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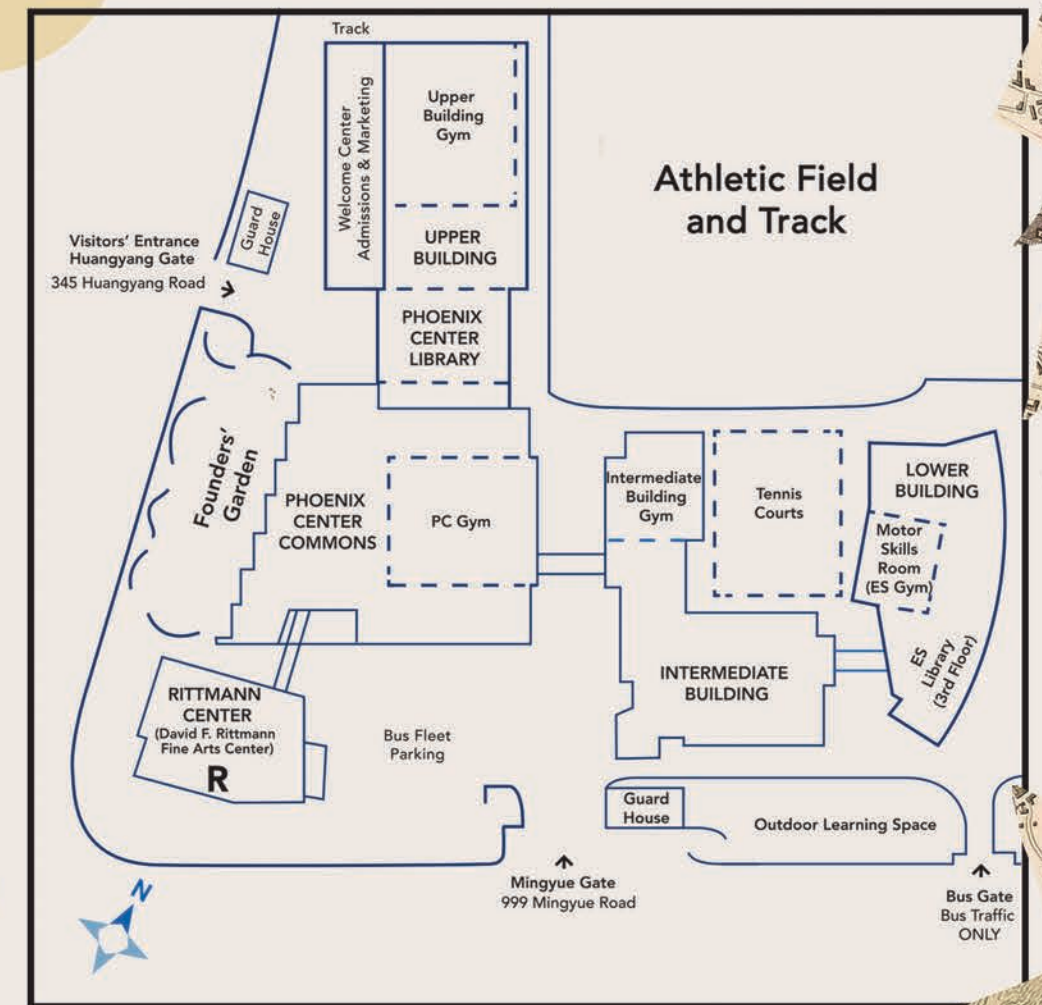
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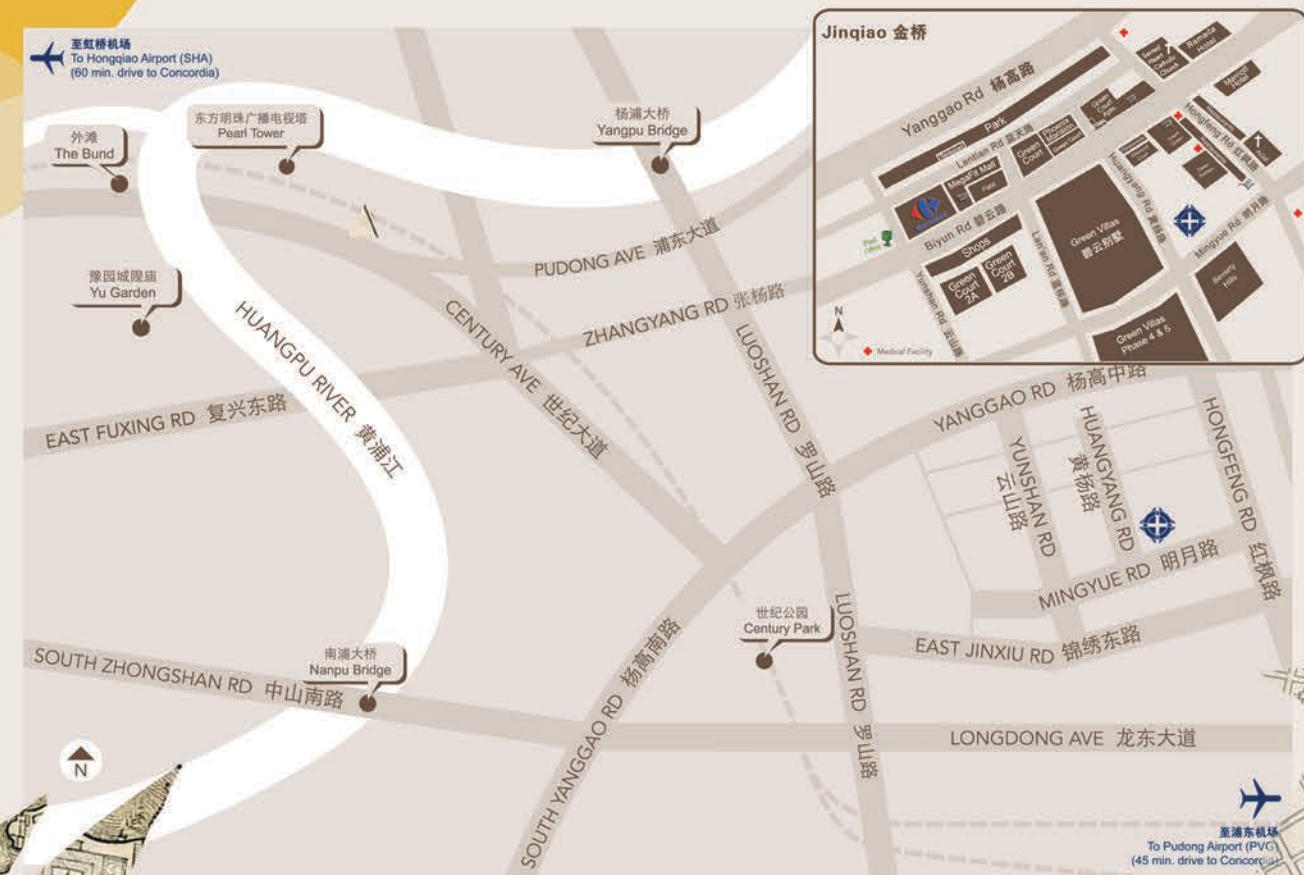
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CAMPUS MAP



