to learn each layout might in-

terest you. Many people claim it takes about a month to reach the same fluency on Dvorak that they had with however many years of experience on QWERTY, though of course it varies by individual. It took me two months to surpass my QWERTY speed of about 100 WPM, though if you have that speed on any layout, I don't recommend switching. If I'm not credible enough for you, there was a small study at the Assistive Technology Research Institute that supported the assertions that the Dvorak layout allows for faster and easier learning [3].

As for speed, Barbara Blackburn, the fastest typist in the world according to the Guinness Book of World Records, achieved her speed on a Dvorak keyboard. However, online competitors have apparently beaten her record on QWERTY keyboards, suggesting the difference in speed at a competitive level is inconclusive, and irrelevant to mediocre typists such as ourselves [4]. Mediocre typists usually see a small increase in their speed after switching from QWERTY to Dvorak. I certainly did.

Dvorak is generally more accurate when touch typing, which is one advantage of having 70% of all keystrokes on the home row. Types of errors differ between layouts, too: Dvorak typists are more likely to switch two letters in a word ("editorila" instead of "editorial"), while QWERTY typists are more likely to hit an entirely wrong key ("editōrial" instead of "editorial") [5].

Comfort, however, is no contest. Regular computer users such as programmers often suffer from various forms of repetitive strain injury, a blanket term that refers to musculoskeletal disorders including carpal tunnel syndrome and tendonitis. There are a few keyboarding solutions, such as remapping frequently used keys or switching keyboard layouts altogether. Computer Science professor Matt Might suggests switch-

ing to the Dvorak keyboard layout to alleviate any typing-related discomfort faced on QWERTY, in addition to purchasing a high-end ergonomic keyboard [6].

The most compelling argument to not switch is simply that QWERTY is the standard. The five largest typewriter companies settled on it in 1893, and we are stuck with it. While Dvorak is superior to QWERTY on a number of points, optimizing systems just because they can be optimized is inconvenient and impractical. There are better problems to solve. (I am suddenly reminded of the time I tried to learn Latin—a beautifully logical language, but dead nonetheless.)

Should you switch to Dvorak, then? Well, perhaps it comes down to good fun. Imagine lending your Dvorak-configured laptop to someone. They open a new tab, click a couple

times, and bring their hands to the keyboard to type. This is the moment you've been waiting for—their touch typing is weak, so they type in a sentence or two without looking at the screen. When they finally look up, they see gibberish. They turn to you looking utterly confused and betrayed. If you enjoyed that, that feeling of power, then Dvorak is for you.

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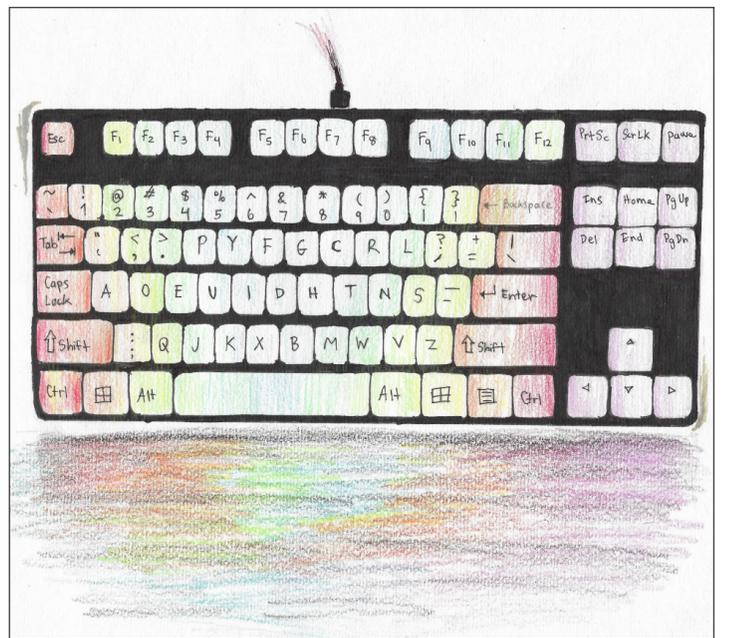


