



BEIWATCH

BEIMUN XXVI

PRE-ISSUE

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WELCOME TO BEIMUN XXVI



By Hyoree Kim

Welcome to the twenty-sixth session of the annual BEIMUN conference. It is that time of the year for delegates to gather in their best suits and dresses to discuss timely global issues and pass resolutions aimed at addressing the most pressing problems. Over the course of three days, delegates will voice their opinions on this year's conference theme of Security, Sovereignty, and Sustainability: Pre-emptive Measures in a Changing World. They will research, lobby, debate and propose solutions for global issues concerning the threats imposed by the rapid advancements in the 21st century.

Although intensity and professionalism rever-

berate in the atmosphere of every BEIMUN, each conference is unique and creates its own memories. This year will be no exception. Returning delegates will remember the passion burning in their fellow peers, while rookies will be amazed by the level of excitement surrounding this year's conference. Nevertheless, the annual BEIMUN conference will allow students to immerse themselves into the MUN experience, as well as enhance their leadership skills and confidence through leading committee discussions and defending their views.

BEIMUN, following MUN's goal, provides students with a rare opportunity to discuss heated top-

ics with other passionate and dedicated delegates. MUN has always been a chance for students to not only meet new people but to also develop into cosmopolitan individuals through collaborative teamwork and thought-provoking debates.

BEIMUN provides a venue where delegates can broaden their awareness, experience, and skills that they can implement in areas beyond MUN.

Beiwatch wishes the best of luck to all delegates, chairs, and executives for a successful and enjoyable BEIMUN XXVI!

INTRODUCING BEIJING

By Sally Kim

Welcome to Beijing, the capital of China, the most populous capital city in the world. It is the city known as the international hub of economics, politics, language, and technology. It embraces both its long history and continuous growth in technology into one, creating an aura no other city has ever had. Beijing unceasingly bursts with the rush of 24 million people and shows its rich history through hints of its tradition around the city.

Since the 15th century, Beijing has stayed in its original shape, especially its structure: a series of square and rectangular roads surrounding the center of the city—Tian'an men Square—giving its unique personality and identity.

For wandering tourists, Beijing provides a wide range of activities. From the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites to modern malls and galleries, the city flourishes with countless options for everyone to explore. For those wishing to encounter the rich history of Beijing, the seven must-sees, UNESCO Heritage Sites would be the pick: the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, Ming Tombs, Zhoukoudian, and the Great Wall are all historical landmarks which offer an in-depth insight into the city's history.

The 'Hutongs' are also another option, allowing tourists to experience crucial cultural elements of the city. Every Hutong has its own story - some going dating back six dynasties and some associated



with significant historical events. As a contrast to the elite life illustrated by the Forbidden City, Summer Palace, and the Temple of Heaven, the Hutongs reflect the original culture and traditions of grassroots Beijingers. These hutongs still form the heart of Beijing.

For those wanting to explore more modern attractions, Beijing also provides numerous shopping malls and entertainment centers such as Solana, Indigo Mall, Latitude and Joy City, which offer luxurious shops as well as a diverse range of leisure activities. Out of the abundant choices of attractions, tourists can go to the most favored place for international students: Sanlitun, a prosperous shopping hub with a variety of options. Sanlitun is filled with an infinite amount stores, from restaurants to clothing shops, tourists would have plenty choices.

Of course, one of the most rewarding parts of traveling is finding new food. The city's special dish is Peking Duck, with bold and vivid flavors that dazzle tourists' taste buds. Another famous dish is Hotpot, which is prepared with a simmering pot of specialized soup at the dining table and with other dishes such as meat, leafy vegetables, mushrooms, eggs, tofu, seafood and many more. Similar to fondue, ingredients are placed into the simmering pot, and the cooked food is eaten with a dipping sauce.