PUDONG MAP



SHANGHAI STREETS AND EATS

by Nicole Zhong
and Julie Baik

Eats Near Concordia



YANG'S DUMPLING

Yang's Dumpling is a certain must eat during your time in Shanghai. Yang's signature dumplings have a perfect ratio of filling to soup to dough: the thickness of the outside crust combined with the hot piping soup inside is a true innovation of humankind. If you don't like their signature dumplings, Yang's also offers your favorite fried and soup dumplings, and if that doesn't satisfy your appetite, they also have a variety of soup noodles to choose from.

SUPER CHICKEN

Looking for some great fried chicken? Well look no longer—Super Chicken is the place to go, from its chicken bits to full sized chicken patties. Covered in crunchy floury goodness and with soft white chicken meat waiting for you to enjoy, Super Chicken will make your mouth water just with its aroma. Topped off with spice, this chicken has an extra punch to every bite. Buy a bunch and snack on these with your friends: this chicken is too good not to share.

YI DIAN DIAN

This store is now the main provider of bubble tea to the Concordia community, having infamously taken over Grandpa Tea and Ha Cha in its wake. While you can get your traditional bubble milk tea, you may want to try out their more wacky drinks, such as the ice cream red tea or yakult green tea. If you want, they now give you the option of adding your own toppings and creating your own innovative bubble tea concoctions: I personally enjoy my tea with coconut and grass jelly. Hit up a Concordian near you, and you can almost definitely joint order and get your tea delivered straight to school: not only is it a treat, but it's also a conversation starter.

LANZHOU NOODLES

This quaint shop is located right next to the frequented Starbucks and Family Mart next to Concordia. These hand-pulled noodles are a Chinese-Muslim specialty, and are a must try. Sit yourself down on one of their homey stools, and enjoy yourself in the homely space as you wait for your food to arrive. I always order their hot dishes, but for those who fear the spice, there are also non-spicy dishes available. Though the options are limited, the noodles are delicious.

OTHER RESTAURANTS:

- Maple (Japanese)
- Blue Frog (American)
- Element Fresh (Healthy)
- Pistolera (Mexican)
- DaMarco (Italian)

Eats Further Away

DIN TAI FUNG

If you want a bit of everything, Din Tai Fung is the place to go. Located all over Shanghai, you can find Din Tai Fung's at Nanjing Road, Lujiazui, or at the World Financial center. Offering a wide variety of small eats, Din Tai Fung is the dim sum that you can have not just on Saturday afternoons. This is a perfect place to take your friends to, offering a wide variety of dishes, many of which can have custom sizes or quantities. Enjoy a night out in Shanghai with both a great shopping experience and great food.

HONG CHANG XING

Nearby People's Square, Hong Chang Xing is arguably one of the best hotpot places in Shanghai. Having opened shop in 1891, if you are looking for authentic Shanghaiese hot pot, Hong Chang Xing is certainly the place to go.

