

manga



Semester 2 2017 | Reality

FOREWORD



You know how most of the time, it is difficult for things to go the way we wanted them to? How despite being the positive little butterfly that you are, you just know there are days when you are just going to have to face your lows, and that your life isn't always going to be all perfect and pretty but that's okay because as much as it is difficult to accept, reality is inevitable and you would have to deal with it anyway, so be strong and be open. It will get better!

So with that idea embedded in our minds, we decided on "Reality" as our latest (and last theme) for this year before we step down as editors for 2017 and as much we would love to stay here and publish all the amazing work that you guys have sent in, we had to get a reality-check ourselves and accept the fact that all good things do have to come to an end and though it might end here, we would forever cherish the twelve months we have been here. It was definitely a ride of sorts, with countless photographs that captured the various souls and good vibes in Monash and the articles that encapsulated the experiences of students both inside and outside of Monash.

Despite the few road-bumps that we have encountered along the way, it was definitely an experience worth learning from and we can only say that with everything that has happened, we are very glad to be here. We wish the future editors all the best with what they do, and we hope that the MONGA legacy will be upheld in the years to come for all Monash students to cherish, especially as the main publication that would represent your experiences and functions as a symbol of diversity and inclusivity here on campus, among other things.

Before we end, we would like to thank all of our subcommittee members, whether you're a photographer or a designer or a writer and everyone else who've contributed to both our magazines throughout this year and the rest of you who have supported us, both physically and in spirit. All the best with exams and have an amazing year ahead!

Goodbye.

Love, your 2017 Editors <3

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THE LANGUAGE PROJECT

The Language Project

by the MUSA Editorial Writers Team

Korean

Korean may be one of the most challenging languages to teach yourself. Well, that's what "they" say. As with any language, learning Korean isn't rocket science—all you need is dedication, time, commitment and, most importantly, some love for the language. Precisely because Korean is such a radically different language from English, it's normal to not even know where to begin and how to approach it especially for native English speakers. Where to begin, without the guidance of a teacher or curriculum? Fret not. Let us show you the way to becoming your own, personal Korean teacher.

Here is a fast guide on how to level up your pick-up line game in Korean which we think is a survival skill.

- **Jawng-mahl yeppeu-sheenay-yo** - *You are really pretty*
- **Jawng-mahl jahl-saynggee-shunnay-yo** - *You are really handsome*
- **No-rae-bang kal-ae?** - *Do you want to go karaoke?*
- **Sa-rang hae** - *I love you*
- **Bo-go ship-eo-sseo** - *I miss you*
- **Jeon-hwa beon-ho ju-se-yo** - *Can I have your phone number?*
- **Eon-jae da-shi bol su i-sseo?** - *When can I see you again?*
- **Seu-ta-il (style) chu-gin-da!** - *I dig your style*
- **Jeon noon-e ban-hae-sseo** - *I fell in love with you at the first sight*
- **Ja-ju saeng-gak hae** - *I think of you often*

Most importantly,

- **Bul-go-gee man-deul su i-sseo?** - *Can you cook Bulgogi?*

Last but not the least, "Are you from Korea? Because you could be my Seoul mate"

French

There's a popular saying that French is the language of love, and for a lot of people the saying holds some water. France and its people have been portrayed for years as being bastions of romanticised imagery of love and sophistication, and its language is no exception. First-time listeners of French can be taken back by their very distinct yet refined pronunciations of phrases and syllables as they speak. Learning the language is definitely among some of the **hardest languages to learn even with practice and audio guides**, but anyone with the dedication to get those tricky pronunciations down will be pleased with the results.

Here's some basic conversation phrases to help you get started, so try practicing with other French speakers to nail down everything!

- **I did not understand.** - *Je n'ai pas compris. (Jeh-nay-pah-com-pree)*
- **Is that correct?** - *C'est juste? (se-joos-teh)*
- **What does ____ mean?** - *Que veut dire ____? (Koo-voo-deer ____)*
- **Am I correct/wrong?** - *Est-ce que j'ai raison/tort? (ess-coo jhai- rai- soon/tort)*
- **Hello!** - *Salut! (Sah-loo)*
- **Good morning!** - *Bonjour! (bon-jh-oor)*
- **What is your name?** - *Comment appelez - vous? (Com-mon ap-peh-leh voo)*
- **Sorry, what did you say?** - *Pardon, qu'est-ce que tu as dit? (Par-doon, kess-koo twooeh - dee)*
- **What's happening?** - *Qu'est-ce qui se passe? (Kess-kee-soo-pass)*
- **Cheese omelette** - *Omelette du fromage (Oh-meh-leh-doo-fro-maj)*
- **Where is the ____?** - *Où est ____ (Oo-weh)*

Spanish

Spain, the land of love and all things good looking. From Spanish ice cream to beluga caviar, it is a country that truly intrigues a person. So, Español has to be learned.

- **Hola** – *The most basic of Spanish greetings, this is simply “hi” or “hello.”*
- **Buenos días** – *“good morning” and is a polite way to greet people before noontime.*
- **Buenas tardes** – *“good afternoon,”*
- **¿Cómo está usted?** – *This is the formal way to ask how someone is doing, and is appropriate to use with people older than you, superiors at work or school, or even with strangers on the street.*
- **¿Qué tal?** – *This is an even more familiar and casual way to ask how someone is doing, similar to the phrase “What’s up?” in English.*
- **¿Dónde está...?** – *This is the building block of your “I’m lost” vocabulary; it*

means “Where is...?”

- **¿Dónde hay un restaurante?** – *If you’re in search of a place to eat, this is how to ask for a restaurant.*
- **¿Dónde puedo encontrar un taxi?** – *If you need to find a taxi,.*

Some general phrases, because we need to mingle with the locals.

- **¡Salud!** – *The Spanish version of a simple “cheers,” be sure to give a hearty salud when the drinks arrive. Fun fact: this word also means “health” in Spanish. (F&F reference too)*
- **Necesito ayuda.** – *Short and to the point, this phrase simply means “I need help.”*
- **Hasta mañana** – *This one means “See you tomorrow,” and you can probably figure out when to use it.*
- **Yo soy vegetariano.** – *Vegetarianism throughout the Spanish-speaking world can be viewed with a bit of skepticism, so if you don’t eat meat be sure to declare “I’m vegetarian”*



The Louvre, France.



Bullfighting, Spain.

German

Lots of people in Europe also speak it as a second language, since Germany is Europe's largest economy and loads of Europeans look for work there. Take a look at some of the phrases – German is one of the easiest languages for an English-speaker to learn!

Greetings

- **Hello/Good day** – *Guten Tag* (*goot-en tahk*)
- **Hello (in Southern Germany)** - *Grüß Gott!* (*groos got*)
- **Goodbye** - *Auf Wiedersehen* (*owf vee-dair-zayn*)
- **Good night** – *Gute nacht* (*goot-eh nakht*)
- **How are you?** - *Wie geht's?*

Directions

- **Left** – *Links*
- **Right** – *Rechts*
- **Next to** - *Neben*
- **In front of** – *Vor*
- **How do I get to ...?** - *Wie komme ich zum/zur ...?*

Numbers

- **One** - *Eins*
- **Two** – *Zwei*
- **Three** – *Drei*
- **Four** – *Vier*
- **Five** – *Fünf*
- **Six** – *Sechs*
- **Seven** – *Sieben*
- **Eight** – *Acht*
- **Nine** – *Neun*
- **Ten** - *Zehn*

Sentences

- **Where is the bathroom?** – *Wo ist das Badezimmer?*
- **What do you do for a living?** – *Was ist dein Beruf?*
- **Bless you (after a sneeze)** – *Gesundheit!*
- **My German is bad** - *Mein Deutsch ist schlecht*
- **I would like to invite you to dinner** - *Ich möchte Dich zum Abendessen einladen*
- **Do you speak English?** - *Sprechen*

Japanese

Japanese is just one of the many languages in the Asian continent, and is the official language of the country of Japan. While the origins of this national language are varied, there are no end of theories as to the background of this language. Anyway, here is a basic Japanese guide for you eager learners out there!

Numbers

- **One:** *Ichi*
- **Two:** *Ni*
- **Three:** *San*
- **Four:** *Yong/Shi*
- **Five:** *Go*
- **Six:** *Roku*
- **Seven:** *Nana/Shichi*
- **Eight:** *Hachi*
- **Nine:** *Kyu/Ku*
- **Ten:** *Jyu*

Directions

- **Front:** *Mae*
- **Left:** *Hidari*
- **Right:** *Migi*
- **Behind:** *Ushiro*

Common Greetings/Phrases

- **Good morning** - *Ohayou gozaimasu*
- **Good afternoon** - *Konnichiwa*
- **Good evening** - *Konbanwa*
- **How are you?** (*Direct translation of: Are you well?*) - *Ogenkidesuka*
- **Goodbye** - *Sayounara*
- **Thank you** - *Arigatou gozaimasu*
- **Are you okay?** – *Daijoubudesuka?*
- **Excuse me** – *Sumimasen*
- **I'm sorry** – *Gomennasai/Sumimasen*

Hebrew

Hebrew is known as one of the official languages of Israel, aside from Arabic. However, Hebrew isn't only limited to being spoken in Israel. This would be due to the large Jewish communities in places such as USA, France and Canada. Hebrew has long since evolved towards the end of the 19th century to the modern day Hebrew that people around the world speak daily.

Simple words/phrases

- **Peace; Hello; Goodbye** -[shalom]
- **Please** - [bevakasha]
- **Good Luck; Congratulations** -[mazal tov]
- **Thank you**- [tohdah]
- **You're welcome** -[a lo davar]
- **Excuse me**-[slee-khah]
- **Yes** -[ken]
- **No** - [lo]
- **I'm fine, thank you** -[tov, toda]
- **I'm not well** -[lo tov]
- **Pleased to meet you** - [naim meod]
- **See you later** -[leh-hitrah-ot]
- **Good morning** -[bohker tohv]
- **Good afternoon** -[tsoh-hohrahyeem tohveem]
- **Good evening** -[eh-rev tohv]
- **Good night** -[ligh-lah tohv]
- **Have a good weekend!** -[sof savooa naim]
- **Great!** -[nehedar]
- **Low quality performance; poor work** -[chaltoora]



Oktoberfest, Germany

Swahili

The Swahili language, also known as Kiswahili to its native speakers, is of African origin. It consists of some Arabic words, as seen in Swahili numbers below, as a result of the spread of Islam in Africa.

General Phrases

- **Welcome**- Karibu
- **Hello**- Habari (*informal!*)
- **Reply to 'How are you?'** -Nzuri (*nuh-zoo-ri*)
- **What's your name?** -Jina lako ni nani
- **I don't understand** -Sielewi (*see-eh-leh-wee*)
- **Sorry**- Samahani
- **Thank you**- Tafadhali
- **Yes** -Ndio (*-dee-oh*)
- **No**- Hapana
- **Goodbye**- Kwaheri

Directions

- **Left** -Kushoto
- **Right** -Kulia
- **Ahead** - Mbele (*beh-leh*)
- **Stop** -Simama
- **Enter** - Ingia (*ing-giah*)

Useful Sentences

- **My name is Moses.** -Ninaitwa Moses.
- **What is your name?** -Wewe unaitwaje?
- **Do you speak Swahili?** -Unazungumza Kiswahili?
- **Do you speak English?** -Unazungumza Kingereza?
- **I do not understand** -Sifahamu



Fushimi Inari-Taisha Shrine, Japan

Coexistence & *Love*; A Concept

- **Tay Saik Ming**

Talk to any of my friends (or anybody I've had the chance to spill my thoughts to for that matter) and they would tell you I'm full of sh*t. That if you give me the opportunity to speak my mind, I'd end up going on an annoyingly, "when does he stop, opinionated soliloquy; and that more often than not it threatens to become a frustrating monologue instead of an engaging conversation of two parties. I'll be the first to say that I know this, that I've always been conscious of the things I do as a person (my social media bios all say the same thing: pretentious and self-aware). I think it's attributable to my past and the experiences I've lived through, and it's the same for anyone; that the lives they lead shape the person they become. I guess what I'm trying to say is this (pointless?) article is basically my muddled thoughts somehow articulated in words, in ink, on paper (God bless the trees that were cut down for this instead of serving as paper for a New York Times bestseller), and also, somewhat ironically, that I'm not particularly religious, so I'll just say thanks for reading this.

I find the whole concept of life and people so bloody incredible yet so daunting. Because no two people are ever going to feel the same way about something and yet we live together and it just messes with me that there are just so many people in the world who have experienced things in a way only they can understand and while we may share common experiences and find things 'relatable af', the fact remains that, at the very core/foundation of an experience, it (the experience) is, in essence, all the emotions your heart felt and the people whose faces flashed

across your mind and the words you held on the tip of your tongue in that very moment; and nobody will ever share that with you. So you'll never be able to truly explain/justify the way you feel and frankly the truth is too often nowadays we find ourselves thinking that it's necessary to do this thing of (in a sense) vindicating the way we feel to the people around us in order to be considered socially acceptable but like, screw that. Because our experiences are what has fundamentally structured us into the people that we are today and nothing anybody says or does changes that. And I think it just brings me back to the whole concept of how there's seven billion (that's a seven followed by nine zeroes bruv!!!) of us made up of the same biological components with blood pumping through our veins and living out our lives each as our own different individual selves, coexisting on this freaking celestial body orbiting around a bloody large hot ball of fire, all at the same damn point in history; and I don't know about you but Jesus Christ life is beautiful.

It's mental to think how much the world has grown, and continues to grow, with each passing second. We are not the same people as we were a year ago; and biologically, not the same person as even a second ago. Coexistence has always featured heavily in my thoughts. I think the idea of love and coexistence pretty much go hand in hand in the sense that I feel like love is coexisting with your partner on a deeper level intellectually, spiritually and emotionally (as compared to all the other relationships in our lives).

It's ironic that we sometimes lose ourselves in the people that we love. In some ways we find ourselves; and in some ways we lose ourselves. We find



a home in the people we love. We find solace and comfort and strength and happiness and anger and jealousy in love. It's difficult because no love is perfect, that much goes without saying. Love isn't rainbows and butterflies all the time. It's being able to live with the hurricanes and monsters that come along with loving someone. But Jesus Christ at least you feel something. There's colour in your life. There's laughter and tears and triumph and disappointment and pride and despair in the way you love someone. It's life with your best friend and you're together for better or for worse and it's the best freaking thing in the world. To have someone by your side throughout everything knowing that they've got you and you've got them and even if it's the two of you against the world; the two of you are the only two that matter after all.

But we give up part of ourselves too. It's part of the compromise that comes with love. We lose time to ourselves and we stray away from the things that we love. It is bloody economics and the concept of opportunity cost and you don't have to be a scholar to realise that we need to make sacrifices in everything that we do; and love is no exception. You read lesser, write lesser, create lesser (though, in all fairness, you may procreate), and in essence you live lesser. All the things you used to do for yourself slowly fall out of your routine because your time

and priorities have shifted towards the one that you love. And it doesn't have to be a bad thing. We can still grow, still learn to love new things, still expand our perspectives. But isn't it ironic that you lose a part of yourself upon finding someone else? That this person who completes you, in a way, took a part of you away to begin with? Maybe that's why we feel the way we feel when (if) things end badly. Like a part of us is gone. And everything's changed. For better or for worse, you're a different person now. And in the event of breakups, we have to make peace with that. Regardless of the subsequent presence (or absence) of love, you were once in love; and both you and your loved one have changed each other in a way only each of you can. And that's the beauty of it all.

And therefore with that being said surely it is apparent that we will always value things differently from others and essentially what I'm trying to say is that we ought to always respect another person's views and decisions. Because here we are, a solitary human race, with varying backgrounds and cultures and histories and mindsets; but at the core of it all breathing the same air, red blood coursing through our veins, and nobody can tell me that love and coexistence isn't mind-blowingly beautiful.

Throwback Merdeka – the 1950s-70s

source: singandrasstories.com

- Jemima Darma Raj

The nation takes the Merdeka month very seriously. From discounts on food and the country being decorated with our Jalur Gemilang, we take pride in what we have become as a big mass combination of brown, yellow and spectrum brown people. With the Petronas Twin Towers, UNESCO heritage sites, Mount Kinabalu and the AMAZING food that is legit ours.

Both my parents are from Kuala Lumpur, and they were alive before 1957. This means they saw the full development of KL and Malaya, and knew Singapore while it was still part of Malaysia. Dad was raised in Brickfields, while mom was from Kajang. Every time my parents and I talked, or when we came back to KL during my schooling years, they'd tell me about how life was in the 1950s-1970s. What structure was first built, and how KL was before the accelerated urbanization. So of course I called my dad.