Illustration: Lauren Liu

Significant Digits: Two Months In

by ADIL HAIDER

11 Members of Parliament

In the United Kingdom, frustration has been growing with both the opposition Labour and ruling Conservative parties. Labourites dislike the far-left direction the party is moving in, and accuse leader Jeremy Corbyn of antisemitism. Conservatives dislike the far-right direction their party is moving in, and believe Prime Minister Theresa May is leading the nation into an economic crisis over Brexit. 11 Members of Parliament from both sides of the isle, feeling their old parties no longer represent them, have split off to form the Independent Group, a new centrist, pro-European Union (EU) party. Is this just a flash in the pan, or the beginning of a new realignment in UK politics? Only time will tell. [1]

46 Paramilitary Police

In an attack on a convoy in the Indian-administered section of Jammu and Kashmir, 46 paramilitary police were killed and countless civilians were injured. The attack was committed by

Jaish-e-Muhammad, a terrorist organization based in Pakistan. India accuses Pakistan of involvement in the attack, but Pakistan denies any role. As India's leaders promise grave retribution, tensions in the region are running high. [2]

61 Countries

Speaking of high tensions, Venezuela is in the midst of a crisis. The country's president, Nicolas Maduro, has been accused of rigging the election and has cracked down on the opposition. Meanwhile, the country is in the midst of a year-long economic crisis that the president seems to have no answer to. The leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, Juan Guaido, has declared himself the legitimate president. So far he has been recognized by 61 countries, including Canada, the USA, and most of the EU. Maduro, who is backed by Russia, China, and Iran, considers Guaido's opposition to be part of a US-backed coup against him. Aid is currently being sent to the economically devas-

tated country, although it is currently not being received. You can donate at unhr.ca. [3]

\$61M Lost

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) reported that it lost \$61M to fare evasion in 2018, and I hope the TTC isn't reading this, because I definitely contributed to that. Admit it, we all did. Sometimes the crowds are just packed too tight, or the machine just isn't working. The TTC itself places the amount lost to faulty reading machines at an additional \$3.7M. The machines are fixable, people aren't. [4]

10 Counts

Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman has been convicted on ten counts ranging from criminal conspiracy to firearms charges. He is expected to spend the rest of his life in prison. However, despite a huge quantity of evidence against Mr. Guzman detailing corruption on all levels of Mexican government, complex cross-border tunnels, and cocaine smuggling submarines, we shouldn't count him out yet. He has escaped prison twice already, and his organization, the Sinaloa Cartel, appears to be operating completely fine without him. [5]

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Illustration: Roger Li

Survey: Garneau Utopia

by NELSON LEE

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a utopia is "a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy." Does our school count as a utopia, or at the very least, is it close to one? Let's imagine the Garneau utopia—what our school should look like. What would a utopian Garneau look like?

The Reckoner wants to hear what you have to say on how Garneau can be the best school in the city. You write out your responses below and submit them inside a bin inside the office and the library. The Reckoner will also be going around the school asking students in person about how Garneau could be a better place. We will take these results, compile them, and write a second article about the student body's ideal Garneau. All survey participants will be entered in a draw for a \$10 Starbucks gift card. Stay tuned!

Survey form with fields for Name, Student Number, Email, and a list of questions about Garneau, such as 'What is your favourite thing about Garneau?' and 'If you could change one thing about the school, what would it be?'

The Reckoner

of Marc Garneau C.I.

Table listing staff roles: Editor in Chief (Emma Wai), Deputy Editor in Chief & Director of Print Development (Anthony Chang), Editorial Manager (Tazik Shahjahan), Life Manager (Madhumita Nathani), Director of Web Development (Jim Wu), Illustrations Manager (Sheri Kim), News Manager (Aiman Altaf), Photography Manager (Russell Ijaya), and Outreach Manager (Frank Chen).

