

the monash gazette

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#02, 2014

**THE  
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ISSUE**





editorial

The Procrastination Issue, our second and final MonGa as MUSA Editors 2014, brings not only stories about procrastination, but also the *products* of procrastination.

... But why “procrastination”? Well, we reckon many students are able to relate to this act of delaying the start of their assignments and exam revisions – that includes us too!

To all procrastinators out there (technically almost everyone), through this issue, we’d like to say that you’re not the only one who starts your lab report less than 24 hours before the due date or has sat down for hours staring at a blank page on your Microsoft Word and then saying...

“I’ll do this later!”

With love,  
The Editors 2014

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# procrastination

*noun*

1. **procrastination, cunctation, shillyshally** the act of procrastinating; the act of putting off or delaying or deferring an action to a later time.

example:

1. "I'll put an example later. Five more minutes"
2. "Two more minutes."
3. "Just one more cat video."

words by gwyneth liew

**A**S students studying in Monash, our assignment deadlines and necessary details are released to us within the few weeks of the semester. In fact, many of these assignments are not due until a few weeks further ahead.

Yet, as the weeks fly by, we barely glance at the assignment;

## **WE KEEP TELLING OURSELVES "WE HAVE TIME",**

and then, before we know it, we're all rushing bleary eyed into the library, having pulled an all-nighter to complete the said paper.

That doesn't mean to say that all Monashians are lazy bums, who put off assignments and reports to the last minute. We all know a certain somebody, or group of people, who start well ahead of the deadlines (*you know who you are!*)

When I look at people like that, I often think, "Nah, I'm good. I can start work a week before it's due." One week turns into 4 days which ends up being 12 hours prior to the deadline.

No-one develops the habit of procrastination overnight; neither do we, within the first weeks of campus or university enrolment. Often, procrastination has been embedded in our learning environments, from the time we were young.

## **PROCRASTINATION IS NOT SOLELY LIMITED TO US STUDENTS,**

parents (*ahem, ahem*) do it too. By the time we graduate, we've perfected the art of procrastination; constantly working overtime and bringing work home over the weekends during the employment age.

I label myself as a serial procrastinator; my best record was slaving over an assignment 5 hours before it's due. It's no wonder my grades are the way they are.

## **THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PROCRASTINATOR IS THAT IT ACTS AS A UNITING FACTOR BETWEEN FRIENDS.**

There have been several occasions, where I've spoken to my friends much more the night before an assignment is due, in comparison to the numerous exchanges that have taken place over a semester.

That being said, I personally feel that procrastination is a bad habit, which requires immediate eradication, or management at the very least. Procrastination distracts. Youtube is a procrastinator's best friend!

As procrastination persists, your grades may soon hit the pass (but barely missing the fail mark) level. There is no free lunch in this world after all!

At this point in my student life, I can confidently say that I am starting my assignment two weeks before it is due. I may do it one journal paper at a time, but it's taken me three years of self-discipline.

## **SO, I SIT MY ASS DOWN WITH A STEAMING HOT CUP OF TEA, FULL OF DETERMINATION.**

The words don't come out immediately, so I watch a few cat videos and then some. Suddenly, a switch goes off and the words start to pour all over the screen - unpolished and crude. Next thing I know, I'm standing in the living room with a printed version of my first draft looking like a starved zombie. The assignment isn't even due until a fortnight later!

## **OFF I GO TO SLEEP.**

In all honesty, the trick is brutally simple and boils down to your sense of self-discipline and time management. I know that it seems boring; but it's still better to be boringly successful than creatively losing grades to the horror of dropping out. So what's it gonna be?



# ORIENTATION BASH

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## SEMESTER 2

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**I**T'S hard to say no to sand and beaches, but we were extremely excited to know what fresh new idea our Activities Chairpersons had organized for the Orientation Bash this semester!

Away from the coastline, four buses filled with Monashians learnt pick-up lines and sang their way to the Eagle Ranch Resort at Port Dickson on a bright sunny Saturday morning.

Like every Orientation Bash, freshies were given time to change, fill up their empty stomachs and sit through a 15 minute briefing before the real fun began.

Unlike the previous, and the one before the previous (*and the one before the one before the previous*) Orientation Bash events, where the games were all held on the same small beach, this time, the freshies and facilitators were required to do a lot of walking and running because the game stations were all spread out across the resort (*legit!*).

There were 6 games in total, courtesy of the Activities Chairpersons and their team, in order to squeeze out all possible teamwork and strength in the freshies! I almost shed a tear due to sheer happiness, from seeing everyone helping and looking out for each other during the obstacle courses!

Then again, life is not always rainbows, unicorns and butterflies, because boy, the dodgeball match held on the basketball court really did bring out the competitiveness among the freshies. The games were so fierce and intense, the facilitators and everyone else at the sidelines feared for their faces and limbs!

The game masters decided it would be fun to pin up papers on freshies' clothes, put them into a DIY battle ring and have a bunch of volunteers shooting them with water guns from outside the ring. The verdict? Everyone, in or out of the battle ring got wet!

During the 1 hour allocated for washing up, an overly enthusiastic bunch of freshies ran around chasing each other with water-guns and pails of water. They seized the perfect opportunities to take sweet revenge on the facilitators and committee members for the torture they went through! Many held on to their phones and cameras as a shield while the others, willingly become victims of this chaos!

Dinner was served outdoors, overlooking the picturesque hills and greenery, accompanied by the sight of the majestic setting sun! Prizes were presented shortly after and buses were quickly filled once again to send the Monashians back to reality and to battle the semester ahead!

# THE FAULT IN THE FAULT IN OUR STARS

(NOT A TYPO)

WORDS BY WEI YNG

## TFIOS & JOHN GREEN IT'S SO OVERRATED.

If you disagree with this statement, please stop reading.

Just about two years ago, *The Fault in Our Stars* took the world by storm. With that I meant it's all the teenage girls on Tumblr could talk about. I've only heard of Hank & John Green when I was in my "addicted to YouTube" phase and found out that they founded VidCon (thought it was like ComicCon but about videos). I was impressed with their achievements and found their vlogbrothers concept really cool.

I watched one of my favourite YouTubers review a book called "The Fault in Our Stars", and she's recommended great books before such as *Cloud Atlas* and *One Day*. She gave TFIOS a sterling review and said she couldn't stop crying when she read the book. I thought "this is it; this is another great chick-lit love story I can immerse myself in and cry a thousand rivers at the beauty of the romance!" I went on the great hunt to find the book but it was nowhere to be seen, since Malaysia is a little behind on book releases, especially obscure ones.

### AFTER A WEEK OR TWO, I FORGOT ABOUT IT AND THEN - IT STARTED.

Girls on my twitter feed started raving about John Green and TFIOS. Its official – it's

in Malaysia. Every single person on my social media only sang praises about John Green and the book; it built up my expectations way, way more. Everyone start to post up pictures, tweets of his other books and sang praises about *them*.

Digressing a little, I'm an avid fan of Cecelia Ahern's books and I always buy her new releases without even waiting for reviews because there's always something about her books that resonates with me. Well – I thought John Green is my next Cecelia Ahern. When I got the chance to buy TFIOS, I took a step further and bought all his books at once, except "Let it Snow, Let it Snow".

### I HAVE DONE MANY REGRETFUL THINGS IN MY LIFE.

This is one of them.

I read the book; it was just a regular teenage love story between two cancer kids. Hey, I read the entire *Twilight* series including the anticlimactic *Breaking Dawn*, this is considered okay. That's the problem – it's just. Okay.

After I finished the book, I expected myself to sob like a slobbery five year old denied of her ice cream but I just sat there wondering to myself, "that's it? All that hype and that's it?"

I've read my fair share of bad books, books that don't make sense, Harry Potter, books I never finished (Lord of the Rings), cheesy teenage books etc., etc. I can name so many other books that did not get the attention that TFIOS is getting and has a much deeper and beautiful love story than the love between two cancer kids.

I have a few issues with this "phenomenon":

## PEOPLE ON MY SOCIAL MEDIA LIKE TO JUMP ON BANDWAGONS.

I have never seen them post a picture of a book with their cup of coffee until the whole TFIOS fad. "Reading this book today, DEM FEELS #chill #creys #okay". The last book you were allegedly reading on Instagram was Fifty Shades of Grey, please. I admit, I took an Instagram photo of my entire John Green collection because I was excited to read it and... Well, I REGRET IT.

## INCESSANT QUOTING OF THE BOOK.

This. Has. Got. To. Stop.

*"May 'okay' be our always."*

*"The thing about pain, it demands to be felt."*

*"Some infinities are bigger than other infinities."*

It's retweeted, shared and posted countless of times all over my various feeds and it got worse when the movie was released for people who are too lazy to pick up the book to read.

I wouldn't go as far to call these quotes pretentious but COME ON this is the millionth time I've seen this, isn't there another bandwagon for you to jump on? The only good thing out of this was the clever jokes that came with it.

### foxxies:

**I do homework the way guys fall in love with me - slowly, then not at all**

'Olay?'

'Olay.'

The Fault In Our Sombreros.

Nacho average love story.

it's spelled olé not olay you illiterate fuck this ain't the fault in our lotions

Don't get me wrong, there were instances that I loved in the book, such as their visit to Amsterdam and the Venn diagram (It warms the cockles of my nerdy heart...).

I'm not saying John Green is a bad author, but there are many other authors who deserve the exposure he is getting.

All in all, if you think TFIOS is a beautiful book, read One Day by David Nicholls; it has frustration, comedy, despair, death, short lived happiness and plenty of good quotes bundled together.

There's a pretty accurate movie adaptation of the same name, starring the dapper Jim Sturgess (bless you, beautiful man) and the stunning Anne Hathaway, if reading is too much effort.

## OR MAYBE, I AM JUST TOO OLD FOR THIS YOUNG ADULT, TEENAGE STUFF.



"I LOAFE AND INVITE MY SOUL/  
... OBSERVING A SPEAR OF SUMMER GRASS."<sup>1</sup> - WALT WHITMAN.

**P**ROCRASTINATION is underrated. I've been thinking it gets us somewhere in life – but where indeed? Commonly admitted to with a faint sheepish smile and shrug, the gentle rap on the knuckles bears the sting of a modern-day whip – Time.

When twenty-four hours is all you can max out in a day, not procrastinating is a functional alternative to 'carpe diem' in a world of apparently infinite possibilities.

Yet, day by day goes by and I wonder who's doing the seizing. Ultimately our realities are finite. The wildly brambled detour, harbouring that hidden desire to create and run wild with the imagination, is bypassed again and again from the highway.

Putting things off deserves a closer look than being clouded with negative rep. The Latin originators of the root term never got their chance at 21st century living. In a manner of speaking I get the sense someone dressed up in an anti-sloth suit points an unreasonably accusatory finger, causing us to stew in quiet exasperation at ourselves.

What we call 'procrastination' could really be personal autonomy standing up to a fast-paced world that places unending demand on our mental energy.

Flicking through the beginning of one day in Dublin told through the novel *Ulysses* (while, doing field research) sealed two realizations.