Beijing is a city packed full of remarkable historical sites that make an astonishing harmony with contemporary landmarks. There is no time wasted while touring this city. However, it is always important to remember that Beijing is often covered with a layer of air pollution, so health precautions such as wearing a mask are strongly recommended while exploring this thriving city.

Introduction to ISB

By Will Zhou

Since its foundation in 1980, the International School of Beijing (ISB) has grown from a humble classroom of eight students to a well-established, non-profit, and co-educational institution with over 1600 students from PreK 3 to Grade 12. ISB is located in Shunyi district and is one of the oldest, largest international schools in Beijing, China. With a diverse student body of over 50 nationalities, ISB has strived for, and enjoyed, over three decades of academic excellence.

With its 32-acre campus, a 600-seat theater, two library centers, many classrooms, and endless resources and facilities, ISB fosters a comprehensive learning environment aiding the physical, intellectual, and emotional development for everyone. By providing "Learning21@ISB" or "L21", and offering an academically rigorous, balanced, and engaging learning environment, the school aims to cultivate creative opportunities to develop every student's talents. Students here find a purposeful balance of academic success and enriching personal growth, fueled by the support of passionate teachers and parents.

As we continue to progress into the 21st century, ISB looks to be adaptive and forward-looking, fostering global understanding and respect within and between cultures, especially in the increasingly interconnected world. This mission manifests itself with the 26th annual BEIMUN conference. BEIMUN provides the chance for delegates from



around the world to go beyond our myopic community, to widen the lenses in which we view the world. It empowers students as individuals, as scholars, and as contributing global citizens. On that note

ISB opens its doors to all delegates and participants of BEIMUN XXVI from across the globe, wishing everyone an exciting weekend.

THREE POWERFUL WORDS

By Harry Xiao

Security. Sovereignty. Sustainability.

In the unimaginably empowering and modern 21st century, these three words hold greater significance than ever before. Society has witnessed some of the greatest breakthroughs in human history. Globally, the quality of life has improved immensely as novel innovations are constantly developed in science and technology, pushing the frontiers of humanity further. However, even in light of these achievements, the world faces a new set of deadly threats, as each global issue resolved leaves a new one in its wake.

Instead of large-scale national conflicts, the world suffers from terrorism that has taken up the mantle, plaguing even the most well-prepared of nations. Instead of colonial empires that subjugate people from across the globe, the world suffers as governmental power is undermined by political hegemonies, where discussion regarding immigration freedoms and policy is polarized, preventing the guarantee of human rights that all people are entitled to. In-

