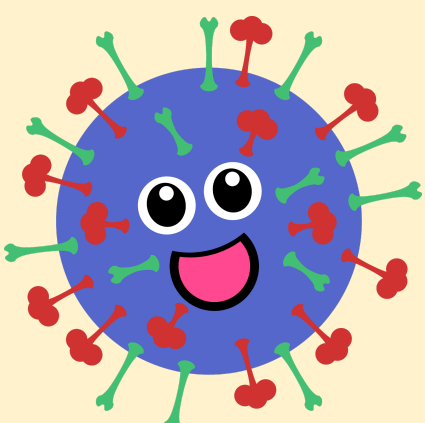


THE GRANT PARK JOLLY ROGER COVID-19 EDITION



*This is gonna go
VIRAL!*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Letters from the Editors</u>	2
<u>School Related</u>	3
Remembering Rooster Town (J)	3
Coronavirus Update (D)	6
<u>World Issues</u>	9
Coronavirus Update: The Real One (J)	9
Europe Becomes Epicentre For Coronavirus (J)	11
The History of Climate Change (J)	13
<u>Arts and Culture</u>	15
Singles Review March 2020 (O)	15
Car Seat Headrest Review (O)	17
Did You Know? (D)	21
Assorted Poetry (A)	22
Photography Feature (A)	26
<u>Advice Columns</u>	30
Procrastination (O)	
30	
Horoscopes with Jamie! (D)	32
How to Survive Quarantine (S)	35

LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS

Ahoy ye Grant Park Student Body,

Welcome to our first ever edition of the Grant Park newsletter! Grant Park has had a history of failed newsletters, but we're hoping this one will stick. The title of "newsletter" I feel is pretty limiting because the implication is that it is about... news (as its name suggests). But we're hoping to put an innovative twenty-first century spin on this! Serving primarily as a medium for student voice, we believe that this newsletter can fulfill an important niche in the school community; one that will help foster creative expression and put individuality on a pedestal. We'll be publishing a new edition digitally every few months and we'd love to have any students from the school join in! Anyways, we hope you have as much fun reading this issue as we had writing it!

Arghh, see ya ol' chum!

Jamie X.

Heya Grant Park Pirates!

This edition is unique not just because it is our first, but because it is being released during the global COVID-19 pandemic. With all of our newfound free time during this quarantine, we decided to go ahead and write this newsletter instead of just sitting on our bums and eating chips... or is that just me? Anywho, since we're using the term "newsletter" pretty loosely here -- because apparently "a cacophony of student-written doodads" is unprofessional -- we've created a handy-dandy tag system so that you know what's what. So, without further ado, please enjoy our assortment of serious [Journalism \(J\)](#), uncalled-for [Opinion pieces \(O\)](#), pretentiously [Artistic content \(A\)](#), accidental [Brain dumps \(B\)](#), and only semi-politically correct [Satire \(S\)](#) during this rather depressing time. Share this with your friends, family, and teachers (that is, if you're not too scared to send them an awkward email)! Everybody can use a much-needed break from doing homework or teaching or, realistically, napping.

xoxo *Maya G.*

You can contact us or submit work by emailing GPjollyroger@gmail.com or messaging our instagram account [@gpjollyroger](https://www.instagram.com/gpjollyroger)

SCHOOL RELATED

Serious

[Remembering Rooster Town \(J\)](#)

History today is seen as a great chronicle of past events. It is the recollection of loss and growth that has slingshot us in a butterfly effect to where we are today. While history is inexplicably intertwined with the modern era, often we can slip into giving it the treatment of a mythos: one that is to be revisited instead of rebuilt. In the context of Manitoba, we find a rich history of indigenous culture starkly contrasted by a concrete suburban jungle. What is often left out is the coinciding of these two, as though one cannot exist in the presence of the other. A specific narrative is often spun in place of it, a colonial artifice, about the inevitability of harsh change. In a 2016 Maclean's magazine article, Mayor Brian Bowman declared Winnipeg the most racist city in Canada, pledging to host a public forum for aboriginal accord; while this is a step towards reconciliation, it is notable that justice begins in changes of public attitude.

In David Burley's 2018 book "Rooster Town: The History of an Urban Metis Community", the unspoken origins of Grant Park are taken as a case study of urban discrimination that hits a little close to home. He writes of the lasting impacts of settler colonization as "continuing to be articulated and enforced in and through the organized space" (Burley 23).

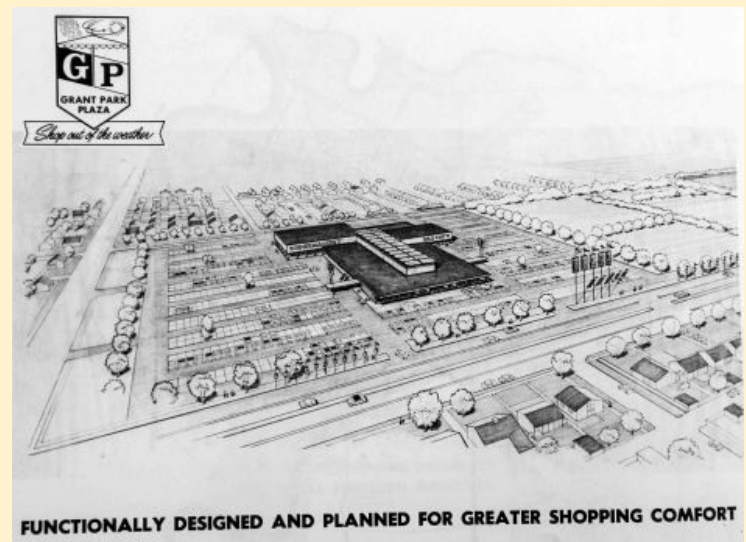
Originating in 1901, Rooster Town was an early Metis settlement located in the place of modern Pan Am Pool, Grant Park Mall and High School. Despite promises in the Manitoba Act of 1870, many Metis people did not receive ownership to land and so they worked nomadically before they moved to Winnipeg where they founded Rooster Town. The area was largely empty, so houses were built of found wood and abandoned boxcars. With employment being difficult to come by, most families lived off minimum wage through hard labour and seasonal jobs that came and went. Their intense poverty was only worsened by the First World War. With a large proportion of the population's men in the army, their wives were left to struggle in a time when social service systems were not well established. With such a centralized living location, rumours spread fast. Rooster Town was seen as a financial deficit by the government and it was not long until the media had shifted to negative portrayals