One: you can't amass a complex vault of human experience without the freedom and space to diverge from day-to-day life.

The nagging afterthought is that transposed to a 21st century context this is not possible with-

the country<sup>3</sup>. Janet Frame on the steep slopes of her 'kingdom by the sea' in a railway town in New Zealand<sup>4</sup>. There is poet Han Shan among the clouds in the mountain he lived out as a recluse and Alice Munro peering into the psyche of small town Ontario.

That creative space we have – both mental and physical – has it been drowned out by the many other competing priorities of the day?



out some procrastination off the beaten path.

Walt Whitman and his song of eternity capturing the shifting landscapes of emergent America, the streets and harbours and people he would have strolled among thousands of times over. Matsuo Basho wanders into the northern interior of Honshu on foot and pens *hokku* along the way<sup>2</sup>. Virginia Woolf had Asheham House in the

I suspect a fair proportion of creative work – public and private – would have taken root in the time one intended to do nothing 'productive'.

Today - when each moment burgeons with opportunities, challenges and the colliding lives of others; when space and distance has shrunk dramatically; when information is on standby 24/7 – one is forced to choose much more prudently.

#### Footnotes:

1 The poem *Song of Myself*, Walt Whitman

2 *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (*Oku no hosomichi*), Matsuo Basho

3 *The Diary of Virginia Woolf* Volume 1 1915-1919, Virginia Woolf

If you have to take a journey like Basho's to find it, you'd have to put things on hold.

To be or not to be, that is still a contemporary question.

Precisely because creative experience does not cave in to reductionism, you can't really put it on hold – it's all or nothing, like the firing of neuronal synapses upon threshold. People who have worked feverishly on their ideas and passions know this.

One particularly thoughtful teenager chose neither A nor B, clarifying that he would want to be an artist, one who was capable of all arts. Thinking back- that was a rather perfect answer. Why should one define their personhood by occupation?

Perhaps this aspiration to be a Renaissance person doesn't have a deadline, but to keep it ignited among things that *do* takes an artful form of procrastination altogether.

As Friedrich Nietzsche once articulated:

"If there is to be art, if there is to be any aesthetic doing and seeing, one physiological condition is indispensable: frenzy."<sup>5</sup>

That hidden self draws out coherence from the dissonance encountered in modern times. But to let it work we have to take the plunge. Inspiration can be fleeting, but I don't necessarily think it abandons easily. If ever you see that "arch wherethro' / gleams that untravell'd world"<sup>6</sup>, the pursuit just might be worth it.

*\*In writing this opinion piece, the author has inadvertently procrastinated in study, but remains grateful for the inspiration of writers and thinkers past to have done so flagrantly. Also she swears to finish the rest of Ulysses by the year's end.*

# PROCRASTINATION

THE SPRING

# PROCRASTINITY

WORDS BY HUI DHING ONG

There is no linearity here; a sliding scale that preserves the brilliance of a mind on fire intact for later. I'm especially talking about this if you create or craft as a sideshow from what you do in work or study.

I once had a summer job teaching English to a group of young non-native speakers. We had a quiz pitching choices for who you'd want to grow up to be, say, between a politician and a sports star.

I posed a question at the beginning where procrastination in modern life has the potential to bring us. The simple answer I have is: to discover frenzy. I don't mean the type that descends in the week all of your quizzes and assignment deadlines magically coalesce and happen together. I mean the one that lights the spark.

To the Is-land: An Autobiography, Janet Frame 4

Friedrich Nietzsche, Twilight of the Idols 5

The poem Ulysses, Lord Alfred Tennyson 6

ARTWORK BY JADE-E LIM





# MONASH'S GOT *talent!*

*"Apologies for the delay  
Dreadful assignments were in the way  
So cursed be its name!  
And we hope this poem isn't too lame..."*

**T**HERE it goes, the final phase of Monash's Got Talent which attracted a crowd of Monashians in Auditorium 1 on 22nd August 2014. Well, it was free entry...

Josh & Keith, one of the popular acts, kick started the night with their acoustic performance which charmed the audience. If the Monash Got Talent were to crown the act with the most fans, there is no doubt they would bag the award.

Deswin Siow had a different way of impressing the audience. His beatboxing set featuring various genres of songs wowed the crowd. Memorable sections of his performance included beatboxing the sound of him "cracking" his head as well as recreating "I Like To Move It, Move It".

Jina & Jee Hye were probably more favoured by the males in the house. The two raised the bar as they displayed their duo singing inclusive of a Korean song (because that's where they're from!). Despite not understanding the lyrics, the crowd managed to enjoy their Korean piece followed by popular English songs after.

Novia Chua decided to set the benchmark with a single Celine Dion performance dedicated to her mother. The powerhouse made an entrance to the stage down the stairs of the auditorium to enhance her performance. Despite being pitchy at a few parts, but her singing is definitely something to look out for in future.

Finally, the Underground Boys closed the act with their dance performance which took shorter than expected.

While we awaited the results, two judges, Yolanda and Fabian, entertained the crowd with a few songs.

And the winners of the Monash Got Talent are:

**2ND RUNNER-UP: NOVIA CHUA  
1ST RUNNER-UP: JOSH & KEITH  
CHAMPION: DESWIN SIOW**

Additionally, there was a special prize installed for the selected finalist: to perform at the Monash Annual Ball on the 21st of September. Alongside that, they get free tickets! The Activities Chairpeople decided to have Josh & Keith on board.

## EDITORS' COMMENTARY

\* Disclaimer:

*We are in no way degrading any of the finalists. In fact, we believe they have performed to the best of their capabilities, perhaps even further. This is purely our opinion providing the point of view as members of the audience. Also to note, our words are also not subject to the influence of any party, inclusive of the organizers and MUSA.*

First off, the organizers could have selected celebrity judges or even getting lecturers to judge the performances. This could have ensured the judges were not biased in their opinions as they were following up on the finalists since Day 1. In fact, when the emcees asked one of the judges of her favourite performance, she admitted it was a biased selection.

Furthermore, the judges comprised students (two are Dance Fusion Club alumni) which bring in the million-dollar question:

**"WHAT CREDIBILITY DO THEY HAVE TO DEFINE THE INDIVIDUAL TALENTS OF THE PARTICIPANTS?"**

Surely they have a list; and we editors were informed of guidelines they used to be able to judge the performances. However, there is skepticism in the way the faults were commented on.

Something else to note is the fact that the selection of semi-finalists and finalists were based purely on those judges' decision and the "guidelines" they have on paper. If this is truly a Monash's Got Talent to decide who Monash's most talented is, students should at least have some say in it; perhaps through a voting system.

In conclusion, the finals did go smoothly with minimal technical difficulties. Big thanks to the school representatives of MUSA for organizing the entire show from Day 1 till the last! However, if this were truly an event catered to students, we deserve more than just entertainment. To bluntly summarize our thoughts: it could have been a better finale.

But one thing's for sure, Monash *has* talent!



*From Left to Right: Josh & Keith, Deswin Siow, Novia Chua.*



# 5 MINUTES WITH

Deswin Siow, the champion of Monash's Got Talent. When the emcee asked the pretty Korean duo after their final performance, who their biggest competitor was, they answered with no hesitation,

"The beatboxer."

And they were absolutely right, he was the one to look out for! We (*ahem*), stalked got him to answer some of our questions!

#funfact: he went unprepared for the audition because his friends set him up!

## ***Tell us about yourself.***

I'm 19 this year and I'm from Seremban. I'm from the school of engineering, planning to major in mechatronics engineering. Music is my passion. Maths is my obsession.

## ***How long did it take you to come up with a set of songs for Monash's Got Talent?***

About 30 minutes before the show? I'm a professional procrastinator. To be honest, I always plan my sets at the very last minute. Somehow it gives me more motivation and new ideas when I'm stressed.

## ***Do you believe in love at first sight?***

No. Because beauty is only skin deep.



## ***How long have you been beatboxing? Do tell more on how you got into it.***

I've been beatboxing for around 4 years plus. Well, I've always been mimicking sounds from music, since I was young. However, I never knew there was a term for this verb until when I was around 15, when a senior from my high school performed beatboxing during a campfire event. Since then I've started learning beatbox through online YouTube tutorial videos.

## ***Where/for whom would you want to perform one day?***

I actually have a beatbox partner and together we form a group called the Human Hi-Fi. We have performed at various events, from musical concerts to the royal palace of Negeri Sembilan for the Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negeri Sembilan. If I had a chance, I would wish to perform with local Malaysian artists like Joe Flizzow, Yuna, Bunkface, etc.

## ***What is your favourite Malaysian dish and why?***

My favourite Malaysian dish is definitely Nasi Lemak hands down. I generally like my food to be spicy and simple. And I've always have this weird perception that the *sambal* in the Nasi Lemak opens my vocal chords which helps me when I'm beatboxing.

## ***What is your music style? What kind of genres do you normally listen to?***

I'm an EDM junkie. Because you know I'm all about that bass, 'bout that bass, no treble. But sometimes I love to relax and listen to chill songs.

## ***Who/what is your inspiration and why?***

My biggest inspiration is Nick Vujicic. He embodies gratitude and has a strong determination in life. I also get really motivated by just listening to motivational songs. Eminem's Lose Yourself never fails to motivate me.

ANOTHER  
**10 MINUTES WITH**  
 ('CAUSE THERE'S TWO, GEDDIT? #LAME)

...Josh & Keith, the first runner-up for Monash Got Talent and selected performer for Monash Annual Ball 2014! We tracked this heartbreaker duo down epic with our epic espionage skills to get some words out of them.

***Tell us about yourselves.***

JK: The both of us are from the School of Business (Bachelor in Business and Commerce). As for our age, let's just say that we're still young, but old enough. ;)

***How long did it take you to come up with a set of songs for Monash's Got Talent?***

JK: It took us less than a week. We do randomly jam together ever so often, so that saved us some preparation time.

***Where/for whom would you want to perform one day?***

J: My wedding, with (if possible) my wife.

K: I would like to have my own concert one day.

***What is your favourite Malaysian dish and why?***

J: There are so many dishes to love, its hard to pick! But right off the top of my head, I'd say its.. Mutton biryani!! Mmmmm...

K: No particular favourite. Depends on my mood but my top favourites are usually Nasi Lemak, Ha Mee, and Hokkien Mee (not penang version)

***What is your music style? What kind of genres do you normally listen to?***

JK: Our music style is simple, acoustic - just us and a guitar. But we try to do more than just cover a song by presenting it in a different a flavour whenever we can. As for the kind of genres we listen to -

J: I really, really love Jazz. Something about its slight unpredictability maybe? Throws me off just enough to focus less on the song and more on the moment itself. Also, I find good saxophone solos incredibly eargasmic.

K: I've started with rock, like really heavy rock, but then I realized that I can only play it not sing it. So, I then moved to pop, acoustic, and other songs along those lines.



***Do you believe in love at first sight? Why?***

J: Not really, people aren't usually what they seem to be. I opt to tread carefully on my path to finding true love.