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LIFE

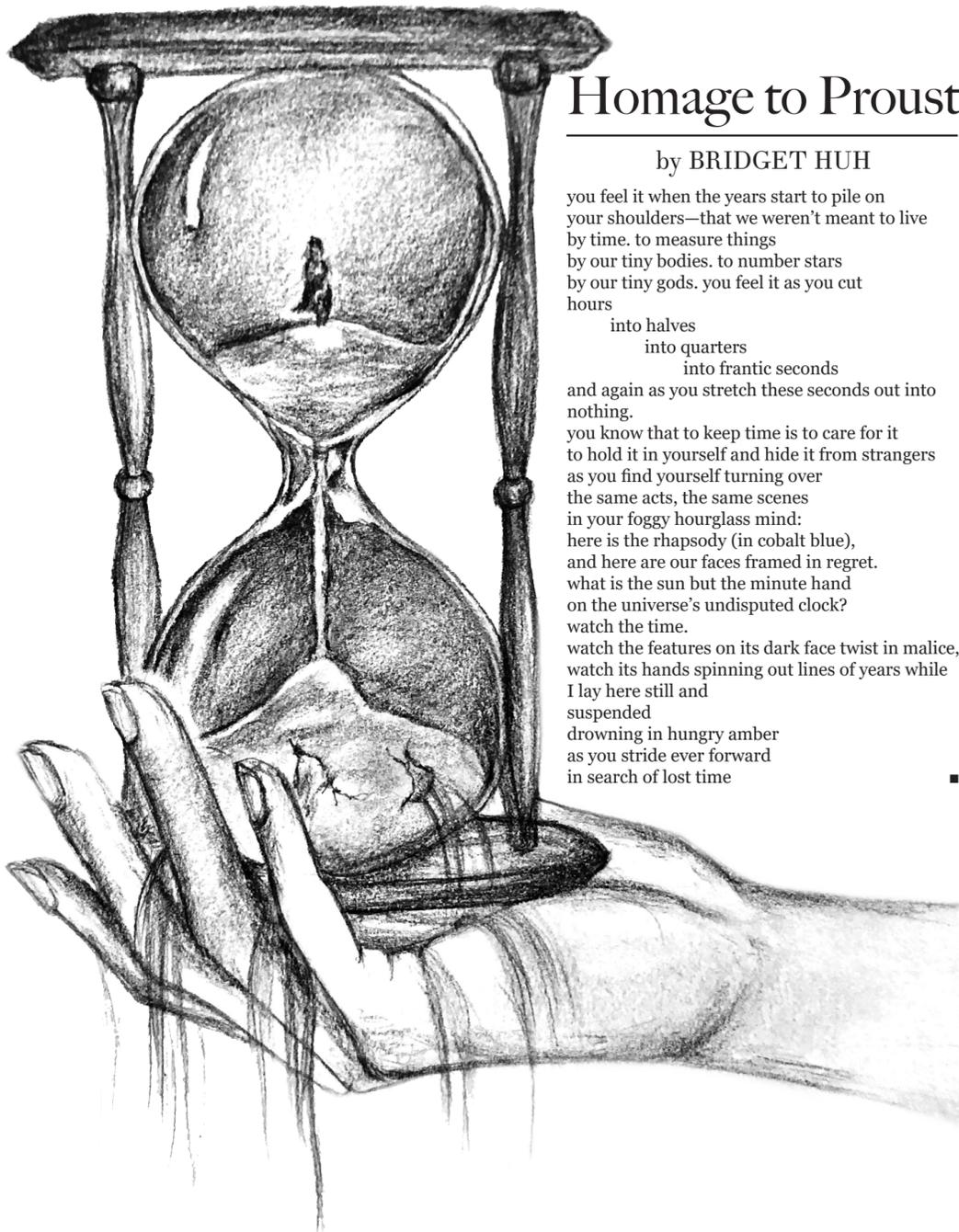


Illustration: Sheri Kim

Homage to Proust

by BRIDGET HUH

you feel it when the years start to pile on your shoulders—that we weren't meant to live by time. to measure things by our tiny bodies. to number stars by our tiny gods. you feel it as you cut hours into halves into quarters into frantic seconds and again as you stretch these seconds out into nothing. you know that to keep time is to care for it to hold it in yourself and hide it from strangers as you find yourself turning over the same acts, the same scenes in your foggy hourglass mind: here is the rhapsody (in cobalt blue), and here are our faces framed in regret. what is the sun but the minute hand on the universe's undisputed clock? watch the time. watch the features on its dark face twist in malice, watch its hands spinning out lines of years while I lay here still and suspended drowning in hungry amber as you stride ever forward in search of lost time

Why I Won't Stop Talking About Camping

by HARI ILANGOMARAN

An ear-piercing chirp awakens you from your slumber, followed by replies from all sides. A tweet, a warble, then there's practically a scream. You sit upright in bed, but oh, wait, you can't; you're zipped up in a sleeping bag. The supposition that you are in your own bed with a fitted sheet in your own wallpapered room slips away as light seeps in through the few layers of polyester fabric between you and the outside. The breathing of your companions—*campanions*, if I may—catches your ears and it all comes back to you:

You're camping.

Your watch is shoved in the crevice between you and the nearby sleeper. You extract it, dusting the dirt and bits of dead leaves off it. It's 5:23 am. Of course, the birds have to be up at this hour. After all, the early bird catches the worm. But do they really need to screech at each other? And why do sticks and rocks end up under you even if you cleared the ground before putting up the tent? And why do people in sleeping bags seem to rotate one hundred and seventy-five degrees through the night?

