

Volume 1 No.1

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MEDITAR

**Concordia's
Response to
COVID-19**

Plus

**Chasing the Best
Meats in Shanghai
from The Cut**

***Frozen 2:*
A Dissappointment?**



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In the face of an epidemic, the first line of attack is usually not an aching body or a hurting head but an unease that seeps into every corner of life. And in the past few months, the coronavirus has indeed been taking over our community slowly and perniciously.

Although Shanghai's death rates fast approached zero after March, fear, it turns out, is also a virus. An initial low-level fright took hold in our international community in Jinqiao when travel plans were disrupted and people scattered across the globe. Then the normal rhythms of the city were punctuated by the government's announcement of the closure of all schools and businesses, at once turning the metropolitan into a ghost town.

The frustrating truth was that we didn't know what we were living through. Scientists were still scrambling to understand fundamental facts about the virus as we helplessly watched it spread to the globe. In the absence of knowledge, we start to second guess many things, and our conversations often led to more uncertainty and judgment.

Living amongst this fear, we are reminded of just how little control we have over our lives, we are reminded of how much we value others after being forced to see everyone through screens, and we are also reminded of how delicate our system and country can be.

But our community has adapted quickly. Teachers and students made compromises on communication rates and deadlines during cyberschool, but not on the effort we put into learning. We debate about current events, but not on the importance of helping others who were much less fortunate.

There is the cliché that fighting an enemy helps us discover more about ourselves, but this fits perfectly in describing Concordia's response to the virus. Many of us have suppressed all our unease and distrust and confusion to take time to self-reflect and improve, and to serve others. Here are a few of those brave and kind individuals.

Concordia's Response to COVID-19





Angie, Lillian, and Kelly

Kelly W.

I learned to cook! Now I cook everyday (breakfast and lunch) with my mom. In addition to that, I just do chores a lot more so I guess I'm ready for college. I am also learning more about self-discipline—how to keep myself motivated and on task. Even though senioritis is hitting hard, I try my best to keep learning new things. I also work out every night to ensure some consistency in my days.



Sam C.

I guess the virus has affected me just like it has affected most people, most of my daily activities are limited to indoors. I think I've become more independent during this period of time, and since there aren't teachers around to help us, I find myself working a lot more with others to try and learn the material.



Elie W.

I am trying to use this time productively by working on projects/doing things that I usually wouldn't have the time for under normal circumstances. My friends and I also call and text each other very often, which has helped all of us overcome the prolonged separation. In addition, my family has also been trying to prepare a mask donation for people/communities in need back in our hometown in Texas.



Ali Z.

I've tried my best to use this time to my advantage by helping out around the house more as well as learning skills I'll need in university. Additionally, especially when I'm inside all the time, I've tried to follow a schedule to better manage my time with both schoolwork and spend quality time with my family. I've also tried to pick back up skills that I've lost over the past few years such as drawing and playing piano.



Darwin's room

Darwin C.

I haven't gone outside or exercised for a few weeks due to the virus. However, I got to spend more time with my family by helping my brothers with their online learning, and make dinner since everybody's busy. I usually don't have time to do these things but because of the virus I got the opportunity to do so.



Jenny F.

I now have some extra free time available to explore more things. I'm self-learning a new instrument called the ukelele, and I'm also reading recipes to learn how to cook. I've really enjoyed both activities and I'm hoping to continue them in the future.



Sam J.

Being the optimistic person I am, I did a lot of things that helped me grow as a person. For instance, I looked at this situation as an opportunity for me to bond with my family even more. I started baking, playing video games and board games with my brother. I also watched movies together with my parents every day before I went to sleep. I have started to treasure these moments as I will be leaving for college soon.





Matthew G.

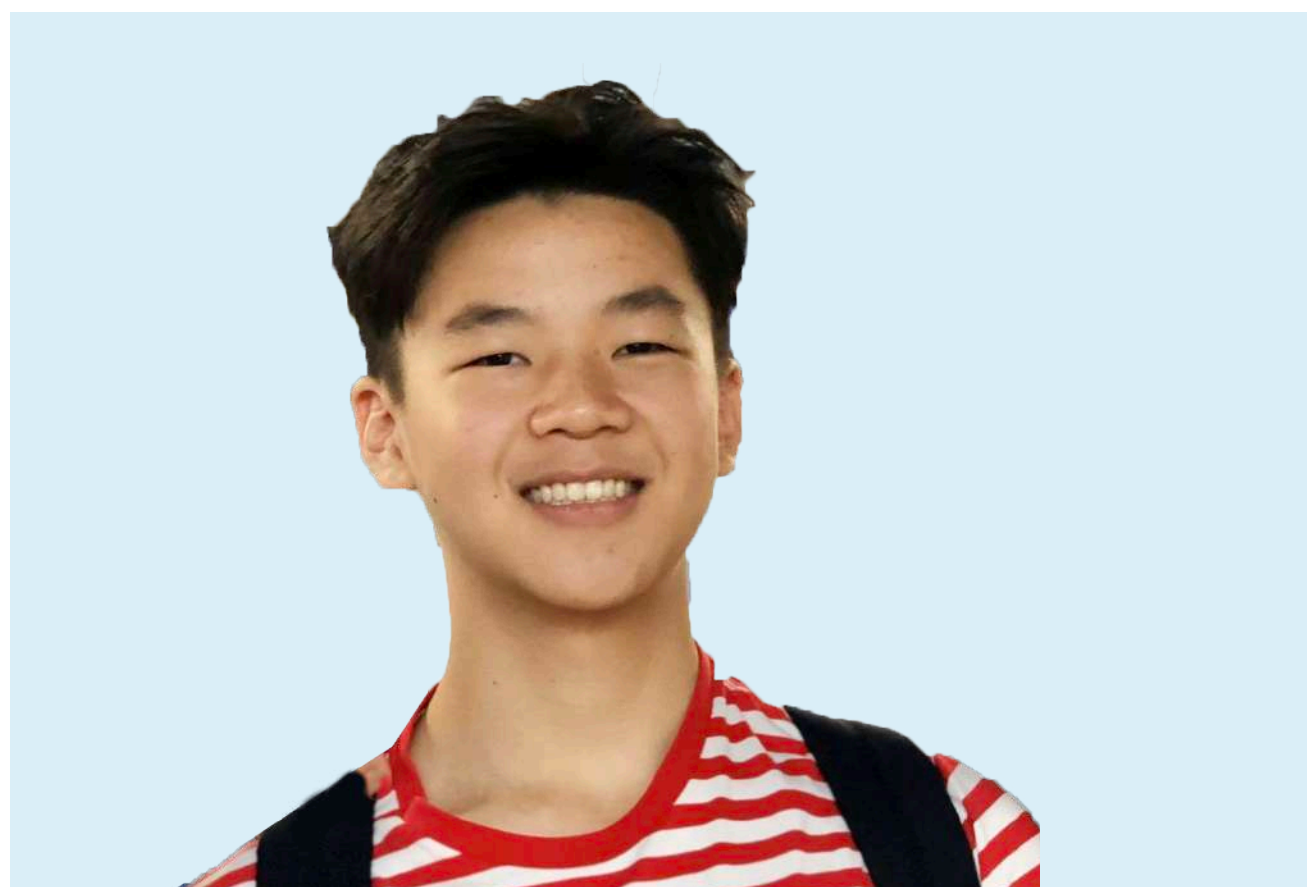
The only good thing that has come from this epidemic is helping people recognize the importance of friendship. Seniors this year are getting ready to leave friends they may never see again. The virus has made us cherish these last few moments.



something that Amy cooked!

Amy L.

I think staying at home gives me a really good opportunity to learn to self-study as that's definitely an important skill to have especially when I go to college. I also think that I can manage my time more flexibly as during normal school, there would be days where I sleep for 3 hours a day. Maybe I might be a little biased because I almost never leave my house on weekends unless I have school related meetings or games, so I think this outbreak has just been an extended weekend for me.