K: Strongly no. Love is a choice you make. The 'feeling' will go away one day and the question to ask yourself is, "do you choose to love this person even when the feeling's gone".

### ***Who/what is your inspiration and why?***

J: Everyone is an inspiration to me because we all have something we're insanely good at. There'll always be, at least a lesson or two that I can pick off from someone just by observing and/or interacting with them.



K: Jesus! Though it may seem a little “spiritual” or “religious”. I do believe and acknowledge that my talent is a gift from Him and for Him. He gave his all for me at the cross, so I have to give Him my all as well. Of course, there are also others like: Jack Ma, that inspires me in the business area, and My Chemical Romance, one of the main bands that influenced my guitar playing.

JK: Collectively though, Jayessleee is our biggest inspiration. They showed us that good music is possible with just two voices and a guitar. More importantly, they had fun with what they did and so do we.

### ***How long have you been singing/playing the electric guitar? Do tell us more on how you got into it.***

J: Back when I was still a lil’ kid, I loved to sing. And I sang, all the time. Up until I hit puberty. I thought I couldn’t sing as well anymore, so I cut back on my random musical outbursts. Then I left home for college. The people I met and platforms I was presented with restored the confidence I had toward my now “post-puberty” voice. On a side note, in case anyone’s wondering if singing is all I do, I play the piano too.

K: I started picking up the guitar during my teenage years. I think I was very bored at home one day, so I took out my dad’s acoustic guitar and started experimenting. I’ve never taken any classes by the way, it’s mostly self taught. On top of that, I can play a little bit of piano and other types of guitar as well. (bass, electric, acoustic, ukelele) I only started to sing few years ago. My dad randomly signed me up for vocal classes one day, I was very reluctant to go at first. Also, I never believed in my voice. But then again, the teacher was very friendly and it was actually not that bad. I actually enjoy singing very much since then.

JK: Three years ago, we crossed paths and started performing officially together as a duo about two years back.

It all still seems so surreal. It felt like it was only just yesterday Alya was knocking on my window in broad daylight, shrieking my name. She was never able to comprehend the beauty of the night the way I did, and was convinced I spent too many hours during the day in deep slumber. She was loud, opinionated and her humour could hold the attention of an entire room.

Ambitious and brilliant – Joyce beamed with confidence. Everything she owned was in perfect order and everything that escaped her lips held great meaning. Yet she was a constant reminder that stress changes a person. She spent many nights weeping. Failure hurt her and was imprinted in her memory, as if bounded by her perpetual wounds.

I am still convinced Hannah is hiding galaxies beneath her skin. She was kind, stunning and walked with exceptional grace. She spent days reading books about the world, while living it out at night. There still exists in me a desire to be more like her. It was the way the very scars our souls shared that created the hinges of our friendship. I am still bewildered at people who let her down. Do they not appreciate beauty?

If most of this life is made up of shades of grey, they were my black and white. Unwavering, never failing and familiar. We spent many exuberant nights; laughing, crying and sharing the same dreams. We were all so different, yet exactly the same. We just seemed to click, like it was the most natural thing in the world.

It took a while for our paths to cross, but I am eternally grateful that it did. If someone had told me on the first day I arrived, that I would have had some of the best nights of my life, in those dreadful four walls of my dreary boarding school bedroom, I would have laughed.

The last time I saw them, they were each boarding a plane to pursue all those big dreams we spent so many nights talking about. Being apart from them was one of the toughest challenges I have ever had to endure. I see them yearly now, and every time I do, it feels like they never left. Our conversations flow like old newspaper dipped into time. It rained on me that I have had the privilege to experience true friendship.

Life has a funny way of having a silver lining to every cloud. I question life every day. Why must we feel so broken and frail and blue in a world that is ever so vast and magnificent? Why must the sensation of euphoria bubbling through your blood feel so fleeting but some form of wretchedness always remain?

“Everything happens for a reason”, like every cliché, always holds some form of truth.

words by  
amirah ismail

# FRIENDSHIP

# HAIKUS

COMPILED BY HELEN SNEHA

Haikus have three lines  
And seventeen syllables  
Wow, that's so meta

not enough hot chicks  
shortage of alcohol too  
uni's tough for bros



naïve freeloader  
saturated with Sartre<sup>2</sup>  
I am wide awake

Althusser<sup>1</sup> murdered;  
Assignments make me want to  
Too; watch sports instead



o sign-in circle  
your endless spinning wounds me  
bad wifi is bad

bleary mornings  
a sticking vending machine  
shit, left car lights on



Playing my guitar  
While chugging my protein shake  
Writing dope haikus  
(YOLO)



I want: to go out  
I need: a 3.0 GPA  
Thanks a lot, Monash

#heforshe

came out at uni  
my friends were not very shocked  
THANKS, FEMINISM

Week 12, I'm dying  
I don't know what I don't know  
Fuck this shit, I'm done

## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Louis Althusser was also a French philosopher or rather referred to as a structural Marxist.

<sup>2</sup> Jean-Paul Sartre was a key figure in the philosophy of existentialism. Most Arts students had to read his unbearable book "The Words: The Autobiography of Jean-Paul Sartre".

These men are prominent figures in ATS3499 Authorship & Writing and ATS2450 Contemporary Media Theory available under the School of Arts & Social Sciences.

# HOW TO TRAVEL LIKE THE *KIAMSAP* STUDENT THAT YOU ARE

BY ZOE LIEW



**W**E are young. We have all the time in the world. We dream of travelling the world. We are unstoppable. But, wait, wait, wait! There's just one tiny obstacle. We don't have fat wads of cash just sitting in bank vaults waiting to be spent on 5-star luxury cruises in Nice. We definitely can't afford to party in Ibiza with Kate Moss, Rihanna, and the rest of them. "But, I want to see the world!" Here's the truth. We may not be able to travel like Donald Trump does on a measly student budget but we can still see the world. I'm going to give you some tips on travelling like the *kiamsap*, stingy student that you are.

## ACCOMMODATION

### *Hostels*

If you are looking for a place where you can easily meet up with other travellers with the security a hotel provides at a fraction of the latter's price, a hostel is your best bet. You can book women-only, men-only, mixed sex dorm rooms, shared private rooms, or even hog a whole private room to yourself.

Many hostels are listed on HostelBookers, HostelWorld. Some are even listed on Booking, Agoda, and even Trip Advisor. You can also look up a hostel on Facebook and ask if you can book directly with them to avoid the deposit fees HostelBookers and other sites charge. Read the reviews. Figure out your priorities.

If your only concern is for your wallet, then go for the cheapest deal. In reality, it's often more complicated than that. We want clean beds and showers, friendly and professional staff, a central location, and all for a few dollars. Anymore and we'll cry murder!

Check for hidden charges. Some hostels charge additional fees for WiFi service, breakfast, tea, and so on. If you're looking for a place where you can hang out with other backpackers, look out for hostels that make an effort to organize mixers and parties. If you're looking for more privacy but don't want a hotel room, look for private rooms in mom-and-pop hostels. These are usually run by families.

Tips: Don't fall for low prices. Don't skimp on your priorities. Plan your dates. The earlier you book, the lower hostel prices are.

Sites: HostelBookers, HostelWorld, Booking, Agoda

Have you ever wanted a home away from home? Rent it then. Websites such as Airbnb allow you to book strangers' rooms, apartments, and even mansions for the duration of your stay. You could

have all the comforts of home without having to pay through your nose.

Sometimes, you'll have to share the space with the owner. That can be quite fun. If your host is friendly and welcoming, you'll find yourself enjoying the city far more than you would, if you'd been on your own. Sometimes, the owner leaves you the keys and you're just free to do whatever you want.

Check first. During the peak season, renting someone's house can be cheaper than staying in hostels. In Bordeaux, I rented a flat for 18 euros while hostels charged exorbitant rates of 30-40 euros or 120 – 160 ringgit for a dorm bed. In other cities, not so much. In Singapore, some owners were charging 42 – 50 Singaporean dollars or a hundred ringgit a night. Some hostels also advertise their services on these websites. An alternative to renting an apartment is to swap houses.

Sites: Airbnb, VRBO, Roomorama, 9flats



## Couchsurfing

The best way to save on accommodation is to surf someone's couch. Make a list of all the countries you want to visit and all the relatives and friends you have in those countries. That way, you can save on accommodation. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking that it's not right to take advantage of the hospitality of a distant relative you barely talk to or a friend who is more of an acquaintance.

Then, why not stay with a total stranger?

I had the same concerns at first. I'd heard horror stories about couchsurfers using the opportunity to hook up with hosts and other travellers. I'm not going to lie to you and tell you that the couchsurfing and hosting community is a bed of roses. I have gotten invites from male hosts who "are lonely and love Asian girls."

If you're looking to meet a friendly, nice host who can provide you with a roof over your head and hot showers for the duration of your stay, Couchsurfing provides great opportunities. When you're looking for a host, make sure he or she has references from two surfers or more. Read the host's preferences for guests properly. If you're lucky, you'll get a room all to yourself.

However, most hosts are often young working adults who don't have a lot of space and so you'll have to make do with a mattress, sleeping bag, or sofa bed. Sometimes, you'll have to share a room or even the bed with the host. Some prefer to host surfers of the same sex. Some can only host one surfer at a time. Some prefer to host non-smokers or people without pets.

All Couchsurfing hosts are required to state their preferences explicitly. So, read each host's preferences and their references carefully and send a thoughtful, detailed request about your travel dates, your plans for the trip, and introduce yourself. It's a clichéd point but be honest and be sincere.

Tip: Bring a gift for your host be it flowers from the local florist or tea from your country.

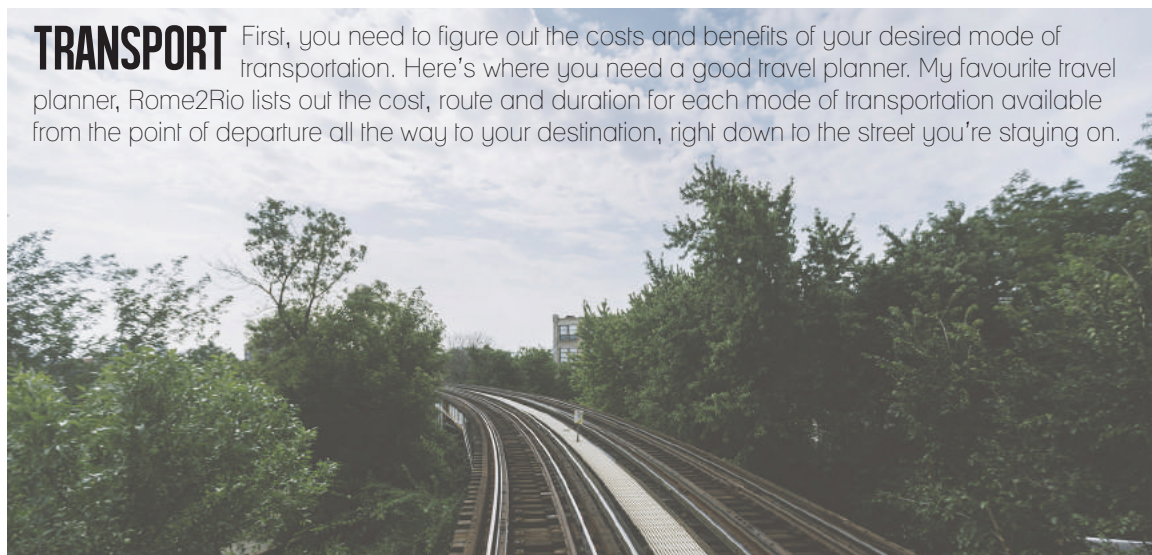


Sites: Couchsurfing, Warm Showers, BeWelcome, Global Freeloaders, Hospitality Club

## Voluntourism

Volunteer at an orphanage and get free food and board. This form of tourism is quickly gaining traction. You could pick grapes in a vineyard in Bordeaux for several hours and head off to see the city for the rest of the day. Do talk to the company or the owner and find out the working hours, work requirements, and whether you would need a work visa. Best of all, you could include your volunteering experiences on your resume.