Post 1957 -

Schools started teaching basic Bahasa Melayu, changing the national language of Malaya to Malay from English. Dad laughed as he told me over the phone that the teachers would say "Cintailah bahasa kita, bahasa kebangsaan" love our language, the national language,

a lot. Everywhere around KL, the Jalur Gemilang would be flying high. The Royal Selangor Club, a British-only club back then, was finally opened to the actual citizens of the country, and until today, Malaysians continue to use that prestigious rustic venue for important occasions.

1960s

Now the sixties were a trying time for Malaya/Malaysia. With Singapore leaving the country in 1965 and Sino-Malay Sectarian Violence/May 13 that happened in KL in 1969. This one, I got the stories from both mom and dad.

Mom was 15 at that time, and she and the rest of the family were waiting for my Grandpa to come home after work. My granddad was the chief inspector of Kajang back in the days. Hours passed and grandpa did not come back until around midnight, a police constable came by to our house and passed the family the message that he was alright, and that we should lock all the doors and windows and dim all the lights. Mom's brother was out in Kajang town at that time and everyone started to shut their shops and stuff, because "di Kuala Lumpur ada gaduh teruk, cepat balik rumah" (there are bad fights in KL, faster go home).

This led to the government declaring a national emergency, and the resignation of our first prime minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. Kajang wasn't affected much, but in the heart of KL where dad was, it was chaotic. Dad was minding his business after work near one of the affected areas, (if I am not mistaken, it was Campbell road), when he saw hordes of Malays coming up the road in a hostile manner and that people were starting to back away. Dad too quickly got himself out of the situation. But he told me later on, that May 13 was foreseeable, that it was brimming underneath so called "calm waters". News reports stated of how the Indian and Chinese shopkeepers formed an improvised defence force to stop the riots happening in the streets.

Both my parents agreed that it was one of the darkest times of early Malaysia, and they were thankful for the progress that happened in the days after that Mom even said, "Jemma, after one week, everything was forgotten and life was back to normal".

1970s

The 70s were more relaxed, with the country's population putting their differences aside and living life together as one. Back then, private sectors were not in trend and everyone worked for the government. The Indians mostly worked in the water plants and transportation,

Chinese in the business sector and the Malays in administration. Dad worked in the National Electricity Board, now known as Tenaga Nasional Berhad as a technician. He used to say that everyone would come together and spend time at the Kilat Club, laughing and catching up with each other. Race was not a problem anymore. One of his fondest memories was working in Terengganu, having the delicious "kampong" Malay food and working with the team there. Leisure wasn't cinemas or shopping malls but actually going out at the same time after work, and chit-chatting over a "Teh Tarik" "Ma, we cannot leave the country, because this is our home." – Raj Parents.

It's 2017, 60 years of independence Malaysia.

Thank you for being the OG to Singaporean food. Thank you for having strawberries in the highlands and coconuts by the beach. Thank you for durians and mangosteens. Thank you Myburgerlab for taking back our pride and joy, the Nasi Lemak, back from the neighbours. Thank you that today, majority of our people speak 3-4 different languages. Thank you for your history that today we are not just three races, but a mix of everything. Thank you that though times are rough, almost every citizen is proud to call themselves a Malaysian.



FRESHMAN FOR DUMMIES®

- Hemala Kanagarethinam

Freshman goal #1: *To not look like a freshman on campus.*

To all freshmen, well you are in luck, because this is your fast guide on how to not look like a freshman during your freshman year at Monash. To all upperclassmen, here are a few fun tips for figuring out if that kid who is walking around with a map is part of the class of 2020 (he most definitely is).

1. Asking where a well-known campus landmark is

Could you tell me where Building 6 is? Uhm, of course boy. Just follow the smell of the food.

2. Walking like they are casting for the werewolf pack in The Twilight Saga

Groups make them feel safe as they're still new. If you spy a pack of students walking together, say no more fam. Here, meet all 200 of my course mates!

3. That girl in her stilettos

Trying to look good on campus but also rushing to the basement from the 3rd floor for the next class...undoubtedly a freshman.

4. Owning the entire bookstore on the first day of class

That feeling when you start chanting "will definitely hit a 4.0 this sem" or "this is my time to shine" and the entire bookstore is in your backpack. We've all been there before....

5. Skipping classes is a taboo

Freshmen care about how many classes they've missed, not how many

meals and hours of sleep they've missed.

6. That lanyard around the neck

Yes, it's awesome to be given free things, however, some things should be left hidden.

7. Wearing that class of 2014 shirt from high school

You know, just trying to represent but it is okay to leave that stuff in the closet sometimes.

8. Every conversation with a stranger begins with "what's your major?"

Because there really isn't anything else to talk about.

9. Being well dressed for 8 a.m. classes

Shirts without creases and well matched clothes looking like they're ready to be on the cover of Vogue : Freshman Issue.

10. Being appropriately dressed for 8 a.m. classes

No pyjama pants, smudged eyeliner and just being "completely dressed" to class. Completely dressed, you know.

11. Attending 8 a.m. classes!!

crickets

Jokes aside, being a freshman is an exciting journey with a new environment and high expectations! Your career path will finally shine as you will now decide on your majors. Beware of the responsibilities it holds as it is the time of transition from teen to adulthood. Just as I have survived and so have countless of other former freshmen, so will you! Have fun and enjoy the new adventure you are now unfolding in life.

Millenials are killing... **EVERYTHING!**

- **Natasha Fernandez**

It's true, we've read article after article about how millennials are to blame for pretty much all of the unpopular trends going on in the world today. This generation, arguably the most hated one of all, just can't seem to do anything right. Don't believe me? Just ask Business Insider, Forbes, The New York Post, The Wall Street Journal... really, the list goes on. Strangely enough, most of the articles have a common theme: they fault millennials for hurting certain industries because they aren't willing or able to purchase these industry's products and services. So, obviously, media outlets and/or certain people have a problem with this generation's thriftiness? To be honest, I'm not exactly sure. But, let's take a look at some of the more hilarious-I mean serious- accusations against millennials.

1) Millenials are killing the diamond industry

DIAMONDS? Honey, I promise you, we love our sparkly things as much as the next guy, but to be honest, we can't afford anything. In a brilliant article by the Economist, arguments are directed solely at millennials' refusal to spend copious amounts of money on something as essential as diamonds. In response to this, millennials were quick to mock the unfortunate media company on their favourite platform: social media. Jokes, memes and insults popped up on Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr; the Economist had never felt so popular. In fact, if I didn't know any better, this almost seemed like a publicity stunt instead of journalism, because all the article seemed to do was insult people enough to share it with their hundreds of followers.

2) Murdering the movie industry

The New York Post tells us about the problem Hollywood now has with millennials: they're not going to the movies enough. Well, damn the youth of today for refusing to pay for overpriced tickets to watch a slew of unimpressive movies!

3) Also Fabric Softener

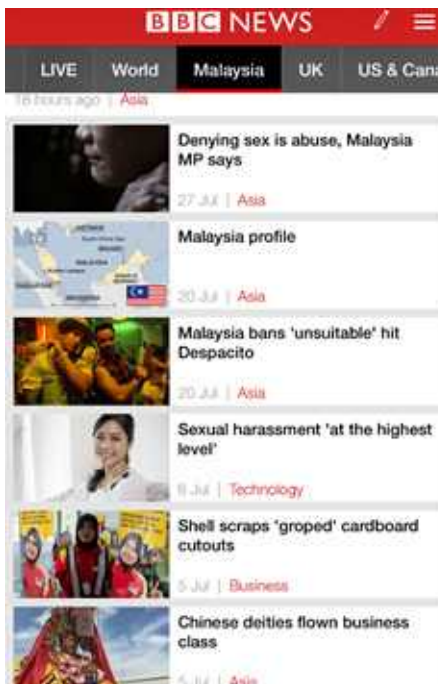
I'm sorry, but do people actually even need fabric softener? Also, what is it, because I've never used it in my life. Anyway, as any self-respecting, entitled millennial would, I Googled it. And it does exactly what its name suggests: it softens clothes, BUT it also prevents the build-up of static electricity in certain fabrics. Well, thank God for that, otherwise imagine how embarrassing it would be if I walked out of the house and I had stray hairs stuck to my clothes? THE SHAME.

Clearly, millennials have issues. These are just the tip of the iceberg though, as millennials seem to be the cause of hundreds of trends that threaten society. Thankfully, we have these media companies who are absolutely willing to point out all these flaws, at the expense of their dignity. They all seem confounded by the reason for changing consumer tendencies in this particular generation. I'm not sure if I can help, but let me try: Millennials are not going to spend money on things that aren't necessary according to their opinions, because they're all broke. How do they not get it yet?

Atheist Republic Scandal

- **Visvamba Nathan**

Things have reached a point in Malaysia where most of us instinctively cringe when we get mentioned on international news. Tap on the Malaysia section in the BBC app, and the list of recent headlines speaks for itself.



So, you'll be forgiven if you've just tuned out the Malaysian news ticker completely. However, you have to burrow really deep underground to avoid the so-called Atheist Republic scandal, which set social media on fire a few months ago for all the wrong reasons.

OK, so what's the fuss about? A few months ago, news broke that a group called "Atheist Republic" organised a gathering of its Kuala Lumpur "Consulate." Naturally, since freedom of expression is so highly cherished here, they shared a picture and accompanying

summary to their Facebook page - upon which all hell broke loose.



Let's back up for a minute. What is the "Atheist Republic" and why do they have a Malaysian consulate? As you've probably guessed, the Atheist Republic is no real republic. In fact, as far as I could tell, it's little more than a Facebook community gathering atheists together from around the world. The Kuala Lumpur "consulate" appears to be less of an embassy building and more of a Facebook group for private discussion. The whole thing was founded by an Iranian-born former Muslim, Armin Navabi, who lives in Vancouver now, for obvious reasons. His journey out of Islam began when he jumped from a window in the hope of instant salvation before his 15th birthday. Suicide of this kind is a rare and unendorsed path to paradise, so his story seems doubtful. The backgrounds of many of the contributors to the page and its attached website have a comical ring to them, including a guy who lost his faith after watching Bill Nye the Science Guy.

In fact, scroll through their Facebook page and you'll find more memes and

t-shirt sales than serious discussion of religion. That's not to say they don't make a difference at times, such as when the group raised funds for victims of unrest in the Philippines. So, what we have is a memes and merchandise page, doing some humanitarian work on the side, organising a "Reddit gathering"-style meet in an undisclosed location with 30-odd people somewhere in Kuala Lumpur. The reaction?



And those are just some of the shorter comments. Not all were so bloody, though, as one commenter merely urged them: "Don't live on this earth created by God. Create your own earth or similar if you can." Last we heard, the KL Consulate is heeding this man's words and busily preparing its rocket for launch.

The uproar even triggered a government response, with one minister promising to hunt them down, though an-

others suggested using a soft approach. On a serious note, the laws prohibiting or restricting apostasy from Islam are extremely strict in many states in Malaysia – but the death penalty has never actually been applied in such cases, with counselling and rehabilitation being the preferred option. Even with such a high-profile incident, no officials have suggested harsh punishment for the attendees. Besides, nobody knows for sure that any of them were actually Muslims.

Whatever your opinion on religious freedom, we can all agree that nobody is ever allowed to take the law into their own hands. Death threats definitely fall under that category.

What's so Bad about PORN?

- Visvamba Nathan

We tend to not feel guilty about the things we do when we think nobody's getting hurt. There are lots of things which fit into this category, like smoking, littering, or pirating movies. The thing is, we're harming ourselves and somebody else, too – we just can't see it happening right away. And of all our generation's habits, nothing fits more neatly into this category than pornography.

This might sound like the last thing a guy would want to write about publicly. But why not? Let's get things out of the way by admitting that nobody is a saint when it comes to this issue. Males talk about porn amongst ourselves all the time, with no sense of embarrassment or anything left to the imagination. It's only when women are around that omerta seems to apply. And to be clear, though plenty of women use pornography too, it's a problem which affects men most of all. Four-fifths of porn viewers are men. One study in the UK tried to find a control group of men who didn't watch porn, and couldn't find one.

But what's the big deal? If we enjoy watching it, and the performers are paid to do it, who really loses out? That's the way nearly all porn addicts see things, and it's both short-sighted and wrong – because the keyword here is “addict.” Pornography is either an addiction or shares all the qualities of an addiction. It “triggers brain activity the way the way drugs trigger drug addicts.” Just like smoking, starting younger makes you more likely to be hooked on it as an adult. And like any addiction, enough is never enough – porn addicts need more and more of it, often looking for extremer videos as time goes on.

Anything taken in excess is obviously dangerous, and porn especially so.

Any regular user, if we're being honest, can admit that porn shapes the way we view sexuality, and the degree to which we objectify people of the other sex. More and more of our everyday interactions are intruded on and tinged by unwelcome thoughts. Many men now have a completely unrealistic view both of sex and women's behaviour. And this isn't just an opinion, but an accepted fact.

Among the disorders and behaviours linked to excessive porn use are erectile dysfunction, increasing engagement in unsafe sex and infidelity. People are trapped in unrealistic fantasies, and find themselves less and less satisfied with the real thing. Women are affected too – in 2016 there was even a 45% rise in labiaplasties, a type of cosmetic surgery for women, largely thanks to the idealisation of the disproportionate bodies of adult actresses.

The destructive behaviours only get worse from there. Regular use of some types of porn makes men more prone to sexual aggression. In fact, many forms of porn can be viewed as providing a training manual for abusers, and help make those behaviours like a normal part of a relationship.

So, if porn's such a big problem, what's the solution? How do we stop? I don't know the answer to that, and it definitely takes different steps for every individual. But the first step to overcoming our vices is to admit we have them, and to realise what they do to us. Anything which causes the objectification of other people is toxic to us all – because it turns people into things to be used for personal pleasure. Researching this article has been a revelation to this writer as well – but hopefully, with better awareness, it's a challenge anyone can surmount.

Living with an eating disorder; you are not alone

- Larissa Liau

Last week MONGA had its first major editorial board meeting this semester. We were told that amongst other things, we should perhaps consider writing about depression and suicide, as suicide rates have been on a steady rise.

Now, I've thought long and hard about this. Suicide and depression are not easy things to write about. I don't want to give anyone a list of what to do and what not to do, because depression and suicide aren't as simple as that. Both of these situations are dealt with differently by each person, and if overcoming them really were as simple as a list, well, I wouldn't be writing about it. So instead, I've decided if I can't put out a list, and I definitely don't want to write a technical piece and throw rates and figures at you, I'd just share some of my own experience.

Before I get into it, there are a few things I want to say (write?). First of all, I don't know if what I am about to share is... worthy. I don't know how else to put it. A part of me tells myself 'Hey, look, you survived, so were your problems reaaaally that bad? How can you claim to have been in the same boat as these people if you're well and happy today? You didn't see a specialist, are you actually going to self-diagnose the situation? Is this trivializing what they're going through? Will other people think that these problems are easy to overcome because you're doing just fine?' – The worry doesn't stop. Then again, if this is the only way I can address a problem that many people are affected by, shouldn't I try? Secondly, I understand that not everyone might

want to read about this, but again, refer to the conclusion from the first statement. Lastly, I had an eating disorder.

GOD, I IMMEDIATELY WANT TO BACK-TRACK.

Okay, how do I go about this? Let me just try. Get ready everyone this is going to be verbal diarrhoea.



I had always been a fleshy kid. If you look at me now, you'd never have guessed I had an eating disorder too. I had always been a fleshy kid, and confident in myself. Sure I had my insecure moments, but they were few and far in between. When I was 16, somehow, I started to lose weight without trying. Maybe it was puberty, maybe it was the tennis lessons. Regardless, more and more people starting complimenting me (as people do) on losing weight. It wasn't anything drastic, a couple of kilos here and there, but the physical change was clear. Perfectionist that I was, I decided that I liked the compliments, and that if I was lucky enough to lose weight naturally, the least I could do would be to maintain it.

So that was the beginning of the problem. Because I didn't just maintain it, I got competitive

with the numbers. When I left secondary school and started pre-university, my eating disorder then became a way for me to exercise control over my life. I was in a new environment, without most of the friends I was close to, and calorie-counting was my control. I had the calorie counts for everything in my head. The numbers never stopped. Every minute of every day I was counting the calories of the meals I'd had, planning the calories of the meals I was going to have. I couldn't sleep without planning my breakfast the next morning. I limited myself to 500 cals a day. An apple has about 90 cals. Every day I managed to get under 500 cals was a victory, every day I went over the 500 cal limit I spent crying on the bathroom floor, feeling like a failure.