Jerry L.

Throughout the past two months, I've been able to enjoy unprecedented freedom. Without the constraints, I typically experience with a school schedule, I have practiced my interests in cooking and art. Furthermore, I have spent quality time with my family that I never could have otherwise.

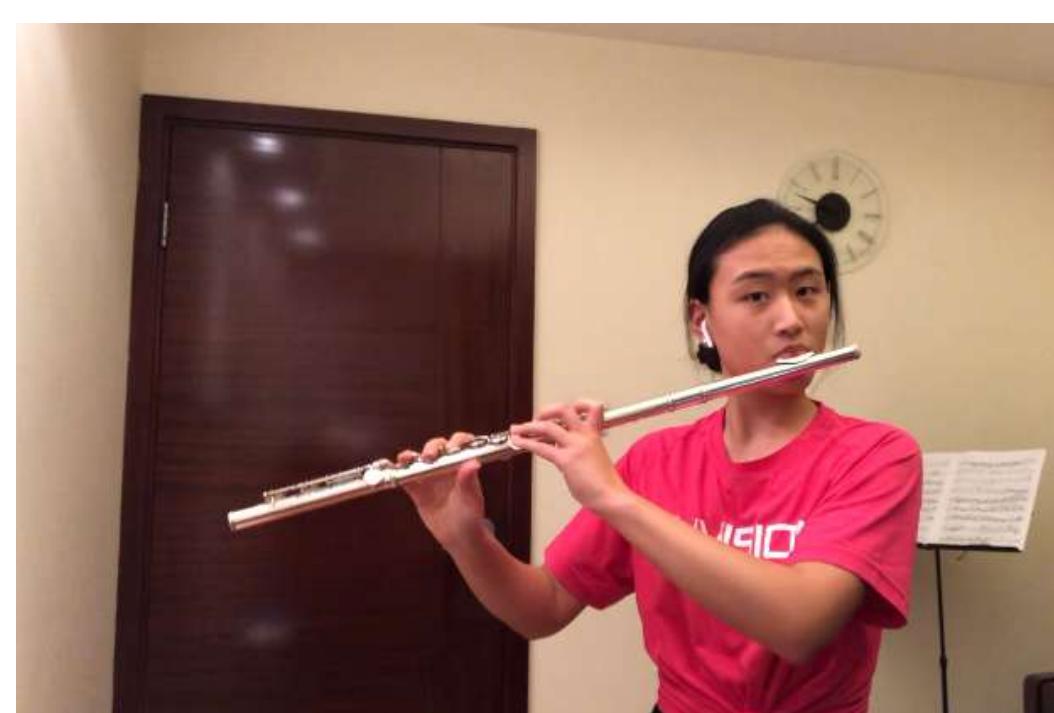
Ethan C.

It [the virus] really has affected a lot of my daily life especially in terms of getting bread. Because of the virus, I find myself unable to go to the supermarket to get myself some bread. The one time I tried to get my loaf of bread, some local Chinese person came up to me and asked me if I was a foreigner. I said yes, and this person proceeded to try to disinfect me with Febreze and used racial slurs against me. I felt really sad because I only wanted some bread and I got yelled at.



Helen D.

This tough time of quarantine has taught me things I wouldn't normally get the chance to learn and opened up a new lifestyle for me. In my opinion, the most effective way I helped others during this time was to minimize contact with people, avoid public transportation, and limit nonessential social gatherings as much as possible.



Lillian F.

I have been urging myself to make the most out of what I have, and that has really prompted me to see this as a time to grow myself and invest in my hobbies and passions. Personally, I find cyber school less stressful and constraining, and I love how it gave me more time to practice my instruments, to follow a workout plan, to read, to journal, and to spend time on projects that I deem meaningful.



Jonny L.

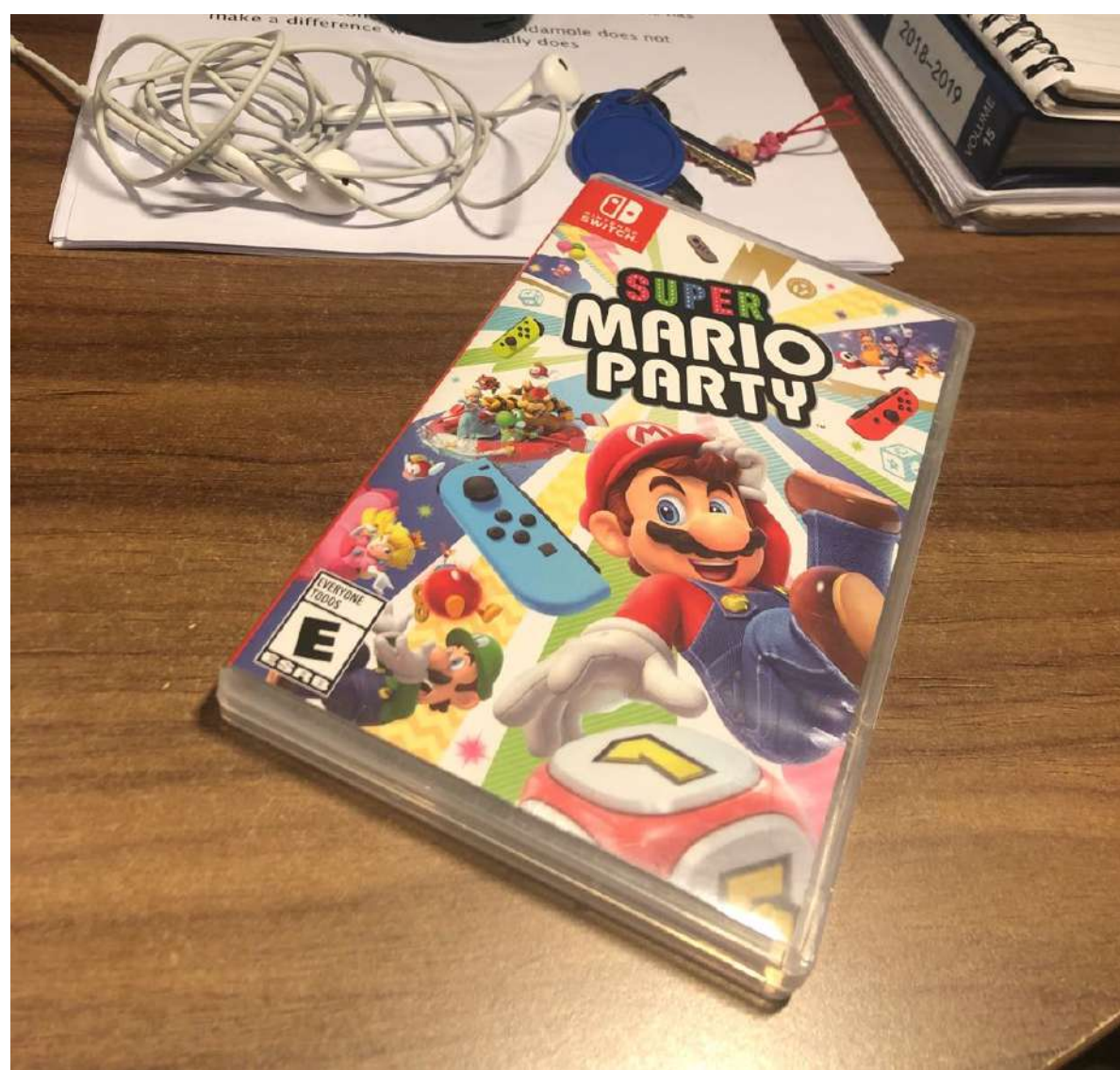
I couldn't go outside and do many things I enjoy like basketball or hanging out with my friends. But I made sure to stay home in order to not get COVID 19, as it would prevent the life of me or my family to be in danger. I also managed to find other things that I enjoyed like video games or cooking to kill time.