Sites: WWOOF, Workaway, HelpX



**TRANSPORT** First, you need to figure out the costs and benefits of your desired mode of transportation. Here's where you need a good travel planner. My favourite travel planner, Rome2Rio lists out the cost, route and duration for each mode of transportation available from the point of departure all the way to your destination, right down to the street you're staying on.

## Trains

On that note, just because something is cheap doesn't mean it's the best. The rail service may be really cheap but if the railway company is known for train delays and inefficiency in general, perhaps it would be better to forgo a cheap train ticket for something more time-efficient.

Malaysia's national rail service, KTM, is known to break down in the middle of journeys. You also have to bear in mind that rail services are susceptible to forces that are out of your control such as local strikes. While in France, I had the honour of witnessing a SNCF strike. I was right in the midst of a protest. Trains were delayed and cancelled. Talk about experiencing French culture!

I'd bought a 17.50 euro ticket for a direct train from Paris to Amboise, the city where Leonardo da Vinci was buried. The trains they offered in compensation took twice as long as to reach Amboise. I also had to pay an additional 17 euros, because it was an indirect route and I had to switch trains.

In some countries, the earlier you book tickets, the lower prices are. In others, prices are fixed.

The point here is that you have to be aware of local conditions. An online guide to international railway travel has been provided by the Man in Seat 61.

Tips: Use your student discount. Forgo the rail pass.

## Buses

Buses are becoming increasingly popular with the cost-conscious traveller. You could take a bus from Amsterdam to Paris for 17 euros and see Brussels on the way. Buses and cars are, however, constrained by local traffic conditions and are affected by local road-works, as well as laws on speeding.

Remember to bring some snacks and a neck pillow or scarf along. Budget bus companies don't offer free lunches.

Tip: Flash your International Student Identity Card and ask if you can get a student or youth rate.

Sites: Megabus (Europe/US/UK), Greyhound (US), GoToBus (Europe, US, Mexico, Brazil)



## Rideshare

If you don't mind being constrained by traffic conditions and want to meet some locals, make some plans to carpool or share a ride. In many regions, carpooling would save you a lot of money. A rideshare from Berlin to Warsaw would cost you 30 euros while German railways would charge you 49 euros for a train ride.

Your concerns about security are perfectly legitimate. I mean, how could you possibly know you're not sharing the car with a serial killer? Many car-sharing sites have safeguards in place. Drivers and passengers are required to verify their identities.

To point out the obvious, only contact drivers who have good references. Read between the lines. Although some reviewers might be blunt about their experiences, others might couch their experiences in more courteous terms. A former passenger at the receiving end of some unwanted innuendo may hint at the incident by saying, "He is really affectionate and flirtatious."

On some sites, you can also message the reviewers and ask them about their experiences. You will have to pay for the driver's gas and perhaps share the ride with other passengers. Do socialize. Don't get into a car and ignore the driver and the other passengers. Do show your appreciation for the driver by offering a gift.

Tip: Being polite and nice goes a long way.

Sites: BlaBlaCar (Europe), Gumtree (UK, Australia, New Zealand), Kangaride (Canada), Liftshare (UK)

## Rent a car

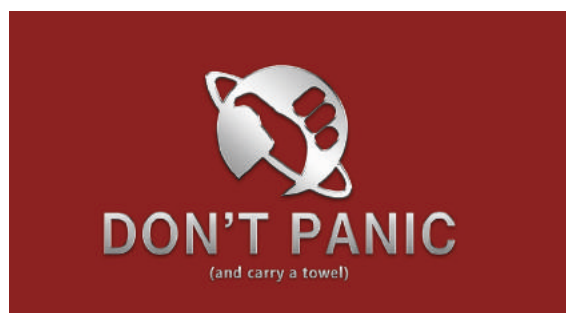
If you are travelling with friends and have a valid driving licence, you could rent a car from a rental agency or even from locals. A rental in Bulgaria only costs you 20 euros per day. Get three or four friends to share driving duties with you and you would each only pay four to five euros per day. Do be aware of speeding limits. Above all, use that spunky brain of yours and stay street smart.

Sites: ZipCar, Get Around, FlightCar (US)

## Hitch a ride

Hitchhiking is absolutely free. With free stuff comes great risk. In some countries, it is easier to get a ride from locals than in others. Hungary, for example, doesn't have the best hitchhiking culture. Prepare a sign stating your name and destination. Hold out your sign and give a thumbs up.

It would do you no harm if you joined Facebook groups such as Liften in Nederland en Belgie or Hitchhiking Europe. Note the driver's name, car-plate number, appearance, and other relevant details. Let as many friends as possible know these details.



If you don't feel safe at any point, you can get out of the car at any point. Thank the driver and ask if he or she can drop you off then. Having pepper spray or a pointed object such as a penknife or a key would also be useful in fending off unwanted advances.

Sites: Hitchhiking Europe, Liften in Nederland en Belgie (Europe)

## Fly high

Budget airlines are all the rage nowadays. In many regions, flying gives you more value for money than alternative modes of transportation. Compare ticket prices on Skyscanner, Momondo, Kayak, and then see if the airline's website offers a lower price. Subscribe to their newsletters, Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, and so on.

Many airlines often have flash sales. AirAsia has at least two Free Seats sales per year where airfare is reduced to the fuel surcharge and airport taxes. Join their contests. Become a member and collect flyer miles which can then be used to redeem seats.

Collect airline magazines and enter the contests in them. One of Europe's most popular budget airlines, Ryanair, holds a monthly contest where contestants are supposed to take fun photos of themselves with the airline's magazine, Let's Go with Ryanair.

Tips: Look out for student discounts. When comparing airfares and booking seats, use a private browser as airlines tend to raise prices when you refresh or visit the page.

Sites: Ryanair, EasyJet, Wizzair (Europe), Southwest Airlines, Spirit Airlines (US), AirAsia, Tiger Airways (Asia)

## FOOD

If you are staying with a friend or a Couchsurfing host, count yourself lucky as most hosts are very generous and will let you use their kitchen and share any food available.



But, as many Couchsurfing hosts are often young adults who have to pay the rent and other bills, do chip in for groceries or buy your own fruits and supplies.

Hit up the local markets and supermarkets for fruits and bread. Some supermarkets have discounts for members, so do ask your host if he or she has a membership card you could borrow for the shopping trip.

Visit local festivals and markets for some free tidbits and snacks. Visit the local bakeries. In France, a good baguette can last for a day and a half and will only cost you a euro.

Eat with locals. A website called Eatwith lets people list lunch or dinner parties and meal plans. Prices are suggested donations. You could have a German brunch in San Francisco for 23 USD or a 3-course Mexican fusion dinner in Los Angeles if you like.

Sites: Eatwith, Eat With a Local, Meal Sharing, Colunching

## ATTRACTIONS

Take a walking tour for free. Google "Free things to do in (city name)". Use the Internet to your advantage. Look up the tourism office's website or bookmark Lonely Planet's guide for free attractions.

There are lots of free entry museums in many countries. Just ask the Tourism Office or Google it. You can also attend museum nights. Most cities in the Netherlands have museum nights, a festival of sorts where museums are open until two or three in the morning.

Getting a tourist pass is up to you. It might prove detrimental if you don't really use it. Most tourist passes offer you free or discounted entry to local attractions. Some include discounted metro passes. If you're intent on visiting free-entry attractions that can be accessed without the pass, then it would be better to just get a one or two-day travel pass.

In countries like Singapore where everything is so closely connected, it's actually possible to forgo the travel pass and walk from one attraction to another. Of course, getting a pass would be easier on your feet.

**ARTWORK BY JOCELYN LAU**

*a loss is never the end of a happiness  
you can smile again*

*dark pink gerbera daisies are a symbol of gratitude.*



# WOM\*N'S



**H**ELD throughout Week 7, the yearly Wom\*n's Week was organized by the MUSA Wom\*n's department. They had various activities lined up for the female population at Monash, which were the badminton and futsal tournaments, a talk show and a makeup and skincare workshop. There was also a wom\*n's bazaar, where vendors were selling items from snacks to trinkets.

*Makeup & Skincare Workshop* – Conducted by Shu Uemura, this workshop was limited to only 50 students, where they were given a demonstration on basic skincare routines and steps for day and night makeup. Attendees went home with a goodie bag that contained free Shu Uemura samples and a RM 20 voucher that could be spent at their Sunway Pyramid outlet.

*Badminton tournament* – It received great response from the students, in fact sign ups were closed on the day itself! The winners of the tournament received H&M gift vouchers.

*Futsal tournament* – The response wasn't as great as the badminton tournament, but there were four teams who battled it out at the semi-finals for the prizes, also H&M gift vouchers.

All in all, it was a fun week for the Monash ladies all thanks to the MUSA Wom\*n's department; a job well done!

\*Flip to the next page for a separate write up on the talk show.

# WEEK



# women @ inspire

WORDS BY NAADIA BUHARY



PHOTOS BY WEI YING

ON the evening of the 10th of September, an excited group of students gathered into the Plenary Theatre anticipating the Women@Inspire Talk Show, organized by the MUSA Women's Affairs Collective. The three guest speakers walked into loud cheers; Rohani Mustaffa, Managing Director of Human Resources at CIMB Group, Cheryl Teh, Vice President of Knowledge Management at Khazanah Research and Investment Strategy Division and Elizabeth Lee, Senior Executive Director at Sunway Education Group.

As Radhika, the moderator, briefly introduced the guests, everyone settled in for what seemed like an interesting few hours ahead. When asked of what persuaded them to pursue their current professions, bubbly Elizabeth said she'd always wanted to be teacher and she simply went on to study education, following which she was presented with an opportunity to implement her ideas into practice early in her career. We were delighted to hear that she was one of those dedicated individuals who'd been instrumental in the establishment of Monash University at its current location, despite being heavily pregnant at the time.

Cheryl, a former Monash alumnus, studied accounting, but being dissatisfied at working in an accounting firm, began working in knowledge development. A multi-tasker and a music lover, she also manages a choir and is a committee builder! Rohani, went on to explain that her career path wasn't a choice; it was the means to earning a living. Banking provided her with several opportunities and 20 years on has never looked back since. She knew exactly what she wanted and in banking, she found her true calling.