of the community, referring to Rooster Town as a “serious menace to the health and welfare of the city” (Peters et al).

Following World War I, population rates remained steady. While the public perception of Rooster Town was that they “squatted” to survive, in reality, a variety of City of Winnipeg property tax data shows use of land was highly varied with many Indigenous people purchasing small plots of land and self-building. However, despite their efforts, the community was never one of prosperity. Investments made through purchasing and building were almost always immediately lost as the government foreclosed on their property when hardship struck. In the Great Depression, work became scarce and a chronic housing shortage meant that many residents of Rooster Town relied on kinship and their community for housing to reduce living expenses. The population grew until 1946, the population peaking at around 250 people. With so many people living in close quarters, it was not uncommon for illness to transfer quickly, so they gained a reputation of poor hygiene. This was worsened by a lack of available transportation. In 1930 many bus routes ended around Grosvenor and Corydon, so accessing clean water, markets and city services such as health care were indirectly made inaccessible.

After World War II there was a big social movement to suburbanize Canadian cities. People desired independent, detached houses and centralized land in a cultural movement of individuality. Rooster Town’s cheap central land became sought after for both developers and hopeful homeowners. The City of Winnipeg was eager to encourage these developments; in response to demand from developers the city of Winnipeg subsequently publicized Rooster Town’s dependence on social services and its poverty to legitimize their inhumane removal of the population. News reporters from both of Winnipeg’s major news outlets advertised the community with headlines like “Village of Patched-up Shacks Scene of Appalling Squalor” (Burley 16). Articles were published that ignored the systematic context of Metis poverty and built upon pre-existing prejudices that the public had formed over time. The publication of these articles was a major turning point for the public’s perception as they normalized discriminatory attitudes towards the Metis and exploited the misinformed suburban panic that had developed around privileged communities.



On August 18th, 1959 the city of Winnipeg approved a development application for a 118 acre shopping centre called “Grant Park Plaza” directly on the lands of Rooster Town. With a rapid increase in

population surrounding Rooster Town, public schools were becoming overpopulated; consequently, the application was quickly changed to also include the building of “Grant Park High school”. This last-minute addition to the plan would erase the last refuge for Rooster Town residents, forcing them all to leave. The proposed area for relocation was Winnipeg’s North End. The plan included a small token grant of \$75 per family if they vacated by May 1st and \$50 if they moved by June 30th. The community faced eviction proceedings and burning of their homes if resisted and at the time the public was completely in favour of this (Burley 27).

“The rundown shacks of Rooster Town may not have seemed like homes to city authorities and welfare officers but for the poor, often working poor who lived there, [they] represented success in surviving a harsh climate and even harsher social system. Their eviction with token compensation rendered the residents of Rooster Town homeless” (Burley 21).

Chairman and Members,
Committee on Finance,
Winnipeg.

Dear Sirs:-

I enclose copy of memorandum from the Director of Public Welfare dated the 7th instant in regard to grant of \$75.00 to assist "squatters" on City property to find alternative accommodation.

This matter was considered by the Committee on Public Health and Welfare on the 11th instant and the arbitrary ruling of the Director in this respect was confirmed by the said Committee.

Yours truly,

JAM/yk
Enc.

Clerk of Committee.

There is a deep irony in the ideology that Indigenous people do not suit urban life and this is proven by Rooster Town.

While the commonly voiced narrative is that Indigenous culture existed and developed isolated from urban society, the reality is that indigenous people have always been present in large numbers wherever major cities are today. In the case of Rooster Town, not only did they live in central Winnipeg, but they made a life for themselves and adapted to the cultural differences. In an imprudent campaign to make the city more beautiful, Mayor Stephen Juba had effectively rid Winnipeg of an epicentre of rich indigenous history (Dickie), a mistake that will take decades to reconcile,

if that is even possible at all. Not only did indigenous culture develop alongside urbanization but much of our current understanding of land protection and sustainability is rooted in indigenous perspective. The erasure of Rooster Town’s history is a dangerous demonstration of how Canada has had an agenda to disenfranchise indigenous people of their original lands. These are important parts of Canadian history being lost and hopefully the raising of awareness can lead us into a new era of reconciliation.

As a school community it is important that we take steps to acknowledge the history of the land we are founded upon, not only because it serves as a form of reconciliation but because this acknowledgement is part of moving away from mentalities that cause racialized poverty. We are part of a never-ending timeline of events and it is important that we see history this way not just because our past affects our present but because our past affects our future.