Kaitlyn's desk

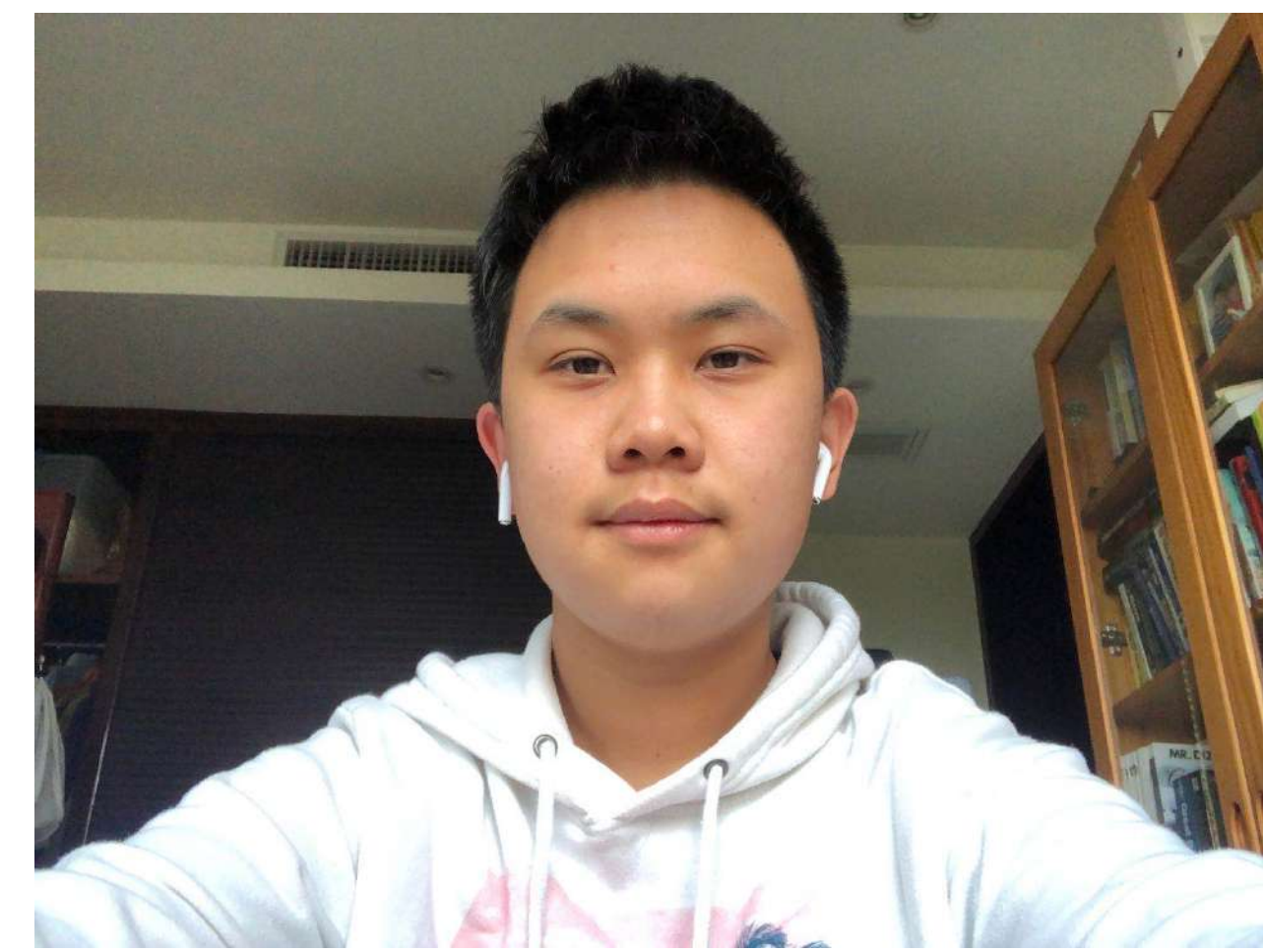
Kaitlyn T.

Because my mom's developing some respiratory issues and is now pretty frail, I've taken a larger role in the family in terms of keeping the household running and making sure everyone is happy! I've grown a lot in terms of responsibility and time management.



Hannah L.

I've definitely learnt to make the best out of this situation. Having a set routine everyday has helped me develop a good habit of time management as well as avoiding distractions. Though there has been many ups and downs throughout the course of this time, I got to spend quality time with my family, study at my own pace, and focus on

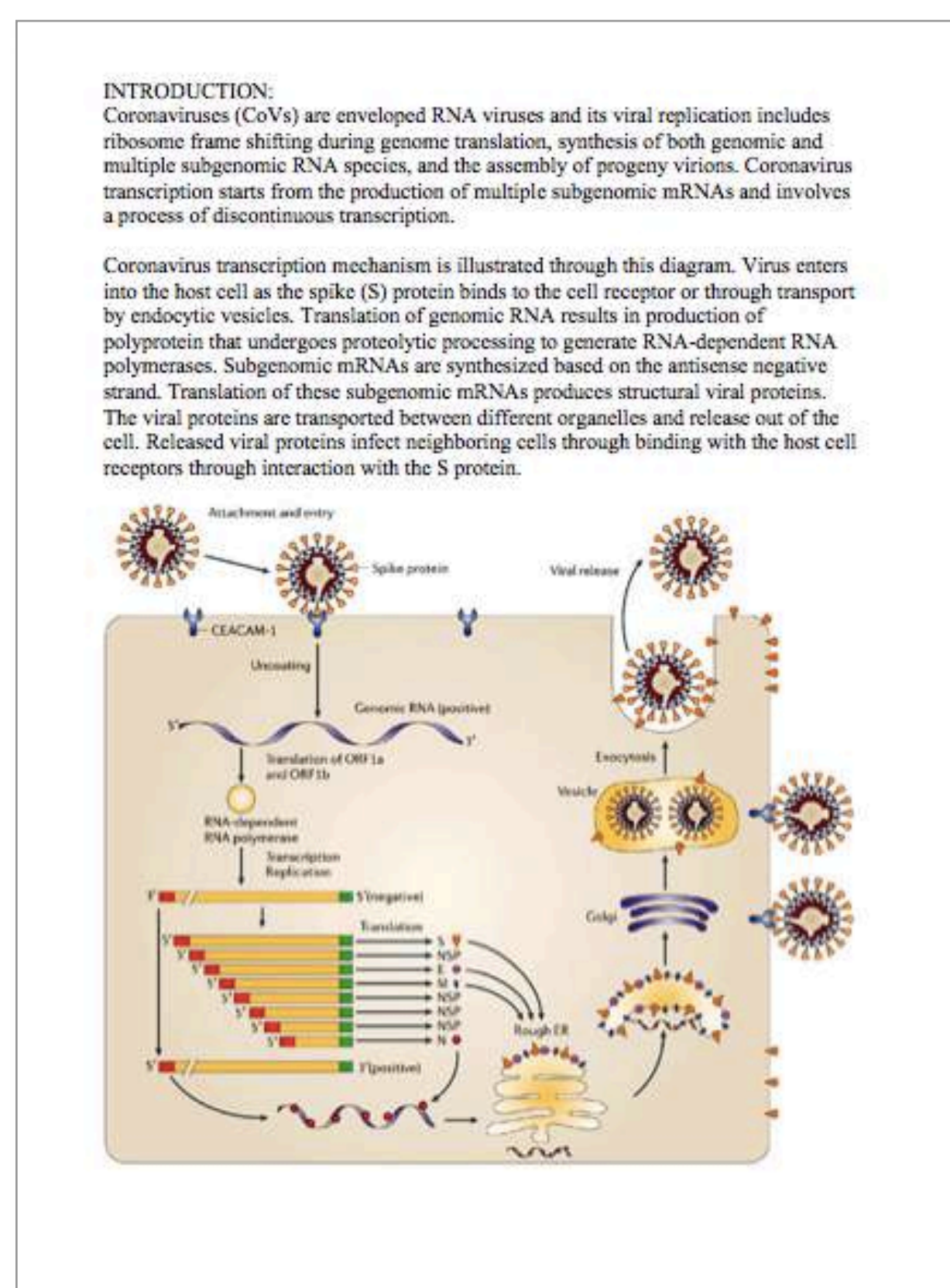


Alex Gao

For me, I tried to make the most of the situation by focusing more on myself. I wanted to take this time to improve my personal life a bit more and make sure to still keep growing as an individual. Additionally, I grew in that I am more grateful for the situation that I am in. Looking at all the people who have been suffering due to their socio-economic status, I have changed my view on the privileges that I have during my everyday life.