OTHER RESTAURANTS

- Lost Heaven (Yunnan)
- Hai Di Lao (Hotpot)
- Beef & Liberty (Burgers)
- Liquid Laundry (Brunch)
- Woomy (Sushi)

HOW TO STRETCH YOUR VOCAL CHORDS

by Jenny Fu

Your hands quickly pull on the straps, squeezing the seat-belt tighter around your waist. The discomfort of the airplane and the mysterious metropolis has become the least of your worries. Something you hid in the back of your mind is slowly creeping towards you: the CISSMUN conference.

Finally, after a tiring flight, the bird's eye view of the metropolis shrinks as your plane descends — the houses, the roads, the trees slowly come into perspective. As you step out of the airport, the cold Shanghai air penetrates your jacket and sweeps past your visage, expanding your lungs.

Although anxiety levels vary from person to person, it is impossible to prevent a first timer from making wild predictions about their time at the conference.

Solemn-faced delegates standing up with their placards, ready to thrash your contentions; delegates pulling at each other's hair with words during merging sessions; well-dressed girls and boys getting lost in the rapid fire discussions. Prepare for crossfire; prepare for rebuttals; prepare for POIs — at least three POIs per team! Tensions flare brightly as placards thrust into the air.

Now... now... fear not, for I am here to awake you from your delusions!

1. We DO NOT Throw Punches in the Conference Halls

Rather than the furious shrieks ringing in the atmosphere, CISSMUN debates are very friendly. Experienced debater and copy editor Catherine Wang exclaims that MUN debates have a VERY DIFFERENT procedure than that of regular debates. "It's more about reaching a consensus than 'winning'..." she said. Irene Lee, now in her third year of CISSMUN, recalls, "Everyone is heated up and enthusiastic about their position on day one. They will refute you with a really serious face and intimidate you. However, things begin to change on day two. You get to know your peers and start to understand each other. On the third day, everyone becomes your friends and you can even joke with them during speeches!"

2. Stay Centred On Your Country

The majority of CISSMUN debates and speeches are centred around amending resolutions to the benefit of your particular country. How can you improve your country's conditions without knowing about it in the first place? Remember, you are its representative. Come with the bows and ties, but also with research prepared!



3. Let Your Pencil Graze the Notepad

Jotting notes about everyone's argument is a crucial process, helping you refute and support the right amendments. It stops you from agreeing or disagreeing with the wrong person. In particular, committees as grand as GAs will have over 50 delegates, each with a unique perspective. It is in your best interest to trace the arguments — even if you have Sherlock memory.

4. Exercise Your Voice

Speaking up is critical to fruitful discussions. No one will be able to decipher your magnificent idea if you never share it. If you have something to say, then go for it! Make the most out of the CISSMUN weekend and leave with no regret.