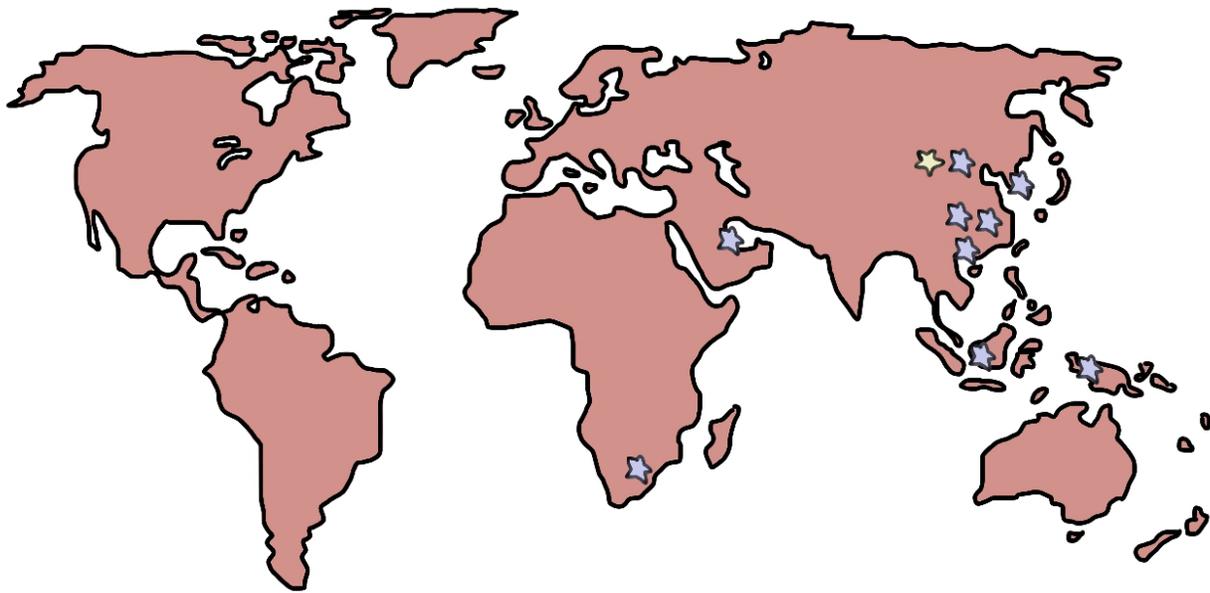
stead of citizens facing the threat of no electricity, the world now is faced with the danger of unstoppable climate change that is more than often viewed as insignificant through the optics of the ignorant uninformed. Eloquently put by Samuel Soh, Secretary General of BEIMUN XXVI, “in a time when our international order seems challenged by the rise of nationalism and a sharp turn towards isolationism across our globe, I think that it is ever-important to look back at the roots of the UN and what values it was founded upon.” Indeed, in such a time, it is crucial to encourage meaningful social and political discourse in society.

In pursuit of this goal, BEIMUN has established “Security, Sovereignty, Sustainability” as this year’s conference theme. As Soh articulates, “This year’s theme is embodied in the alarmingly relevant issues that will be discussed in each committee, from the threat of nuclear proliferation to the protection of coastal ecosystems, BEIMUN is a conference with a range of topics that covers it all.” Soh is excited to see

what insightful ideas delegates will present as they work to tackle the hurdle of addressing our world’s problems, and what diverse views they will offer on security, sovereignty, and sustainability in a changing world. Out of the myriad of global issues that threaten to take over the world, BEIMUN will focus on the most pressing issues; issues that, if resolved, may serve as cornerstones for future resolutions in the path towards a better world.



Schools Coming to BEIMUN



American International School Dhaka
 American International School of Johannesburg
 Beijing Huijia Private School
 Beijing World Youth Academy
 Brent International School Subic Bay
 British School of Beijing
 Canadian International School of Beijing
 Cangu Community School in Bali
 Cebu International School
 Dulwich College Beijing
 Global Leader Edu
 Hangzhou International School
 Harrow International School Shanghai

International School of Beijing
 International School of Tianjin
 Internationalla Kunskaopgymnasiet (Stockholm)
 Kaiwen Academy
 Korean International School
 Lycee Jules Verne French School
 Mapleleaf International School Tianjin
 Nanjing International School
 Qatar Academy Sidra
 RDFZ Chaoyang Branch
 School Year Abroad China
 Seoul Foreign School
 Sha Tin College

Shanghai Singapore International School
 Shanghai Yue Kong Pao Senior Secondary School
 Shekou International School
 Teda International School
 Tianjin International School
 Western Academy of Beijing
 Xiamen International School
 Xian Hi-Tech International School
 Yew Chung International School of Beijing
 Yew Chung International School of Shanghai Pudong
 Beijing City International School

USURPED: NATIONALISM IN THE GLOBAL ERA

By Casper Suen, Frank Cui and Kathy Liu



The foremost mandate of the United Nations is to foster cooperation between the many peoples of the world in the virtuous pursuit of peace and prosperity for all. Lofty ideals indeed. But almost seventy-four years after the UN's birth in 1945, the world's powers seem intent only on turning inwards. From the emergence of numerous rightist leaders in some of the world's largest nations to trade and border disputes, tribalism reigns supreme. The global populace, plagued by inequality levels not seen since the early 20th century, seem eager to revert to the reactionary and nationalistic sentiments of the time. In this day and age, globalists are the enemy. From Trump to Brexit and Bolsanero, one doesn't have to look far to see examples of this global trend. But while these paragons of retrogression dominate the news cycle, there are some other cases which are less often talked about but deserving of attention nonetheless.