It all boils down to: why are you here in a cloth house, inside a zip-up bed, freezing your triple-sock clad feet off while birds communicate in shriek-ish tones outside?

The answer lies in what is beyond the cloth house. The wilderness you find yourself in is big and scary, but to some, it is home.

I'm not going to delve too much into the benefits of being outdoors and getting off the grid; there are so many advantages physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally from getting more vitamin D to mood elevation from natural light. The thing about camping is that it is for everyone. I know there are lots of people out there who say it's "not their thing," but really, it can be.

That's because camping doesn't always mean scrunching yourself into a sleeping bag in a tent over rocks and sticks, though it does for some people. Glamorous camping, or "glamping," is a slightly more expensive, but very comfortable option. It ranges from swapping a cot for a sleeping mat to getting a full out RV to live and travel in.

However you choose to do so, camping allows you to reconnect—with nature, your friends, family, pets, or whoever else you brought along. You could even reconnect with yourself. It sounds a little cheesy, but it happens more often than you think.

In fact, I recommend taking time out of your trip to sit alone by a shore or by a thoughtful tree and reflect.

If this is your first time, make sure to do your research and bring along the appropriate gear, which may as well be a more experienced camper. It's going to be a little hard to adjust to, there's no doubt about that. It can be tiring, frustrating, and downright annoying. But at night, before you lay yourself down to sleep, take a moment around the campfire to look up at the sky and all the stars. Take a moment to appreciate your companions, whoever they may be, or just the solidarity you have. Take a moment, and think about just how lucky you are to be alive.