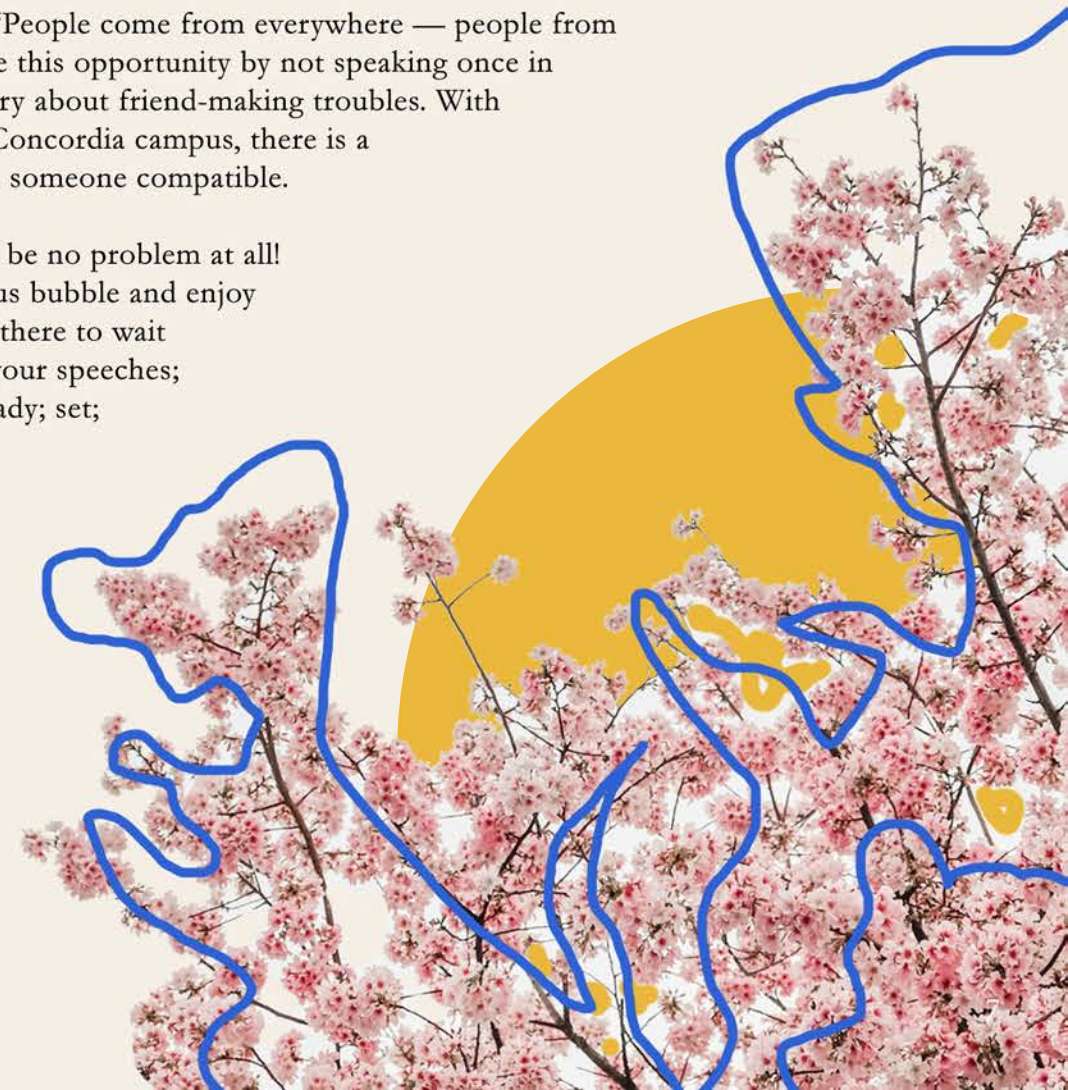
5. CISSMUN Is More Than Debate

Although debate is the main component of CISSMUN, there are also many other activities to consider. The keynote speakers are always an inspiring source for the day; the lunches are great recharge times to connect with others; and last but not least, the dinner searches for the perfect meal are pleasant endeavours.

6. Make Friends With That Kid

As the Chair of GA1 says, "People come from everywhere — people from every continent! Don't waste this opportunity by not speaking once in this conference!" Don't worry about friend-making troubles. With over 1,000 students on the Concordia campus, there is a 99.99% chance you will find someone compatible.

See? The conference should be no problem at all! Let's burst out of the anxious bubble and enjoy the conference! So, what is there to wait for? Breathe deep. Prepare your speeches; stretch your vocal cords. Ready; set; go!





Opinion:

Yes, the system is unfair —
and yes, we must participate

by Catherine Wang

Ask anyone, and they will undoubtedly have something to say about the state of political affairs in their country. Very few people are fully content with all the ideologies of their state and happy with all their policymakers' actions.

That was the original merit of democracy—to give each of these individuals a chance to contribute those opinions to collective decision-making. Yet at present we seem to be coming down from the Third Wave of democracy with no fourth in sight.

Two summers ago, I interned at an American law firm here in Shanghai. I spent one lunch out with two attorneys from the office. We got to the topic of the recent presidential election, and I was personally shocked to hear that neither had voted, although both were quite clearly eligible. The reason? One argued that he did not agree with the majority of Donald Trump's policies, couldn't in good conscience vote for his rival whose controversial decisions as secretary of state conflicted with his views, and didn't see a third-party vote having any tangible impact. The other simply said he didn't feel that his vote would change the outcome in his state.

I would later understand the impact of such views on voters in the US and other democratic systems worldwide. The plurality system inherently results in a two-party system, meaning that people either have to make a polarized choice or none at all. When popular candidates run on similarly popular policies, they tend to split votes between them, resulting in the victory of their biggest opponent. This similarly means that individuals who want to vote on principle or pragmatism will be forced to decide on partisan lines or have their votes truly be a drop in the bucket.

This, along with decreasing voter accessibility, makes up only a few of the reasons why **political apathy seems to be taking root** in increasingly undemocratic nations. In 2016, the United States dropped into the "flawed democracy" category on the Economist Intelligence Unit's annual ranking for the first time, a classification it held through 2017. Alarming, the more citizens are unhappy with current policies, the less trust they place in public institutions, and the less willing they are to engage with them at all.

In 2016, less than 6 out of every 10 eligible voters cast ballots in the presidential election. Yet in 11 states, the difference in presidential votes was less than 5 percentage points. Midterms have historically had an even lower turnout of around 40%, with 2018's hitting a historic high — at 49%. Whether or not this is an indicator of a new trend is yet unclear, but considering the general attitude of today's voters—particularly younger citizens—the prospects may be looking bleak.

So yes, these are the hard-hitting facts: **no political system is perfect.** There are flaws inherent to representative democracies that will mean skewed representation; individuals seeking power will continue to seek unfair advantages.

What about other ways of getting one's voice heard? Many today turn to protests and petitions, preferring to talk about issues, not candidates. Yet while organized protest is a legitimate and effective way of conveying a political stance, **it does not negate the necessity of citizens to be involved in the system of politics**—voting, registration, candidates, and all.

Voting determines more than who wins or loses; **it profoundly shows to candidates which demographics are more likely to influence their political success.** It not only symbolically but also literally shows which groups are most involved in the shaping of a nation.