Aaron Y.

As a senior who is about to embark on the college journey, I really took advantage of this time and spent it with my family. My flexible timetable allowed me to visit my parents at work, and spend the evening playing video games with my brother. Surprisingly, the virus actually gave me the opportunity reconnect with some of my friends even more.



One part of Cindy's research paper

Cindy H.

In researching about the scientific mechanisms of the virus and potential ways to treat or immunize patients, I have designed and written a complete protocol outlining the steps in making a DNA vaccine for the COVID-19. By sharing the short introductory video regarding the mechanisms of the vaccine, I think it might help the science community as well as the general public to become more aware of how the virus affects us and can be effectively prevented!



Mamie Y.

For me, I tried to make the most of the situation by focusing more on myself. I wanted to take this time to improve my personal life a bit more and make sure to still keep growing as an individual. Additionally, I grew in that I am more grateful for the situation that I am in. Looking at all the people who have been suffering due to their socio-economic status, I have changed my view on the privileges that I have during my everyday life.

Daniel W.

We started DnA donations to gather necessary medical equipment (such as masks and isolation suits) to donate to doctors and hospitals in need. Since we are always taught to serve the community and give back to society, we took advantage of this incident to give back to the community using the resources that we have. We received over 40,000rmb in donations in which we used to purchase 20,000 masks and 200 isolation suits for the Shanghai Changhai Hospital.

DnA Donations

Food

Samduck

Rice Cakes that Conjure 90s
Korea

The Cut

Chasing the best steaks in Shanghai
from the

Zhongjie 1946

A new Destination for Chi-
nese Style Icecream



Samduck: Rice Cakes that Conjure 90s Korea

By Meditar Staff

“The rice cakes are so good! It was definitely worth the 30 minute wait and I’ll probably visit again once I’m back in Shanghai.”

--Sally L., former Concordia student

rice cakes that are half a meter long and bathed in a savory sweet and spicy sauce

pork belly complemented with a side of kimchi

popular seafood soup with crab and a handful of fish cakes



Walk along Shanghai’s Korea Town in Minhang District and the opportunity to eat Korean cuisine pops up every few meters. It is sold from windows of takeout places, sit-down restaurants, bars, and even the deli counters at convenience stores. One of the most talked-about and authentic Korean restaurants of the year, though, is a small and humble-looking place located on the second floor at the corner of YiShan Road. Its name is Samduck, and each day, when its doors for business open at exactly 12 p.m., a line takes shape from the entrance and wraps down the stairs to ground level.

Stepping into Samduck is like traveling back in time. Designed like a typical Korean restaurant of the 80s and 90s, inside are a few wooden tables and foldable metal chairs that line a tiny dining area the size of a large living room. Red and black lanterns adorn the ceiling. Adding to the historical ambience is Samduck’s outstanding traditional Korean food, which has recently garnered a lot of attention on Chinese social media.

What first propelled the restaurant to fame was its rice cakes, each half a meter long and bathed in a savory sweet and spicy sauce. A thick layer of melted cheese covers the entire dish, adding extra flavor to the chewy and soft rice cakes. It is best eaten together with Samduck’s pork belly complemented with a side of kimchi.

If you plan to come, it would be a shame not to order Samduck’s popular seafood soup, which contains crab and a handful of fish cakes that grow softer as you eat them, like squares of chocolate. The broth is so flavorful and meat-laden that the dish stands out in an already saturated market in Shanghai, where most of the non-traditional Korean restaurants could use a little help.



The Cut

Chasing the best steaks in Shanghai from the

By Meditar Staff

Surprisingly, what draws most people back to The Cut is not just its food but also its modern design and ambiance. Located on the very top floor of the IAPM Mall in Puxi, the two story space feels more like a cozy living room that belongs to a chic interior designer than it does a restaurant. A mixture of modern and industrial décor—all dark wood floors, brick accent walls, and luxe leather sofas adorn the main room. Outside of its spacious dining area, a beautiful bar and balcony overlook the metropolis. When night falls, the glittering lights of Shanghai's skyline cast a perfect rosy glow on entire place.



The Cut's indoor decor

"My dad took me there for lunch one time and it really exceeded expectations. We ordered the shrimp cocktail, a salad, and steak to share. The environment was very aesthetic and I would definitely recommend it to anyone looking for new restaurants to try!"

--Allison Z., Concordia Senior



View of Shanghai from The Cut's balcony



The food, too, is excellent. While The Cut's menu doesn't contain many new and unique dishes, it is well-known for its take on traditional meats. From steaks, salmon, chicken breasts and wings, to oysters, clam chowder, and shrimp, the restaurant offers a large selection of delicious entrées, each cooked to perfection. In particular, the ribeye is a great choice for anyone who likes tender, melt-in-your-mouth steaks.

For those just looking for a small



snack, make sure to try the Rock Shrimp Cocktail. Diced avocado and grapefruit compliment the zesty flavors of lime and shrimp and add a touch of sweetness to the dish. Resting on a silver stand, the seafood is drizzled in a rich cilantro sauce and garnished with sprigs of rosemary, giving it a put-together look. Among salads, the Thai Greens and Grilled Asparagus are standouts. Sweets include The Cuts famous 65% Dark Chocolate Fondant and apple crumble.

Zhongjie 1946

A new Destination for Chinese Style Icecream

By Meditar Staff

In the mid-eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, people who came to Shenyang business street, Zhongjie, would almost certainly have tried its famous popsicle. The well-made, creamy, Chinese-style ice cream was affectionately called “Zhongjie’s Big Apple” by the people. The treat was so well-loved that over the next few decades, Zhongjie 1946, a restaurant chain, evolved quickly and expanded throughout China. Last year, it opened up a brand new location in Carrefour, Pudong.



While its menu traces its origin back to 1946, the year the milk ice-cream treat reached its highest popularity, there’s little here that feels rough and ready. Zhongjie 1946’s small booth is lovely and contemporary, with the popsicle selections neatly organized and placed inside its signature blue-colored display box. The ice creams themselves come in a variety of different flavors—Asian chocolate, Belgian chocolate, sesame and peanut, rose, matcha and milk, chocolate and milk, Amarena cherry, Badam milk, and original milk— all carefully stamped with the numbers ‘1946’ on their tops. Packaged in a minimalist style using Kraft paper materials, Zhongjie 1946 stands out as a sophisticated confectionery shop among a sea of gaudy places.

Particularly good is the matcha and milk popsicle. Its top half is filled with rich matcha tea flavor that lingers into a sweet aftertaste, while its bottom half provides the clean dairy taste of simple milk ice cream. Even in winter, Zhongjie 1946 is a great place to satisfy your craving for something sweet.



Its store front in Carrefour



The matcha and milk popsicle

WHY DID SHE DIE?

By: Katherine Da

Sulli (Choi Jin-ri), former Kpop star and Korean actress, committed suicide on October 14, 2019, sending shock waves across Chinese media and a hard punch to our belief that some people have everything in life.