On asked what the favourite part of their jobs were, they explained that it was job satisfaction and the smiles they see when they make a customer, student or colleague happy. Elizabeth also went on to say that she found it heartening to meet students from varied lifestyles and jobs and to see how well they'd excelled in their respective fields, apart from getting a few good discounts!!

*Any successful female icons?*

Rohani kept it simple: her mom. Every piece of knowledge had been imparted towards her children and it had moulded them into the individuals they were today. Cheryl was inspired by everyone around her, even little children, in particular a cancer survivor coming in from Penang to study music in her choir. She admitted that working with Irene Fernandez during a sabbatical was a fantastic learning experience. Jesus Christ was Elizabeth's icon, "He shows me the way of life I would like to emulate".

Despite their hectic schedules, these ladies do more than just their jobs. Elizabeth wrote children's books upon insistence from her father, a book publisher, who wanted to educate all children, especially those in poorer districts. Cheryl, while on a surprise sabbatical (*she even hid from family!*) while working in Genting, took over the music society and travelled as a research assistant after which she was offered a job by a head-hunter. The bonus from her first year was utilized to co-found a project, providing electricity for indigenous Orang Asli people using solar bulbs. A successful project, Cheryl saw an outpouring of support from family and friends as they cut down on their favourite Frappuccinos to donate!

Not all paths to success are beds of roses; a few sacrifices have to be made. For Rohani, it was the compromise between work time and spending time with family and friends. Every morning, a walk at the park helps her reflect on herself and the day ahead. Cheryl claimed it to be self-satisfaction. The higher the position you have, the more work you need to put in.

During her time in Laos and Cambodia, she learnt that it's necessary to realize what's important to oneself, "Music keeps me sane!" A luxurious bubble bath at the end of a long day helps Elizabeth unwind, and the recent water rationing helped her realize that she could utilize her bath water for other domestic purposes! *Green living FTW!*

The final question for the night: Any major milestones?

For Elizabeth, the establishment of Monash at its present location was her greatest, while Cheryl simply wanted to make people happy and combining that with singing, engages in community leadership. Rohani's greatest achievement was being recognized as branch manager and her eventual promotion when she joined the CIMB group.

Cheryl's take home message: Do not underestimate the power of compound interest! As the audience burst into laughter, she went on to explain that from her perspective, a girl would be more impressed with a car or a house; it's imperative to seize every opportunity you've got.

The three lessons of life :

- 1) Always do something to excel at it, and be nice and empathic to those around you.
- 2) A career is not a sprint, it's a marathon, a journey.
- 3) Nothing beats attitude. You need the right attitude to go far.

As the show wrapped up, it was time for a selfie with three absolutely amazing guests! That night we all walked away a little wiser!



*From the right is Radhika, (the moderator) Shannon and Sze Lyn (women officers) with the speakers.*

# SOCIAL LADDERS

*do you ascend or create them?*

**C**REATED or not, we are all tempted to try it. Every single person has seen it, be it in a university, workplace or just the general society. The social ladder has been one of the earliest stigmas of superiority since the Greeks themselves.

The abrasive individual will candidly choose to ignore it, yet they can't deny its existence. The brash will deny it too with a statement containing either "losers" or "sad".

If that is indeed the case, these individuals should certainly not be anywhere on the ladder, but upon a closer peek, you will always find them climbing faster than anybody.

Every society has a ladder and each ladder has its own set of climbers. But this article is not concerned with who climbs the ladder, who stays and who falls.

Rather, what should be "climbed" upon is the idea of why this ladder exists in the first place.

The ladder comes in all forms of race, religion or as mere metaphor in a society.

In a way, we all outgrow the ladder and conform to our comfortable niches in our respective places in our own little worlds, but soon after entering the corporate or working world, we fall victim to it once again.

The endless cycle exhibits the greed of human nature who fall prey to the glory or fame offered, yet through countless accounts of history, we as students should know, that only after you get to the top, we realise how deep our roots go.

However, that's where the problem is most deeply centred. Whatever we thought was at the pinnacle is nothing but an illusion. All the fame and glory was in our own heads to begin with. Everything we thought we needed was already there.

So we should ask ourselves once again – do we create the ladder or do we just merely ascend it?





MMMMMONASH  
UNIVERSITY'S ... –  
for an accurate depiction  
of this sentence,  
please contact Michelle/  
Wei Yng at  
012 – xxx xxx



PHOTOS BY EMILY CHOONG

# MONASH ANNUAL BALL

2014 WORDS BY  
EMILY CHOONG  
& WEI YNG

***“The course of true love never did run smooth”***

***...the line embedded in the minds of over 700 Monashians the night of 21st September 2014.***

**T**HE Monash Annual Ball, organized by the MUSA Activities Department, evolved around *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; one of Shakespeare's most popular plays, the tale of complicated love, which describes true love as being “swift as a shadow, short as any dream; brief as the lightning in the collied night”. To give you a better idea of the environment of the play, the characters involved the Athenians, fairies, and the mechanicals - comedians as they are called (which explains why comedian Andrew Netto performed!).

The expectation bar was pretty high due to the overwhelming response, during ticket sales. All 700 tickets were sold out in two days! The organizers went out on a limb to get an extra 60 seats for those unlucky graduating seniors who had not yet managed to get a seat.

The ball itself started a little late, but the photo booths and an every ready Polaroid photographer, at the front of the backdrop was a nice touch. Thank you for helping us capture our memories and effort (and money) poured into looking our best that Sunday night!

We realize it would've been an effortless attempt to critique the event without having minimal background knowledge of the play. It is therefore only wise to seek help from Uncle Google and the organizers of the event to be able to understand why they did what they did.

Elements of the play were primarily executed through the decor at the venue itself. The cool blue candles surrounded by leaves and sky-high plants gave off an earthy feel, depicting the fantasy woodland in which the original play was set in.

We can tell the organizers take every little detail into consideration. For example, the white drapes covering the plain Jane walls were an ideal photo shoot background. Other forms of entertainment whilst we awaited the opening of the doors included a Tarot card reader and glasses of coke and orange juice served around the lobby.

A 4-course meal was promised, as mentioned in our MonDo teaser article. Bits of feta cheese in the appetizer salad, a cream-based mushroom soup, overwhelming cheese stuffing in the chicken breast, followed by brownies and ice cream for dessert.



The presence of dairy ingredients in each course would have sent lactose intolerants immediately to the toilet and it didn't help that the committee had limited the number of people leaving the hall (apparently too many people were leaving during the performances). If you placed high expectations on the food, you probably then left disappointed considering that these fancy dishes are mass produced and not carved individually with passion.

The emcee was an interesting lady. Donna Daniels had an over-the-top approach to emceeing, leaving most of us ... flabbergasted. Her primary defining moments were when she sang, but if she did not repeat the theme, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" over and over again, we would have enjoyed ourselves more and not spotted the obvious gap between the theme and the "show" on stage.

She held an activity whereby students had to wave their napkins around when a certain song played (it sounded like a Japanese song playing "so excited, I'm so excited" repeatedly) and her "fairies", girls with pink fluffy wings attached to their back would distribute winning tickets at random. Every time the song played, it was as if the whole ballroom turned into a circus. It was energetic and fun, no doubt, but this robbed us of the elegance in the theme.

Entertainment for the night also featured *Monash's Got Talent's* acoustic duo Josh & Keith, the Rejuvenate Dance Crew, as well as "Havoc Girl" Elizabeth Tan. Kudos to the entertainment team for a well-mixed selection!



Naturally, any undergraduate ball would allow for some slow romantic dancing, even for a few short minutes, before blasting EDM – except this one, which went straight to loud music and partying. DJ Silent (oh the irony!) went head first and turned the ballroom into a pit for Monash Revolution 2. It was indeed unfortunate, as we were personally looking forward to the slow dancing. Most people who were not interested in dancing to such music headed outside to take a flurry of photos to upload on their respective social media.

Concluding this review is the last section of the play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*:

If we shadows have offended,  
Think but this, and all is mended,  
That you have but slumber'd here  
While these visions did appear.  
And this weak and idle theme  
No more yielding but a dream,  
Gentles, do not reprehend:  
If you pardon, we will mend.  
And, as I'm an honest Puck,  
If we have unearned luck  
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,  
We will make amends ere long;  
Else the Puck a liar call:  
So, good night unto you all.  
Give me your hands, if we be friends,  
And Robin shall restore amends.

TL;DR: If this play offended thee, remember it simply as a dream.

# MONASH ANNUAL BALL SPONSORS

## PLATINUM

### U B E R



## SILVER

## BRONZE



ASIAN RECIPE  
BAYU BEACH  
RESORT

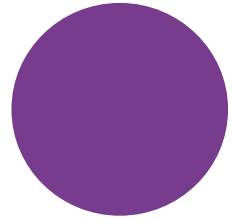
**ARTWORK BY JUN-ELLE**

"YELLOW FEVER"

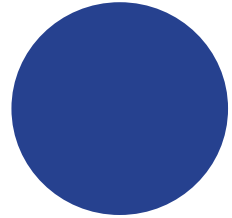
# *rainbow*

WORDS BY JADE - E LIM

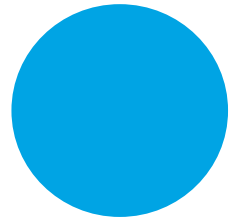
***violet.*** The colour of my copy of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" I had read a few years ago. I thought that I would keep that book for many years to come, so that I could one day share it with my children. Today, I made a mental note to buy a new copy of the same book.



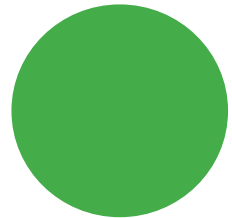
***indigo.*** The colour of the bowl that my dog Charlie ate from every day. He had been with us for seven years, and he had eaten from that very bowl throughout those years. The bowl was chipped off at the top and I had wanted to get him a new one. Today, I realised that I never did, and I will never have to.

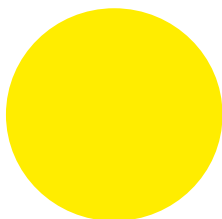


***blue.*** The colour of the sweater my father bought me for my fifteenth birthday. When he asked me if I liked it, I lied and told him I loved it when I actually thought it was hideous, hence I have never worn it outside the house. Today, I wish I could proudly wear it for the world to see.

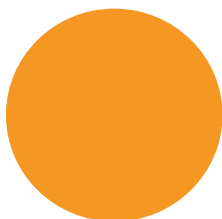


***green.*** The colour of my laptop my sister had borrowed without my permission. She had dropped it accidentally and it can no longer be used. I screamed that I hated her and we did not speak to each other for a week. Today, I hate myself for wasting seven precious days without her.

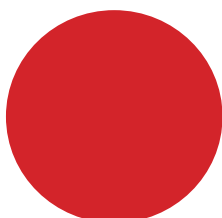




***yellow***. The colour of my mother's apron. It reminded me of the meals she cooked for us after she tiresomely cleaned the house, and how she never asked for any help. Today, I cry as I realised that I would never have the chance to repay her for all that she had done for me.