With time, I started to aim for 300 cals a day. Again, it was either under 300 cals or sobbing on the tiles. By this point, my mood swings had started, and I'd developed a tremor in my hands. I was grouchy, unpleasant, I would get angry with everyone in my family. I hated when people asked me to eat. Couldn't they understand that I couldn't eat? But of course, you can't always decline food, and that was how my depression settled in. I hated myself every time I ate, I would get so upset that I'd throw a large fit then settle into a dazed state where I couldn't do anything for the rest of the day.

Every day I'd speed to school while desperately logging my calories on to an app on my phone. I needed to have it logged before arriving at school. I needed to. And I could only start logging it after I'd started the car's engine. I can't tell you the amount of times I almost crashed. I know I was selfish, thoughtless, a danger to those around me. It was another way for me to be in control.

Very quickly, I lost a lot of weight. Everyone noticed. No one was complimenting me anymore. My hip bones were visible through clothes (which were practically falling off me), as was my backbone. I could count the individual vertebrae on my back. My period had stopped for almost a year before I finally went to see a doctor, who told me that I had a heart rate of 52 bpm, something athletes and astronauts train for. He recommended that I see either a gynaecologist or endocrinologist. I did, but nothing changed. My body was failing, and I was okay with that, as long as I didn't have to go through the agony of chewing and swallowing my food.



Now I don't know how to explain it, but throughout all of this I was aware of how badly I was treating myself, and I hated myself for it. I hated that I didn't let my brain stop calculating calories every day, I hated that I panicked and couldn't breathe when I thought I'd exceeded my calorie target, I hated that I didn't let myself go out with friends because I was scared to eat, and I hated that I knew I was the only one who could help myself. Because I did try. I would allow myself to take a bite of food and I'd either spit it out, or if I swallowed I'd drop into a pit of self-loathing for days. I hated myself for what I was doing to my body and mind, but at the same time I couldn't bear the misery I felt when I did eat. I wanted to kill myself, because the vicious cycle didn't seem to have an end. I didn't know how

else to stop the numbers in my head, nor the desperation I felt. And so, one night after I'd had yet another screaming match with my mum, I grabbed a knife and locked myself in the bathroom.

This wasn't the first time I'd done this, but something about this time was different, because I think that was the time I cried the most desperately, the first time I screamed and screamed that I didn't want to be stuck in the cycle anymore. I wasn't the confident, bubbly person I was, I couldn't remember the last time I had a genuine laugh. I guess it was the first time I didn't cry because I desperately hated myself for 'failing', but the first time I cried for the person I was and wanted to be, and the first time I cried in anger at being stuck in the cycle I was in. In a way, it was the first time I lashed out at my disorder, not because of it. I see that night as one of the worst nights of my life, but also the night I decided I wasn't going to be a part of all that negativity anymore.

There was no big change after that. Like I said, it's not that simple. I went through many more rounds of trying to eat, failing, and lashing out and deciding that I wasn't going to be stuck in the cycle anymore. The difference was that I still kept on trying to eat. I kept on trying, knowing that I'd feel the worst, and I kept on telling myself I could break the cycle. It was hell, but I told myself it was either that or killing myself, which was the reality of my situation.

And then one day, I got through a whole day of not counting calories and not feeling guilty. I didn't even realize it till the next morning. It didn't just take months, it was almost 2 years before I could eat without a care. But I got there. My period came back, my hair stopped falling, and one day my cousin told me that she liked that I was smiling, it

was like I was returning to my old self. Except, I don't think I've ever returned to being exactly like my old self. When you go through trying times, they never leave you the same. Today I can eat without a care, but if you were to ask me, I could still tell you the calories of almost anything you eat. If I wanted to, I could still limit myself to 300 cals a day. I still fall into a depressed slump from time to time where I have to be cautious of letting in those familiar dark thoughts -- but I don't want to, and I guess that is the point I'm trying to make (God really? Took this long to come to this point?). In the end, I had to be the one to decide that I didn't want to be in the shithole anymore, and claw my way out.

So if nothing else, I hope that this article manages to let some people know that they aren't alone in their struggle, and that there is a good end in sight. I sincerely hope this article doesn't trigger anyone, and it isn't written to highlight how bad I had it or to congratulate myself for overcoming my disorder. I wrote this article to open up a dialogue about depression and suicide, and so that people know that they aren't alone. So congrats if you made it all the way down here. I was nervous about writing this, nervous about how my friends would view me (like any of them would read this to the end LEL) but as my brother told me, 'No shame in it,.' I hope that whatever it is you're going through, you know that there is no shame in it. I hope that you know that you do have the power to change things for the better, and even if it only gets better for a day, that you have the power to continue to try. Because the world really would be a darker place without your spark of light.

Reminder: Hope no one goes around thinking all skinny people have an eating disorder. Be smart.

A Beginner's Guide to Playing GAME OF THRONES

- Yau Jun Min

Disclaimer: This article is completely spoiler-free; any spoilers, especially from Season 7, will be met with extreme prejudice.

When George R.R. Martin first started *A Song of Ice and Fire* in 1996, no one expected it to become one of the most universally acclaimed series in television history. With the years of extreme hype and massive fanbase rallying behind it, as well as the ongoing Season 7 killing not just its fans with suspense, it's no surprise that more and more people are interested in having a go at the series itself. But for newcomers to the show, *Game of Thrones* has built a tremendous image for itself that might leave some new viewers with some doubts in continuing the series, so here's a few tips that'll help newcomers get better acquainted with how the show works;

1. Don't get attached to anyone.

Game of Thrones has an extremely rich and diverse array of characters, each unique individuals with their own sets of motivations and beliefs that you learn over time, making them more than just fictional characters. So naturally, the show goes out of its way to drop the bridge on characters every other episode (sometimes several in one episode!) to feed on the fanbase's tears. As you progress through the seasons and get introduced to more characters, always remember the golden rule: Anyone can die.

2. Nowhere is safe from spoilers

This one applies to everyone, regardless of whether they're watching Season 1 or 7. Spoilers will always be present no matter what medium you're talking about; For some odd reason, *Game of Thrones* seems to attract spoilers the worst. If you somehow haven't been spoiled about any scene in the show, you're either extremely lucky or a hermit.

3. Get desensitised to graphic content if you aren't already

If you've heard about *Game of Thrones* from somewhere, chances are you've most probably heard about its infamy for gratuitous scenes involving gore, nudity and gorey nudity. *Game of Thrones* laughs at the concept of censorship by showing everything it possibly can, and by everything we really do mean everything. If you don't find yourself comfortable the sight of a man having a sword shoved through his family jewels and you're determined to keep watching, then good news! You will most definitely not bat an eyelash the next three times it happens.

4. Book or Series? Your pick!

Adaptations of popular fiction have a slight tendency to miss out some important character development or plot details every now and then, whether it be due to time constraints or lazy writing. Fortunately, much like its fantasy novel adaptation before it, *The Lord of the Rings*, *Game of Thrones* remains extremely faithful to the books, with George R.R. Martin's wide plethora of characters seamlessly brought to life onscreen.

5. Make some friends to geek out with

You can't throw a Direwolf pup in the air without hitting someone who watches *Game of Thrones* too. It's universally agreed that almost any form of entertainment or fiction is much more enjoyable in the presence of friends who are willing to react (loudly) alongside you. *Game of Thrones* seems even more fitting to be watched in a group, as there's really nothing quite like a whole group freaking out over a character death or screaming death at one of the more divisive characters (too many to list, really)

The Power of



- Yau Jun Min

Everybody knows that age-old adage “Actions speak louder than words”, and for good reason, as a person is defined by what they do and what they accomplish in their lifetime, no matter how good or bad those actions or accomplishments might be. But despite the genuine impact held by this phrase, the words we use in our everyday lives still place an immense amount of burden on a person’s shoulders.

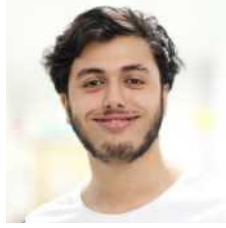
Do you remember the last time you spoke to someone you had just met? The uncertainty and awkwardness as you decided what to say next to keep the conversation flowing? Every day we get put on the spot as we subconsciously have to decide what’s the right thing to say or what’s most appropriate, because saying the wrong thing can cast you in such a negative light when you didn’t mean to at all. Those who stand at the top of power and influence are the most fearful of the power of words, as a single wrongly-toned word can send them all the way back to the bottom.

Just take a look at how dangerously monitored the words of politicians whenever they make a statement in public or in media. Coalitions live and die on public support, and anything that can be used against a reviled public body, even something as minor as a Twitter typo, have been used to ridicule certain (controversial) public figures.

The effect becomes exponentially greater if the words used have an explicitly negative meaning behind them, as pride and honour have led many great figures into taking immediate action against those that would defame them. How many wars have been started over the past few centuries, how much blood has been spilt, how much has mankind suffered over the words of a few individuals at the wrong place and the wrong time?

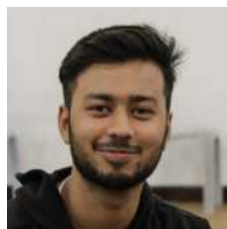
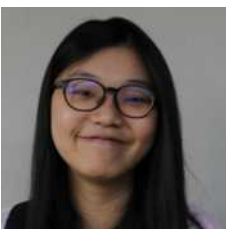
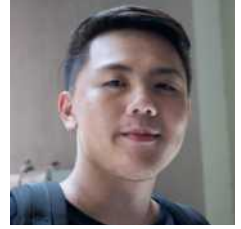
But at the same time, words can have such a profound impact on not just yourself, but also to those around you, that the risk of saying something that can be interpreted as being wrongful is more than made up for by how much good they can bring. Prominent individuals such as Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela have moved the world with their words, speaking up for those that have no words of their own and empowering them beyond what they could achieve on their own. These individuals use their words when action cannot be directly taken, creating a platform for the downtrodden, the forgotten and the unlucky to be heard across the world.

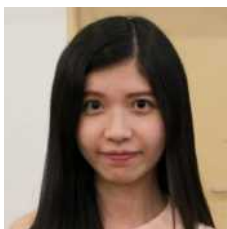
Words are some of the most powerful things any individual possess in any given lifetime. True strength doesn’t lie in the weapons of destruction or money to fund them; it comes from the power to inspire and create change with nothing more than the words that we speak.

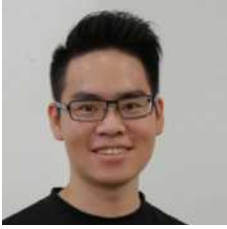


PORTRAITS OF MONASH











RANDOM SH*T











MUSA Engineering Day

- **Stephanie Leng & Natasha Fernandez**

"I go in hard and dry, I come out wet and soft," was one of the many riddles us, Editors, had set for our MUSA Day station game.

The other stations that were handled by MUSA members were just as creative (read: sick), as they welcomed the new Monash students from different schools with water guns, balls and blindfolds.

Organized by Ian and Anandh, under the Activities Committee, MUSA Day commenced at 10am on Friday the 21st. Thus, capping off Orientation Week for Semester 2 2017. Ian commented saying "it was a fun time planning for MUSA Day and it was orchestrated with a lot of Linkin Park music."

Unfortunately, everyone was obviously more enthusiastic at the other stations considering we had 20 'fun' riddles at our Editors' station. The other stations involved blowing bubbles through a hula hoop, by the Treasurers' Department, 'Tic Tac Toe Frisbee' by Activities, and captain ball by the Publicity Department.

Publicity Committee members were proud to say that the game was intense and aggressive, and the best game MUSA could offer since it was better than ESPN. Besides that, the Women's Officers carried out kickball at their station, which is basically baseball but kicking instead of playing with a bat.

The water balloon station by the VP Department was also a bursting success, as students had to throw 15 water balloons to their teammates and count the remaining balloons left intact.



Speaking of success, MUSA President, Janesh Nathan's plan, to blend in as one of the janitors, was a clean disaster. In fact, an hour into the station games and 6-7 teams had already spotted him and demanded to take photos with the nicely disguised cleaner. Complete with the broom and dustpan too!

Aside from that, Activities also came up with another game station where the students had to carry a ball, across a minefield without using their hands, and drop it into a bucket. The catch was that they'd be shot at with the water guns, if they touched the cones on the ground (aka the minefield). "Everybody was wet, no survivors, KO," was what the Activities Committee members had to say about their game.

The MUISS Department came up with their version of a dancing line. Participants had to come up with dance moves that would be repeated by their friends and a new move would be added at the end of each sequence. MUISS Department said that the game tests the understanding between the team and encourages team work.

Meanwhile, the Welfare Department organized a maze in the MUSA lounge, where students were blindfolded and relied on their team leader to get through the maze. "It was lit," they said.

After all 18 teams completed the stations, they

trooped over to the Foyer for the prize-giving ceremony. Asyraf Nasir, the M.C. for the event, had the schools competing against each other in a chant war, while waiting for lunch from Fusion Hut. Some of the more memorable chants were from the School of IT: 'IT, IT, we are mighty, IT, IT, show no mercy', while there was no question that the School of Arts, Science, and Medicine had food on their minds. Their cheers, respectively, were "We want food," "We want more food," and "We are med, med, med hungry."

Finally, the top ten teams were announced and hampers were awarded to the winners with the most points. Although there was a bit of a Steve Harvey moment for the fourth placing, it was clear that the **School of Engineering wiped the floor by claiming the top 5 spots**. The school of Arts and Social Sciences managed to place 6th and 8th, while the School of Business won the 7th and 9th placing and School of IT rounded off the list at 10th place.

The new Monashians had quite a bit to say about the day, and while most were positive, some students remarked that they were too tired to complain about the negatives. BUT, in the end, the consensus was that "MUSA day was fun and the buddies were friendly and supportive, while being the most passionate member of the group." All in all, it was a really wet day.





Orientation Bash

- Calvin Christopher Fernandez

Ever wondered what it would feel like to have the raft you built turn over a 180 degrees, tossing you over into the murky water in the middle of a sad-looking lake? Well me neither. But it happened. And just like life in general, horrible stuff happens. And that's okay. Unless you can't swim and your life jacket is ruined, then you might have a problem buddy.

On the 29th July 2017, the second Orientation Bash of the semester was organised by the Activities department to celebrate the arrival of our new July intake students and man, that was fun. Held at the Semenyih Eco Venture Resort in well Semenyih obviously, it was a part of a bigger plan by the department to foster relationships among these new little precious diamonds and to allow them to experience all the fun they can get before the semester gets to their head and unleashes its wrath upon them (and no, I am not even exaggerating).

The event kicked off at 8.15 a.m. with 19 teams (192 students) departing Monash on 6 different buses on an hour-long journey to Semenyih. Shortly upon arrival, we got geared up (read: put our shoes on) and embarked on a 3-hour jungle trekking adventure into what seemed like a forest with a little farm inside with cute dogs running around all over the place. An hour into the trek, we stopped by a gem of a river that was hidden beyond the trees.

We did almost lose the MUSA President though when he fell into the deep area of the river but he was rescued instantly and all was good as the students went on to enjoy themselves, splashing and jumping around in the water and all while the rest of us who were not very keen on getting wet yet (ayy) stayed on the dry ground and took selfies by what I think were rubber trees. The journey continued after almost 45 minutes spent at the river and we got back to the dining hall just in time for lunch.



The second part of the day was separated into two different sessions which consisted of a DIY-Raft building session and the obstacle course race. Team 1 unfortunately had its raft flip over and tossed two of its members into the lake and out of two members, one of them was me (lol). It was all in good fun though since no one really knew how to tie their rafts but all 19 teams still managed to complete the challenge in two different sessions. The obstacle course was a bit more challenging (a few people got injured and all) and while more detailed explanations on safety would have been great, it went relatively well and all the teams were capable of having all their members collectively complete all the obstacles that were presented to them (lol wait till you see your assignments and tests and lab reports and presentations and exams).

By 5.30 p.m., most of the teams were done and some of them headed to the pool right after to relax while the rest headed for the showers

to get cleaned up before dinner. Right after dinner, the prize giving ceremony commenced with team 3 snatching up the third spot, team 6 the second and the ultimate champion was team 14. The day ended on a good note but based on feedback from some of the students, the facilities at the obstacle course did not seem very safe (rusted metal and all) and the scorching hot weather made it very difficult for some of them to actually walk all the way up with inadequate water supply to keep themselves hydrated. When asked, Activities Chairperson Franklin Tan said that the Semenyih Eco Venture was a merely an experimental alternative to see whether they could utilise other spaces apart from Broga and while he believes that this semester's Orientation Bash was generally successful, he knows that there could be other better places in the future. All in all, it was a good Saturday well spent and that's all that matters.





Flash Friends

- Natasha Fernandez

Well, who knew that there were so many social butterflies in Monash?