Igotyoutoreadthis

Coronavirus Update (D)

I am writing this at the end of Winnipeg's fourth week of quarantine. By now, the reality of the situation has already set in. If you're like me, you've already gone through the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression (why was this one so long? I didn't sign up for that), and acceptance. This is the world we live in now. We're not surprised to see people wear masks at the store anymore. We wash our hands instinctively after touching doorknobs. We've settled into our online classes and we understand that this is the way how things need to work right now. We've stopped compulsively checking the online virus trackers, wondering how the numbers could be changing so fast. We may even have stopped researching this virus, because what more is there to know about it?

Acceptance is adaptance, and humans are really great at it. We are less afraid now -- yes, probably dreading how much longer the lockdown will last and still suffering the horrible consequences of losing employment or worse -- but for many of us, the initial shock of the situation has passed. Our normal lives have been shaken, uprooted from under our feet, but most of us have accepted that all there is to do now is wait and that things will go back to normal.

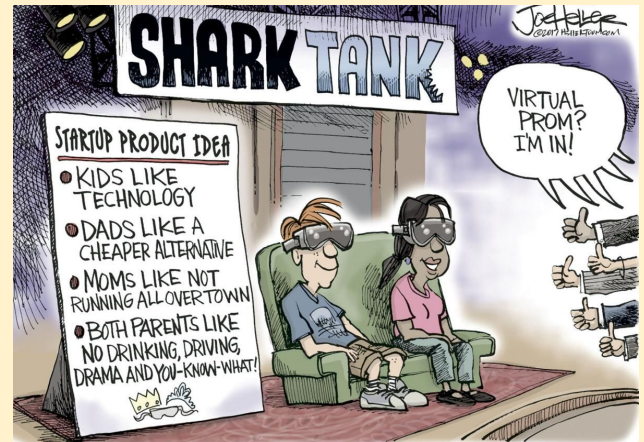
I am not here to give you hope. I don't think that's what we need right now, at the end of the fourth week of quarantine, because we are not hopeless. This virus can't last forever, medical researchers will eventually find a vaccine, and governments know that the economy can't handle an infinitely long lockdown. It phenomenally sucks that no one knows how long it will last, but the amazing thing about time is that it never stops moving forward. You may think of the impending march of time, but I think of its leisurely stroll through our life. What I mean is: if time always moves forward, then, with enough patience, we eventually and *always* have to reach our destination.

What I want to do here is to talk about something that I think we regarded as being unimportant in the middle of this world wide pandemic. It's easy to invalidate our own lives, our hopes and goals, when we are faced with something real and dangerous. Survival instincts take over, and we lose focus on what we found important in our "normal" life. It doesn't help that the media seems to skip over this essential part in our collective grief.

Stuff got cancelled. That's it. Stuff got cancelled for everyone. We need to think about that. The world hasn't fallen apart; we are still living in a modern human society and we are allowed to hold value to whatever it is we spend our time on, even though it doesn't help pay the bills and it doesn't help us

survive in an apocalypse situation when civilization is all gone and it may just be for fun. We are allowed to grieve, because we all lost something and it wasn't anyone's fault.

To all of my seniors out there, I am sorry about graduation. I know many of you may not care that much, and it's often cheesy or sentimental, but it's a right of passage. You've worked up to this moment for 12 years and it got taken from you right before the climax. Most of you have already bought your dresses and suits, and nobody can resist that little bounce in your chest when you think of wearing your outfit and showing up to prom, Regina George style. Maybe you were planning an epic promposal to your ageless crush, and won't get the chance to anymore.



Then, there was supposed to be convocation. I've been to Grant Park's convocation three times; each time, the speeches got a little too redundant, someone almost fell off the stage receiving their diploma, and I got so hot and hungry sitting in that church for three hours. But at the end, I would look at all the gleaming faces under their blue caps and think to myself, "wow, it must feel really magical to be up there". So it's just our luck that this pandemic landed in 2020.

After graduation, people had celebrations planned. There were going to be parties and family dinners and road trips. Some of you might have been planning a vacation abroad, maybe with your family or a loved one. These are things that we had been excited for, and they got cancelled. The Chicago trip got cancelled for all of my band kids, and to be honest, I was really looking forward to singing "The Time of My Life" with my band teachers and friends on the bus in the middle of the night as we drove through miles and miles of prairie.

The high school musical, which for many was their last, was another one of the casualties. Our school's talented musicians and actors have been preparing to perform for practically the entire year, and all that hard work was lost with a single announcement from province officials, declaring a limit of ten people to a gathering. I'm sure many of you would have treated "Catch Me If You Can" differently if you could have known about this.

I don't mean to keep depressing anyone, but think about everything people had been looking forward to or preparing for as this year finished up. Concerts, recitals, sports competitions, physics and math contests, university conferences, and science fairs. Grade wars and senior skip day. The St. Vital

book sale fundraiser for the Children's Hospital and the Manitoba Marathon. Winnipeg Folk Fest during the summer. Maybe your siblings were finally graduating from university this year -- imagine working so hard for a degree and not getting the payoff it deserves. Some of you lost summer programs that you had applied for, waited anxiously for an answer from, and got ultra excited when you got in to. Maybe you had aced that interview and were looking forward to starting that job, or lost the job you already liked.