The election of socially conservative Prime Minister Viktor Orban in 2015 has shifted Hungary's stance on social and political issues towards a strongly nationalistic and conservative position once again. Hungarian nationalism stems from a perceived sense of threat to the country's identity. Throughout history, it has been a small nation fighting for survival among larger Slavic states. The increased globalization of Europe - the mixing of cultures and languages, particularly through immigrants - "endangers [the

Hungarian] way of life, culture, customs and [the] Christian traditions" (Orban). These sentiments are a central tenet of Hungarian nationalism, and are frequently stoked by Orban and his party. European integration is portrayed as a threat to Hungarian life with its immigration laws and open borders.

As a result, Orban has taken a strong opposition stance - in line with the opinions and wishes of his people - against EU policies. After the introduction of a law which made it a criminal offense for lawyers and activists to help asylum seekers, several EU nations have accused Hungary of "breaching the values of [the] union", and "abus[ing] his power". However, Orban put this law into effect with the defense that it would prevent the "migrants" from diluting and harming the traditional culture of the country. While average citizens did not protest or show visible dissent towards this new law, it has drawn criticism from human rights and democratic advocacy groups. The EU has called upon Article 7, which allows for the suspension of a member state's rights. The opposition and threats from the EU as a result of Orban's narrative has only increased isolationist sentiment in Hungary, and further aggravated Hungarian nationalism.

The growth of rightist politics, however, is certainly not a recent phenomenon, nor is it constrained to Europe and the Americas. Japan has, slowly but surely, embraced a unique brand of right-wing na-

tionalism, the roots of which can be traced to the Shōwa statism of the Meiji Restoration and the foreign encroachment during the final years of the Shogunate, feeding to Japanese militarism and imperialism that ended in the Second World War.

Japan has become intertwined with historical revisionism and rearmament. Contending its history of wartime crimes such as the Nanking Massacre, human experimentation, and comfort women, unapologetic rightist groups within Japan have enflamed its Asian neighbors on numerous occasions. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his ruling party are part of an ultra nationalist lobby group that has visited Yasukuni Shrine, which houses the remains of and commemorates fourteen class A war criminals, much to Chinese and Korean outrage. Right wing parties and politicians have long pushed for the censorship of textbooks on grounds of neutrality, calling "invasions" "occupations" and omitting critical war crimes.

At the same time, Abe is seeking a constitutional amendment to remove the pacifist clause which does not allow for the maintenance of an armed force capable of waging war. While Japan already has a de facto army, the amendment would trigger international outrage, further adding tension to a destabilized Asia. This move is symbolic in nature and will legitimize Japanese nationalism, playing to Abe's domestic agenda.

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INDIA AND PAKISTAN'S FEUD

By Hyoree Kim

Ever since the suicide attack on February 14th that killed at least forty-two Central Reserve Police Force personnel in the Indian-administered Kashmir town of Pulwama, tensions between the two nuclear powers, India and Pakistan, have been high. Responsibility was claimed by Pakistan-based Islamist military group Jaish-e-Mohammed, and India has blamed Pakistan for the attack. On the 27th of February, a day after India launched air strikes on Pakistani tar-

gets in retaliation for the suicide attack, an Indian Air Force jet operating within Pakistani airspace was shot down, and the Indian Air Force pilot was taken into custody. On the same day, Pakistan launched retaliatory air strikes on six targets in Indian-administered Kashmir to demonstrate their power and capability to hit Indian targets. The intent of this demonstration was not to cause any casualties, but to showcase "their right, will, and capability for

self-defense" (Ghafoor). The retaliatory air strikes coupled with the capture of the Indian pilot have drastically heightened military tensions within the area, and tanks were deployed to the Indian border. As a gesture of peace, Pakistan released the captured pilot on March 1st, although the Indian Air Force describes the release as an obligation under the Geneva Convention.