There were at least 139 of them at the Flash Friends event organized by the Activities department, which was held in the Foyer on Friday, the 4th of August. The event, or as one person described it, “Tinder, but for friends” (or apparently just Tinder for some people), was evidently a real crowd-pleaser as new and old students alike felt it was a complete hit.

In fact, Herman, Aiman and Parvin wished they’d had a similar event during their first year, as “the first semester in university was very intimidating,

and you need a group of people you’re familiar with”. They were amazed by the sheer number of people (not just freshies) who’d come for the event, and the fact that the students were so comfortable talking to completely diverse strangers.

Despite some decorations going rogue (streamers vs fans), Flash Friends started off seemingly without a hitch as students were given their instructions for the event. Two people would be seated at each table with two minutes given for them to get to know each other. Then, following the emcee’s cues one student would have to pick an UNO card once the time was up, which would direct them to another table where another round would begin.



Jay, an engineering student -who had come to the event to expand his circle of friends to students from other schools- wondered if it might be awkward if there was absolutely nothing for people to talk about; the Activities team, however, had thoughtfully provided each table with questions in case anyone was a little tongue-tied.

Still, it hardly seemed necessary as everyone looked as though they were having a great time. Seriously, I'm pretty sure they talked for an hour straight, had a quick nasi lemak dinner, and went right back to talking. For hours. Help.

The only criticism with the event seemed to be regarding the ban on phones and names-they were perfectly comfortable leaving their phones aside for the evening (shocking, I know), but names were a little trickier. Parvin and Herman,

for starters, thought it was weird to call people by their numbers (they got their names anyway) and Aiman agreed because he said it was more intimate.

Despite that minor flaw, everyone was obviously happy they'd joined Flash Friends for the evening, and were doubly glad once the organizers announced there would be free desserts for the crowd. While lining up for the treats (red velvet cake, lemon meringue, brownies, and macaroons), most students were grouped -and still talking- with their newfound friends, which was a pretty great testament to the success of this event.

So, here's to hoping there'll be another one next semester!





SOB 101

- Stephanie Leng

The highlight of the night was fried chicken. You might be wondering, what night had free fried chicken and ice cold soya bean? It was none other than the School of Business' 'SOB-101' Mingle Night! As SOB's first ever huge event for the semester, it's safe to say that the two hardworking Business Reps, Addina Kharmizi and Pang Kai Teng did not disappoint!

SOB-101 had garnered over a hundred responses but only under a hundred showed up that night. Initially, it was a little hectic for our organizers but they managed to sort everything out and divide the participants into 2 sessions. The first session played station games in the hall while the

second session completed an amazing race around campus. There were 5 station games, which were the basic 'Untangle the Circle' of human limbs, 'You shout, I guess', 'Human Chair', 'Heads Up' and the most interesting of all, 'Race for the Chair'.

'Human Chair' was basically a game of trust, because the students had to lie on each other's laps/upper bodies, forming a circle, while the chairs were removed from under them, without touching the ground. Sounds tricky? Well, not really, as group 8 seemed to have worked together really well, showing an ample amount of team spirit. Immediately after they beat group 9, a teammate said "I could really feel the burn, man."



To elaborate more on the amazing race, each team were given a list of riddles and clues to find places around Monash. The task was to take a group photo together and to send it to Addina. She said that, “The second session was quite chill cause it was the remaining 4 groups and most of the groups got all the questions and riddles correct.” Students got to know where the useful places like the CMO, assignment boxes and others were located. But the amazing race was “a little bit tiring cause it’s been a long day,” said one of the participants.

In the end, the main prize was snagged by group 8, followed by groups 7 and 3. Group 7 jokingly said “Cheating pays off, despite getting a penalty for it.” Group 8 was somewhat more positive, “The games were very easy. No matter how much you try, we’re the champions. If we can do it, you can do it too.”

The SOB group photo took a bit of time to coordinate because everyone was still enjoying their delicious meal. As the emcee for the night, Sam Goh said, “Nobody really cares about the night, everybody cares about the fried chicken,

which was apparently the highlight of the night.” Even Addina agreed, “Main highlight was the food. Students loved the food.”

Addina also added that “The first session was hectic cause we had 6 groups in the hall, we kind of broke 2 chairs for one of our games, you have to include that in the article. We also asked around and everyone had a lot of fun. We can’t thank last year’s Business Rep, Sam enough. Despite everything, he showed up and became the emcee.”

Pang also had his fair share of words: “It was very good to see the students have fun. At first I felt kinda bad, to see the students feeling shy to play games and stuff. We don’t want to have games which will embarrass them, no singing, no chicken dance and stuff like that. Even if it was embarrassing or difficult, it’ll be in a team. But overall, we got a lot of good responses and shout out to our team of 15 helpers.” Well, kudos to you guys, Addina and Pang, for all your sweat and effort put into this night. It was truly one of a kind!





SOE Buddy-Buddee Night

- Visvamba Nathan

Semester One 2017's Engineering Buddy-Buddee Night will not be forgotten anytime soon, thanks to John's impromptu lap dance, immortalised in last semesters Monga in steamy fashion by my fellow writer Larissa. Semester Two's BBN was definitely no slouch, a repeat of everyone's favourite male burlesque being just one of the highlights.

The traditional Library rooftop venue was unavailable, so the event was shifted to the badminton courts. The engineers missed having their usual spot on the roof, but the new location offered more possibilities. To those who pigeonhole Engineering students as "dry" all the

time, Reps Terry and Jun Mann had an answer – water sports.

Before we get ahead of ourselves, let's get back to the start of the evening. The emcees from the previous semester were not rehired, presumably as a result of the outrage from the Indian community at their self-racism.

This time around, two fresh faces from Radio Monash, Lance and Mustaqim, ran the show. The hosts are not Engineering students themselves, and tried their best to come to grips with this strange world, marvelling at the sea of males in the hall. They made a few dank engineering jokes, too, which went over well.



No BBN is complete without its “punishments,” and this one was no different. Soon, a student named Fahad had been dragged up front on some pretence or another, and sat down in a chair all by himself. Then, we heard some frantic swooning from the dozen or so girls in the crowd, as none other than John from our last BBN strutted up front. This time, the show was planned for, and John rehashed all his greatest moves from his previous lap dance, to the cooing of the SOE females. Even the male recipient, Fahad, was so entranced, that at one stage he grabbed a firm hold of John’s thighs, even before John’s shirt had come off. Oh, did I mention he took his shirt off again? He did. This time, silence fell on the crowd, as the guys averted their eyes and the girls took note of every detail of John’s hammerhead tattoo. Did I mention he has a hammerhead tattoo? I’ve heard he has viewing parties, so do track him down if you’re interested (kidding, please don’t stalk John).

Moving on, we had some fun icebreakers involving jigsaw puzzles, blindfolds and animal noises. After that, the emcees moved around asking participants random questions about their groupmates. Notable failures included Pei Dee, who didn’t know how long her own batchmate had been studying in Monash. Those who flunked were rounded up for another punishment – a taste test with Oreos. Catch being, the Oreos’ fillings had been replaced (generally with toothpaste and death). Thankfully, nobody puked.

After that, things really got wet (if John’s lap dance hadn’t done it for them already). Out on the field, the groups faced off in rounds of Rock, Paper, Scissors, chucking cups of water at the losers. Three teams made it through the knockout rounds, leading to three-way games of Rock, Paper, Scissors, where everybody just splashed each other indiscriminately with no regard for the rules. Some students roamed the fields with water guns, attacking each other at random while the games continued. The last activity was too weird to explain in words, involving spinning in circles and dousing group mates stretched out on the grass.

With that done, the stars of the show finally appeared – 70 boxes of pizza. It’s important to note that attendance this semester was lower than expected – some might have been scared to get wet, and others snuck away early. Anyhow, there were few enough left that the quota of pizza boxes to students was roughly 1 to 1. Way too much pizza to eat in one go, you say? There was barely any left at the end, thanks to folks like “11 Pizza Guy,” who ate 11 slices, or one and a half boxes, all by himself.

With the pizzas consumed, the group photos were snapped, and the night quickly came to a close. With its lap dances, water guns and mountains of pizza, BBN Sem 2 was definitely a night to remember. Really, who says Engineering students don’t know how to have fun?



Photography by Terence Kong, Khosyi Musyaffa Muhammad



MUPhaS Hello Buddy Night

- Larissa Liau

On the 30th of August, Monash University's Pharmacy Society (MUPhaS) had its Hello Buddy Night. Much like Engineering's Buddy-Buddee Night where juniors and seniors gather to mingle, there was already a large group of people registering themselves when I arrived at the Sports Centre at 6 p.m. I didn't pay them much attention as I stepped into the venue, which had Ed Sheeran blaring on the speakers and was decked out in fairy lights.

I stood around awkwardly, as every reporter does when covering an event (no? just me? Okay) until people finally started filing in at 6.20 p.m.

Now, the last event I covered was Engineering's Buddy-Buddee Night in Sem 1 and being in engineering myself, there was one thing that hit me when I finally got a good look at the pharmacy students.

So. Many. Girls.

Everyone was really excited, and the selfie picture taking started well before MONGA's photographers could even begin doing their thing. At 6.30 p.m., emcees Zi Xin and Jung Ho kicked off the night by welcoming everyone and introducing the pharmacy school committee, followed by a brief appreciation speech wishing lecturer Dr. Ong a happy retirement.



Next, the games began with something called 'Into the Groups'. Basically, the paper cone hat everyone got when they registered had to be worn as a mask, with people being able to see only out of the small hole at the tip of the hat. Everyone was then told to walk around in circles, and had to scramble to get each other into groups when the MCs yelled out 'Groups of 4!' or 'Groups of 10!'. Initially, there was a lot of confusion but eventually people started holding on to each other and walking in circles, making it easier to get into groups.

Now, if you're as confused about the instructions as I initially was, all you need to know is this – it's a really good game if you want to 'accidentally' bump into your crush, or, if you were one of the limited number of boys there, a really good way to hold many a girl's hand. Having said this, I did still see one poor guy who ended up holding hands with two guys anyway.

Getting back into groups, Zi Xin and Jung Ho then announced the next game: Strike A Pose. Each team had to ensure that only a specific number of body parts as announced by the organisers fell within a pre-drawn boundary where their group was standing. (That is a bloody long sentence that I hope makes sense – read it again) Commands like '3 stomachs' or '4 backs' flashed across the projector screen as groups scrambled to make sure they had the correct body parts in the box. (Oooh this sentence sounds bad too, abit too murderly) The most interesting one was '5 knees, 8 feet, 4 elbows, 5 fingers and 1 left hand', which almost every group struggled with.

At 7.40 p.m., dinner was served. This was another thing that BLEW my mind. I can't believe they didn't keep dinner hostage to prevent people from eating and running. But I guess this is just another testimony of how much everyone wanted

to be there. As I stood there stalker staring observing everyone, I noticed that all of them seemed to know each other and were very friendly (I even got a few uncertain smiles my way despite being the weird person hanging around staring at everyone). I found out that apparently invitations for Hello Buddy Night had even been extended to other members of staff including the clerks working at the course management office (CMO), who turned up and looked to be on friendly terms with the students.

Now call me a horrible person, but I wouldn't be able to pick out ANYONE from the CMO even if my life depended on it, so I found it really touching that the pharmacy school is so close-knit.

After dinner was polished off, the final game began: Musical Chairs – In the Dark. Mild though it sounds, this was in my opinion one of the best games played that night as the suspense involved is always fun. Couple that with a dark room and pounding music, you basically have yourself Zouk a great time. The winners of each team were gathered together for one final showdown, where finally one man emerged victorious.

There was no prize.

But that was the beauty of the night though. Everyone seemed to be there to just have a great time with each other. There was never a dull moment, and the atmosphere was always filled with excited chatter and laughter. There was no ceremony after the last game ended, the event was brought to a close with a simple announcement from the emcees thanking everyone for attending. And that was more than enough. Everyone gathered for one last group photo, commemorating what even I as a bystander found to be a thoroughly enjoyable night.





Indonesian Independence Day

- Jemima Raj & Hemala Kanagarethinam

Indonesian Independence Day was celebrated last week on the 17th of August. In Indonesia's capital, Jakarta and other large cities throughout the archipelago, this historically significant day is celebrated with elaborate parades which included marching bands and floats festooned with Indonesia's red-and-white flag. Considering the growing number of Indonesian friends we have at Monash, of course we needed to throw a celebration for them as well to make them feel at home!

The event started slightly later at around

6pm but we didn't mind waiting as we were unfolding deeper layers of excitement. It started with an opening speech by the club's president. The national anthem of Indonesia was sang enthusiastically and much to our surprise, it really did feel like we were in Indonesia for a second.

Back in Indonesia during Independence Day Celebration, flag-raising ceremonies dominate the day, while performers sing the national anthem of Indonesia. Friends and families bond over activities and games and show their culinary chops in cooking competitions featuring dishes from a myriad of cultures.



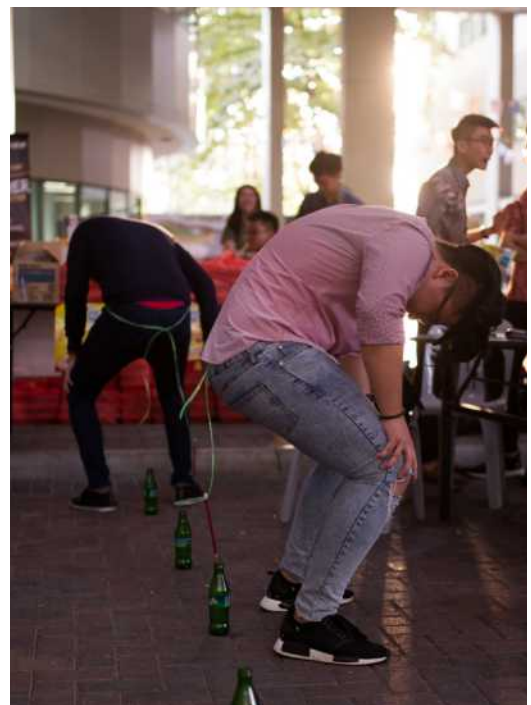
We were lucky to have experienced the authentic way of celebrating the day as the team managed to pull off a similar celebration sans the flag raising ceremony. A couple of games were played and the first game was called “Lomba Makan Kerupuk” otherwise better known as the crackers eating competition. Each participant was given a cracker each that was hanging above them and they had to jump and reach for it. The first to eat it entirely wins.

The second game was “Lomba Memasukan Pensil Kedalam Botol” and it was as easy as racing to insert the pencil into the bottle and it was played in a team of 2 with each participant standing in one line.

The best part of the event was that there was food everywhere!! Everywhere from the guest tables to

the registration booth! We were so happy to be a part of the Indonesian Independence Day Celebration.

Thank you so much for having us and Happy Independence Day, Indonesia!





MUSA 2018 Election

A Guide to the MUSA 2018 Election

1. Register Ticket (Party) Name
2. Attend briefings
3. Find 44 people to run (advisable)
4. Approach MUSA for feedback
5. Fill in nomination form
6. Submit policy speech + poster designs
7. Campaign
8. Debate
9. Get elected!





MUSA Info Week, Debate & Announcement of Results



Photos by Andrew Peter Lim, Bryan Chan, Celine Chua, EJ Lim, Khosyi, Lysandra Koon, Terence Kong, Tiffany See



MUSA Forum **Part II**

- Visvamba Nathan

It was that time of the semester again, when MUSA fulfilled their election promise – to answer all of your pressing concerns about the state of the campus! Unfortunately, the student body neither to be very curious nor concerned, leaving one to wonder how long this pilot project will last.

The 13th of September was the date of the second MUSA Forum, which is basically a question-and-answer session between MUSA and the plain-old regular students. 2 hours were set aside for the forum, and, like last semester,

every question was rewarded with a Subway cookie. Sadly, Subway cookies seem to have lost their appeal, as the foyer where the forum took place was pretty empty when the event started.

Unlike the first forum, when the Pro-Vice Chancellor attended and made some opening remarks, President Janesh had the podium to himself this time. He kicked things off with a rundown of MUSA's activities over the past several months, which included several successful events such as the Annual Ball and the One World Festival.



He also addressed some of the concerns raised in the previous forum, and possible solutions. Briefly, these included the lack of parking space – which will be resolved by the multi-storey carpark in the Campus Masterplan (long after most of us have left) and the lack of F&B options, which has been mitigated by the opening of the new cafeteria. In addition, several new walk-in computer labs have been opened.

On to the questions! First up was Skyler, the new IT rep, who wanted more details about the upcoming Music Festival. Janesh promised bigger and better acts this year, with more updates soon.