Even simple, everyday joys that us seniors had been making the most of before we graduated are gone. Seeing your boyfriend or girlfriend at school and annoying your friends with PDA's. Running to MacDonald's right before an after school AP review session. Sitting in the corner of McNally's reading a book or getting a much needed pre-class coffee from Starbucks. Looking forward to your favourite class of the day -- or looking forward to finally going home after school. Hanging out with your buddies, who you love now even though you know that this is the last time you'll truly know these people before you head your separate ways in university. Maybe you were excited that you had finally gotten your life in order, for a brief moment. Maybe you were groaning in frustration because you were still a mess.

This pandemic took a lot from us, but there's no one to blame, no one to be angry at, and no one to forgive. This is how life works, and your parents are maybe telling you to just get used to it. Yes, we need to be strong, because life never turns out the way you plan and most of it is out of your control. And having no control is truly scary.

But being strong and realizing that you have little control does not mean you invalidate what was important to you. I don't mean that we should all collectively start complaining. No, this is about



giving respect to the parts in your life that you did control. Listen to your own noggin', because you might be feeling negative and down without really noticing or understanding why. I wrote this piece for that. I wrote it so you think about what was lost and really take the time to grieve it, without reprimanding yourself about how it wasn't "important" compared to a worldwide pandemic or that everyone lost something so you have no right to "complain". This is all part of acceptance, and we should do it together. We at the Jolly Roger understand that, so feel free to share any issues or disappointments with us on social media.

One last thing: I know Friends is a great distraction, but do make sure you go outside once in a while too ;)

WORLD ISSUES

Serious Out of date
Semi-Political

[Coronavirus Update: The Real One** \(J\)](#)

On March 16, 2020 Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced from his residence that Canada will be closing its doors to all foreign nationals with the exception of US citizens. Shipping is still permitted but flights to major cities like Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Calgary will be restricted. In conjunction with this, bars, nightclubs, theatres and dine-in restaurants in Toronto have been ordered to close by March 17 and public gatherings over 50 are strongly discouraged.

“Over the past few days, we’ve seen Covid-19 spread around the world at an even faster pace. Canada is no exception,” Trudeau said.



Trudeau urges all Canadians to stay home “as much as possible” in order to prevent or at least slow down the spread of the virus. This is following the rather sudden decision to close schools for an additional two weeks in Manitoba, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario. While schools may be out in these provinces, education is still continuing, with teachers being asked to prepare online materials in order to

ensure classes continue on schedule -- with the exception of Saskatchewan, which has closed schools indefinitely beginning on March 20.

Some teachers say that this isn't enough and schools should start closing down the week of March 16th, 2020. James Bedford, the president of the Manitoba Teachers Society, wrote a letter to the minister of education on behalf of the teachers association calling for schools to be closed "as soon as possible" because "the health and safety of everyone in our schools and our communities is of paramount importance during these unprecedented times." He cites the lack of room to separate students and the possibility of asymptomatic transmission as the major reasons for this request.

Students are already taking matters into their own hands and some are choosing to avoid classes altogether. Attendance is down by one third as reported by The Winnipeg School Division.

Despite all these measures, the number of cases in Canada is still going up, with a total 424 cases concentrated in Ontario, Vancouver and Alberta, according to the Government of Canada. This is only 51 days after Canada confirmed its first known case of Coronavirus on January 25, and the situation is predicted to get worse before it gets better.

Federal Health Minister Patty Hajdu says that "between 30 per cent and 70 per cent of Canadians could become infected with the new coronavirus"; the exact percent will depend on the scale of Canada's response. Most will recover from the virus but seniors and those with respiratory health conditions are especially vulnerable to it.

The best way to avoid catching coronavirus is by putting distance between yourself and others, washing your hands often and thoroughly -- for at least 20 seconds -- and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If you do begin to feel symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties, the best thing to do is to isolate yourself and immediately contact your doctor. Avoid contact with people and animals and regularly sanitize surfaces.

If you want to get tested, locations to do so are Mount Carmel Clinic on Main Street, Access Transcona on Regent Avenue, Access Winnipeg West on Booth Drive and Access Fort Garry on Plaza Drive.

Jared

**Information accurate as of March 22nd, 2020

[Europe Becomes Epicentre For Coronavirus** \(J\)](#)

On March 21 during a media briefing, the World Health organization announced that Europe has become the epicentre for the Coronavirus pandemic.

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says “Europe has now become the epicenter of the pandemic, with more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China.”

Italy in particular is faring worse than most other countries, with 69 176 confirmed cases and 6 820 deaths in almost a month according to Johns Hopkins University. There had been hope that the worst had been behind them after new infections rose by only 8% on March 23, the lowest increase they’ve had since the beginning of the outbreak. However these



hopes have been dashed by the recent death toll increasing by 743 on the 24th of March, almost as high as the record breaking 793 deaths reported on the 20th as reported by Aljazeera. Nearly as concerning as the high number of cases is the death rate, with Italy's death rate being 9.5%; by contrast the USA has a death rate of 1.2% according to Johns Hopkins University.

According to a new paper from Oxford University the rather extreme situation in Italy is caused by the country having the second-oldest population on earth and social trends. In Italy, 23 percent of the population is over the age of 65, while in the US it’s only 16%. In addition to this, Italy's young tend to mingle more often with the elderly, like their grandparents, than other countries. Both of these factors are believed to have contributed to the virus.

The Italian government has taken drastic measures to prevent further spread of the virus, locking the country down on March 9th and further closing all nonessential businesses on the 22nd according to axios. Citizens caught violating the lockdown are fined up to 3000 euros (CAN \$4,668.08), with Giuseppe Conte, the Italian prime minister, saying “If everyone obeys the rules, they don't only

protect themselves and their loved ones, but they will enable the whole national community to come out of this emergency."