Individuals who want to win office recognize that. As a result, when groups that support certain policies—most notably wealth redistribution and broader safety nets—consistently vote less frequently, candidates take into account which interests they should be appealing to. It becomes a self-reinforcing cycle: if

politicians want to be popular, they have to acknowledge the interests of groups who are most likely to vote. At the same time, citizens already less likely to vote feel even more strongly that their voices are not heard, and thus become even less invested in participating in the political system.

Perhaps it's wrong, you might think, that politicians would prioritize election or reelection over what they genuinely believe is best for the development of the nation. Nonetheless, personal interests are real and they matter, regardless of the political structure. If we really want to think pragmatically and support our best interests, the solution is not to take an ideological stance and refuse to submit to a flawed system. The only solution we have right now is to participate, and show our representatives that **our voices are not going anywhere.**

To all the disillusioned citizens of these flawed democracies (including but not limited to the US): **yes, the system is unfair.** Yes, public institutions are increasingly corrupt; incumbent politicians increasingly try to maintain power and afford their own parties an advantage.

But to fix the system, you must use the system. We ought not bite the bullet and think that things will never change. But we also cannot follow an idealistic belief that we can fix the system merely by not engaging in it. There is a lot that can be done on the ground. There are still victories to be won—and they are certainly well within reach.



As I prepared for this year's conference, I faced the following question. Why, in the face of legitimate problems in our society, do we ask high schoolers to sit in rooms and pretend to draft motions for the United Nations? Is Model United Nations a worthy use of our time, or are we wasting the efforts of students and teachers alike? However, in light of recent political trends, it has become abundantly clear that MUN — and by extension the theme "The Cause of Freedom" — is an important usage our time.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, at the end of the Cold War, democracy was the way of the future. In the wake of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United Nations celebrated. However, its victory was, in many ways, short lived. In an interview at Macalester College on May 8th, 2018, Kofi Annan said, "For a while it worked. For a while there was cooperation, there was enthusiasm and real expectation that the world was changing for the better. And of course, starting with the Iraq War, the atmosphere changed."

Today, there is an increasing sense of democracy being a failed system. Elections often swing towards sides that either are not or do not appear to be the majority, as in the case of the 2016 election, and then again with Brexit. Modern-day political theory is overwhelmingly shaped by the expectations of post-Cold War politics and modern-day shortcomings. People don't behave rationally, those running for office are consistently biased, and votes weigh differently in different regions. Beyond these clear issues, there are a variety of local problems that plague individual nations more than others.

However, while the system of democracy, and by extension, the belief in the rights of the individual on a political scale, are naively optimistic, this naivete has inherent value. It is highly unlikely that we can produce a perfect utopia in any nation, but when our systems break, we can and must fix them. Belief in democracy is not a belief in a functional future but a moral one, and although democratic countries have failed time and again, there is a necessary moral goal that we must follow.

So why does Model United Nations matter? During this conference, we gather together hundreds of people from around the world, and unlike every other democratic system on Earth, everybody has an equal influence: almost none. Thus, we allow high schoolers to grow and learn. We allow them to talk to each other about real issues that the world faces and how they might address them. And maybe, if we allow people with no influence today to become invested in a better future, when they have influence tomorrow they might do something to better the world, or at least their own community. And maybe in the long term, when we have long since failed and tried again, we can finally have a world in which the individual voice becomes the cause of freedom.

by Jacob Richmond



MORE THAN PASSING NOTES:

The Hidden Roles of the CISSMUN Admin

by Jacob Richmond, Catherine Wang, & Nicole Zhong

Everybody knows admin pass notes, but their work extends far beyond simple paper passing during the conference. The many roles of admin last months, but are often completely missed by the average delegate. As we found out upon speaking with one of the extremely passionate admin, the admin painstakingly craft every aspect of the CISSMUN experience.

Consider:

1. The admin print, organize, and fold every single one of your placards individually. That's hundreds of paper triangles that have to be folded, creased, and taped. In addition, the flag stands on each table are assembled by hand.
2. While we're talking about assembling things, what about those x-frames for your committee banners? They didn't come shipped that way; someone had to put them together leg by leg. Also, have you tried carrying an x-frame down a flight of stairs?
3. The admin carefully align each desk and chair with the desks and chairs to their front, back, and sides. The notebooks, pens, and placards are similarly aligned (no, it isn't a coincidence that your pen clip was on the same side as the pen clip of the person next to you).
4. Do you know how annoying it is to put a piece of paper in a lanyard? How about nine hundred? The admin set up each lanyard in advance of the conference, and if even one name needs changed, they go back to the printer to set up a new lanyard.
5. When it's all over, they're here long past midnight, cleaning up so that come Monday morning, Concordia students can resume class without flags and placards getting in the way.

The admin are, without a doubt, the strings that hold CISSMUN together. Their hard work day in and day out allows all of us to enjoy the conference without a hitch. So next time you see an admin in the hallways or your committee room, say hi and thank them for their effort. Maybe even send them a note.



I am proud, as a Southeast Asian, to have witnessed the recent economic developments of the East. However, as a Malaysian citizen, I am saddened to see how my country staggers behind in infrastructure and policy, and as an ethnic Chinese individual, I am hurt and disgusted by how my nation restricts the voices of my race.