Jasvin raise concerns about the overload of events toward the end of Semester 2, and how it would affect participation. Janesh admitted that it was a recurring issue that MUSA members took most of the first semester to find their footing, leading to most events being planned for later in the year of their term.

Perhaps the most pressing issue was brought up halfway through the session – the constant smell of sewage on campus. Janesh said the problem had been raised with the administration around Week 3, but unfortunately only the Subang Jaya Municipal Council can fully rectify it. Students

were surprised to hear that Monash has been pumping probiotics into the sewage system around campus to try to reduce the odor, but not much more can be done.

There were memories of one of last semester's major student uproars when someone asked if the 24-hour tutorial rooms would be made available again. This had been common practice in previous years, but in Semester 1 the old rooms were closed to the students at night. Janesh said requests had been made, but there are issues with the ongoing construction work, which mostly takes place at night. On that note, Janesh also promised to ask for a slowdown of the works during the exam period.

There were some great questions raised, but the majority came from MUSA members or from the MC's. Some other takeaways from the session include increased participation in the recent elections (21% to 28%), the preparation of a HR Policy for MUSA, and the return of food trucks in Semester One 2018. Nevertheless, the curtains had to close on the event an hour early, and the large surplus of cookies was spread around. The lack of participation was certainly disappointing for the organisers, but the content of the session was more than up to scratch.





Women's Week

- **Stephanie Leng**

Sexual harassment happens on campus? Girls being touched inappropriately and against their will? Fellow students are being cat-called at while they cross the road to get to university? How discriminatory and offensive, not to mention oppressive to a certain degree. Hence, the reason for MUSA's Wom*n's Officers to come up with the brilliant idea of having Women's Week on campus. The activities and events which took place this past week were also based on empowerment and female entrepreneurship.

On Monday, the Wom*n's officers had an Anti-Harassment booth located just outside the library. This enabled students to write down any harassing remarks made towards/against them, in order to raise awareness on the insensitivity

of such remarks which most would deem 'harmless'. Students were also able to give suggestions on how they think sexual harassment on campus could be overcome.

The following day was Feminist Icon Day where students were encouraged to dress up as their favourite feminist icon. This was to raise more awareness about the outstanding women of the world and to recognize what they've done. A list of feminist icons was posted on MUSA's Facebook page to give the students of Monash a rough idea on who they could dress up as. A few examples being Emma Watson, Michelle Obama, Wonder Woman, Oprah Winfrey, Dolly Parton and Emma Watson (Yes, Emma Watson's name was intentionally written twice on the list, that's how much everyone loves her).



There was also a photobooth set up so students could remember the revolutionizing week they had, because every small step we take today can help make the world a better place for others in the future. Not to mention the ticket sales booth, set up throughout the entire week, for the Speak Up Speak Out event which took place on Thursday night.

The long anticipated women's bazaar was also held on Wednesday and Thursday. All stalls were all opened and run by women, some were even run by our very own Monash students.

A student named Daniella commented that "We'd like to think of ourselves as feminist entrepreneurs, so we try to celebrate narratives of women through design. Basically, we do diverse stuff because most of the individual, custom made orders are athletic and strange; but we're mostly known for our vagina designed earrings.

To us, the vagina is symbol of empowerment & we hope everyone is proud to say we're women."

The Speak Up Speak Out event was held from 8-11pm on Thursday night at W_are_house in USJ19. This event comprised of various singing, rapping, stand up comedy, and spoken word performances by some (if not all) of our very own Monash students. This event had also received many positive reviews from the students.

Clearly, it can be seen that Women's Week was a brilliant idea to raise more awareness about one of the many obstacles women today face and a great way to empower women. It was definitely an eye opening experience for many of the students and one could only hope that there will be more bazaars or awareness-raising events such as this in the future.





Orientation Day

Photography by Andrew Peter Lim, Tiffany See, Terence Kong





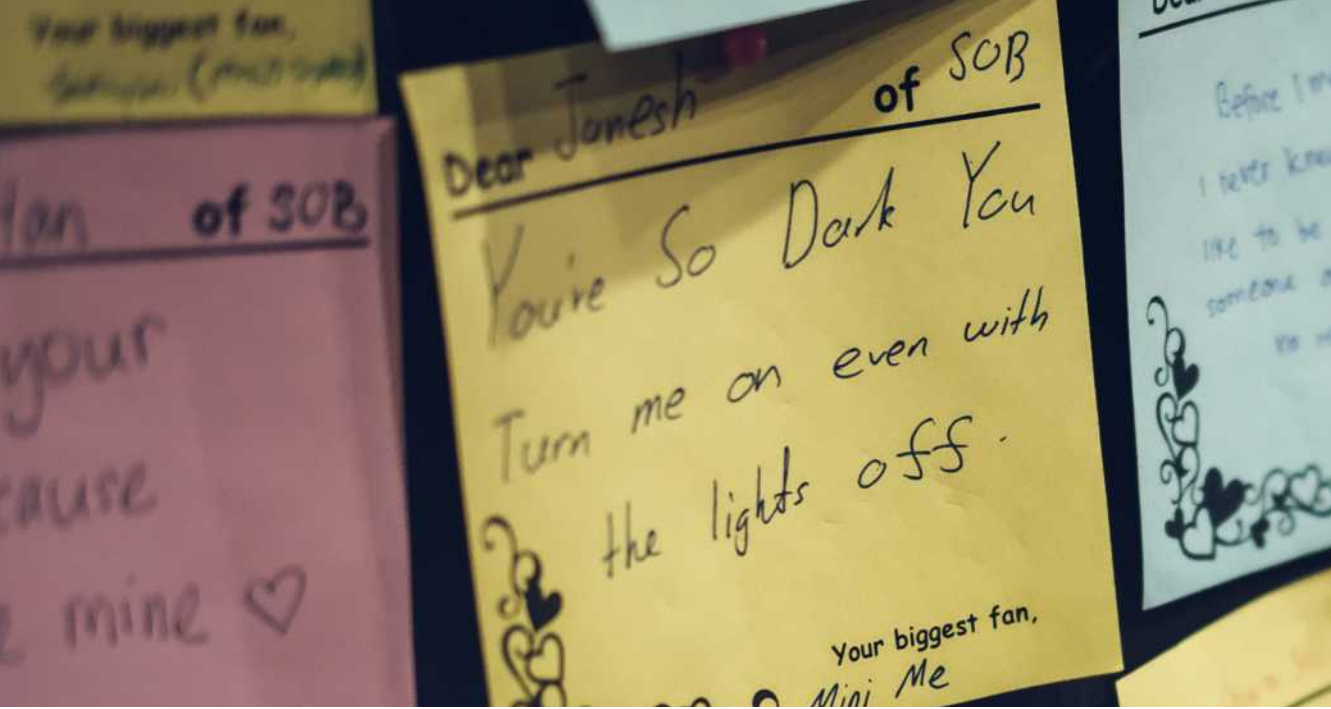


MUSA Wars

Photography by Tiffany See

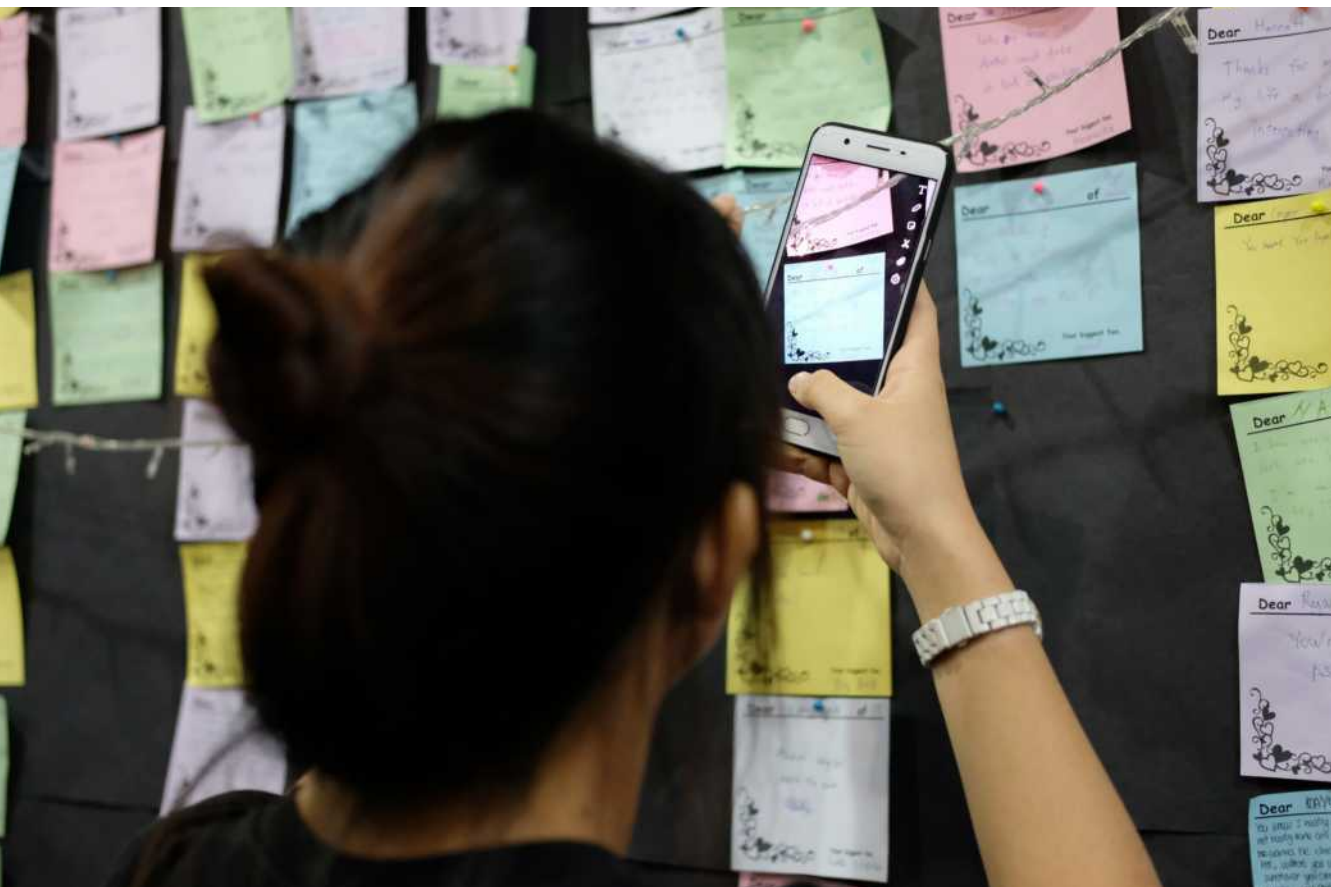


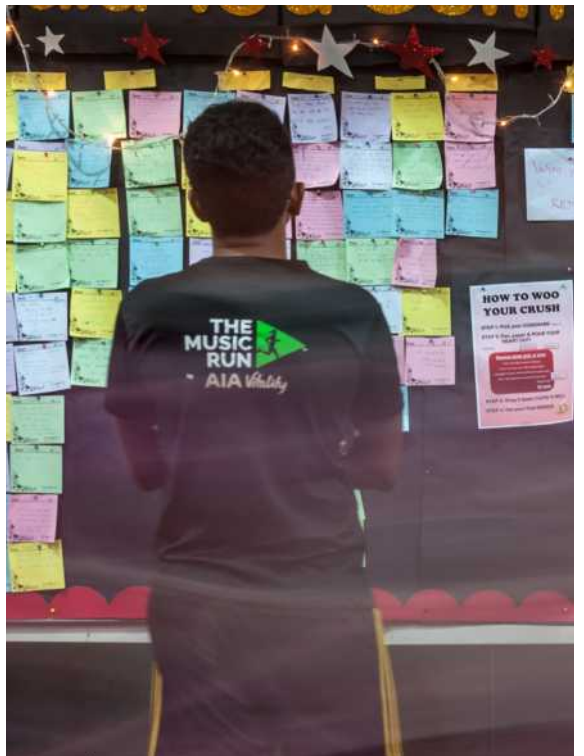
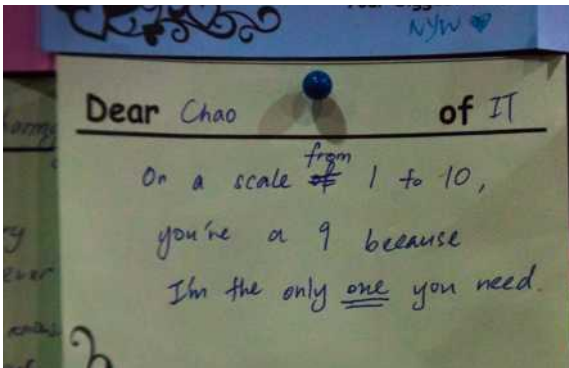




WOULD YOU Confess

Photography by Terence Kong, Yi Jie







One World Festival

Photography by Yi Jie, Jenny Wong, Bryan Chan







MUVP Carnival

Photography by Celine Chua







AEW Speaker Series

Photography by Celine Chua, Bryan Chan, Khosyi Musyaffa Muhammad, Sashinka Pandithakoralage, Jenny Wong







Unmasked

Photography by Andrew Peter Lim, Tiffany See, Terence Kong







Dance & Dinner

Photography by Terence Kong, Lysandra Koon







Monash Charity Run

Photography by Samuel Goh, Renee Bong, Khosyi Musyaffa Muhammad







Open Mic Night

Photography by Samuel Goh







Amplify Music Festival

Photography by Andrew Peter Lim & Tiffany See







A Night to Dismember

Photography by Andrew Peter Lim, Samuel Goh, Tiffany See







Wellness Week

Photography by Andrew Peter Lim & Samuel Goh







Blüdhaven

Photography by Samuel Goh







Monash Cup Opening Ceremony

- Yau Jun Min

The air on campus was rife with anticipation and excitement as the day of the Opening Ceremony of the annual Monash Cup finally arrived. Despite the downcast weather and grey skies, Monashians showed up regardless and waited around the football field for the event to begin. Finally, after a few more minutes the ceremony was kick-started with the emcee's announcement of a food-eating competition.

With a representative from each House, the goal of the competition was to eat seven toast sandwiches from Monash's very own Toast. To the sound of roaring applause from each House, the four representatives set upon their sandwiches, bread-y to claim the bragging rights for their

own Houses. All-dough they had a great start, the representatives began to look like they were toast as the number of sandwiches in front of them dwindled. Finally, after much spilt water, Manticore's representative and Captain Daemyung emerged victorious.

Crumbs cleaned up and much groaning aside, the ceremony began in earnest with the emcee calling upon each of the four Houses, headed by their respective captains, to march down the field. The flags of Manticore, Leviathan, Culebre and Opinicus waved proudly above as athletes and bystanders alike cheered at the sight.

With the four Houses assembled, the emcee thanked them before





prompting the performances of the evening to begin, starting off with the Monash Street Dance Society stepping up to the field and displaying some electrifying dance movies for the growing crowd of Monashians. Their performance was followed up by the winner of the Sing competition that was held last semester, Izetta Cze Hui Roxas, who performed her amazing renditions of Titanium, We Will Rock You and Despacito.

As the singers cleared the field, the emcee called for the Houses to assemble once more, with the heads of CNS, Kai Bin and Wei Yang, personally invited on to the stage for the annual Shield ceremony. The pair thanked all of the athletes and attendants of the ceremony for making it a success and earnestly wished the athletes all the best for the upcoming games and events. Their pieces said, the pair went about

removing the emblem of the winner of last year's Monash Cup, House Manticore, from the Monash Shield. Each of the House Captains were then invited to come up to the stage and say their part about the upcoming events, with all four Captains unanimously wishing all of the athletes to have a good time and rallying words for their respective Houses.

The opening ceremony was finally concluded with the emcee calling for everyone holding a balloon bearing the colors of the four houses to group up and release their balloons on his cue. In just a few seconds, the sky became awash with red, blue, green and yellow as the balloons slowly floated upwards. Much cheering commenced as songs started to be played over the speakers while athletes readied up for that day's events. In their minds they all had a singular purpose: guaranteeing their House's colors will be the one to decorate the Monash Shield for a year.





Words from the Organizers

Erni: Organizing Monash Cup 2017 was one hell of a roller-coaster ride (with mostly ups!) Late night meetings for 10-days straight, sleep deprivation, and even sunburn was worthwhile because I have the best 11 people that I identify as a “family” to work with. Furthermore, the moment I saw the athletes putting their all in the game and chanted their hearts out for their houses made everything worth it! I sincerely hope that we successfully made your Monash Cup 2017 experience an unforgettable one!



Erni



Tania

Tania: Dear Monash Cup 2017 Organizers, can I take a picture of you to prove my future kids that Monash Cup 2017 was organized by the best humans in C&S history?