***orange***. The colour of my Toyota Vios. It reminded me of the times I had to cancel my own plans so that my younger brother who couldn't drive could have his. I remember driving him to places he needed to go in silence, because he almost always had his earphones on. Today, I would cancel all my plans for the rest of my life if it meant I could drive my Vios with my brother for one last time.



***red***. The colour of fear as we realised all that we hold dear will soon vanish before our eyes. It was the colour of agony as screams from the people I loved most echoed in my ears. It was the colour of the shirt of a stranger as I felt myself being carried out of my building. It was the colour of the fire that took my family and my home away from me.

TODAY, I SIT ON THE PARK BENCH ALONE AND ABANDONED,  
STARING UP AT THE RAINBOW THAT REMINDED ME  
OF EVERYTHING I ONCE HAD, BUT DID NOT HAVE ANYMORE.

**A**FTER taking a two year long break from 2011, Monash Run 2014 was back with a bang, turning out to be one of the most successful student initiatives events this semester. With the sponsor support from MUSA, Nando's, Revive, myBurgerLab, Sushi Zanmai and Meeples, there was an overwhelming response for the run, hitting its target of 500 participants quickly. There was even a waiting list for participation!

As early as 6am on Saturday, the 6th of September, the ever amazing helpers and policemen were already set at their respective checkpoints and drink stations. Simultaneously, Monash ground was occupied by participants in their neon pink jersey.

The run was officiated by the President of MUSA, Ivan Lim. Hundreds of active students of Monash University Malaysia, began invading the streets of Sunway on the dot 7.30am!

If you aren't a Malaysian, you would probably wonder what the big deal about starting on time would be, but if you're local, we should all take a moment to appreciate that the run started on 7.30am right on schedule!

The male category champion, Lim Ze Yang completed the 7.3KM run in less than 30 minutes (*he actually did it in 27 minutes!*), while Sophie Mattingley claimed first place in the female category in slightly more than 30 minutes. Now, that's a record to beat in the future!

Those who came in positions 4th to 50th were presented with their medals soon after crossing the finish line. Bananas, bread, water and goodies bag consisting of mints, an isotonic drink and vouchers from both myBurgerLab and Nando's were prepared for each runner. *Goodie bags FTW!*

The run officially ended at 9.30am and a quick award ceremony followed after. The winners, first runners-up and second runners-up of both the female and male categories were invited on stage to receive their well-deserved medals and prizes;

**FIRST PRIZE -**

RM300 cash vouchers from Fashion Fast Forward

**SECOND PRIZE:**

iPod Nano

**THIRD PRIZE:**

Xiaomi powerbank



All in all, it was a good job done by the organizers, the amazing helpers and all the participants who believed in the importance of keeping a healthy lifestyle despite the crazy load of assignments and tests Monash drowns us in!





# NASH RUN 2014



WORDS BY NATHASHA FERNANDO

# TIME TO START...?

**T**IME to start. I really *really* have to start now. No excuses. Two thousand words aren't going to write itself down. Logical and quite alarming, those four sentences should generally do the trick. It has all the elements a student needs to scare the crap out of themselves.

So, as an Arts student, I find it necessary to tell myself this every week. Yes, we do have legitimate work to do; assignments, essays, theories, readings. No, we do not draw in class.

Being a nocturnal, creature of the night, naturally one starts their work at 12a.m. What's the alternative? Work during the day and sleep during the night?

That's just insane. It's 11pm, stay up and get your work done, and just like that you won't need to suffer closer to the deadline. The concept is so simple. Pulling my chair in, with a steaming cup of coffee, phone in a corner (on silent!) I begin my task.



Putting those first few words down is just the best feeling. It's also the easiest; the words just seem to flow out of your fingers so eloquently. Why? Because it's the title of your assignment and it's been provided for you, so you do it like a pro. It also fools you into thinking you've started your assignment when you know deep down you really haven't. Not until that introduction is sorted.

Hmm. What do I want to say? What's this question asking me? Why am I still hungry? NO! Go back! What is this question asking...what's that on the wall? It's a tiny crack in the paint. How? Ohh right... must have happened when I was cleaning up.

My glance then slowly shifted to the speck of dust on my desk. Now you know one cannot study when there's a mess that's just *there*. Just clean it up, otherwise you will not be able to focus on your work.

After spending a good few minutes cleaning my desk to its entirety, breathing a sigh of relief, I sit down, pull my chair in and sip some hot coffee. Time to get some work done. What is the question again...yikes, the coffee needs more sugar. Get that out of the way so I can work.

After spending yet some more time in the kitchen, I convince myself this is it. All the conditions are just right to do a significant chunk of work.

I look at the time. It's 3 a.m. After having spent a depressing amount of time staring into blank, white, empty, document space, I realized something pivotal. That blinking black line at the top of the page is taunting me. It knows. It knows the inside of my head is a blank, white, empty space as well. With that horrid realization out of the way, I decide to give myself a break. A break from *what* is rather unclear, nonetheless, a break it is.

Eagerly waiting to see the Red Viper decimate the Mountain, I contemplated the thought of putting on the show. I had already heard someone saying that that scene was 'mind blowing' and with the thought of how inspired I'd be to write after watching such a well written show, I put it on.

Yes, I was a strong hater of the show once upon a time, but after giving it a try I independently, by myself, decided that I liked it. Everyone I knew calling me a loser for not watching Game of Thrones had absolutely nothing to do with it.

It's 4.45 a.m. His head exploded. It literally exploded. I felt gross. I felt quite unsure of my feelings about what just happened. I felt quite sure that I needed a wash though. A long wash to cleanse me of that episode. Looking around at my room I thought to myself, maybe give it a good clean up, go for a wash, and I won't feel betrayed by George Martin anymore.

And maybe, just maybe – I will get some work done. So, pumping up my tunes, I decided to go on my neurotic cleaning spree. Dettol spray in one hand, duster in the other.

6a.m. The room looked immaculate, if I do say so myself. I am saying this myself?

Anyway, half way through to feeling better and getting some substantial work done, I hit the shower. Have you ever noticed, the shower is the one place you win an imaginary argument against someone?

Either that - or you transform into a professional singer. As in, you sing in a way that doesn't actually make people squirm and beg for mercy. Although I was kind of rocking *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, at the back of my mind, I couldn't help but blame myself. You started at 12, it's almost 7 now! What happened? You wrote the title down. The title. Is there no limit to the amount of things that can distract you? I hate you.

6.58 a.m. My room: Clean. Me: Clean. Emotional well-being after seeing a head explode: Kind of alright. It's time to start, it's really time to start. You will work like a machine. Hmm...People as machines, I haven't watched The Matrix in a long.. NO! Go back! Time to work. What do I want to say? What can I say? What is this question asking? *What a view!* Omg instamomenttttt  
#procastinate

I'M not here to sell the idea of exchange to you. You've been bombarded with countless reasons on why you should go abroad. What's so different about studying in a European country as opposed to studying in Australia, Canada, the US, or the UK? Read on and you'll find out.

## 5. SECURITY AND HOSPITALITY

Europe is one of the safest regions in the world. With regards to gun crime, the Netherlands is ranked 107th in the world. I would say it is much safer than the US which is ranked 1st. It's also one of the most hospitable regions globally. The atmosphere is simply more welcoming. I've struck up conversations with street vendors, café owners, cyclists, fellow backpackers, and so on.

While travelling across Europe, I'd need a ride from one city to another and have simply had the fortune and pleasure of riding with the kindest people. The tendency to suspect others of ill intentions is much reduced. People simply trust one another.

## 4. EXPERIENCE A MULTITUDE OF NEW CULTURES

You may be living in the Netherlands, but you're not just experiencing Dutch culture or the cultures of all twenty-eight member states of the European Union and the twenty-two other European countries not formally part of the EU. You're also being exposed to the cultures of former European colonies. You'll get to meet people from Curaçao, the Caribbean islands, Suriname, and so on.

I can hear you saying, "But, I could receive similar amounts of exposure to different cultures in the UK or the US! What's so different about Europe?" Sure, you could be exposed to just as many cultures in the any country popular with students. You're being exposed to a different culture anytime you meet someone from another country. People carry their cultures with them.



# THE TOP 5 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD GO TO EUROPE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE SEMESTER

WORDS BY ZOE LIEW

The fact that there are so few travel restrictions makes it easier for Europeans and citizens of former European colonies to travel within the EU. You wouldn't just be meeting Dutch people; you'd be meeting students and expatriates who come from all corners of the world.

### 3. LEARN NEW LANGUAGES

The EU alone has twenty-four official languages including Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Swedish. And yes, English is one of those twenty-four languages. Can you then imagine the number of languages spoken in Europe?

Furthermore, with Western European countries being popular destinations for immigrants, it wouldn't be surprising to hear people speaking Chinese, Arabic, Swahili et cetera.

### 2. TRAVEL

Freedom of movement has never been easier. It doesn't matter whether you're an EU national. If you have the necessary travel documents, you could visit all fifty European countries if you put your mind to it. If you are a citizen of an EU member state, you don't need to show your identity card or passport when you are travelling from one Schengen country to another.

The Schengen area includes Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland.

If you are not an EU national, don't fret. A Schengen visa and a valid passport are all you need to travel to Schengen-area countries. This doesn't mean that you're not allowed to travel to Andorra, Croatia, or the UK. Many exchange students even go so far as Morocco.

The lack of restrictions on travel also makes it really cheap to travel. You could take a bus from Amsterdam to Paris for 22 euros or 91 ringgit. With Ryanair, you could fly from Basel to London. A bus from Malmö, Sweden to Copenhagen, Denmark would cost you 2 euros and only take 42 minutes.

Don't just go to Rome to see the vestiges of the Roman empire. You could see the ruins of Roman aqueducts and amphitheatres in Lyon. Visit the Heineken museum in Amsterdam and have a blast! Take a tan on the beaches of Barcelona. Visit the gothic churches in Bordeaux!

### 1. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Being in a country so different from yours, living on a continent worlds away, you're forced to step out of your comfort zone. You're constantly challenged to re-evaluate your lifestyle, priorities, and fears.

Faced with a culture of consensus, you'll be forced to ask yourself, "Is it really worth it for my voice to be heard first?" The ubiquity of recycling bins and facilities makes it easy for you to live a green lifestyle. You'll start rethinking the need to get plastic bags from your local grocer.

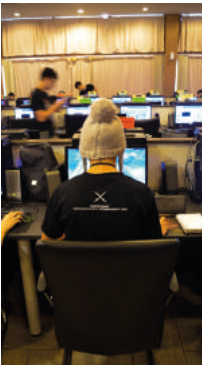
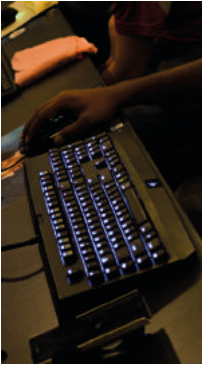
Craving sushi but finding that 10 euros for a set of 8 rolls is simply not worth it? Well, you'll learn how to make it then. I certainly did. The low cost of education promotes a love of learning amongst students.