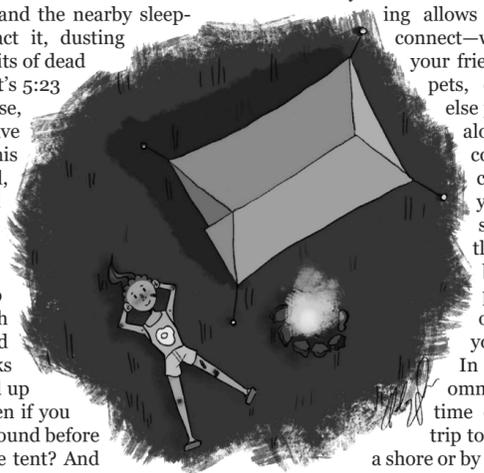
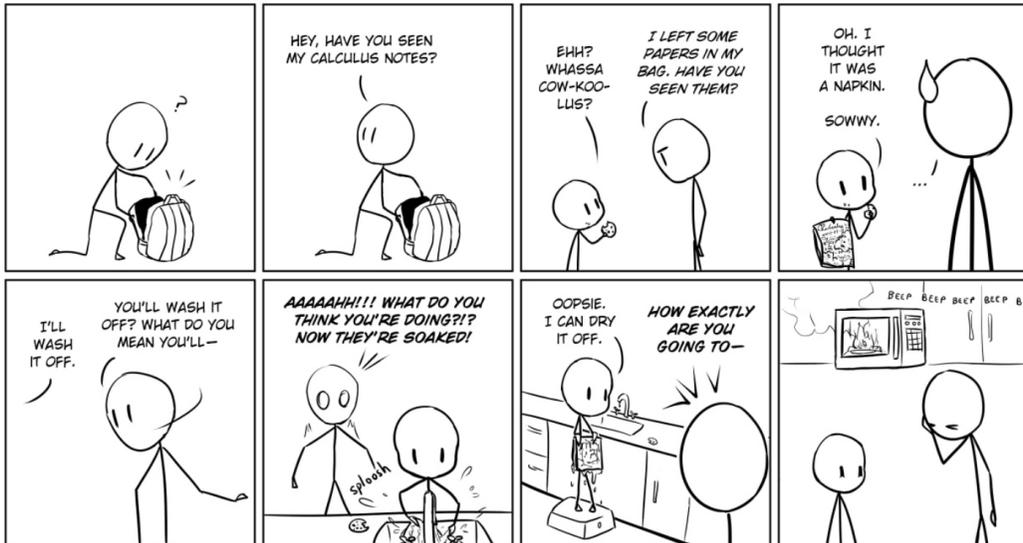


Illustration: Helen Sun

WHERE ARE MY NOTES?

by AVA PUN



COUNTDOWN

by SUMEDH DHANVANTHRY

For how much longer do I stare into your eyes?
 Until the roads turn white; 'till the sky turns green?
 Until the fish boil in the ocean and the algae talk?
 Until the Sun explodes, and the air turns solid?
 Until everyone's skeletons crumble?
 How long until you look away?
 Will you ever?
 Will you surrender when the glaciers turn to dust?
 When the earthworms evaporate?
 When the radiation steals the hair from our scalps?
 When the birds that have flown too high leave craters in the ground?
 When our skin turns yellow and our eyes are bleached?
 When our lungs turn to coal?
 When we cut our throats because it hurts to swallow?
 When our pets stage a mutiny and our siblings get drafted?
 What will it take?
 Stop looking at me.
 When will you see what's at stake?

Purgatory

by BRIDGET HUH

your waxy arms outstretched imploring the deep nightfallen white of TV static snow (reruns of the same grainy show) today you are my character: fold your legs into a corner and beg for the distant dawn (but who are you when I die?) tonight i will dream: you, on your knees before a thousand hooded Virgils your guides under the godless skies (and you are still so alone that you choke on unscripted words) march on, darling, as the snow longs for your feet the wind for your tender eyes and I for you

A Tawny Cat

REMINISCENCE
Continued from P1

My father took my hand then, acknowledging of my unease. His calloused fingers encased my plump, sticky ones, and I recall feeling happy: possibly because of the beautiful weather, or possibly because I still believed in a casual, offhand kind of happiness.

It is shortly after this moment when my memory becomes bleary. A linear confusion, as if translated from my mind's idle attempt to stretch each disembodied recollection into a single, comprehensive thought. I remember smiling as I watched the cat start to cross the street. I remember wondering if I might be able to pet it; perhaps if my dad came with me. I remember the animal's tawny fur, glossy in the sunlight.

And I remember the yellow Mazda. As it came seemingly from obscurity, heading straight for the cat in the middle of the street. As the dull thud following managed, somehow, to echo in my ears. Each snapshot a blur passing much too quickly for my young mind to process; much too quickly for such a gentle afternoon.