China, however, is on the road to recovery. They reported only 4,287 active cases on March 24, far below the 58,016 active cases reported on February 17 according to worldometer. The lockdown on Wuhan, ground zero of the epidemic, is set to be lifted on April 9 after more than two months of lockdown, marking an important milestone in its fight against the Coronavirus as reported by CNN.

Despite the pandemic being far from over, global economies have still taken a massive hit due to the closures, cancellations and lockdowns keeping consumers at home. China in particular has seen great damage done, with industrial production falling by 13.5% and car sales down 92% in the first two months of the year according to the China National Bureau of Statistics. On a more worldwide scale, the price of gold has fallen to \$1,476 from its high of almost \$1,700 in early March and oil prices are at their lowest since 2001 according to Bloomberg. Richard Kozul-Wright, Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies at the UN says "We envisage a slowdown in the global economy to under two per cent for this year, and that will probably cost in the order of \$1 trillion, compared with what people were forecasting back in September."

Even with the precautions taken around the world, Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that "things will get worse than they are right now."

Jared

**Information accurate as of March 24th, 2020

[The History of Climate Change \(J\)](#)

Climate change has always existed throughout the earth's long history; however, over the course of centuries human actions have drastically accelerated the process so much so that it is now a grave threat to humanity.

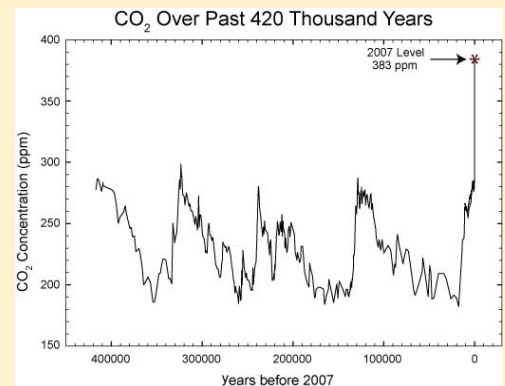
The greenhouse effect house effect was first identified in the 19th century when scientists discovered climate change. They did this through observing how the climate had changed throughout history, namely with the coming and going of ice ages (Weart, 2020).

It was only later in the late 19th century that it was proposed that human emissions had the potential to cause climate change. It was first proposed by Arrhenius; he came to this conclusion by creating a model based on how much solar energy was received, absorbed, and reflected (Weart, 2020). However, it was far from the only theory at that time. Others had proposed that warming was caused by gases released from volcanic eruptions or by solar activity.

This remained subject to debate until the 1960s, when Charles David Keeling first measured the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere using his newest test and discovered that year after year it was consistently rising (Lallanilla, 2013). Using the data that he collected from these tests he developed the Keeling curve, which is to this date one of the most consistent and accurate ways of measuring the rising CO₂ levels in the atmosphere. (Image credit: Scripps Institution of Oceanography)

In the 1970s, the opinion of the scientific community shifted towards supporting the global warming theory. However, it wasn't until the late 1980s and early 1990s that a true scientific consensus was formed; a consensus firmly believing that humans are responsible for the rising CO₂ levels in the atmosphere and that if nothing was done about it, irreversible damage to the climate was inevitable. In 1988, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was established by the United Nations with the goal of providing up to date information on climate change (IPCC, 2020).

Moving into the 21st century, the world has become more concerned than ever before with climate change and it has become one of the front line issues for voters. In fact, a 2019 poll has shown



that climate change was the number one priority for Canadian voters and 50% think that the government hasn't done enough to combat it (Wood, 2019).

Unfortunately there still remains contention over the legitimacy of climate change, mostly by large oil companies who would lose profits from policies that could save the environment. However, they are now being opposed by more activists than ever before -- activists like Greta Thunberg who have raised awareness for the issue all around the world and made it a global talking point.

In a strange way, the CoronaVirus pandemic has helped the environment through forcing business to close and people to stay inside. In fact, due to the lockdowns, car emissions in NYC decreased 50% from last year (McGrath, 2020) and the Venice canals are clear for the first time in years (McLaughlin, 2020). Only time will tell if this change outlasts the virus.

We are gradually moving down the right path; the only question is, will it be fast enough?



Jared

Image courtesy of MB Youth for Climate Action and Cole O.

ARTS AND CULTURE

Creative

[Singles Review March 2020 \(O\)](#)

What do you get when you take an already impressive, catchy, and wonderfully bombastic pop track and recreate it using a full live band? Adam Neely, a YouTuber popularly known for his opinion pieces and vlogs surrounding his live performances, answered this when he formed a cover band for one short day to recreate Carly Rae Jepsen's "Run Away With Me". The base track, as it stands, is one of mainstream pop's greatest feats to this day, and the cover does a great job at recreating that energy going into the song. While this track does a great job of recreating the same energy, it does lack what a cover should successfully do to separate itself from the original. As much as they do attempt throughout the song, Neely's band does little to improve upon the base track, aside from switching from a computer produced track to a live band. Where the song suffers from the most is the lack of direction that Neely as the director seems to not be able to sort out. While part of the song screams out in jazz fusion, others scream in symphonic metal. The track could have gone either way and stood as a great cover in either genre's direction, but the two tones clash too hard and mix too harshly. Where one part has heavy guitar tones covering behind a soft vocal, another has harshly effect-covered vocals over simple jazz tones. Besides that, the track stands as a decent cover for the song, matching its upbeat, joyous energy for the most part, with the singer matching Jepsen's beautiful, soft tones to what seems to be the best of her ability. To anybody itching for a live band version of "Run Away With Me", this is the track for you. For me personally, I'll stick with the original. ★★☆☆☆



Luc M.