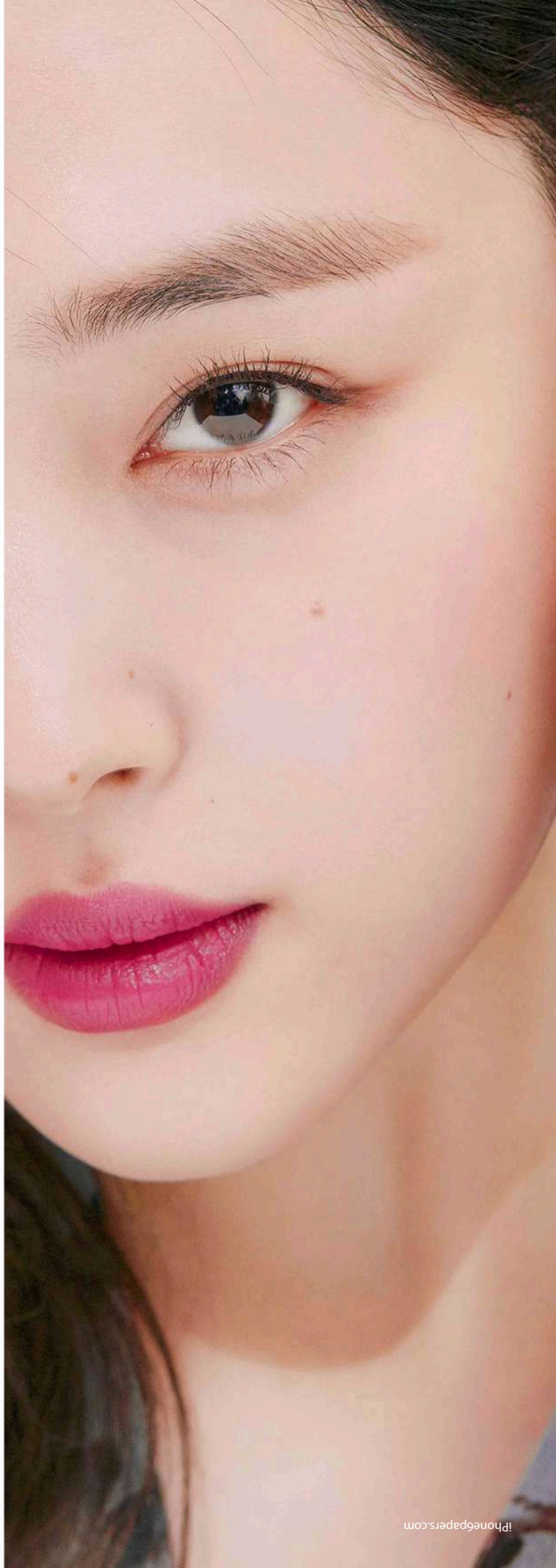
In the extremely competitive Kpop industry, Sulli experienced what many idols would consider the ideal career. She joined SM Entertainment, one of Korea's biggest entertainment companies, when she was just eleven years old and successfully debuted as part of the girl group f(x). Quickly acquiring wealth and fame as a teenager, Sulli's attractiveness and charm made her stand out, even among other group members. Later, her talent helped her successfully transition into an acting career after she left f(x), and it seemed like the superstar's life was filled with love and meaningful work. Yet she ended her life abruptly this year.

The realization that some whose lives we admire cannot bear to live any longer perhaps serves as a reminder that material things don't bring us happiness. Today, it is easy to find ourselves comparing our regular routines to the most polished pictures of others on Instagram. While we may envy their picture-perfect lives, those images don't convey the silent struggles that every human faces.

Seemingly happy to hang out with friends on Instagram back in January, followers could now faintly make out the lines on Sulli's wrist. Had the actress tried to cut herself? And if so, how did we miss identifying her sadness. Perhaps this is because Sulli, like others, felt the need to create a perfectly curated image of herself.

We know that happiness is not created from an accumulation of wealth, intelligence, beauty, or fame. So, it's time to let go of our obsession to have the perfect life, and instead grab hold of what is real. Simply put, not everyone's life is as idyllic as it seems. And we should embrace our struggles as much as our successes.

Suicide should not be taken lightly. As citizens, it is our job to create a culture that values acceptance and compassion—a society that lifts people up. When this is not accomplished, consequences are inevitable. While Sulli's fans can not bring her back, they can use the tragic event as a means to bring awareness to suicide, depression, and other afflictions that cause a person to question self-worth.



Movies

Frozen 2

The alchemy that made "Frozen" such a monster hit can't be easily replicated, and isn't entirely in its six-years-later sequel
— CNN Entertainment

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

Angelina Jolie returns as the powerful, dangerous fairy in this tame, disappointing follow-up to the 2014 revisionist hit.
—New York Times

Jumanji: The Next Level

a charming, funny movie about being stuck in a video game with some of cinema's most endearing stars.
—Forbes

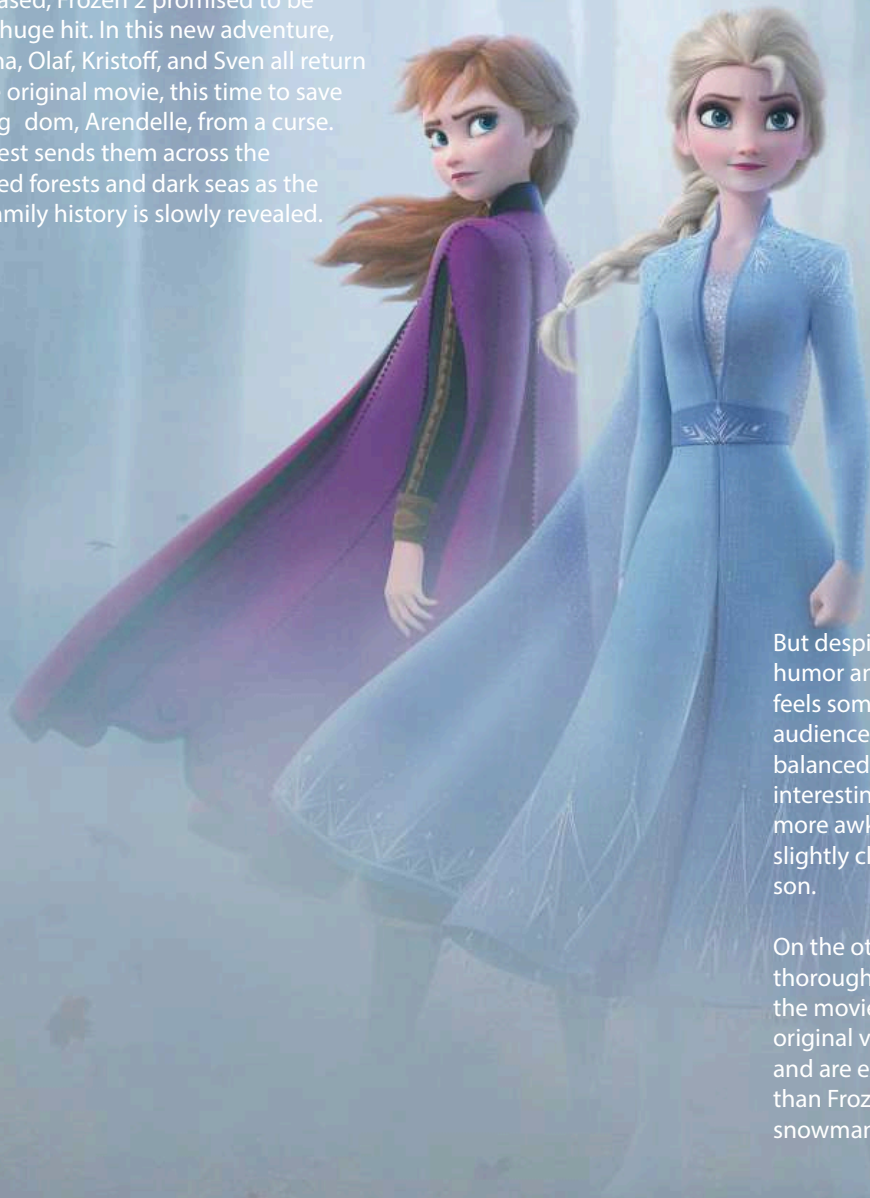


adapted from:
poster.ninja.com

Frozen 2

Frozen is a movie familiar to everyone. It's heartwarming story of sisterhood and brilliant soundtrack has made it one of the most popular Disney movies of all times. (Who could ever forget the iconic song "Let it Go"?) While some delighted in pointing out its deep underlying messages, like championing female empowerment, others just came for the talking snowman.