I remember the repressed howl of the stunned cat as it almost hopped, or skittered, about the street. Of all things, I remember the exact wording of the driver's cussing as he stepped out of his car. And I remember seeing my father truly angry for the first time. This was the most frightening thing of all; this blatant unfamiliar where my dad had stood only a second before. I stood stock-still as he spoke to the Mazda's owner, thinking his fury had stemmed from an outrage at the irreproachable animal's suffering. It wasn't until I was older when I realized it must have arisen from the guilt he felt for allowing me to see such a thing; he must have feared he had shattered his daughter's innocence.

I don't remember much of what happened afterwards. Though I stood wide-eyed, my mind must not have processed what I saw. The animal hospital was surely called, although I doubt the cat made it.

But when I got home, I remember reaching in my pocket for my dandelion. I remember searching the cloth with my fingers, checking my bag, only to come up empty-handed.

And that was when I started to cry.



Ecstasy

by ERIC ZHAO



Illustration: Zoe Cheng

Bad Days

by KATHERINE MA

Some days, things just don't seem to work. Nothing goes the way you want it to. You blame the first thing that went wrong for triggering all the things that followed, but it might as well have been the next thing or the thing after that. You might as well blame everything. You might as well blame yourself. Because maybe things seem worse than they are because you are feeling bad. And maybe things are just bad.

But I don't think I want to really make it better. At least, not today. Some people say sleeping helps them feel better, but I don't want to sleep unless I can wake up to tomorrow. Because tomorrow is not today and today is a bad day. It would be pretty disappointing to have to open my eyes to the same bad day.

So instead, I let myself soak in today, just as I would if it were a good day. Because today is just today.

But it is on these days that we appreciate the things that carry smiles on their faces, regardless of how bad the day is. It's probably because they don't actually know it's a bad day. Sometimes it is only then that we see the things that make us smile even on bad days, when everything is much worse. The things that make us want to come back to them tomorrow, so you can have a good day together, not like today. And it makes you feel bad, but in a different way. It makes you thankful for the good things and the good days and the bad things on good days and the good things on bad days. But not bad days. Bad days are bad. ■