Ewaldo: What an unforgettable experience! Thank you for all committees, sub-committees, athletes, and everyone who supports this memorable event.



Ewaldo



Pritika

Chels: I don't do 1:30am meetings for just anyone, so you guys are pretty darn special ;) Monash Cup 2017 was such a fulfilling experience, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of it. We started off as organisers, and finished as family.



Chels



Aaron

Pritika: Being part of the organizing team for Monash Cup 2017 may have been hectic and overwhelming but it was definitely worthwhile. All in all, it was a pleasure to organize Monash Cup alongside an amazing team of people.

Aaron: The experience you gain from hosting monash cup is irreplaceable and useful in real life.

Boon: Greetings from the cutest part of Monash Cup 2017 - Bon bon. Thanks to all, for giving me the opportunity to dress as the official mascot, it was an unforgettable moment for me. Thanks to all the helpers, without you guys, this event wouldn't have ran as smoothly. Thanks to the committee, as I've said, 2017 C&S is amazing! Our mission was to give all Monashians an extraordinary memory of the Monash Cup 2017, and I hope we have completed that :)



Boon



Eu Jin

Eu Jin: To all readers out there... If you want to organize an event like Monash Cup, be sure that you have a team like ours. Individuals with different capabilities, desire, perseverance and most importantly, humour. It was an honour to be part of such a great group, y'all will be in my heart always. Thank you C&S 2017/Monash cup organizers.



Natalie



Enez

Natalie: Definition of monash cup committee/CNS 2K17 : the most insane, weirdest diverse combination of humans coming from diff parts of ASIA. Consisting of 2 gay dads, 1 infant, 1 uncle, 1 adopted teenager, 2 children, 1 grandfather, 4 teenagers. YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST FAM COULD EVER HAD!

Enez: I joined the Monash Cup Committee not knowing what I was getting myself into. But what I achieved from it was endless laughter, an amazing family, the password to the Monash Cup email, free food for more than a week (I saved at least RM100!), and an unforgettable experience. Psssst, I think we've set the bar kinda high this year!

Wei Yang: Monash Cup 2017 will never be successful without the cooperation of the committees. Thank you all, for the effort that you have put in, and I hope that Monash Cup 2017 is enjoyable for all Monashians. All the best!

Kai Bin: If I could turn back time and choose again, I wish I could have met you all earlier! Organizing Monash Cup with an amazing team like you guys is definitely my biggest takeaway from university life. It's gonna feel weird without long nights with you guys and I am gonna miss all the time spent with you all! I know I don't say this often but I will always keep you guys deep in my heart and I appreciate knowing every single one of you!



Wei Yang



Kai Bin

Badminton

Female: (1) Culebre (2) Opinicus (3) Manticore
Male: (1) Leviathan (2) Manticore (3) Opinicus



Basketball

Female: (1) Opinicus (2) Culebre (3) Manticore
Male: (1) Opinicus (2) Manticore (3) Manticore



Captainball

(1) Opinicus (2) Culebre (3) Leviathan



Cheerleading

(1) Opinicus (2) Culebre (3) Manticores



Chess

(1) Leviathan (2) Manticore (3) Culebre & Opinicus



Cricket

(1) Culebre (2) Opinicus (3) Manticore



Dodgeball

(1) Opilnicus (2) Manticore (3) Culebre



Futsal

Female: (1) Culebre (2) Opilnicus (3) Manticore
Male: (1) Opilnicus (2) Culebre (3) Culebre



Obstacle Challenge

(1) Leviathan (2) Manticore (3) Culebre



Pool

(1) Manticore (2) Culebre (3) Opininus



Rock Climbing

(1) Opinicus (2) Culebre & Manticore (3) Leviathan



Swimming

(1) Leviathan (2) Opinicus (3) Culebre



Table Tennis

(1) Culebre (2) Leviathan (3) Manticore



Track & Field

(1) Culebre (2) Opinicus (3) Manticore



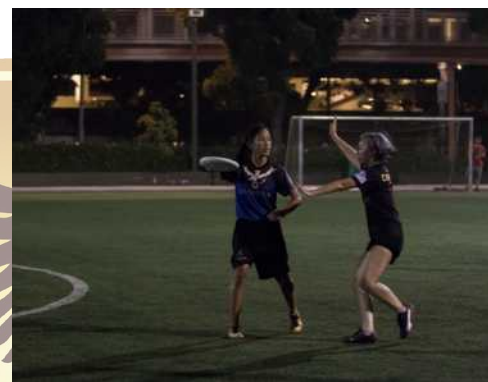
Tug of War

- (1) Leviathan (2) Culebre (3) Manticore



Ultimate Frisbee

- (1) Manticore (2) Culebre (3) Opiniucus



House Committees



Photos by Samuel Goh

Final Scoresheet

Congratulations Culebre!

	270
	350
	375
	205

Gold Sponsors



Secondary Sponsors



Photos taken from Monash Cup 2017 Facebook Page



Monash Cup Closing Ceremony

- Calvin Fernandez

It was a night a lot of people had been anticipating for. With the lights of different colours illuminating the foyer, each and every one of the athlete as well as the students who were supporters seemed really excited to be a part of what some have claimed to be the most happening, most emotional Monash Cup closing ceremony in years.

Kicking off at 8.20PM with the performances of the cheerleaders from each house, students were ecstatic and mind-blown by the rhythm and sportsmanship portrayed by the cheerleaders as they went out of their way to strut, jump and flip in a synchrony, sending the audience into a huge frenzy as they watched in astonishment. The prize-giving ceremony that night was rather emotional; no one would have thought that Culebre, the house that has not clinched a single overall Monash Cup victory before in the previous years would win, and when they did, it was an

emotional session for everyone. House captain, Sharikul went up the stage on behalf of Culebre to celebrate their win for the very first time and he credited every single athlete who has sacrificed their time and put in all their effort to attain this sweet victory. Opinicus who came second also beat all the odds, as they have not won before either and to be so close this year, it is a reflection of the hard work each member has put in. Leviathon came third and Manticore was fourth, but really, each and every house this year has worked really hard to be at their best this year, so to all athletes who have competed, congratulations!

The event ended on a good note as everyone scrambled for photographs with different people, as they smile, laughed and celebrated the very essence of sportsmanship that very much alive that night, the same one that has continuously enhanced a close-knit relationship among members of the Monash student community for many, many years. Till next year, then!



Photos by Renee Bong, Terence Kong, Andrew Peter Lim

Epilogue

Monash Annual Ball

- Stephanie Leng

Monash Annual Ball 2017, one of the most highly anticipated events of the year was met with the disappointment of many of the students when it was announced that tickets had been sold out, after a mere 2-day sale.

The theme for the ball this year was Epilogue and as how any other event would usually kick off, the Ball was no different. Majority of the students were seen lining up or crowding around the creatively decorated backdrops to take photos with their friends and/or dates. The only thing that pulled their attention away from it was the food. Not

just any finger food but fried chicken. Even the students who had ventured into the hall/the mingle area came back out for their second and third rounds of fried chicken. "I'm only here for the fried chicken" said a second year student.

The event kicked off with performances by GTXperiment, Shawn and the Peachskins. "Shawn's performance was honestly one of the best tonight," said one student, which wasn't surprising considering the fact that many students were singing along with him. Dinner was also served around the same time so everyone could enjoy their food and the performances at the same time.





Next on the agenda were the enthralling performances by our very own Mr. and Mrs. Monash contestants. The first to perform was Prince and Enez, followed by Andrew and Venessa and finally Jasvin. While the other four did a dance number, Andrew and Venessa decided to do a musical medley.

The winners for Best Promposal as well as Best Dressed were then announced, followed by this year's Mr. and Mrs. Monash. They even played the video for Best Promposal and the hall was filled with loud "Aww!"s. All 3 couples were definitely popular amongs different groups of people and even though they had all put in considerable amount of effort, the winners were ultimately Prince and Enez.

Once that was over, it was time for Talitha Tan to take the stage. Following her performance, students were quickly

angered and insulted by the next performer, Harvinth Skin's attempt at being a 'stand up comedian' by making "racist insults" and other not-so-humorous jokes. Personally, I think Arwind Kumar would've definitely been a much better entertainment. Or even our M.C. for the night, Raja Nahar from the School of Arts and Social Science.

The much anticipated performance by Paperplane Pursuit soon erased the troubled minds of the students. Many were seen jumping and dancing to their upbeat performance, some even singing along. Exodus was next, closing the Annual Ball with a short dance number. However, the dance floor was still open to students who just wanted to dance away their worries with their friends before retiring home for the night or leaving to Zouk/Fuze club for an afterparty. Because the Ball was





themed ‘Epilogue’, I took the liberty of asking a few final year students for their opinion of the ball. Jo from the School of Science said “To be honest, I don’t really know what to expect because it’s my first ball but I was kind of expecting a slow dance. I love goodie bags but I don’t even use bar soap.”



“Some of my friends said it’s something like a dinner party or the Monash Cultural Night this year, but more expensive. The food and performances definitely weren’t as nice as MCN’s but that’s probably because our own Monash students performed at MCN,” said a final year student who wanted to stay anonymous.





Sarah Kong from the School of Engineering said “I think there were ups and downs to it. The venue was really pretty but cramped. I expected a fine dining/served at the table instead of buffet style which was messy but the food was pretty good. I actually enjoyed my time mostly because of my friends and it improved a lot compared to last year so I’m quite happy with that.”



The head of the Activities Department, Franklin, said “I thought having Ball the same all the time is boring, so I changed it up a bit. People might or might not have liked it but that’s okay because I think we should change things to see if it can be better or not. However, another final year Business student who chooses to remain anonymous said “Everything about it was bad. The only good thing was that it ended.” Of course, everyone had different experiences throughout the night so to each his/her own!



university was especially difficult -
. I know I always held Mahathir
responsible”

TEDx



TEDxMonashUniversityMalaysia

- Calvin Fernandez

After months of careful planning and intense discussions, Monash University Malaysia held its inaugural TEDx event for the very first time since it was introduced in 2009 and it's safe to say the event turned out to be a huge success!

Held on the 7th of October 2017, the event saw a huge turnout, with tickets being sold out less than two weeks after it went on sale. Eleven speakers were invited to speak and among them included prominent political icon and activist, Nurul Izzah Anwar, plant genetics scientist, Dr Shannon Frances and successful investigative journalist and filmmaker, Mahi Ramakrishnan.

It kicked off at 10.00 a.m. with Amarjit Singh, a certified Bitcoin professional, talking about the good and bad of digital economy in this modern age before Dipti Kumar, a lawyer spoke about her inspiring adventures from the minute she was in high school up till the day she was appointed as an advisor to the British royal family.

Then, the Monash Street Dance Club performed before Melizarani T. Selva and Dr Ken Yeong took the stage respectively, impressing the crowd with their brilliant ideas and experiences. Right after lunch, Nurul Izzah, the much anticipated speaker of the evening took the stage where she delivered a talk on forgiveness and being empowered as youth leaders, encouraging students and audience in general to make Malaysia their “Valentine’s”.





The talk then went on with Mahi Ramakrishnan, Kim Lim and Dr. George Lee taking turns to deliver their empowering speeches that revolved around the hidden forms of human trafficking, the guardian view of the refugee crisis and adversity in perspectives beyond limits respectively. The guests adjourned to the foyer for tea before the final session kicked off at approximately 4.15p.m. and once that was over, the talk

resumed with Andrew Barton, Dr Shannon Frances and Syed Saddiq being the last set of speakers to speak.

All in all, it was a brilliant event which success can be attributed to the hard work of every single member of the organizing team, the volunteers and the student council advisors, Mr Zebba and Mr Selwyn who's worked tirelessly to ensure things go really well. Till next year then, Monash!



Photos by Andrew Peter Lim

SCHOOL OF

Arts & Social Sciences

Engineering

Business

Medicine & Health Sciences

Pharmacy

Science

Information Technology



Cookie & Exam-Stress-Kit Giveaway

Tasty Subway cookies and cute “goodie bags” were given out to SASS students!



Merchandise Sale

Sold SASS limited edition drawstring bags and stainless steel bottles each with a logo printed on it!



MUSA Day Semester 2

Clinched 5th and 6th place with the gung-ho students from the July intake!



SASS T-Shirt Sales

The best subcomms and part-time models that you'll ever have!



SASS Night

A social night filled with fun, laughter, games, performances and free pizzas!



SASS Movie Night

Free movie tickets for those who registered for the show!



SKYTREX with the School of IT

A challenging outdoor and adventurous event together with new friends from a different school!

**SOB 101**

All smiles after a long tiring night (which ended with good food, btw!)

**FLY Finance Seminar**

A collaboration event between FLY Finance Seminar, MUIG and SoB, that catered to students with little to no financial knowledge.



Engineering MUSA Day
Winners, as usual. ;P IT'S A CLEAN SWEEP TOP 5 FTW



ESCAPE Adventureplay, Pulau Pinang
THRILL BEYOND IMAGINATION :D



Buddy-Buddee Night Semester 2

It's all fun and smiles until the water games begin.



Waka Waka Gelato Giveaway

<3 Happiness in a scoop *lick lick*



Company Trip to Configura

One of our IBL partners, we were treated to pizza. Pizza makes us happy. We like this company.



SoIT Mingle Night

IT students coerced to mingle with their classmates. Pizza helped ease the tension.



Skytrex with SASS

Arts and IT students attempt to face the forces of nature. Extreme level too ez.



Dota2 Competition

GGEZ.



SOP Camp 2017
Postcard-worthy moment :)



SOP Camp 2017
Bonding across all 4 years :)



SOP Camp 2017
It's no fun unless people get wet ;)



SOP T-Shirt Sale
Red VS Blue



Ice Cream Giveaway

300 scoops given out = 300 happy faces :D sadly we didn't manage to take photos 'cuz we were too busy scooping!



Year End Party

Our much-anticipated year-end event!



Cookie Giveaway

Cookies were given to the students of the School of Science in Week 12 of Semester 1 in exchange for completed SETU evaluations. 240 bags of Famous Amos cookies were given away, and the students were pleased.



Movie Night

The School of Science their movie night this semester, in which the students watched Anabelle. There was a full turn-up, and overall the event went on smoothly. We hope that the students didn't have nightmares after that!



Monash University Malaysia
School of Science

Book Donation Drive

Help children in schools by donating any science-related books!

For more information, please email us at:
musa.fac.sci@monash.edu

The poster features a central text area with a light blue background, surrounded by colorful geometric shapes (triangles and rectangles) in orange, yellow, blue, and green. At the top and bottom, there are stylized representations of books in various colors.

Book Donation Drive

In conjunction with the admins of the School of Science, a book donation drive was organized to collect unwanted science books from students, and the books were donated to various schools around the Klang Valley.



Field Trip to Vivantis

The School of Science had their first industrial trip to Vivantis Technologies Sdn Bhd, in which students experienced how it was like to work in a lab, with lessons on how spin column membranes were packed and how everyday reagents such as buffers were made. Students were also brought to view tissue culture labs, diagnostic labs, halal testing labs and gene sequencing labs.



T-Shirt Competition

The School of Science had their first T-Shirt design competition, and there were 17 entries. The shirt design that had the highest number of facebook likes won, and the winner, Jessica Ng, received a RM150.00 H&M voucher.



Fusion Night

The School of Science had their first fusion night of the semester at LaCosta Residences, in which there was a great turn-up. The event was held with the purpose of allowing students to take a much-needed relaxing night with their friends to get away from the never-ending lab reports and assignments (hang in there guys!), and we were very pleased that the students enjoyed it. There were games, food, and a pool for students to chill by.



MUSA Subcommittees



Activities



School of Arts



School of Business



Clubs & Societies



School of Engineering



General Secretary



School of IT



School of Medicine



MUISS



School of Pharmacy



School of Science



Treasurers



Vice Presidents



Welfare Officer



W*mens Officers



Publicity Officers



Us



MUSA 2017

Theme of the Month

The “Theme of the Month” competition is an avenue that was created by the Munga Editors to showcase the different brands of creativity embedded in the hearts and souls of the students in Monash and get rewarded for it.

This semester, we focused on what it means to be getting a reality-check & to understand the reality of life as we face it each day, and so with that, we have the theme “What Would You Do With Unlimited Power” for the month of August and “What Was Your Most Embarrassing Teenage Moment” for the month of September and both these themes were constructed to represent the real-life experiences of students and their thoughts in different circumstances. Students were highly encouraged to submit their creative pieces - be it an essay, a poem, illustrations, photographs or sketches.

Selected submissions were then uploaded onto MONGA together with the winning entries, where the winning entries also received a voucher worth RM100 each from a store of their choice.