Just released, Frozen 2 promised to be another huge hit. In this new adventure, Elsa, Anna, Olaf, Kristoff, and Sven all return from the original movie, this time to save their kingdom, Arendelle, from a curse. Their quest sends them across the enchanted forests and dark seas as the sisters' family history is slowly revealed.



But despite its freewheeling, lighthearted humor and inventive sight gags, Frozen 2 feels somewhat underwhelming for older audiences. Whereas its prequel masterfully balanced animation, soundtrack, and an interesting plot, Frozen 2 seems to have more awkward music interjections and a slightly cliché plot that pales in comparison.

On the other hand, many little kids will still thoroughly enjoy the film. Perhaps it's not the movie that changed, but us, the original viewer. So, for those who are older and are expecting something even better than Frozen 1, come for the talking snowman but not too much else.



Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

By Meditar Staff

Disney's production of "Sleeping Beauty" remains a classic story, etched deep in so many children's memories while growing up. But it is also one that doesn't seem to fit into our modern feminist storylines. So, *Maleficent*, which takes a dark spin on the fairytale and focuses on the autonomy of a Queen fairy mother and her daughter princess, garnered a lot of recognition and popularity when it was first released in 2014. Soon, its sequel, *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*, entered theatres on October 2019.

This time, the story revolves around two kingdoms and the battle for harmony. Aurora's, Princess of fairies, marries Phillip, Prince of humans, and together they work to establish a peaceful relationship between the two kingdoms. However, Prince Phillip's mother—Queen Ingrith—evil masterminds Aurora's misfortunes and successfully turns the humans against the fairies.

Back again is Queen Maleficent, Aurora's mother, an intimidating and powerful persona. While she quickly becomes the nation's target after Queen Ingrith makes some startling accusations, the audience sees her funny attempts at making small talk, her desire to please her daughter, and her relentless efforts in protecting those important to her-- and can't help but find themselves rooting for her to defeat Queen Ingrith throughout the movie.

The appeal works, to a point, largely because it brings flesh to the "evil" character. And the moment when Maleficent sacrifices herself to protect Aurora despite her daughter's betrayal is a heartfelt scene. However, the film's complicated plot grows wearisome at points as different characters die and are reborn while fairies and humans fight. Soon, the fairies are not the only ones needing to be rescued.



Angelina Jolie as Maleficent, who serves as the protector of the Moors. Although she was heroic, Maleficent is deemed to be a villain by the kingdom of Ulstead.



Elle Fanning as Aurora, who is the Queen of the Moors, and eventually accepts the Ulstead Prince Phillip's proposal

Jumanji: The Next Level

By Meditar Staff

This winter, yet another sequel to an all-time favorite movie has premiered-- *Jumanji: The Next Level*.

In this movie, the warlord, Jurgen the Brutal, steals a magic necklace called the Falcon's Heart, causing a drought to spread over the world. The gamers must retrieve it before Jurgen sells it to a crime syndicate. This sends the characters across deserts, jungles, and fortresses, which create a fast-paced action film.



Like its predecessor, the movie has a unique game setting and once again surprises us with its character assignments: there's a jock whose avatar is a weak professor played by Jack Black and a shy and nerdy girl who assumes an avatar of a skilled martial artist played by Karen Gillan.

With the 2017 cast back, two new avatars are introduced: Cyclone, a blacked winged horse and Ming Fleetfoot, a young, stealthy woman with burglary skills. Everything about the characters' quirks and sometimes awkward interactions create light-hearted humor that balance the seriousness of their journey.

It's the careful blend of likeable characters and Indiana-Jones-like slapstick action that make the film truly enjoyable.



Kevin Hart as Franklin "Mouse"

Finbar, who is a zoologist and linguistics and weapons specialist.



Jack Black as Professor Sheldon "Shelly" Oberon, who specializes in paleontology, archaeology, cartography, and cryptography.



Awkwafina as Ming Fleetfoot, a new avatar and first-rate burglar.



Nick Jonas as Jefferson "Seaplane" McDonough, a young pilot.



Karen Gillan as Ruby Roundhouse, a highly skilled commando.

Dwayne Johnson as Dr. Smolder Bravestone, who is an archaeologist and the team leader.





Opinion

Concordia's Big Bubble

A lack of political awareness amongst our student body

By Katherine Da

A few months ago, I was consoling a friend from U.S who I met during summer camp. She was complaining about the U.S-China trade wars. Her father works in the steel manufacturing business and it turns out that they have been suffering from financial losses as a result of international trade issues.

At the time, tensions between the two countries had boiled almost to a breaking point. I had a general idea of what was happening from the murmurs of adult conversations and articles online. But I never fully felt how average people's lives are affected until I heard my friend's frustrations.

This feeling of disconnectedness from the real world is not uncommon in Concordia. As an elite private school in China, many of its students

come from privileged and international backgrounds. While some might associate an international experience with being strongly knowledgeable of global affairs, this doesn't always ring true to Concordia's student body. Instead, sometimes we seem more like the observers of international politics, who hold surface level beliefs and enjoy protection from much of the world's harsh realities.

"Everyone hates the stereotype of being rich, but the truth is that we are so rich that it [politics] doesn't affect us," says Concordia senior Janie W, as she reflects on Concordia students' political opinions. "Poverty doesn't affect us, we don't have to worry about our next meal, we don't have to worry about people dying in the middle east, we're not gonna be drafted unless you apply," she says. "It's not necessary for us, so when it comes down to it we don't care. We don't."

On the other hand, our environment might also be contributing to this lack of political mindfulness. While everyone makes an effort to become global citizens and our school is specifically tailored to encourage this kind of awareness, "much of the process has become so formulaic," Janie points out. "It's like you go on New York Times or CNN, grab the first article you see, talk about it, paraphrase exactly what's online and don't really form your own opinion on it. Or if you do, it's very surface level."

Lena H, another Concordia senior, expresses similar concerns. "I think we get a lot of our political opinions from social media—and that's not just at Concordia, it's every kid our age. All the stuff online can be very liberal and one-sided," she says.

This result is further amplified by the bandwagon mentality. Janie has noticed that "It's like either half of the students are very edgy: young kids who are counter-cultural for no reason. But the other group is mostly very fake woke, new age democrat liberals who are like 'gay rights!', 'racism is so bad!'" She pauses slightly to gather her thoughts, "But they don't know the context or the cultural implications this had on huge groups of people who are currently marginalized."

Some would say that this is all because politics can be abstract; it can be overwhelming; people are busy living. But while these social changes are complicated, we are one of the generations that will have to live through the changes. Being politically aware helps us form true opinions, which in turn helps us shape the future into our desires.

Concordia is the perfect diverse environment to cultivate this sense of cultural sensitivity and global awareness, and it is in our best interest to embrace these



values before it's too late.

Mr. Paulson, Concordia high school social studies teacher, recently informed his International Relations class about Shanghai's gradually diminishing ex-pat population. "As Shanghai has developed and grown more expensive, it is a less attractive place for foreign companies to do business," he says. "We've seen a huge shift in our demographics as the number of ethnic Chinese continues to rise, and the numbers of westerners continues to drop." So, the choice facing Concordia students is whether we want to continue living in a vibrant international community or wish to assimilate to one culture.