With a population of 60% Bumiputra (ethnic Malays), 20% Chinese and 9% Indian, Malaysia is a diverse country. However, racial tension in Malaysia is anything but new. In fact, racism in Malaysia has its roots in the 19th century, when the country experienced a great influx of Chinese people. Similar to how the Americans viewed Chinese immigrants in the 19th century, the Bumiputra saw the newcomers as people taking their resources and opportunities. As time passed, their relatively wealthy economic status in relation to the Bumiputra furthermore contributed to the dissatisfaction of the Chinese, and as a result, a cleavage in society began to form.

In the May 13th, 1969 incident, racial tension finally rose to the surface. As reported by Time magazine, in the incident, “Malay mobs... brandishing swords and daggers, surged into Chinese areas in the capital, burning, looting and killing. In retaliation, the Chinese, sometimes aided by Indians, armed themselves with pistols and shotguns and struck at Malay *kampongs* (villages). Huge pillars of smoke rose skyward as houses, shops and autos burned.” Following the riot, the Malaysian government established the New Economic Policy (NEP), which aimed to reduce tensions centered around economic wealth via affirmative action.

Combined, the NEP and the constitutional law gives the Bumiputra special privileges, including but not limited to discounts on property, quotas for education, and preferential treatment for government contracts. Even today, the Bumiputra are the only group that can hold key government positions.

This puts other ethnicities, such as the Chinese, at a disadvantage, and causes civil unrest and tension. However, while the Chinese simply want to evade active racial or religious discrimination, they are repeatedly accused of being ungrateful. Politicians go even as far as telling the Chinese to “return to China if they are that ungrateful”. In 2013, one newspaper ran a headline asking, “apa lagi Cina mau?” *What more do the Chinese want?*

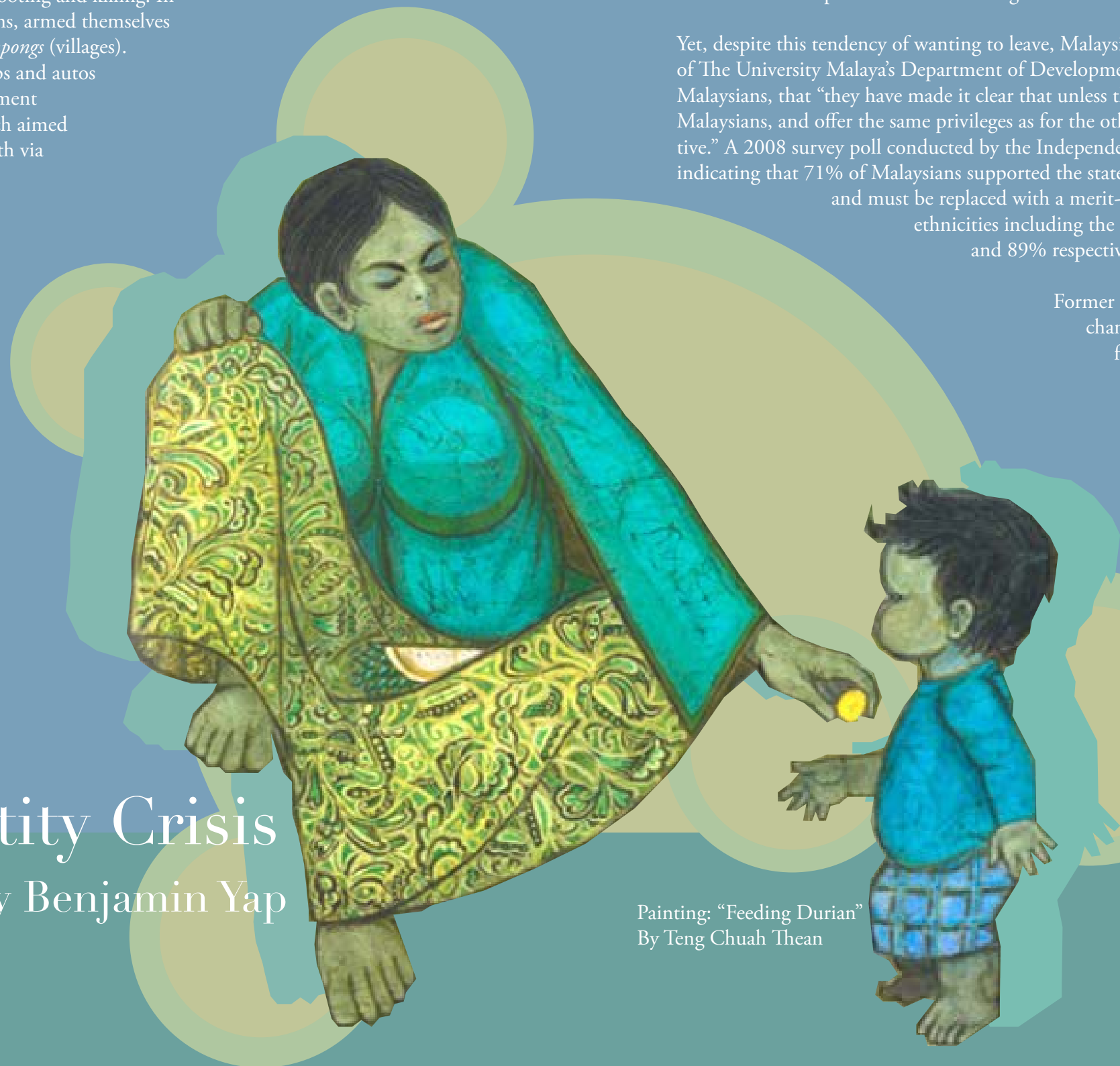
Feelings of being undervalued have caused many, in particular the Chinese, to seek opportunities abroad. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, the home minister of Malaysia, reported that of the 56,576 Malaysians who renounced their citizenship between 2006 and 2016, 49,864 were Chinese. This widespread movement has caused a Brain Drain, and consequently, many Malaysians do not contribute to the growth of their homeland. They are, in a way, just fulfilling the remarks of Malay politicians. Still, at the end of the day, such an emigration harms none other than Malaysia. It is the country’s fault in not recognising people as the equal beings they should be. After all, decades of stagnancy has eaten away at such hopes, and Malaysians reserve every right as people to leave their country, or at the very least, have a desire to do so, in hopes of better opportunities, a better environment and actually being valued.