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CLIMATE COUNTDOWN

By Kathy Liu

The global spotlight, over the last twenty years, has slowly shifted towards sustainability and environmental protection as politicians and everyday citizens begin to realize the long-term consequences of climate change. However, despite the progress that has been made, environmentalists now predict we only have a little more than twelve years to take decisive action and reverse climate change.

Compared to pre-industrial climate patterns, the world is on average one degree Celsius warmer. While this minute change may seem insignificant, the effects that it has brought are anything but. Increasingly volatile weather patterns have led to catastrophic events such as the debilitating hurricanes in the United States, severe droughts in Cape Town, South Africa, and forest fires in the Arctic.

As the average global temperature continues to rise, these phenomena will only be exacerbated. The Paris Agreement signed in 2015 leaves us with only twelve years to keep global temperature increases between one and a half and two degrees. It is absolutely critical to maintain, if not reverse, current levels of climate change due to the disastrous effects that a increase of two degrees would bring. Ninety-nine percent of all corals would perish, and insects are very likely to lose half their habitats. Millions would be exposed to food and water stress, plunging entire populations into climate-induced poverty.

The time to fix the climate issues that we ourselves have created is running out, and global bodies must work together efficiently over the next twelve years to reduce global carbon emissions by forty-five per-

cent and protect the populations vulnerable to climate change. This will be a discussion that delegates will have to have in the coming days, and hopefully, world leaders in the coming years.



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WHO IS BEIWATCH?

By Will Zhou

It's another BEIMUN conference. Looking around ISB, you see bustling classrooms and hallways with delegates, admins, and supervisors hastily making last-minute preparations. Amid this commotion, a student rushes towards you, phone-in-hand, and bombards you with questions before quickly moving on to the next student or teacher. That's us: Beiwatch, the resident newspaper team for the BEIMUN conference.

For the past several years, our team of passionate reporters, artists, editors, and photographers have worked tenaciously behind-the-scenes at every MUN conference hosted at ISB. While we aim to document and preserve memorable BEIMUN experiences, our mission is not to be "just a newspaper." In relation to every year's theme, we strive to understand our society better with every article published. As hundreds of global-minded students gather at ISB to discuss the world's most pressing topics, each issue we publish aims to capture the sublime, whether it is found in the triumphs or shortcomings of every delegate.

At the forefront of this mission is our leadership and core team: our supervisor Mr. John Miller, Editor-in-Chief Sunny Lee, Managing Editor of Layout Jenny Cha, Managing Editor of Text Casper Suen, Visual Editor Christina Choi, and Text Editor Ellie



(From Top Left to Right) Advisor Mr. John Miller, Chief Editor Sunny Lee, Managing Editor of Layout Jenny Cha, Managing Editor of Text Casper Suen, Text Editor Ellie Lee, Visual Editor Christina Choi

Lee. They brainstorm what headlines and photos should appear on each page for every issue, while our reporters, photographers, and artists capture and put these ideas onto paper. Whether it is our

astute current events section, our witty satire pieces, or our challenging puzzles, we're sure you'll find something that interests you. So pick up a copy of Beiwatch each morning.

GIVING BACK

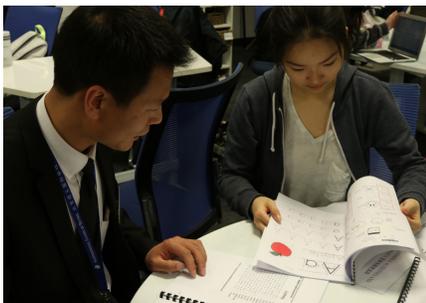
By Qiqi Zhou

This article is written in English, and you can understand this article. Why? Because you understand the fundamentals of the English language.