Back in 2014, there was a little Complexro artist named Porter Robinson. He was fed up with the seemingly forced structure of electronic albums at the time -- almost all of the albums released around that era of electronic were made strictly to be performed easily in a DJ setting for DJ sets. In response to this, Porter made an

album titled *Worlds*. *Worlds* was a harsh turnaround for the artist, switching between the complex electro he was classically known for and a synthpop/electropop heavy album, with hints of dream pop and electro house scattered throughout. After *Worlds*, Porter hit a wall. After such a strong debut, he felt he couldn't match the quality of songwriting he was once at. He fell into a mental void, wondering if he would ever be able to ever write again. During that time, he began writing "Something Comforting".

"Something Comforting", the second single of Porter's sophomore effort *Nurture*, is a stroke of Electropop genius. The track begins with a soft, slightly bitcrushed piano, leading into pitched-up, soft vocals; "If I send this void away / Have I lost a part of me?" From there, the chorus branches with an up-beat, almost human-like synth backing the instrumental breakdown. In the second loop of the chorus, in the line "Oh, there must be / Something wrong with me," Porter chooses to harshly change pitches to a lower tone -- in the listener's perspective -- signalling the beginning of a break in character. After another bombastic, energetic instrumental breakdown, the chorus continuously switches between the two pitches, breaking down the metaphorical wall between artist and viewer, creating an auditory weak point to Porter's own artistic character and linking it more to Porter, the person. Throughout this point, the instrumental backing him begins to slowly break away, piece by piece, leaving only him to wallow in his own pity (which is then followed by a small piano outro).

In my honest opinion, the track represents a beautifully troubling time in Porter's life by means of overbearing beauty. It's a piece of art to represent the sadness of being in his mindset; it is one thing to be in that depressing mind state and a whole other to be able to use that to represent the sheer beauty of the world in lieu of that. To create and release this wonderful piece of art is truly excellent of Porter. Personally, it symbolizes everything one could want from a track -- it is listenable in its own right as a base piece while being an exemplar of the genre, as well as being thought provoking and complex in regards to the artist's choices behind every detail of the track. Porter's "Something Comforting" is, and will be, one of my favorite singles -- if not *the* favourite single -- for a long time.



Luc M.

SMARAN 🤔

car seat headrest makes songs for people who were too shy to ask their crush out for prom then felt mad at themselves for it

Creative

Car Seat Headrest Review (O)

There's something beautiful about *true* indie music -- be it the innocent, harmless tones and intents the sound seems to expel from its light tones, or the invigorating, inspiring concept that the artist is no different in lifestyle than you or I, the listener. In comparison to the major, label-backed artists who solely perform to thousands of listeners and play major festivals with thousands in attendance -- and millions more following on various livestreams and social media -- these indie artists are creating solely as a means to express themselves.

While the term "indie" has moved more towards a sound within the mainstream, with artists like Rex Orange County and Mac DeMarco (who, at one point were considered indie artists), the base concept of indie has been more dropped, as bands who once represented an indie scene began to hide away between their own niche subgenres. But there once was a golden era of indie, when music streaming sites like Spotify and Apple Music were only on the come-up, and the popularity of a band relied solely on word of mouth -- much less on computer mandated recommendation algorithms. In those days, Bandcamp and Myspace headed the scene, and indie artists had to keep music as solely a hobby, likely not being able to tour due to financial limitations. Out of this era, a few artists were able to grow into major names. Artists like Frank Ocean, and as previously mentioned, Mac DeMarco became major household names, with both earning millions of views. In my opinion, one of the most simultaneously known yet unknown artists has to be Car Seat Headrest. While there have been many bands to grow majorly through indie roots, Will Toledo (the frontrunner of CSH, and sole member until 2014) is the one to lean most toward the true independent lifestyle of the indie artist.



Will started in 2010 with the "Numbered Albums", a series of albums in which Will experimented with the sound of his new project, perfecting the techniques and general song structure that this project was poised to be. While the first two are nothing special, 3 and 4 show major growth and solid structure from the artist. From this series of albums, and many more projects up until 2014, he grew a solid backbone of a discography, warranting a pickup from famous indie label Matador. From here, he restructured his project to have a full band instead of it being a solo performance group. To this day, he has created three new albums. The first, *Teens of Style*, was a recreation of older tracks written by Will in his pre-Matador days. The second, *Teens of Denial*, was never-before seen works of Toledo, however, written during the pre-Matador era. The final Matador release is the one to fully round out the creative circle from indie to established -- the 2018 re-recording of *Twin Fantasy*.

Now, the right thing to do to appeal to most would be to acknowledge and write about the re-recording. It is sonically superior, with Will stating that it was the way *Twin Fantasy* was meant to be heard. But to appeal fully to the indie lifestyle -- the means of sharing music solely through word of mouth (or in Will's case, constantly advertising to 4chan's /mu/ board), performing solely small venues (VCU and CWM monthly shows), and writing solely as a means to express feelings one has no other way to express -- we must look at the original version, *Twin Fantasy* (2011), or as Will has lovingly added as an addendum, *Twin Fantasy (Mirror to Mirror)*.