This isn’t only a matter of mass emigration. People with the means to leave the country, typically the educated, are continuing to demonstrate a particular interest in doing so. According to a Oxford University survey-survey given by researchers at Oxford, 52.6% of Chinese and 42% of Indians that have completed secondary education have expressed a desire to emigrate.

Yet, despite this tendency of wanting to leave, Malaysians still feel for their country. Professor Rajah Rasiah of The University Malaya’s Department of Development Studies states, describing the sentiments of many Malaysians, that “they have made it clear that unless the state shows a passion to welcome them back as real Malaysians, and offer the same privileges as for the others, they will not return when they are still productive.” A 2008 survey poll conducted by the Independent Merdeka Centre further backs this statement, indicating that 71% of Malaysians supported the statement “race-based affirmative action policy is obsolete and must be replaced with a merit-based policy.” The poll surveyed people across multiple ethnicities including the Malays, Chinese, and Indians, of which 65%, 83%, and 89% respectively agreed with the statement.

Former Prime Minister Najib Razak once stated, “if we do not change, the people will change us.... In the not-too-distant future, we will see all the elements of the New Economic Policy being replaced.” Many Malaysians hope to no longer be treated as second class citizens. Only time can confirm the validity of Datuk Najib’s words, but it is a reality that the people of Malaysia want change and it is the government’s responsibility to, at the very least, respect this voice.

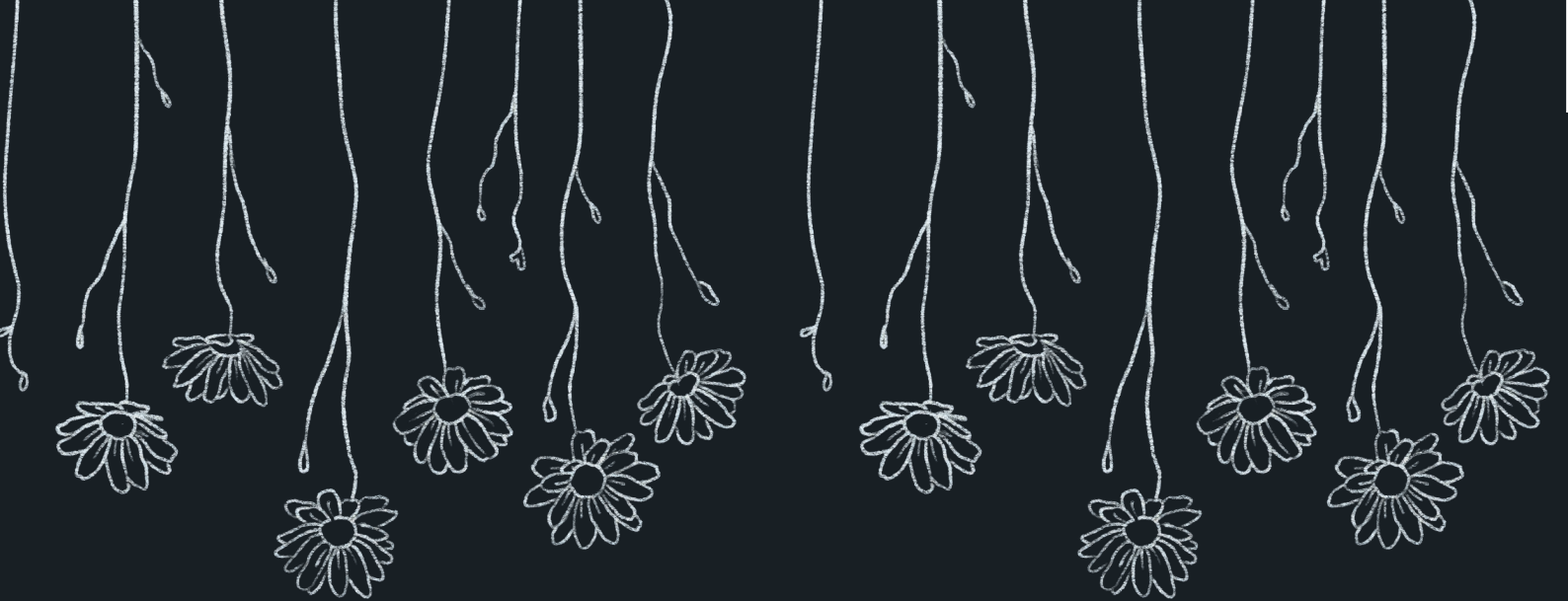
If things continue, I fear that I will have less and less to identify with and that one day, I will no longer be able to call Malaysia home. Malaysia still has time to change for the better, but we can only hope that our home is willing to listen to our voices.