English is the most universal language in our day in age; the population of non-native English speakers grows day by day. As such, the importance of the language in society is becoming increasingly prominent. We, students in an international school, have been given the valuable gift of learning English as native speakers, but most of the staffs (security guards, janitors, and bus monitors) in our community were not. TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), founded two years ago at the International School of Beijing, aims to spread the opportunity to these individuals in the ISB community who have not had the chance to learn English.

When we walk into ISB every morning, the security guards greet us with a smile and open the doors for us. The janitors work all day and night, even on the weekends to ensure that our learning environment is clean and organized. All these staffs do so much to enhance our learning experience at ISB, but it is true that we have not given much in return. TESOL also provides students with an opportunity to give back to the community.

Many ISB students may be familiar with the security guard at the West Gate named Leo Liu. You might know him from greeting him everyday or even cracking jokes with him. Every morning and afternoon he greets each student and teacher who passed through the gate with a polite "Hello!" and a cheerful "Zao!" meaning good morning. Liu has been learning English in TESOL for almost two years, and his English has improved significantly. This is evident in his morning greetings, as they have progressed from a simple hello to questions about how people's day were, initiating a light conversation.



In TESOL, the students become the teachers and the staff become the learners. The students are responsible for creating lesson plans and teaching. Members plan workbooks and lesson plans with a specific topic that can later be reused. The club began with only one branch solely dedicated to teaching the local staff. Every Wednesday after school, Sodexo workers, security guards, and cafeteria staff will rush into the TESOL classroom to take an hour-long English class. The adult branch focuses on teaching conversational English which can allow the staff to communicate with other members of the ISB community. TESOL members are also flexible and open,



such as when the staff wants to learn more about phonics, grammar, and career-based vocabulary.

Over the years, TESOL has gone on to create a child branch. This new branch was formed after high demand from the staff, who wanted their children to learn English and become bilingual in the future. The child branch is split into three age groups: four to six, seven to nine, and ten to twelve. Due to high popularity, the groups are sometimes divided into multiple groups. With genuine interest in learning English, the children will always bring their own notebooks to take notes during lessons and prepare questions for their teachers. Dividing the students into separate age group allows TESOL members to tailor their lessons to match the needs of that specific class or age group.

Although we face the challenge of keeping some of the younger students focused for long periods of time, we offer alternative ways for them to learn. As we believe students should be able to have fun while learning at the same time, we try to avoid the traditional lecture-based education, instead we integrate our lessons into fun activities.

For the more experienced students, lessons are taught half in English and half in Chinese because we believe these students can pick up languages more effectively than adults, and they can become more familiar with the English language simply by hearing more of it. Many of these students demonstrate their high level of dedication and passion by listing down difficult vocabulary to ask their teacher during class.

The teachers are as passionate as the teachers. With the growing number of members interested in teaching as part of TESOL, the child branch's next step is to divide the students into even smaller group, as this would increase both efficiency and ef-

fectiveness.

The child branch hopes to be able to teach these students from a young age, as it would allow them to learn the language more easily. Constantly hearing conversations and lessons in English may help kids—especially those at the age of four to six—improve their English fluency faster.

The future looks bright for TESOL, with new members coming in each quarter and new staff members interested in learning English. TESOL may just be a newly-formed club, but it's a club that has the potential to make a long-lasting impact on the ISB community.



UNPLUGGED WAYS TO DESTRESS IN 2019

By Isa Pan

Whether you are a student, parent, or hard-working faculty member, there is no doubt that embedded within our school and work routines are continuous patterns of stress, anxiety, sleep deprivation. Coupled with the seemingly infinite stream of information associated with the “Age of Distraction,” the need to alleviate our chronically-fatigued minds is becoming ever-crucial. How do we balance the wear and tear of productivity with our mental, physical, and spiritual health? Or can we only oscillate between “exhaustion” and “lethargy?” Let’s find out how members of the International School of Beijing community use their free time to “unwind” and find unplugged solutions!