We thank everyone who has taken the time to make their contributions and we hope we have served you well this entire year! Till next time, all the best with exams! Goodbye.

Unlimited Power

Sarah Kong

Power.
Unlimited. Power.

What first comes to your mind when you hear that word? I bet it's the power to rule the world. But what could you get out of it?
Travel the world? That's a given.
Unlimited money? Sure, since you could just take them by force.
Fame? Well, you'd probably get a similar title to Supreme Leader.

But what else? What else could you get from ruling the world?
More friends? Maybe, however they might not be as genuine as the ones you have right now. There would be friends who stayed during your, "change", and there would definitely be some who appear after. Some who want to have a taste of money, some for a taste of power, and very rarely those who just want to hang out.
And when you gain so-called friends, there will be enemies. The ones who had power before until you came around to rip it all away from them, and the ones who hunger for the same power you have. In the end, that makes you more likely to get assassinated somewhere along the line.

What other power could you think of?

Time travel.
Think of going back in time to undo your mistakes. To say the unspoken words that you regret for keeping it in, all for waiting for the right moment. Or even to take back the words you have spoken. To influence the minds of the past to prevent wars and conflicts. To help evacuate people from terrorist attacks. Just imagine. You could've stopped World War 2 or the Civil War. You could've save the victims from 9/11. You would've been called a hero. A savior.
But why would you?
The past is the past, and that is how history is made. History is there to remind us of the mistakes so it won't be repeated. Even if you stop the Holocaust from happening, someone somewhere, will do something similar. All because there wasn't any past to base off on, and that one person, would do anything to be the first.
And the same implies even if you don't intend to change something so international or drastically. Maybe you should've stood up for yourself when they were talking behind your back. Or that time you should've confessed and poured your heart out to that girl. Or even kept your mouth shut and hold your insults in the middle of the one argument that still haunts you until today. These mistakes and regrets that come one by one, are all part of life and makes you, a better and wiser you.

So what else? What power is it that is almighty?

What about, the power of creation.
Imagine that you could travel anywhere at anytime, all with that teleportation device you created. Skip the immigration and save up from accommodation. Walk the foreign lands, enjoy their scenery, peace and weather, without your passport and your worries.
What about money? Sure why not. You could save all that cash from just creating that Mazda MX-5 or that Urban Decay Makeup Palette you wanted anyway within a blink of an eye. If you ever need something, be it an outfit for your date night, a robot to clean your home, or a machine to cure cancer, anything and everything can be created without needing to know their physics behind.

You could do basically anything like your-Supreme-Leader-self, just with less enemies, less chances of being assassinated, more friends, and more enjoyment of life.

Except this time, you can call yourself God.

Winner - Unlimited Power

What's your most embarrassing teenage moment?

Gaviota Rajendhiran Nair

What's your most embarrassing teenage moment?

I remember looking at the question and a flood of images and memories immediately came to mind: the time I puked in the school bus and the whole bus smelt bad, the time I sang during the school assembly with my friends in front of a crowd and choked on my saliva, the time I was at the gym and I wore my shirt inside out and had a hole in my shorts, the list could go on.

But I don't think anything moment can compare unless it involves your crush, right?

It was 9th grade, during our mock exam week and we were down to our last paper: business. An hour before the paper and some people had their head in their books, others were talking about where they were going to go after the paper was over. 15-year-old me was sitting at her desk, head in her books but just as excited to be going out with her friends later, especially since her crush would be joining as well. And it was for that reason that I made an effort to look good. I let my hair down, I put on my fruity lip balm, and sprayed myself with my mum's perfume.

There I was, giddily smiling because, guess what? My crush's exam table seat happened to be right next to mine. His name was 'Mark', so according to the alphabetical order, he somehow landed a seat next to mine and I was over the moon. So, he sat at his place

and we both started talking about how happy we were for this to be our last paper. In that moment, I swore it was going to be the best day ever, but oh, how wrong was I.

So 10am, was our ten-minute reading time. Now, the business papers, at least to me back then (because nothing can compare to the essays we have to write now), was one of those really lengthy papers with tons of writing. So, I had made a point to go to the washroom beforehand so I could spend those two hours scribbling out all my answers.

10:10am and we had all started writing. The paper was easy, I had practiced tons of past year papers and I seemed quite confident in my writing. As I was entering the second part of the paper, the bit with more writing worth 8 and 12 marks, I remember my stomach making gurgling sounds. I knew I wasn't hungry, because I made sure I had a good breakfast earlier. Then it hit me: I had to pass gas.

Now, to me, farting is like rolling a dice because you never know what you were gonna get: a loud and proud fart or a silent but violent one. I was hesitant at first, but I remember watching an episode of Oprah (anyone remember her?) and how she once talked about how holding in farts is bad for you. So, following Oprah's words, I leaned forward and tried to silently let it out. To my luck, not a single sound was heard and it

Winner



Most embarrassing moment?

didn't smell so bad. I looked over to 'Mark' and he was so focused. Smiling, I went back to my own paper. Just when I thought it was okay, it got worse.

My hand was already aching during the paper but I was halfway through with not a lot of time left. Whenever I felt a fart coming through, I leaned forward and slowly let it out. I seemed to pass a lot of gas that day, leaving me to wonder what I had the night before. As I leaned forward once more, I did more than just 'pass gas'. That's right: I shit myself. In class. During an exam. Right next to my crush.

Oh my god, guys, it was horrible. I had felt it build up inside my butt and leaned forward to let the fart free, only to have it make a soft toot sound and drag its brown friend along for the ride. I quickly sat back down, my eyes wide and staring in front. And I remember this moment, when I glanced at 'Mark' and his head turned to look in my direction. Never in my 15 years of living did I want the floor to swallow me up right until that very moment.

Now, I had two options: get up and go to the washroom and clean myself up, only to confirm my crush's suspicion of me farting in class and possibly showing 'the mess' I made OR just sitting in my seat and finishing the paper. And since I mentioned how the business paper was quite lengthy, going to the washroom meant eating up time from my writing so I

stayed put and finished my paper, sitting in absolute humiliation.

The moment the papers were collected, everyone jumped for joy, others made a run for the door and the rest stayed behind and discussed answers. As for me, I stayed in my chair, mortified at the thought of there being evidence left in my chair. Then, the worse thing happened. 'Mark' turned to me, chuckled and asked, "Was that you?" Nervously laughing, I shrugged my shoulders. "What was?"

He nodded in his head, probably knowing he wasn't going to get an honest answer from me, and proceeded to ask me how my paper was. Shortly after, my friends came around, pulling me to get out of my chair. I resisted them, saying I had a very bad tummy ache and wanted to rest, and that I was going to go home instead. Disappointed, my friends left along with 'Mark', and I sat there, crushed (and soiled) at the thought of having lost an opportunity to go out with 'Mark'.

It was only until the classroom was empty that I got up. Luckily, there was no mess on the chair, just on me. Sighing, I walked out of the classroom to the bus stop. "It's okay," I told myself. "One day, you'll look back and laugh at this moment." 15-year-old me wasn't wrong.

What is your most embarrassing teenage moment?

What is Unlimited Power?

Adeline Law

What does it mean to have unlimited power?

To have the ability and the capacity to control and influence the behaviour of people and outcomes whether its authoritatively or just natural superpowers like X-Men? Imagine waking up to realizing you don't need glasses to see the world clearly anymore like how Peter Parker in Spider-Man 3 did; or witnessing Professor Xavier coming into your room with his team to escort you to Xavier's School of Gifted Youngsters. But those are super powers which you have to be born with it or get bitten by an insect. Of course, since young we wanted superpowers and we were pretty much surrounded by cartoons and movies revolving around fantasies in having these kind of superpowers. Disney made me want to talk to my toys but now, I realized it's actually quite creepy.

Deep in my heart, I would love to have the power to turn back time. Something like having the Time-Turner which Hermione Granger used in Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Quit the theories on quantum and time relativity, this is fiction anyways.

Going back in time, I would really love to be a kid once again and relive every moment. The innocence before reality hits you, like the kind of state where the lesser you knew about the world, the happier you were. Of course, being raised up by Chinese parents typically have strict parenting and overprotective rules such as not being able to go out and play with your neighbours until you finish your homework, and getting beaten by the rotan whenever you make a mistake or for being naughty. Naturally there were some hard times being a kid, but let's focus on the happy ones. My mom was a government high school teacher back then and we stayed in a government area in a little town in Penang with many other families of other religions and culture, most of them being Malays.

I was never bullied or mistreated. The world around us was peaceful and every evening, once I'm done

my homework (of course I lied about finishing my homework lol), I would cycle my purple bicycle to visit my neighbours and we would climb trees, play cricket, basketball, and tags. During festive seasons, there would be ceremonies and an exchange of culture. Yes, I would really love to go back to the time before I was taught how to be racist and discriminate other races simply because of stereotype and prejudice. The world around me was simple: waking up, go to school, play and talk in class, getting caned in class or getting detention by standing on the chair for not finishing my homework and for being noisy, then staying back at a nursery home while waiting for mom to be done with work and pick you up to go home where the playing resumes.

Naturally, small places is small-minded as well, but small also means safe (Beauty & the Beast movie, 2017) lol. It wasn't easy to be who you are as a tomboy with all the expectations of you growing up to be a feminine, pretty lady. But it was a safe place where every day was a routine (except once a while you will hear unexpected crazy events like a tsunami at the beach near your house and next thing you know, one of your classmates had passed away).

If turning back time is real, as much as having the opportunity relive all the good memories, there are the bad ones too. And the bad memories are the ones that going through once is enough. Someone once asked me this after telling him I wished to have the power to turn back time, "Won't things be different as it is now?". It's a really good question because it got me thinking, 'I'm happy with how things are right now so if I do turn back time, won't things be different?'

But back to the question, if you have unlimited power, won't you have unlimited power to fast-forward time and all the bad memories and only selectively enjoy the good and happy ones?

Hmm.

Oh God Why

Bryan Tan

I walked into the classroom
Placed my bag onto the table
And as the deadlines they loomed
My homework's all but a fable

I sighed and sighed again
School sucks and my life's a waste
Someone please remove the pain
So i can give freedom a brief taste

And then I saw an angel
In the form of a girl
This surely's not incidental
My mind it starts to whirl

Oh how beautiful is her gentle smile
If only I could muster enough courage
I'm pretty sure it would be worthwhile
To talk, to converse, to speak and engage

Oh no, she's coming here
What do I do, act cool, act cool
She's starting a conversation, oh dear
Come on me, try not to drool

I stuttered and gulped
She raised her left eyebrow
My heart it was pulped
Oh God, save me now

And then I felt it flowing down
In a stream with a hasty pace
And there she goes with a hurtful frown
And pointed at my face

I snapped out of my trance
Touched my finger to my lips
And there I knew I lost my chance
My nose was bleeding like the River Styx

I grimaced and ran for the nearest loo
My cheeks they burn in utter shame
My heart, it was broken too
She must think that I'm weak and lame

And there it is my fellow friends
A tale of sorrow and an embarrassment
When you see a girl and your mind starts to dance
Keep calm, remember this lesson you learnt

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Few Words from MUSA 2017



Janesh, President: I am blessed to have been given this opportunity to be part of something bigger and be at the forefront of change. This year has taught me many lessons, most importantly, is that life is full of battles and wars, and sometimes you lose a few battles, in order to win the war. Our term has seen its share of challenges and triumphs, but I believe that we've given the students of our campus the student life they deserve. I would like to thank everyone who have constantly provided me with support and love throughout my journey and I wish MUSA all the best!



Shaun Prakesh, Welfare Officer: Hello FWENS. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve as your MUSA 2017 Welfare Officer. This has been an awesome year and welfare has taken a great leap forward compared to previous years. This is all thanks to YOU. Your constructive feedback and overwhelming participation made this all this possible. Thank you and I look forward to further caring for your needs as the MUSA 2018 Welfare Officer.



Vandana, Vice President: From an initial stage, I've always envisioned to be a part of MUSA. And now, having arrived at the end of my term, it's fair to say that there is so much to MUSA than what meets the eye. It's been a roller coaster of a ride but definitely worth it! Thank you Monash and MUSA 2017 for all the memories xoxo.

Sharmila, Asst. Vice President: MUSA has been a unique experience for me. For the most part, this experience has proven to be challenging but I believe teamwork and dedication has made it possible. The VP department would be the best part of this experience because without everyone giving it their all, we wouldn't have been able to achieve what we have. Good luck to MUSA 2018 and stay grounded.



Wei Yang, Head of C&S: Thanks for giving an opportunity to me to be elected as head of C&S in 2017. All the best to MUSA in the future years!

Kai Bin, Head of C&S: Being a part of MUSA teaches you a lot about dealing and communicating with different kind of people. It teaches you how to handle the stress of leading the team while juggling all your at the same time.



Priyanka, General Secretary: There are days that many question why we do what we do and if there is a point to anything that we do. It's days like those that help us reflect and push forward. I'm grateful to have been a part of something amazing and I wish 2018 the very best cause it ain't easy bruh.



Shaun, Publicity Officer: The experience of being a part of MUSA is invaluable and unobtainable elsewhere.

Charmaine, Publicity Officer: Prior to joining to MUSA, I've always had the idea of giving back to the student community, making sure that students would enjoy their university lives. It's heartwarming to see how Monashians are so united. Thank you for letting me be a part of MUSA :)



Brandon, Treasurer: I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of MUSA, and had learned the importance of teamwork as well as gaining valuable friendship, cheers for the awesome year MUSA 2017!!

Michelle, Treasurer: I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute to and help the students of Monash! My experience in MUSA gave me so much to gain from and I'm forever thankful for it.



Hannah, Wom*n's Officer: To be making a change on campus, no matter how small or incremental, has meant the world to me. It's been a pretty tough ride but it's all been worth it, because for every student who has felt empowered, safe and included by the work Jasmine and I have done, I'd do it all over again. The lows have been met with some pretty high highs and I owe that almost entirely to my best friend & MUSA partner, and our utterly wonderful subcommittee.

Jasmine, Wom*n's Officer: If I could summarise my experience in MUSA in 1 word, that word would be humbling. The work that goes into planning events and executing initiatives is anything but a walk in the park, but I live for the moments when students tell me an event I've helped plan made them feel safe, important and empowered. So for that, I can never thank MUSA enough.



Franklin, Activities Chairperson: MUSA is like tomato juice. You think it's eeeeww, but it's good for you.



Jaryl, Arts Rep: A journey filled with ups and downs but it was undoubtedly an amazing experience. A year in service was definitely worth remembering because it was all worth it!

Samantha, Arts Rep: Being a part of MUSA has truly given me such an amazing experience. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and we hope that it'll only get better from here. Mama Arts signing out for the last time.



Kai Teng, Business Rep: Being the School of Business Representatives, I'm truly blessed to be able to take part in serving and protecting the welfare and interest of the student population of School of Business, where initiatives and events that vary from individual development, academic based event to welfare has been held to benefit students. It has definitely been a great journey where it also helped develop me to grow from all aspects into a responsible and better individual.

Addina, Business Rep: Being in MUSA has been a great experience & the whole year has been a steep learning curve. Always remember to do proper planning & no matter how hectic it may be as a business representative, remember to take some time to breathe!



Terry, Engineering Rep: MUSA has become a lifestyle to some but it is always a GETAWAY for me. Why do I say so? MUSA allows you to experience, explore and discover the endless possibilities in a uni life. It's like a vacation from your norms. As long as you dare to give it a shot, the outcome will speak for itself. Through those hectic and exhausting days, you are the only reason we kept going. Your smiles are all we hope for :) Sincerely thank you all for the patience you have shown us!

Jun Mann, Engineering Rep: Although it's been one hectic year being in MUSA and coping with studies/sports, I'll never regret the decision of getting myself involved in MUSA as SoE representative!



Sean, Pharmacy Rep: Hasta La Vista! After 2 years in MUSA, I would like to say Serene is awesome, same goes to my subcoms. I love my pharmily and God bless you all my dear Monashians.

Serene, Pharmacy Rep: It is with heavy eyebags that I end my term in MUSA 2017, but it is with an even heavier heart. Thanks, Pharmily, for granting me the opportunity to serve as your 2017 rep! And of course, thank you MUSA 2017 for all the help and warm, fuzzy, wonderful memories =)



Ejuin, Medicine Rep: Being in MUSA will get you so busy but you will find more than what you expected in this whole adventure such as learning more about time and organization management and also knowing more friends!

Tze Lin, Medicine Rep: I'm grateful to be given the opportunity to be in MUSA and serve the students. It was a really good experience and I've learnt so much beyond my expectation such as communication and organizational skills. It makes my uni life more interesting, memorable and fun!