Painting: “Feeding Durian”
By Teng Chuah Thean

Malaysia’s Identity Crisis

by Benjamin Yap



Flying Fish pt.1

a short story by Emilie Zhang



Wednesday, May 16, 2015

“Look at the windows and the floors and the—”

“Ping, stop, she’s sixty years old, she can’t—”

Old ladies don’t have perfect ears and so she doesn’t have to hear her son yelling at her furniture. She pretends the reverberating sound waves crash on another beach in another time in another world. Screw that—old ladies can’t hear anything—so her son is congratulating her on living another year. He’s noticing the potful of dumplings she made for him that he didn’t want to eat—he’s a child now, not a forty-year-old man, asking for a hug or a lunch or new shoes and he’s saying “Ma, I love you, I love you, I love you.”

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Mei Mei runs over and asks to be hugged. Mei Mei doesn’t mind dirt-encrusted nails. Mei Mei doesn’t mind “dementia” and “old” and “getting crazier everyday”. Babies are like that. So what can she do except pat the space next to her, telling the baby to climb up? The baby obliges, smile stretching so wide across her chubby face.

“Watt u name?” Baby asks.

Wrinkles come together to lift her lips’ corners. “Nai nai,” she says.

Baby makes wrinkles in her brow. “Watt is nana?”

“Your grandma,” she replies, tapping baby’s nose.

Baby shrieks with delight. “Nana!”

“Ma!” Her son strides over and plucks the baby off the couch. “Didn’t I tell you? Wash your hands before you touch Mei! Bacterial germs can...”

Old women have no ears, she reminds herself. Old women cannot hear.

Tuesday, May 15, 2015

Grandma must’ve been sitting under that jujube tree for hours before we arrived. Her hair was all pressed up like she had been sitting up against the trunk and her little rickety bamboo stool was still there when she opened the door. Crazy old people and their trees.

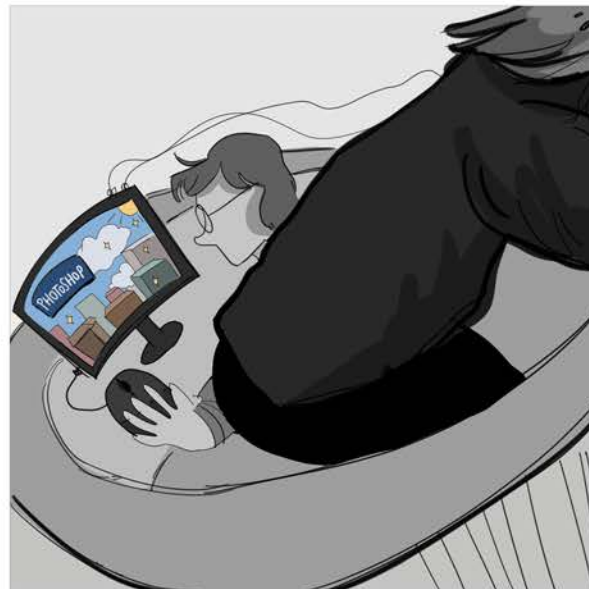
The car slam, the door slam, the hugs, the tears. Though grandma seemed to be the only one who had any. Then it was back to the usual—dad screaming at everything, which surprised absolutely no one because it’s always like this—he tells Mei Mei and me to “love our rooooots” and then he goes and tears up anything that says “look! Mr. CEO was poor once, young once, a bumpkin once, with a bumpkin mother.” It’s always unbearably silent after he opens his mouth.

I hate this place. It’s a bunch of miles north of Shanghai, which really shows because we don’t have WiFi here. Or AC. We don’t even have cement. Just old dirt roads and old brick houses and you can’t see anything above three stories in the whole county.

Mei Mei is playing with the neighbor’s dog in the yard. She’s three and too little to mind goat poop. She wants me to go play with her but I’m thirteen and not immune to poop smell anymore. Instead, I’m practicing invisibility, getting steamed in this cage, and shelving my family. Putting them into labeled boxes and packaging them away.

Not grandma though. She’s weird.

To be continued in Issue 2...



The Media De-Elevating Photography from the Height of Truth



Concordia

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SHANGHAI