Unlike many Southeast Asian countries, the stigma of taking your Bachelor's degree when you're above 21 is simply not there. Learning is encouraged. The lack of restrictions on travel and the low education costs will definitely make you consider applying for EU citizenship.

**GO TO EUROPE! TRUST ME,  
YOU WON'T REGRET IT.**

# DEFENDING CGPA & ANCIENTS

Monash Dota 2 Tournament



**T**HE passion and love for the immensely popular multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) video game: Defense of The Ancients 2 (DoTA 2), among the students of Monash University Malaysia, were indisputable throughout the 2 long days of the Monash DoTA 2 Tournament. A year ago, the Tournament was hosted at Monash University Malaysia itself, but its popularity and potential proved worthy of a new arena: the FTZ Asia Net Cyber Café. This year, a total of 24 teams, with 5 members per team, participated for glory, fun and bragging rights.

The Tournament was held in a round-robin format: each team would play a best of 1 match against every other team in the same group on Day 1.

On Day 2, the 2 best teams in each group would then advance to the quarter-finals. DoTA 2 is a team-oriented video game, where 5 players band together to destroy the other team's "Ancient": a monolithic structure lying deep behind the enemy team's base, which is the final objective of the game.

The game mode used in competitive matches is "Captain's Mode", where each team assigns a player to be "captain" and both teams' captains take turns banning 5 heroes (preventing either team from selecting) and picking 5 heroes (playable characters for themselves) out of a current active roster of 102 unique heroes. The entire pick and ban phase of a game is colloquially known as a "draft".

As the clock crept past 9 am on Day 1, the teams gathered at the cyber café's entrance to register and get acquainted with their battle stations, whilst organizers, committees and commentators



PHOTOS BY JOSH KUAN

made final adjustments and preparations for their arduous day ahead.

A tense atmosphere filled the entire cyber café as the first matches began; the players' intense focus piercing through the clamor of noise, music and sound effects throughout the venue. Their focus maintains clear communication, crucial in such games, with their fixed expressions only broken by game-defining celebratory shouts and empowering battle cries.

Behind the scenes, a duo of commentators broadcasted the

matches live on a popular video game streaming website known as Twitch. The commentators were stationed in "Siberia": the cold server room, where the matches were thoroughly scrutinized and narrated expressively by Vinod and Ken Jin. The slugfest continued well until evening, a combination of exhaustion and various emotions replaced the contestants' expressions as the day drew to a close.

As the dust settled on Day 1, only 8 teams remained standing. Unbelievably, every group had a team that finished undefeated and another team ended with only a single loss. Day 2 was guaranteed to be the clash of titans!

### **THE REMAINING TEAMS WENT HOME, CONFIDENT BUT RESTLESS FOR THEIR UPCOMING BATTLES.**

The format switched on Day 2 to a single elimination; best of 3 series for all matches (quarter finals, semi-finals and grand finals). Thus, every team henceforth must win 2 games in a match to advance. Day 2 began in an identical, orderly fashion, despite the contestants' jitters and excitement.

The remaining teams arrived early to get accustomed to their battle stations and begin for battle. Nonetheless, the tense atmosphere grew denser as the remaining teams were stationed closer to each other, as the battles that day determined the victors of the tournament.

However, 2 new challengers appeared as commentators. Chi Fung, a member and offlaner of the "MONOSHBOYS" team and their impromptu coach, Jeffery Thiry volunteered to assist the commentators on Day 2, albeit not qualifying for Day 2.

### **SOME TEAMS WERE SURPRISED TO BE HERE,**

"we never expected to make it this far," says Ken, captain of "Roti Canai Gaming": a team which went undefeated through the round robins. Some teams shared Ken's sentiments, but everyone marched forth with confidence into an entirely new ball game.

Vinod and Jeffery both mentioned that Day 2's format switched into a series that would be interesting to watch, as teams would have to learn and adapt to each other; improvising



strategies and unveiling hidden drafts. Once more, the day progressed similarly to Day 1. Teams “Bobo Leon” and “Why Ah” won their quarter final matches with 2 consecutive victories, whereas teams “Oozma Kappa” and “Harrison Jones” advanced by winning the 3rd game in their quarter final matchup.

The semi-final matchups were: “Bobo Leon” versus “Oozma Kappa” and “Why Ah” versus “Harrison Jones” respectively. While every game in the semi-finals was a tough brawl, no game was as intense and crowd-pleasing as the 2nd game between “Why Ah” and “Harrison Jones”. The intensity of that game rose to a crescendo, as “Harrison Jones” played patiently, punishing the reckless bravado of “Why Ah” to stall the game and nullify the early advantage of the “Why Ah” hero lineup.

### **MISTAKES BECOME MORE PUNISHING THE LATER A GAME GOES ON.**

Both teams were well aware that one misstep could cost them the entire game. Alas, at the final moments, it boiled down to a “base race” between both “Harrison Jones” and “Why Ah” to see who could destroy the Ancients faster.

However, even the casters were caught unawares by “TNB.Instinct”: The Drow Ranger player of “Why Ah” who decided to teleport directly behind enemy lines and single-handedly destroy the Ancient of “Harrison Jones”.

### **A FORTISSIMO OF CHEERING AND YELLS COULD BE HEARD**

all the way from “Siberia”, as every seasoned DoTA 2 player agreed that the game they’ve just witnessed was akin to the grand finals match of The International 3 (the largest annual DoTA 2 tournament worldwide with a 10 million USD prize pool this year).



“Why Ah” celebrated their well-deserved victory with a short break before their grand final match against “Bobo Leon”, whereas “Oozma Kappa” and “Harrison Jones” duked it out for 3rd place. Right before the grand finals, a stranger known only as Sheveen decided to help commentate the match as a co-caster.

### **THE GRAND FINAL MATCH HAD NO SHORTAGE OF ADRENALINE**

But for both evenly skilled teams - the games were decided at the draft phase. “Why Ah” won against “Bobo Leon” during their first game of the grand finals with an early to mid-game lineup,

albeit “Bobo Leon” nearly making a comeback victory on the back of a Terrorblade.

“Bobo Leon” now needed to win 2 consecutive games to claim the throne, but that didn’t demotivate the members of “Bobo Leon” as they pressed the attack on the 2nd game with a Legion Commander to win in style.

The final game of “Bobo Leon” versus “Why Ah” was a different story altogether as both “Why Ah” and “Bobo Leon” drafted an early to mid-centric lineup so “Why Ah” will play against their own strength.

Meanwhile, “Harrison Jones” defeated “Oozma Kappa” through an 80 minute stalemate which secured 3rd place for “Harrison Jones”. A short round of congratulations and cheers were exchanged before both “Harrison Jones” and “Oozma Kappa” members turned their attention to the final match of “Bobo Leon” versus “Why Ah”.



“Bobo Leon” plowed through the last game with 3 high-durability heroes and shut down “Why Ah” before their heroes reached critical mass, laying claim to their throne.

The final match was a decisive victory for “Bobo Leon”, albeit adamant efforts were deployed by “Why Ah”.

### **THAT MATCH WAS NOT A CROWD-PLEASER,**

but it certainly was an impressive feat acknowledged by everyone present, as the new champions were crowned for the Monash DoTA 2 Tournament 2014.

The “Bobo Leon” members were invited to “Siberia” for a winners’ interview, before the brief prize-giving ceremony and photo session with committee, commentators and other contestants. “Bobo Leon” were rewarded 5 “SteelSeries Siberia v2 Dota 2 Edition” headsets in recognition of their achievements, while “Why Ah” and “Harrison Jones” secured 5 “SteelSeries Rival Dota 2 Edition” gaming mice and 5 \$30 Steam wallet cards respectively for their efforts.

The day ended with applause for the contestants, committee and commentators for putting up a great show, tournament and broadcast. There was no after-party, but there was fantastic camaraderie among everyone involved. Some contestants only met recently and formed teams, the commentators only completed their team of 5 on Day 2 and part of the organizing committee never even knew what DoTA 2 was until Day 1.





**Y**ES. Maybe. No. But why? Why would you want to deprive yourself of one of the best and mind-boggling TV series? Why would you do that to yourself?

*"Ugh, it is such a manly series!"*

*"Ugh, all blood!"*

*"Ugh, season four already, I cannot keep up!"*

.... and many more yada-yada excuses to convince yourself that the Game of Thrones is just NOT for you.

# 6 REASONS TO WATCH GAME OF THRONES

**T**RUTHFULLY, I have used more than one reason to get a few friends off my back, before I finally gave in and watched the pilot episode of the Games of Thrones, or GoT as it's popularly referred to. An hour later I was hooked; three days later I had finished watching two entire seasons. Wild horses couldn't keep me away! Thank God for the mid semester break!

As a die-hard GoT fan, allow me to take you on a short trip around this amazing story, with a little help from Aunty Wikipedia. The series, based on the books by George R.R. Martin, is set in the fictional continents of Westeros and Essos.

The plot follows several noble houses who have been engaged in a civil war, as they continue in their efforts to reclaim the Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, as a looming winter (winter is coming!) and the rise of the long-believed dead mythical White Walkers threaten the North.



The show, takes on a historical approach, exploring the issues of social hegemony, religion, culture, gender, corruption, morality, crime and punishment.

A few nights ago, I sat down thinking of the long 6 months ahead before the release of the next season of GoT. I took out my phone and popped a random question to my two Engineering brethren; what would you say to convince someone to watch the Game of Thrones?

*"Girl or boy?"*

*"Boy"*

This then led us to one of our first, then second, then third, then it goes on reasons why you should take the chance and put your two feet (firmly) into this extreme fandom, (Spoiler alert, but a little spoiler won't hurt)

## #1 BOOBS

The twin is in almost every episode, no joke.

## #2 DAENERYS

Strong, sexy, and oh... did I mention she has dragons? Sometimes her existence makes me ponder about the entire series. Why does she even need to be fighting for the throne? She has dragons.

Dragons = everything

Everything = throne

Hence, dragons = throne.



## #3 DRAGONS

Do I really need to say more? There are dragons, FREAKING DRAGONS. Flying and breathing fire.

## #4 LITTLEFINGER (BIASED)

Littlefinger, Petyr, Baelish... whichever you refer to him as, he will inspire and teach you all about love and survival. Cheeky, witty and absolutely twisted (in every sense of the word), but one thing for sure... this guy is playing the real game of thrones.

## #5 PLOT

One thing the Game of Thrones really taught me is, in life, everything is a surprise and you wouldn't know when or what your last day would be.

In reference to the series, you would tell your friends about your favourite character, then surprise! He dies the next episode.

Scenarios like that above are absolutely possible. But where's the fun if everything is predictable?

Also, the excessive amount of blood spilt in the Game of Thrones would probably remind you, a little, if not a lot, of the almighty Quentin Tarantino.



## #6 VALAR MORGHULIS

All men must die. But as Monashians, this would not happen to us, YET. Because, we shall and we will survive and battle through the waves of assignments and tests until the day we are allowed to throw our graduation caps sky high.