If there is one thing that can slow down the dawning of a homogenous Concordia, it is a vigorous new culture of joining in Chinese and American life. Not clicking, not liking, or simply not knowing anything at all, but actually joining: find topics that you are interested in and ask questions. Go to different sources, consider different opinions, and form your own thoughts. Then, engage in thoughtful conversations with peers and even ask yourself ways you could take part in change.

All bubbles eventually pop. For us, that day will come when we step outside Concordia's comfort and into society. So, it is important for us to acquire the critical thinking skills and the unique, global perspectives that Concordia offers before it's too late.

Books

A Court of Mist and Fury:

An Intriguing Adventure Into the Immortal Lands

A Court of Wings and Ruin:

The Hero's Journey

Beautiful Redemption:

the Trek Back To Life



adapted from:
thestar.com.my

A Court of Wings and Ruin

The hero's journey

By Meditar Staff

A Court of Wings and Ruin is the third book to the *A Court of Thorns and Roses* written by Sarah J. Maas. It begins with Feyre Archeron, High Lady of the Night Court and mate of Rhysand, High Lord of the Night Court, back in the Spring Court after narrowly escaping the claws of Hybern. She managed to deceive Tamlin, the High Lord of the Spring Court, that she was controlled by Rhysand and that working with the Night Court wasn't of her free will. However, thinking of the time when she was locked inside the city, she promised herself to destroy the Spring Court from within.

Finished with her business, Feyre and Lucien Vanserra, a member of the Spring Court, escape and travel back to Velaris, the City of Starlight, to find Rhysand. Throughout this journey, they bump into multiple obstacles but made it back to Velaris safely. With their return the Inner Circle is complete again, and are working to unite all seven courts: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, Night, Day, and Dawn, against the ambitious and corrupted King of Hybern, who is threatening to break the wall that protects humans and faeries from each other.

The story only gets more exciting as Feyre and Rhysand go off on this dangerous journey. Both main characters are portrayed as selfless, brave, and righteous, but also with their imperfections. It is difficult for perfect heroic characters to be vulnerable sometimes, but Sarah J. Maas conveys their sacrifices within the novel under a hidden mask of perseverance and serenity while secretly exposing the broken pieces, digging deep and driving hard. The reading experience comes with laughter and tears and is truly extraordinary.



"This fast-paced and explosively action-packed finale will certainly grab audiences . . . Fans will eagerly follow the conclusion to Feyre's story while looking forward to the next crop of stories from Prythian." - Booklist



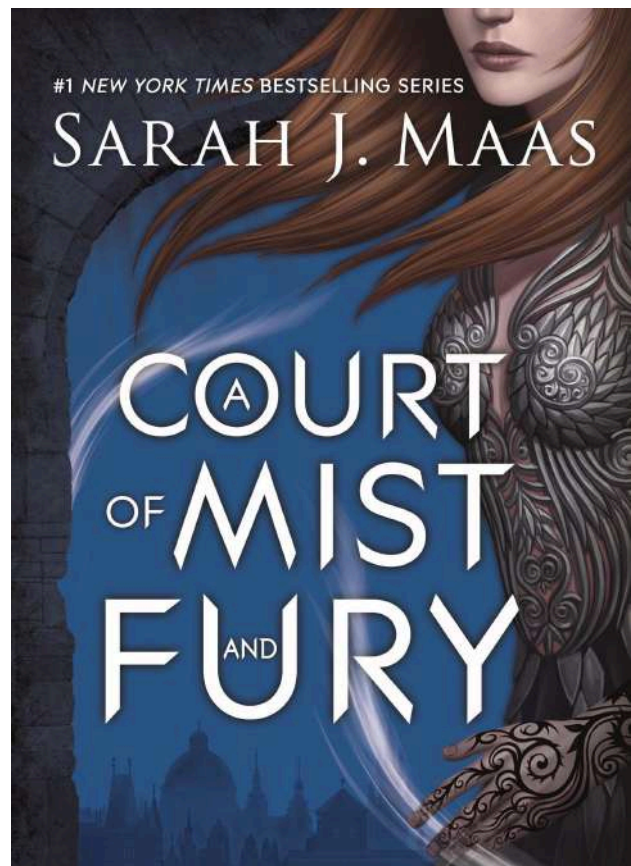
“

I WOULD SELL MY UNBORN CHILD, A FEW LIMBS, A KIDNEY AND EVEN BITS OF MY SOUL FOR THE NEXT BOOK. NOW.” - THE GUARDIAN

“ “[T]he world is exquisitely crafted, the large cast of secondary characters fleshed out, the action intense, and the twist ending surprising, heartrending, and, as always, sure to guarantee readers' return. . . . When has Maas not churned out a best-seller? Her ongoing *Throne of Glass* series is enormously popular, and this sequel in an equally devoured new series is primed for similar success.” - *Booklist*

“A thrilling game changer that's fiercely romantic, irresistibly sexy and hypnotically magical. . . . A flawless sequel that will once again leave us desperately clamoring for more, more, more.” - *USA Today*

“An immersive, satisfying read.” - Publisher's Weekly



A COURT OF MIST AND FURY:

An intriguing adventure into the immortal lands

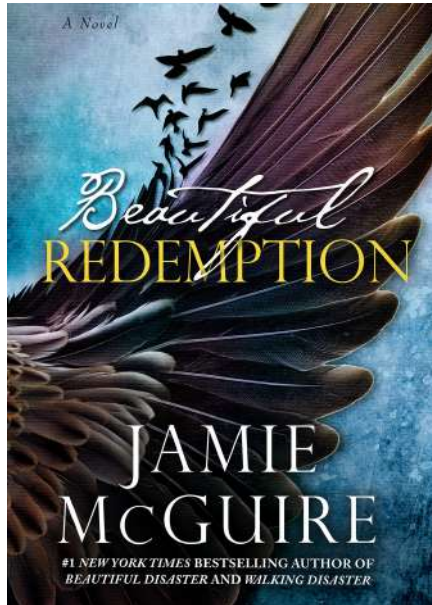
By Meditar Staff

A Court of Mist and Fury, the second book to the *A Court of Thorns and Roses* written by Sarah J. Maas, covers the story after the fall of *Under the Mountain* and the death of Amarantha, starting with Feyre Archeron's new life as an immortal faerie, also known as Fae. As Feyre settles back into the Spring Court with her lover, Tamlin, the High Lord of the Spring Court, she gradually begins to feel confined and tense as Tamlin becomes more protective of her. She isn't allowed to leave the court by herself, isn't permitted to attend meetings with other courts, and was locked up in the city.

Meanwhile, Rhysand, the High Lord of the Night Court, made a bargain with Feyre to take her to his court every month for a week. She goes unwillingly at first, but soon becomes attached to the Night Court, to Rhysand, and becomes part of his secret Inner Circle. During this time, she also discovers her own powers that emerged along with her immortality.

More adventures unravel as the Inner Circle strives to find the two halves of the Book. It is the only thing that could nullify the Cauldron, the most powerful weapon owned by the King of Hybern, who is threatening to break the wall separating humans from faeries.

As the story progresses, the plot becomes even more intriguing, with sudden unexpected twists that pull readers into the scene with the characters. Although tragedies in a dystopian novel can sometimes be discouraging, Sarah J. Maas was able to effectively weave periods of loss, defeat, and hopelessness into the plot to create bitter-sweet moments that enhance the reading experience.