It's taken me, as a reviewer, over a year to finally come up with both the motivation and the words themselves to describe and explain why I like this album. When an album connects to a person through both physical and the mental aspects, they become attached to the album more than any other regular album, even if they like the music just as much. *Twin Fantasy* (2011), though I had listened to the 2018 version beforehand, came at an essential time within my teenage life. If you had known me back when I listened to it for the first time, I was someone that was a lot more, let's say, *confused*. I was someone who definitely didn't have a role model that I could personally relate to in terms of experience, and I was surely feeling like an outlier in terms of what I considered the standard of the "teenage experience." I had romantic interests I couldn't act upon, I felt separated from a social life, and I had unexplored artistic ideas I felt unable to follow. While idly scrolling through the review page of the album, I saw some user perfectly describe the album in a now deleted review through the use of one word -- limerence. The concept of limerence, as described in the dictionary, is "*the state of being infatuated or obsessed with another person, typically experienced involuntarily and characterized by a strong desire for reciprocation of one's feelings but not primarily for a sexual relationship.*" It was a feeling I related to too well. That right there -- that was the hook.

Albums like *Twin Fantasy* are hard to dissect from a reviewer's perspective. The album is best described and experienced as a sequential experience -- but the ideas most worth talking about are scattered throughout each track. While I would prefer to avoid talking about some tracks specifically, there's two tracks that are almost required to be talked about individually, both nearly bookending the album. Out of the two, the first sequentially through the album is "Beach Life-in-Death."

No matter what version you're listening to, *Mirror to Mirror* or *Face to Face*, the latter being the addendum title of the 2018 version, if you even relatively believe that you are a Car Seat Headrest fan, you will know most of the lyrics to "Beach Life-in-Death." As the second track in *Twin Fantasy* on either version, it acts as the reel-in of the album. The twelve minute epic spans three loosely connected parts, all slowly building a certain anxious energy. It's beauty shines from the beginning, with the first look into the strongest aspect of Toledo's music -- his songwriting. The details are what makes his writing: it is the abstract idea of a sort of reverse Chekov's gun, finding the details in the most unimportant parts of a scene. Even though in the grand scheme of the song's motif, these details don't matter, it focuses the scene more on what the main character sees. Unimportant yet simultaneously important details and clever wordplay follows the entirety of the song (and the album), wonderfully drawing the moods and tones of the scenes presented in the song. Around a third through the song the most important words in the album are spoken for the first time: "The ocean washed over your grave." These words may seem

like another meaningless phrase used to increase melodrama for songwriters, but these words serve as a reminder, strung throughout the entirety of the album. Toledo acts upon his progressive pop influences well throughout the track, and while this is just a slight insight towards the track, it's sheer brilliance deserves its own essay on its own.

In regards to the overarching themes, one of the strokes of brilliance seen throughout *Twin Fantasy* are the little details Will sets up. In songs like "Bodys" -- in which the lyrics "That's not what I meant to say at all / I mean, I'm sick of meaning, I just wanna hold you" introduce the track -- most of the exciting details of the track play off of these two lines. On the top vocal layer of the chorus, the lyrics are stated, "Don't you realize our bodies could fall apart any second? / I am terrified your body could fall apart at any second / Those are you got some nice shoulders / I'd like to put my hands around them / I'd like to put my hands around them." The line "those are you got some nice shoulders" plays off of the first line, of Will being unable to say the correct words; but what really is interesting is the parallel of the second line predicting the "second chorus" being layered under this chorus. Will is saying such a simple thing on the top -- he wants to hold his partner while they dance. But hidden, just below in the mix, is Will fully talking about the relationship he invisions in his head. Details like this leave the modern version feeling much more empty and spacious, which is *not* what this record needs. It needs that discomfort, that awkwardness, because that's what gives the album the proper feeling and the proper tone to pull off the message Will is trying to achieve.

As hinted at through the review, Will's skill shines brightest through his songwriting and song building. His strength is understanding the concept of a buildup, taking inspiration from progressive pop and post-rock with the ideas of a slow build into an empowering symphony of everything previously explored instrumentally. He even kindly explains this idea to the audience in "Bodys", where he contemplates, "'Is it the Chorus yet?' / No, it's just the building of the verse / So when the chorus does come it'll be more rewarding." His aversion to standard song format expands upon the energy a lot of these songs wouldn't have had if simply left to the verse-chorus-verse-bridge-chorus formula. The "director's commentary" shown above takes place multiple times throughout the album, acting as another bridge between artist and listener, which really enhances the idea of the connection Will is going for -- something more than the normal album listening experience. The best example of this is when he addresses his use of the made-up word "galvanistic," where he slowly breaks down upon his explanation of the use of the word to describe his love for the person the album addresses. Even without breaking the fourth wall, Will's songwriting and use of pop culture references shows to be incredibly strong, as mentioned earlier in songs like "Beach Life-In-Death." These references include bands like They Might Be Giants, artists like Aubrey Beardsley and Cate Wurtz, and singers like Dan Bejar. It adds a layer of humanism towards Will, keeping the idea that he was a fan before an artist. Strong writing and structures like the ones portrayed throughout *Twin Fantasy*, and Will's songs in general, makes the album all the better.

Instrumentally, *Twin Fantasy* is lacking. It's not hard to admit, even as a die hard fan of the album. Will himself blames the lacking instrumental, at least in terms of versatility, on the limitations of his tech. While most could pass this off as just an excuse, other projects of Will's pre-Matador explain that with the tools to create such sounds, he could pull them off perfectly. While the sounds in *Face to*

Face explore much more ground, touching on elements of dance-punk and power pop, *Mirror to Mirror* uses these limitations to expand upon the presented sound more, leaning towards the noise rock influence much more. While some may say that this is laziness, and some may say the instrumentals are lacking due to this, I personally believe that it portrays Will's determination of "making the most out of what one has".