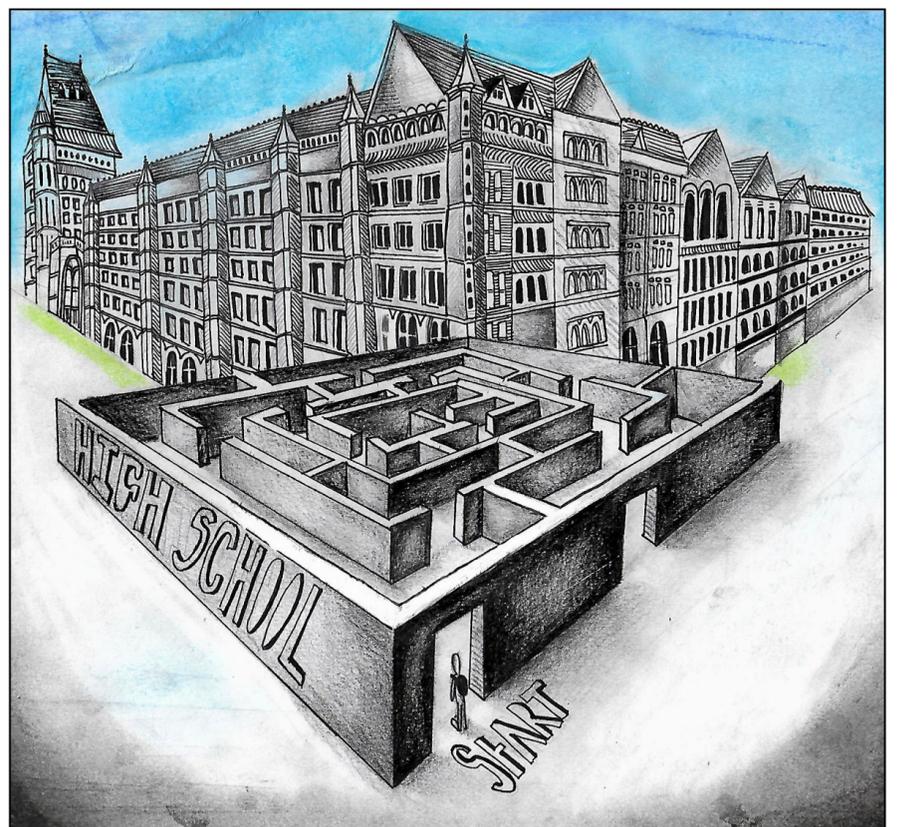
Snowgazing

by ROGER LI



THE PATH TO Post-Secondary

by IKHLAS SABRY



BEHIND THE SCENES

SAC



BY IVY DING AND UROOBA SHAIKH



PRESIDENT AREEZ KHAKI

In his campaign, Areez promised to introduce more events similar to pep rallies to bring students together. Areez has big plans for the upcoming semester, with intentions to revive the popular International Show, and organize a new event, Iftar Fest, where Muslim students will get to break their fasts during Ramadan with their friends. However, Areez also has yet to accomplish key aspects of his platform. He had promised to rename the houses, and increase outdoor school spirit events. Both of these promises have yet to be fulfilled, though he says that a major remodeling of the house system is in the works. In face of the newly-revised SAC constitution, Areez successfully conducted the selection of the non-elected executive members. However, he has not established any form of a grade representative, student ambassador, or further student body representative system. Similarly, at the SAC Open Meeting earlier this year, a Junior SAC was proposed, but the idea has yet to be executed.



VICE-PRESIDENT FRANK HONG

In his campaign, Frank promised more enjoyable events for students and a visit from the school's namesake, Marc Garneau. This promise was fulfilled, with Marc Garneau coming to visit the school in January to run a workshop. Among his other proposals included "School-wide Olympics, more basketball and volleyball tournaments and movie screenings," all of which he has yet to host. In the upcoming semester, Frank is responsible for establishing the elections committee to facilitate the selection of next year's student council members.



GRAD CONVENER HAFSA HABEEB

Hafsa Habeeb's main role as Grad Convener is to plan and organize Prom. Sales of the senior crewneck sweaters, which Hafsa herself designed, are ongoing as of the time of this writing. Other fundraising events such as the SAC Food Fiesta have been successful in raising money to reduce the ticket price of the costly event. She has already reserved the Grand Luxe as the 2019 prom venue. Plans for second semester include further fundraising initiatives and more promotion for crew neck sales.



SPIRIT CONVENER NITHYA UTHAYAKUMAR

During her campaign, Nithya promised more than one pep rally and new and fun spirit week themes. Both promises have been maintained, with two pep rallies having occurred so far, and new themes like Meme Monday and Candy Cane Day introduced during the three Spirit Weeks this school year. Nithya had also promised more cafeteria events during lunch, a promise which she followed through with. In the upcoming semester, Nithya said she plans to organize a fun fair to memorably end the year.



OUTREACH COORDINATOR DAWOOD KHOKHAR

Dawood Khokhar is in charge of the production and sales of spirit apparel. His promises for this year's merchandise were to have better quality sweaters for a lower price, as well as new spirit wear items such as sweatpants. MGCI hoodies have already been sold, notably at \$8 more than last year. The decision regarding additional spirit wear will be made by March Break or the beginning of April. His plan for second semester is to get these items finalized and sold and to create a student council website as another touchpoint with the student body.



SECRETARY SAMIA AHMED

Working behind the front lines, Samia Ahmed takes care of the meeting agendas and keeps track of all discussion. With her overall goal this year being increasing transparency with students, she had hosted a SAC table at lunch where students could give feedback and voice any concerns. This initiative took place for about a month and another is being planned.