“How do you like to spend your free time? Do you have any unplugged ways to de-stress you’d like to share?”

“In my free time, I like to play basketball, listen to music, read, and watch TV. My favorite unplugged way to de-stress would be going to swim with my friends or just eating with them.” (Lyndon Beadles, Grade 9)

“I like to go on YouTube, listen to music, chat with friends, or just take a quick nap. My favorite unplugged way to de-stress would be playing board games with my friends during study hall.” (Celina Zhao, Grade 11)

“I like to exercise, watch movies, read books, listen to music, connect with friends and family. With my cell phone around, I also check emails/WeChat messages and read news and articles on the phone. My typical methods to de-stress are: play competitive sports, take a long walk in the park, listen to music, or meditate.”
(Anonymous ISB parent)

“My work is one of them! Biking for fun, shopping, going out... Honestly, there aren’t many days where we don’t use the internet, though.” (Leo Liu, security guard)

“I like to distract myself with exercising to be honest. Ever since my first year of college I have been really into hot yoga. It’s really nice and helps the muscle to relax while burning and sweating out the toxicity in the body.”
(Emma Kang, ISB alumni)

Entertainment Highlights of 2018

By Isa Pan

2018, a year of socio-political uncertainty and flux. To capture the political and social zeitgeist of this year appears a daunting task; however, perhaps one needs to look no further than the realms of art, music, and film. In an era of digitalized information, where Spotify averages 13,000 new songs per month, and the average entertainment-related Youtube video receives 9000 views, visual and audio media has risen in breadth and influence. With the millions of new content creators, powerful voices have emerged, seeking identity, reflecting on personal and national tragedies, partaking in rap feuds about racism, and speaking volumes about mental health.

Music

Let us not forget the music that took 2018 by storm. A platform for rising stars and rap, this year provided us with viral rapper Cardi B’s album “Invasion of Privacy” and her hit-tracks “I Like it” and “Finesse” as well as Kendrick Lamar’s Grammy

winning performance “HUMBLE.” Dominating the charts and Grammy’s were also pop-singer Ed Sheeran and Bruno Mars with his smash-hit “24K Magic.”

Donald Glover’s alter-ego “Childish Gambino” took his jarring messages from “Redbone” and created the surrealist critique of racist justice that was “This is America,” culminating the recent movements for #BlackLivesMatter into a sensational piece. Glover, however, wasn’t the only artist responding to the violence and conflict rampant in their lives; pop-star Ariana Grande, in the aftermath of a concert-bombing, the death of ex-boyfriend Mac Miller, and the breaking-off of her engagement with her fiancé Pete Davidson returned with her album Sweetener, feeding fans with her newfound strength and hope for the future.

Movies/TV

Despite mourning the recent passing of Marvel Studios’ creative leader Stan Lee, fans of the Marvel

Cinematic Franchise may collectively agree that 2018 was a breakthrough. Apart from record-breaking box-office sales from “Black Panther” and “Avengers: Infinity War,” the film industry is seeing an explosion of superhero arcs and narratives. Most notable, however, was the immense support for Marvel’s Black Panther, which featured a 90% African-American cast.

The impressive representation of diverse casting extends into other genres, such as the American romance films “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before,” featuring Lana Condor and “Crazy Rich Asians,” which presented cast members from China, Singapore, and a range of South-east Asian countries.



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(cat, mouse, elephant, turtle, crow, arctic fox)

Spot the Difference!



Artworks by Ella Sun and Ally Shin



Layout by Irina Park

BEIWATCH PRESS TEAM

BEIWATCH is your one-stop shop for all things MUN! Here, a group of talented writers, photographers, artists, layout designers and editors work tirelessly to bring you the very best, up-to-date news about MUN conferences in Beijing.

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