Jasvin, Science Rep: MUSA has been an unexpected thrill ride but it has also taught me so much. The experience gained, the people met and the memories made will always be remembered. No regrets.

Florence, Science Rep: Though it's been a difficult year, I'd like to thank the students of the School of Science for their constant support throughout this term that I've served, and the rest of MUSA 2017 for their constant encouragement. I hope that you'll show MUSA 2018 the same amount that you've showed my partner and I, and once again, thank you.



Nelson, IT Rep: Working with a bunch of like minded people pursuing the same goal was a blessing. I hope we as School Representatives helped you enhance your University experience like no other. You can't spell MUSA without Students. For that, thank you for giving us the chance to do what we do. By the way, we don't fix computers or you wifi problems.

Hidayah, IT Rep: while in musa2017: print("So thankful for being able to work with a bunch of wonderful people. I'll definitely miss the good times, the drama and the office!")



Mohsin, MUISS President: Getting comfortable with being uncomfortable. Embracing diversity. It makes life much more interesting. Forever grateful to MUSA fam for teaching this and a lot more.

Nafisa, MUISS Vice President: Grateful, honoured but most of all, as a proud member of the MUSA 2017 family, I can conclude that being in MUSA has taught me how to not give up when I'm at my lowest, how to always strive for what is right and realizing the essence of mutual trust and respect for my coworkers. It has truly been an adventure of a lifetime which I'll treasure forever.

ANDREW PETER LIM

Nihao! And good morning. Because it's 5.01am on the day this is due to be sent to the printers. And we're still in uni. Turns out that's what an Editor's life is like. Who knew? (defo not me m8).

It's been a long, tough year trying to come up with witty captions for the photos on the website but I wouldn't have had it any other way. The reason I ran for MUSA again (bec who the hell in their right mind would stay in MUSA for 2 years?!) is because I felt that Monga as a whole had a huge load of potential, and that I am a sadist.

With the help of Tiff, Sam, Calvin, and our amazing team of subcomms, Monga has been taken to a whole new level (hopefully you feel the same way!). I'm a huge nerd for stats, so watching the traffic for both our website and Facebook skyrocket after we took office has been orgasmic for me. Somehow, we've covered almost 200 events throughout the year, which is actually pretty damn incredible, considering there are only 60 days a semester (12 weeks*5 days = 60 right? Idk my lack of sleep is showing here).

The main reason we've been so successful is thanks to you guys. We could never have done it without the support and encouragement that you've given us throughout the entire year. It really has been unbelievable to have people actually talking about Monga and looking forward to read the articles and view and comment on the photos and videos that we've produced. We've tried very hard to make Monga more about you and less about MUSA, and hopefully you've noticed it too. Thank you so, so much for supporting us throughout the year and hopefully you show the same support to

the 2018 editors so that Monga can be taken to new heights.

Four years on, I still remember my first semester very vividly, entering Audi 1 during the first day of orientation and picking up a copy of Monga left on my seat. I still remember the thoughts going through my mind as I flipped through the magazine "No way am I joining this shit again," as I was in the editorial team during high school and college. It's strange how things work out.

It's finally time for me to graduate, and looking back at the time spent in Monash, I can gladly say I have no regrets. Monash has (rather surprisingly) exceeded all expectations and has helped me to grow a lot as a person. Both terms in MUSA have been extremely fulfilling, working and growing together with two awesome teams. Somehow (with a lot - I seriously mean a LOT - of help from my wonderful friends) I have made it through 4 years of engineering and I really owe it to you guys (you know who you are!) who have helped me throughout this tough journey.

Monash has really become a second home to me, and it's going to be hard to leave. Well, life goes on and we need to move forward, it's time to end this huge chapter of my life. Thank you once again to the people who have made my life in uni truly special. This issue of Monga is for you, the friends in engineering, the family of school reps last year, the 3 amazing editors, the lovely team of subcomms, the friends I have made throughout these 4 years, both in and out of MUSA, and finally to YOU dear reader. Thank you for supporting and encouraging me throughout my uni life, I will never forget the moments we've had together. With a heavy heart, goodbye.

CALVIN C. FERNANDEZ

Being in MUSA has been an experience like no other. When I first joined Monash, I remember having this tiny little thought of wanting to be a part of the Editorial team because it was just something I really liked and something I thought I would be really good at. But the fears of being turned down, (especially when I ACTUALLY got turned down in college before when I tried running for Editor-in-Chief) got the best of me so I decided to shy away, like how I'd always do, but well this was until last year when I realised that it was the only opportunity for me to live this passion of mine and to take up this challenge because honestly, I kept asking myself, "if not now, when else?". So I decided to run as a MUSA Editor, and I can gladly say it was one of the best decisions I have ever made, not that I have made that many good decisions to begin with. But being on the same team with Tiff, Sam and Andrew is one of the few best decisions as well.

Being on the team can be incredibly challenging, especially when things don't turn out the way you want them too but with cooperative and positive minded team members, anything is possible. As an editor, I have achieved things I thought I'd never be able to achieve, met so many different people, faced my biggest fears and just had a lot of fun with a bunch of people who were resilient, positive, fun and very, very hardworking. As a member of the student council, it has turned me into a more responsible, more hardworking person and while this might be surprising to say, I have actually become so much lesser of a procrastinator and learnt to be more organized because I knew how much was at stake if I lost balance juggling between these two, and I did not want that to happen.

I think with all the flaws that we may have as student council members, it is incredibly important to realise that everything is really just a learning experience for all of us and while there may be things that just didn't go right, we sure do hope that people realise that we are really trying, and we are trying really hard. For some of us, it's a new experience being a part of huge student leadership and I guess mistakes are just bound to happen. While this council may not be perfect, do know that everyone has worked incredibly hard in one way or another and this is probably one of the best experiences I have had – to actually experience what it feels like first hand and to actually know what happens behind the scenes.

Definitely hoping that you guys have enjoyed what we have produced for you guys and what us council members have done, till this moment. All the best MUSA 2018 and all the best everyone else!

SAMUEL GOH U-WEI

Reality is setting in as we finish preparing the last few pages of MONGA this semester. The year has been filled with frustrations, disappointments and difficulties. Despite the numerous setbacks, I am overwhelmed with content. 2017 marks my third and final year as a Monashian and now, as I am at the end of my reality as a student, I can say I am proud of everything I have accomplished not only as an Editor, a MUSA Officer, but also as a person.

MUSA has been an important part of my student life. I have met many kinds of people, all of which have imparted and sowed into my life. Being an officer two years in a row has shown me the need to appreciate everyone around you. It has been a blessing to have served alongside these hard working, passionate and brilliant individuals. Criticisms, fights, laughter, so much yet not enough.

And we come to the editorial team. As I would put it, the keepers of our student legacy. My team and I have tirelessly work to encapsulate and immortalize your students experiences as much as we could and without my sub-committee members, MONGA would not be what it is today. Their tireless effort and perseverance has inspired and encouraged me beyond comprehension. But above all, to my 3 partners, Andrew, Tiffany, and Calvin, they are the lifeline that holds the seams of MONGA together. I am beyond grateful and humbled to have worked from dusk to dawn with them.

My years as a student could not have been possible without the people around me. To my parents, thank for giving me this opportunity to be part of a university that has given me the chance to realise my potential. To my girlfriend, who has tirelessly loved me through my difficulties and fits, thank you for loving me. Finally, I thank God above, who through his grace and mercy has made me who I am today.

I still remember the day I entered Monash as a new student, and now, I am about to leave as a graduate. Working on *Reality* has brought much reflection and nostalgia. In the end, I've lived my life as a university student to the fullest and I am proud to say I am a Monashian. I leave everything to the next Editors who I trust will bring MONGA to even greater heights. And to you reading this, thank you for your endless support of us as a team. Goodbye Monash, its building and its people, I will forever cherish. Thank you.

TIFFANY SEE PEI ER

2AM. 3AM. 4AM. And the clock continued ticking until 5.01AM and there we were in office with Andrew's mini fan (air-con switches off at 11PM in MUSA office), Sam Goh was prepping the camera to capture this ultimate moment of us finally wrapping up MONGA Semester 2, 2017. The non-stop crashing of Adobe InDesign since 2AM had us stuck in the office all frustrated and at one point, it was really hopeless that we could even get some sleep. That's the reality of being a MUSA Editor.

Being a subcom under the Editorial committee since my first semester justified that I'm really pretty much devoted to contributing my interests in photography (in a way I'm quite lifeless too). In my second year, a friend approached me to run for the Editors and that's how the journey began; meeting and working with the 3 other passionate and committed guys in the team. Honestly, I'm thankful for my friend; and I'm very grateful to be working alongside with Calvin, Sam, and Andrew and striving towards the same goals for MONGA, which is to make it a publication where the Monash University Malaysia students will feel inclusive in, where they can look at 2017 MONGA and have that nostalgia flooding through them. Personally, I think we did a pretty good job with that (heh).

My role in this department provided plenty of invaluable experiences and lessons: contacting and meeting outsiders, liaising with other departments, designing things from scratch, brainstorming ideas with my colleagues, photography coverage for events,

back-up/anonymous writer (you know the things I wrote were useful *wink wink*), handling the subcoms, overseeing the operations in editorial, amongst others. I was basically overseeing all these bullsh*t. It has been fun, tiring, crazy, stressful, but eventful. Give me a chance and I would want to rewind time and do it all again with these people and subcoms who have contributed tirelessly for this magazine, for MONGA, to be something students look forward to at the end of each semester. Thank you very much you guys, I can never be more grateful for all the hard work and efforts.

We started our term with "Fantasy" and ended with "Reality"; the two themes that relates to many. To my team and subcomms, thank you and love you guys. To all my friends that helped me throughout these 3 years, thank you for your patience. To the current MUSA, thank you for everything. To the next MUSA, all the best. To all the students and current readers, thank you for the support.

Words from Editors' Subcommittee

Writers



Stephanie Leng: Being an Editor Subcomm; writing & working with my super passionate & dedicated friends, has been nothing short of an amazing journey. Honestly one of the best decisions I've made this year.



Tasha Fernandez: Am exhausted :D but an awesome team and the best bosses made it pretty damn great!



Yau Jun Min: The Editors' Subcomm has been a perfect mix of responsibility and fun. Where else do you get to gossip about dogs on campus, play with dogs and write about getting to play with dogs in a report?



Jemima Raj : Tiring but worth every second. Even with the writers block and laptop jams. :3



Visvamba Nathan: Trying my hardest to write stuff that my friends and fellow students could enjoy reading has been challenging, fun and fulfilling, and I had the chance to make some great new friends too!



Larissa Liau: Being a writer for MONGA gave me a platform to express what I feel and write about things that matter to me. I'll miss having this commitment to writing, but I'll miss the people more



Hemala: Absolutely loved every bit of it and definitely worth the hours spent staring at the screen, trying to get something written.



Photographers & Videographers



Ng Jin Chien Elvin Etican: It has been a “great experience” squeezing editor work and study work. As a wise man once said, “first time is hero, second and following times is idiot”; I am gonna be an idiot then.



Lee Yee Ling: Challenging but rewarding because I get to do what I love.



Bryan Chan Chun Yen: Tiring and tedious. Would do it all over again if I had the chance!



Christopher Oh: It was a very interesting and insightful journey being an editor subcom, it wasn't an easy journey, nonetheless it was one heck on an experience and this is by far one of the highlights of my university life



Terence Kong: Exhausting but also very rewarding. I am grateful to be given the chance to work with other talented subcomms and this will go down as one of my highlights as a Monash student.



Yi Jie Tan: Being part of the team gave me the opportunity to cover different sorts of events, and to process the photos in a short period of time, pushed my boundaries as a photographer :)



Celine Chua: I'd say its thrilling. Challenged my confidence and perspectives to a whole new level I've never been before, from behind the cameras to living the typical student life; What an experience! :)



Sitwat Hashmi: It was very tough but going to a fair bit of events without needing to pay for tickets (with loads of free food too) was pretty sweet :D



Desmond Chin: Best thing working as editor? Capture the moment that will never happen again ;) Owh~ another thing, maybe I can blackmail you with your 'nice' pictures =P



Jenny Wong Jie Xuan: Helping the Editorial Board to cover events have been a great experience! I get to practice my photography and really improve on my picture taking skills.



Sashinka: A very challenging but overall amazing experience! Being a part of the editorial subcom opened my eyes to the massive amount of work that goes on behind the scenes.



Renee Bong Xi Ern: More work than you think. It's a job that requires passion, dedication, and a heart that is willing to learn.



Khosyi Musyaffa Muhammad: It has been an amazing experience working with such a talented group of people and I hope to get a chance to work with them



Tristan Chan: Reminded me why taking photos was fun but still had a lot of work to do. But, still would do it again for fun, and the free dinners!



Lysandra Koon: Challenging yet exciting. Truly a great experience working alongside talented and skillful photographers.

Signatures

Signatures

Signatures

Signatures

ATTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to everyone who contributed, without which we wouldn't have made it. We claim no right to certain photos, graphics, or creative works in this publication; all rights and credits belong to the original creator of those works. Names in no particular order.

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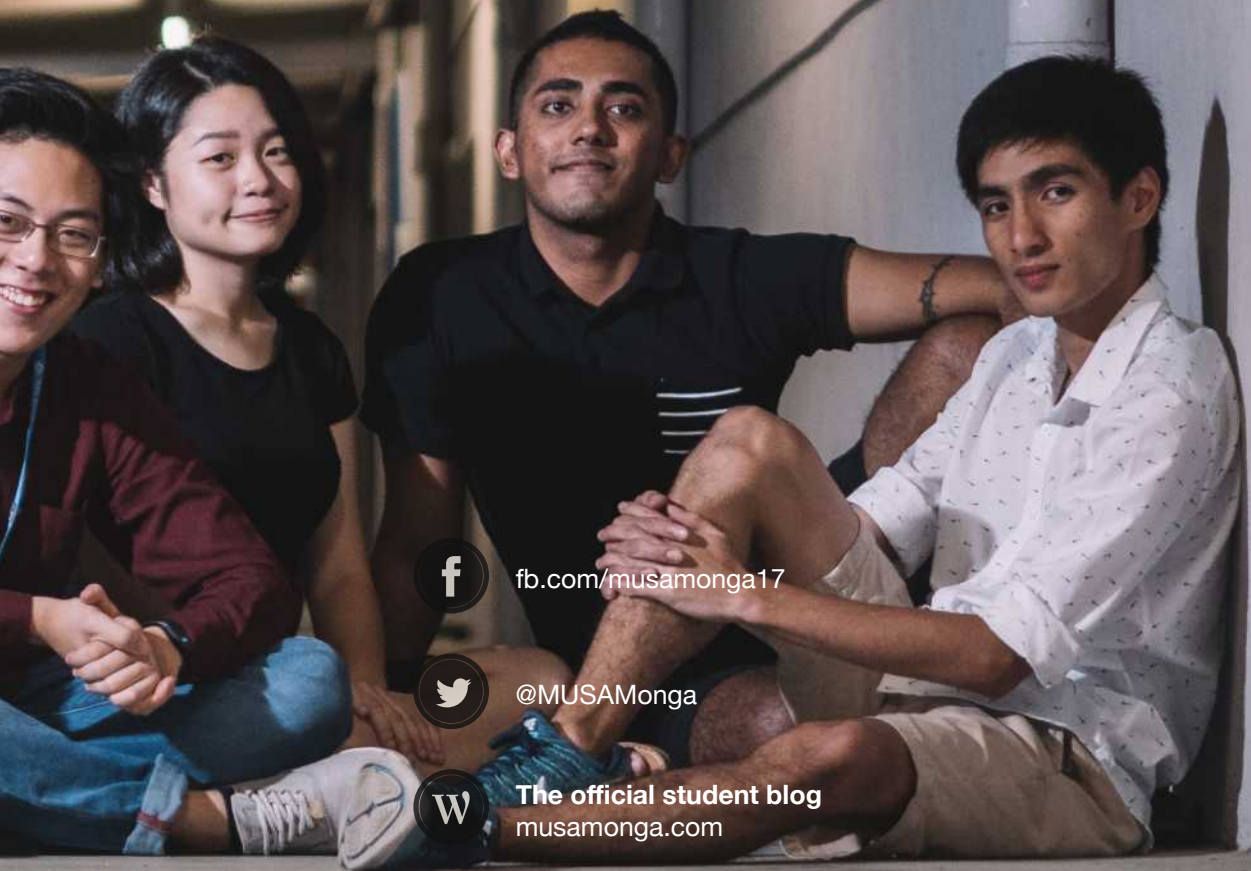
Monga: Reality Check

Crafted with blood, sweat and tears by the MONGA Editors and our beloved subcomms.

Thank you and goodbye.

REALITY CHECK-ING OUT!

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