CHAIRPERSON MOHAMMAD DAWAGHREH

Mohammad Dawaghreh is the first Chairperson that was chosen by the elected SAC members as a result of the new constitution. This year, the student ambassador system has yet to come into fruition despite its existence in the published constitution. This has eliminated the Chairperson's duty to represent the President at Student Ambassador meetings. Reportedly, the position has become more focused on internal SAC monitoring. However, his primary remaining responsibilities of ensuring that meeting minutes and agendas are available and ensuring that "a monthly report of activities and feedback for publication on the Student Council's social media sites" remain entirely unfulfilled. Requests for comment were ignored.



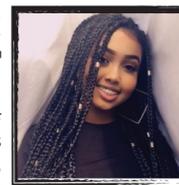
TREASURER AKEEL SAMJI

At the beginning of the year, Akeel Samji said that he aimed to allocate money more fairly by creating a system where clubs submit requests and justifications for funds. This was necessary after he and Clubs Convener Jessica Guo dealt with major budget cuts as SAC received around \$3 000 less than last year. Akeel also held club council meetings with representatives of all clubs that requested funding to address any concerns they may have had and showcase the budget distribution. Promises to not enter debt were also made and have been upheld so far.



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR GRACELYN SHI

Gracelyn is responsible for ensuring that information is accessible to students about the events planned by other members of SAC through posters, videos, and a Facebook page. This year, she planned to increase video promotions, which she has done for all significant events, and plans to continue doing this semester.



SPECIAL EVENTS CONVENER ZIMMAN YOUSUF

The Special Events Convener is traditionally in charge of organizing the annual International Show, which has been cancelled this year due to problematic incidents at last year's show. Instead, Zimman Yousuf is collaborating with the school's Muslim Students Association to introduce an Iftar party. She has also proposed to host a multicultural month, although there are no concrete plans yet.



SOCIAL JUSTICE CONVENER EDITH NYAMEKYE

Edith Nyamekye's goal for this year was to have more visual representation and activities to raise awareness about issues the school may neglect. She fulfilled this by making ribbons and a photo booth for Orange Shirt Day, decorating the cafeteria with poppies for Remembrance Day, and creating a visual memoir for those who fell in the Montreal Massacre. For second semester, Edith said she is planning to get wristbands for students on International Women's Day and to collaborate with Garneau's Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) for Pink Shirt Day.



SOCIAL CONVENER SUMAYA MOHAMMED

Sumaya has helped organize two dances so far, Fall Fest and Semi-Formal. In past years, one of the common student complaints about the dances was the music selection, so Sumaya promised and delivered a song request table. Another promise she made was to increase the affordability of social events, however dance ticket prices remain close to the same as last year. Sumaya is currently planning a third dance in April, the Spring Fling, but whether or not it will occur will be decided by a student vote and discussions with other SAC members.



ATHLETIC CONVENER MICHELLE MACKIE

Michelle Mackie runs athletic events and organizes the Athletic Banquet. The first of her platform proposals, Garneau All Star Week, took place at lunch from 19 to 22 February. It was a week full of various students-versus-teachers activities in the gym. She also proposed a March Madness intramurals event, but it is unclear whether this event will be executed. A first-semester ball hockey tournament, which is expected by the constitution, did not occur. This semester, Michelle is considering charging a fee for some events to fundraise for Athletic Banquet, as well as for new sports equipment and apparel.



CLUBS CONVENER JESSICA GUO

As Clubs Convener, Jessica Guo's primary goal is to involve students in Garneau's various clubs by ensuring clubs information is accessible. To do this, she created a clubs brochure that details what the various clubs do and when they hold meetings. A full list of clubs and descriptions is available on The Reckoner site. Jessica is also responsible for coordinating with the Treasurer to generate the clubs budget, which has successfully been delivered in each semester. This year, Jessica increased the number of clubs-focused student events by hosting distinct Clubs Fairs and Unhealthy Food Sales, to help clubs with recruitment and fundraising respectively.