One more reason,

## #7 HODOR

Hodor.

# THE LAST CLASS

The clock strikes four and there was a swarm  
Students filled up the hall, most in a hurry  
"Welcome to Week 12, please all remain calm  
Let's begin now so you can leave early"

Look around and it isn't that surprising  
To see phones and power banks on every table  
That laptop screen, so bright and blinding  
Battery runs low and there emerged a cable

Boys at the corner attempt Flappy Bird, cursing that  
app  
Their books lay closed, some flat on the floor  
Beside, there is typing going "tap tap tap"  
A tweet was posted saying "this class is a bore"

In front, the tutor explains what's correlation  
Never once did she ever say "be silent!"  
Maybe she thinks we're paying attention  
But behind the screens lie another assignment

On the screen there was a puzzle  
"How do you answer this question below?"  
My friend solved it but not without a struggle  
Out of nowhere someone said "I still don't know!"

Students slowly falling asleep, row by row  
Those hoarse breathings cannot be missed  
Some students nodded when the tutor went, "hello?"  
But those in deep sleep are just having a bliss

The tutor announced "please split into  
groups!"  
Such class discussions, are they really  
that fruitful?  
Alas, we lazily scattered into hoops  
A break, perhaps? that'll be helpful!

Half past five and the door creaked  
open  
Who can that be at this final hour?  
The latecomer walked by with eyes red  
and swollen  
I feel bad for you but you really need a  
shower!

A quarter to six and people were  
packing  
The tutor said "hang on!" and there was  
a murmur  
"You all will do fine," she said all  
smiling  
"But if you fail this unit, see you next  
summer!"

# MUSA 2015

As the current MUSA 2014 are about to step down at the end of this year, we would like to introduce you to the future MUSA 2015 who will take charge next year! Here's some of their goals for 2015 and some fun facts!



## PRESIDENT (SHIHAB)

### Goals:

- To create more awareness amongst the student population about MUSA
- Extend library hours & tutorial room hours.
- Improving the quality of food sold in the cafeteria.

### Fun Fact:

- I'm a movie fanatic, any movie you can think of I've probably watched it.



## VICE PRESIDENTS (GRACE & ILI)

### Goals:

- Ensure that all subsidies for conferences and competitions are allocated to the various parties fairly and justly.
- Fight for more bursaries/tuition fee waivers to recognise deserving students and ease financial burdens.

### Fun Facts:

- Grace:
- I find Maleficent a scary movie
  - I am always a part of the Men's club wherever I go

### Ili:

- Had 9 piercings back in high school



## TREASURERS (JOCELYN & JEREMY)

### Goals:

- Maintain MUSA integrity in fund management by ensuring ethical usage of day-to-day funds for students' welfare & personal development to increase the transparency of accounts by establishing a direct and effective communication channel between MUSA and students

### Fun Facts:

- Jeremy:
- Read A Walk To Remember FIVE times and cried every time
  - Hate the smell of nail polish, but LOVE the smell of petrol (that's how I get high?)

### Jocelyn:

- Love Hong Kong dramas especially the TVB ones



## GENERAL SECRETARY (YASMINE)

### Goals:

- Keep Monashians updated with MUSA initiatives
- Ensure administrative work is done meticulously and carefully
- Assist the MUSA President in conducting the MSC meetings efficiently

### Fun Fact:

- PEPSI MAN was, is and will forever remain my favorite PS1 game.



### ACTIVITIES CHAIRPERSON (JACK & KISHEN)

#### Goals:

Organize amusing, fun activities and events which foster cohesion, bonding, spirit and provide a balance between academic and social life. Plans for activities include a music festival, Orientation Bash, Monash Annual Ball, Zombie Run and an annual trip.

#### Fun Facts:

Kishen

- I am the famous GUJU that everyone is talking and confessing about

Jack

- Constantly looking for a girlfriend



### WELFARE OFFICERS (AIDAN & HESHWINDER)

#### Goals:

- Bringing in jukebox, board games
- Installing hairdryers in changing rooms
- Implementing a 15 minute leeway in the western carpark.
- Improving facilities in the sick bay and bringing in a medical officer

#### Fun Facts:

Heshwinder

- The Godfather movies... now that's an offer you can't refuse

Aidan

- I have a chinese name that people often call me 'circle'



### HEAD OF CLUBS AND SOCIETIES (JEFFREY CHUNG)

#### Goals:

- Event Pool Fund (EPF) to provide relatively equal opportunities to every club and society regardless of the size of their club and fund quota allocation.
- Promote a balanced university life and sense of belonging among students through participation in clubs and societies

#### Fun Fact:

I like big butts and I cannot lie



### PUBLICITY OFFICERS (AISHAH & ASHWIN)

#### Goals:

- Monash University Malaysia App to help people new to campus (freshers and visitors) navigate around campus, and notify all Monashians on current & upcoming events
- MessageMe Monash to allow Monashians to provide suggestions or feedback anonymously
- More extensive publicity on campus and through social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Website)

#### Fun facts:

Aishah

- Ash and I have always been mistaken as siblings; even the fruit man at Asia Cafe said so!

Ashwin

- My legs are so hairy that mosquitoes get stuck in them when they try to bite me.

SUFFER

MOSQUITOES, SUFFER!



## WOM\*N'S OFFICERS (JENNIFER & NARMATHA)

Goals:

- TedXWomen is to give the women of Monash an eyeopening experience to many issues. We were planning on inviting a few successful women and also some professors from Monash itself.
- A medical check up to be conducted for breast cancer and awareness campaigning for cervical cancer and safe sex.

Fun Facts:

Jennifer:

- I'm officially a grade 8 pianist finished it under Trinity London School of music.

Narmatha:

- HATE HORROR MOVIES

## EDITORS (SAGAR, JADE, KEVIN & HAO BIN)

Goals for MONGA & MONDO:

- Contents made more digestible and in an easier to read format, with more visual content.
- Carry out the "Humans of Monash" project
- Regularly update MonDo and focus on publicizing it
- Writing & Photography workshops in collaboration with MUSA or student initiatives.

Fun facts

Jade - I live in Klang and no, we don't all hang out at Jusco.

Hao Bin - I have dinner at LUNCHbox because I'm a rebel.

Kevin - I took salsa classes ;) (Still can't dance though)

Sagar - Vegetarian, but don't look like one



## SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

Goals: To raise student concerns at SSLC meetings effectively and organize entertaining and useful activities for our respective schools to benefit students and encourage socialization.



**BUSINESS**  
(WILLIAM & REENA)

Goals:

- Nature Getaway to strengthen the relationship between local, international, BBUSCOM and BCOM students, regardless of them being juniors or seniors.
- Movie Night

Fun facts:

Reena:

I put the pro in procrastination.

Will:

I have a great passion in waltz and freestyle dancing.



**SCIENCE**  
(WEE LI & SUNDAY)

Goals:

- Munchomunchy night to provide assistance to the new students in adapting to university life and help the seniors and juniors get to know one another
- Field trip/Social events to relieve the stress.

Fun facts:

Sunday:

No, my parents did not name me Sunday. They named me Holiday.

Wee Li:

Lots of smooth pick-up lines at my disposal



## ENGINEERING (ANSON & MEI SHIEN)

### Goals:

- Activities: BuddyBuddee Night/Movie Night, field trips/talks/exhibitions
- Financial Subsidies/ supports for internal/ external competitions and Final Year Projects (FYP)

### Fun Facts:

#### Anson:

- I secretly like it when people mishear my name as 'handsome'

#### Mei Shien:

- I snort like a bull when I get frusrated.



## MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES (EN YNG & STEPHEN WONG)

### Goals:

- Bridge the gaps between our school and other Monash communities by organising interschool camps, talent night, and telematches.
- Improve environment in learning suites and the MAPEL lab

### Fun Facts:

#### Stephen Wong

- I'm a 6ft tall sexy Latin dancer.

#### En Yng:

- I have lived in 3 different states



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DANIEL & PEI LING)

### Goals:

- Programming workshops for all (not restricted to SoIT students)
- Industrial talks by professionals and IT firms
- Gaming competitions! League, CS:GO, and FIFA players, stay tuned !

### Fun Facts:

#### Daniel:

- A silent guardian, a watchful protector, but not Batman

#### Pei Ling:

- My best friend and I have similar handwriting.



## ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (SARA)

### Goals:

- Improve the career fair in terms of inviting more companies inclined to hire those in the Arts faculty.
- Host more mingle nights.
- Organize an expo in which previous Monash graduates from the School of Arts host talks

### Fun Fact:

- Adventure Time is the greatest show on earth.



## PHARMACY (XIN QI & DARYL)

### Goals:

- Chummychummy Night to help the seniors and juniors get to know one another
- Organize visits to healthcare companies

### Fun Facts:

#### Xin Qi:

- I'm so short that I'm legally a midget in America (my brother told me this, such a meanie)

#### Daryl:

- Always end up buying the wrong shoe size (shops never have size 6)

compiled by  
hao bin  
kevin,  
jade,  
&  
sagar



# contributors

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keeping it short and sweet, this issue  
wouldn't be what it is without you guys!

<3

## PHOTO CREDITS

*The Fault in the Fault in Our Stars - Pg 6*

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*Procrastination Creativity - Pg 7*

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*Interview with Josh & Keith - Pg 13*

Photo from Facebook by Li Rudong

*How to Travel Like the Kiamsap Student You Are - Pg 17 - 21*

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*Time to Start..? - Pg 37*

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*Game of Thrones - Pg 45 & 46*

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# THE TEAM BEHIND THIS MAGAZINE

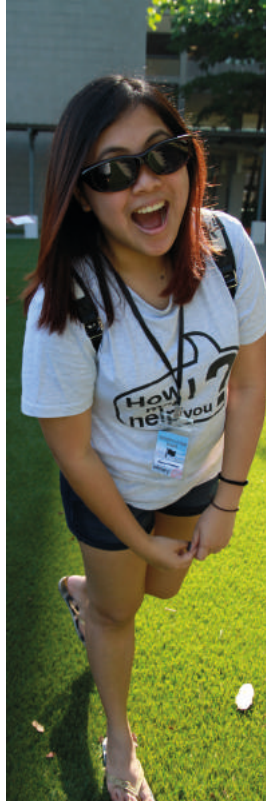
musa editors 2014



## *ai lin*

writer, (sometimes) photographer, creative ideas provider, positivity guru, master of “i got this!!”.

so immensely cute you want to keep her in your pocket.



## *emily*

writer, photographer, doodler, content hunter, coffee junkie, and pretzel provider.

bad influence - will tempt you with delicious food pictures at the most wrong of times.



## *naadia*

writer, grammar nazi, the “editor” of editors, (another) coffee junkie, baking enthusiast and environmentalist.

we get dirty looks when we don't recycle or waste paper.



## *wei yng*

designer, occasional free-for-hire photographer, writer, article hunter and human potato.

any anecdote from her will surely have at least one funny.

*with this, we bid you adieu!*

# *website*

<http://the-mondo.com>

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