“

"The Beautiful Creatures novels contain a potent mix of the gothic, the mythic, and the magical. Readers can look forward to more of what they love in the final installment, Beautiful Redemption, as they follow Ethan's compelling journey to its bittersweet close. With original characters, complex world building, and crackling prose, this is masterful storytelling."—Deborah Harkness, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *A Discovery of Witches*

Beautiful Redemption:

The trek back to life

By Meditar Staff



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"THE FOURTH AND FINAL INSTALLMENT PICKS UP AFTER THE MASSIVE CLIFF-HANGER IN BEAUTIFUL CHAOS AND DOESN'T DISAPPOINT."—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"The fourth and final installment picks up after the massive cliff-hanger in Beautiful Chaos and doesn't disappoint."—Entertainment Weekly

Beautiful Redemption, the fourth and last novel of the series *Beautiful Creatures* written by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl, is a story about the town of Gatlin without Ethan Wate, Seer, and boyfriend of Lena Duchannes, a Caster. Ethan finds himself in the Otherworld, a place between life and death, a world where people stay when they have unfinished business in their life. He reunites with his mother and begins to find a way back to Gatlin.

Ethan knows that he was not supposed to die that day. There was a mistake. So, taking matters into his own hands, he starts sending secret messages to Lena and his grandmother through notes, objects, and the town magazine. With the help of many, he began a long and dangerous journey back to being alive.

The authors are careful to follow the usual flow of dystopian novels, integrating times of impossibility and even death. But the plot of this novel is not as exciting compared to the first three. While the ending of the book is rather generic, eye-opening surprises are still sprinkled along the ride.

Trump's Trade War

The US President is wrong about some of his accusations against China

By: Katherine Da





In January 2018, President Donald Trump decided to follow through on his promise to tackle the imbalance of trade between the U.S. and China. He began by imposing safeguard tariffs on “\$8.5 billion of solar panels and \$1.8 billion of washing machines.” To which China retaliated on April 2nd, imposing tariffs on “aluminum waste and scrap, pork, fruits and nuts, and other U.S. products, worth \$2.4 billion in export value” (Bown). These exchanges were the tangible beginnings of what is now warned by China’s Ministry of Commerce to be “the largest trade war in economic history to date” (Dwyer).

Trump has been the first President to take such large-scale actions against China, undercutting a decades-long cooperative relationship that started with Nixon. By May 2019, the U.S. had imposed 25% tariffs on nearly \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods and Beijing had taxed over \$110 billion worth of U.S. goods (CNBC). Unfortunately, the ensuing impact has been quickly passed on from U.S. importers to consumers, who now ‘almost entirely’ bear the cost of tariffs according to research from the International Monetary Fund.

With a long history of unfair practices, China deserves much of Trump’s scrutiny. It participates in protectionism, currency manipulation, and intellectual property theft. These behaviors are damaging to the U.S. economy, and in one report by the United States Trade Representative, the estimated loss is at least \$50 billion per year. To add to the angst of many U.S. officials, efforts by the Chinese government to establish anti-counterfeiting laws and special courts to prosecute offenders have little effect on resolving the corruption (Kaplan).

To complicate matters, Chinese President Xi Jinping has rolled out a new, “Made in China 2025” campaign, aiming to make China’s private and state-owned companies the world’s leaders in supercomputing, AI, 3D printing, and other tech. Now that trade no longer evolves solely around the exchange of toys, t-shirts, and tennis shoes for U.S. technologies, the United States is experiencing a magnified effect of China’s unscrupulous behavior (Friedman).

As Thomas L. Friedman, the foreign affairs Op-Ed columnist for the New York Times commented, “Trade can be win-win, but the winning shares can be distorted when one side is working hard and cheating at the same time” (Friedman). And that’s perhaps why Friedman alludes Trump is “the American president China deserves,” because he has become the “the wrecking ball” that has demanded China’s attention on such pivotal trade issues.

Yet, despite imbalances in the trade relationship, Trump must acknowledge the economic benefits China brings to a cooperative relationship. After all, investments made between the two countries, when combined, equate to approximately \$2.6 million in U.S. jobs and about \$216 billions in GDP (Oxford Economics). Additionally, the U.S. treasury revealed that since joining the WTO in 2001, merchandise exports to China increased by 187 percent in just six years and continue to steadily rise. With this in mind, it seems the U.S. is as much a beneficiary of China’s growth as it is a victim. There’s a lot to gain from trade interdependence.

When U.S. President Nixon visited China in 1972—often called the “week that changed the world”—he recognized the benefit in brokering a cooperative relationship with the communist country. Nixon made a toast at a banquet in Peking to Premier Zhou En-lai, “We have at times in the past been enemies. We have great differences today. What brings us together is that we have common interests, which transcend those differences” (Richard Nixon Foundation). Neither Trump nor the U.S. should forget Nixon’s words.

Unfortunately, Trump is hell-bent on publicly blaming China for the massive deficit and pegging it as the root cause for the declining manufacturing industry. When Trump blasts the words, “We can’t continue to allow China to rape our country and that’s what they’re doing. It’s the greatest theft in the history of the world,” and, “Bring the jobs home!” he’s neglecting the whole story (Trump).

When the United States and other allied nations met in 1944 at the Bretton

Woods Conference they establish a new international monetary system. Bretton Woods outlined that the U.S. dollar would act as an international reserve currency and be backed by gold (Reinbold). However, this system wouldn't last forever. In 1977, Nixon cut the cord between gold and the dollar because the U.S. couldn't maintain the exchange. Too many foreign countries wanted the precious metal and there wasn't enough in reserve. The system collapsed, but the value of the dollar didn't decrease.

With the high value of the U.S. dollar, American-made goods stayed comparatively expensive. Subsequently, other countries were buying fewer U.S. products, all while U.S. citizens became eager to import cheaper products from abroad. With this model, trade imbalances became inevitable, and in "just a few years after the end of the Bretton Woods system, the U.S. trade balance started to show persistent and growing deficits, which continue today" (Reinbold).

With respect to the declining manufacturing sector, fast technological growth and increasing labor productivity caused labor-intensive production to become far too expensive in the States. As a result, developing countries with cheap labor costs have absorbed much of the U.S. manufacturing industry (Rose).

It might be easy to point the finger at China. After all, a 20 percent decline in U.S. manufacturing from 2000 to 2007 corresponds to a growing trade deficit with China. However, this may be an unsubstantiated conclusion.

China's economy has steadily been on the rise since the 1980s; therefore, it has eaten up a large share of the U.S.-Asia trade imbalance overall. However, as the U.S.-global trade deficit has been increasing in absolute terms, the percentage attributed to Asia, including China, has been decreasing. "In other words, the rise of China since the late 1980s—especially after joining the WTO in 2001—has not increased the total share of Asia's contribution to the U.S. trade deficit; China simply substituted out other Asian economies by taking their positions" (Reinbold).

In summary, the \$20.8 billion in revenue generated from tariffs on Chinese goods as of July 2019 pales in comparison to the \$28 billion Mr. Trump has already committed to paying American farmers hurt by the trade war. In addition, the government has provided no such benefit to the myriad of other businesses who have lost contracts and revenue during this process, including plane makers, technology companies, and medical device manufacturers (Swanson).

When confronted with such politics of aggression and stubbornness, China doesn't seem to be planning huge systematic changes to its trade policies anytime soon. Meanwhile, Trump warns about taxing "nearly everything that comes to the United States from China" (Bui). And so the trade war grumbles on, threatening to accelerate current tensions into a "technology-driven cold war" with consumers on both sides of the Pacific bearing the consequences (Garrett).

"Our sales to China have gone down, and our raw materials from China have increased in cost," says Tom Shepherd, CEO of a manufacturing company named Shepherd Chemical, as he now faces the loss of "several million dollars of profit" a year (Frontline NPR).

We're a long way from the original desire to seek "a channel for coexistence, equality, and friendship" that was established when Zhou Enlai, the Chinese Premier, met Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, during Nixon's historic visit (U.S. Department of State). Instead of vilifying the other side, perhaps more effort should be placed in seeking cooperative methods of solving the trade dispute.

"We realize, of course, that there are deep ideological differences between us," Kissinger had said to the older man, "[but] in the interval we [should] cooperate...on a basis of mutual respect and equality" (U.S. Department of State). Perhaps the two leaders should heed the advice and lessons that history has to offer.



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