But still, despite all of this, why do I, the reviewer, consider *Mirror to Mirror* to be the contextually superior album? To be completely frank, the album in every single right should be deemed lower quality than *Face to Face*, given its instrumental quality upgrade and the seven full years it took to overlook and rethink most of the album. The answer is simple, and Will states it in both versions, or at least gives us the idea towards it. In the final song, he states in the spoken word section, "This is the part of the song where Will gives up. He dissociates himself from his own romance until it becomes just a fantasy." The concept behind this album is something, truly, that only a teenager can relate to and fully experience. To detach himself from this mindset, this era, is to separate himself from the very real emotions, something every single person -- including me -- will experience at some point in time. Retrospect is great in almost every scenario, but to be fully in touch with the feelings represented in this album, the artist has to have freshly experienced those events. Will has suffered a fate truly terrible -- growing up. And as such, *Face to Face* seems simply disingenuous, lacking the emotional support and backing that *Mirror to Mirror* had going for it. On top of this, Will seems almost resentful towards *Face to Face* -- which to be clear, isn't what he was going for, and it doesn't appear he truly resents the album in any means of the word -- in his constant attempt to make *Twin Fantasy* bigger than what it really is: teenage angst crammed into a one hour runtime.

Our teenage lives are usually guided by experience. Be it the lack of them, or the constant stream of new experiences, our deeper personality traits are almost completely built up by our childhood to teenage experiences. Car Seat Headrest is for the people that never felt that they had those necessary experiences, never had the social life, and lived that confused and uncomfortable teenage life. Car Seat Headrest writes songs for these uncomfortable teenagers that are confused about



the world, those nervous humans. If Car Seat Headrest represents the era of confusion in a teenager's life, *Twin Fantasy* is the anthem of the "first crush" era. To say this album is anything less than perfect is an understatement -- every single detail is perfect in its own right, and I can personally write for pages about why I love this album. Out of the hundreds of albums I've listened to, I've given five total five star ratings -- and out of the five, this is likely the best. I don't listen to this album daily anymore, but I know: every time I feel lost in the world, I'll have *Twin Fantasy* to tell me that life is okay. ★★★★★

Luc M.

Did You Know? (B)

1. You are 13.8% more likely to die on your birthday
2. Cats can't taste sweet things because of a genetic defect
3. A group of hippos is called a "bloat"
4. The average adult spends more time on the toilet than they do exercising
5. The inventor of Pringles is buried in a Pringles can
6. Sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins
7. Human corpses can continue to move for more than a year after death
8. Crows can recognize individual human faces and hold a grudge
9. Some lions mate over 50 times a day
10. Ketchup was sold as medicine in the 1830s
11. The hashtag symbol is technically called an octothorpe
12. M&M stands for Mars and Marty
13. If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't hop
14. Most toilets flush on an E flat
15. The Baltimore Ravens are named after Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Raven"
16. The twins of gemini are individually named Castor and Pollux
17. All swans in England legally belong to the queen
18. Bananas are curved because they grow towards the sun
19. Saint Lucia is the only country in the world named after a woman
20. While trying to find the cure for AIDS, the Mayo Clinic accidentally made glow in the dark cats

Brie

Daniel, Alex. "100 Facts That Will Simply

Astonish You". *BestLife*. October 1, 2019. <https://bestlifeonline.com/crazy-random-facts/>



Gone Bad (A)

I like how people speak of bad behaviour; of goodness and evil in people. That you can go bad the same way you can go north. Insinuating, with the roundabout subtlety of a shy boy, that you could always end up right as you once were.

Contrary to the fleeting wishfulness of the Television screen you can see 'it' with the lens of permanence. That hate is inexplicably intertwined with temporal values. Like a fruit that's ripened to a point of inedibility. A sickly practical joke that toys with the imagination, making you hopeful yet leaving you wanting more. Spoilt. Like the milk and cookies you leave out for Santa when you hoped to leave him a nasty surprise. An only child in a kinship of adoring love. The idea that you live on a whim and take in more than you can hold.

That you can go bad the same way you go mad or even more abstractly that you can go bad the same way something can go downhill. More so than anything people speak about going bad like you're

leaving everything behind, abandoning sainthood to succumb to a lifestyle of promiscuity but the reality is you aren't leaving. If anything you're staying right as you are and just letting the world in.

Igotyoutoreadthis

Unfaithful (A)

I kept her around. A tall lovely girl with dark hair.

At 8 o'clock she fed me. A meal of bunting and band-aids. A million flavours of temptation and yet leaving something to be desired. An immaculate set of cloth. A white blouse, a coy church mouse.

At 10 o'clock she clothed me. In strawberries and cigarette smoke. A grand comedy of sorts complete with bells and whistles and peaches and cream.

At 12 o'clock she cleaned me. Washing with but a cacophony of colours, I pray at an alter of desire. Painting with a full pallet misplacing violet, blue, green and red.

She smells like sleep to the weeping.

She tastes like a testimony to the dead.

and in spite of all of this splendor I am left hungry.

I require other desires and I pursue like a drowning shark.

The one that swims to breath and not to eat.

A feast of water and debris.

I'd choose otherwise if I could because I see that she holds onto telephone wires. That she fights flames with fire. Am I left to think of myself as a glutton; a victim of hesitance at the hands of heartbreak?

And to what avail is this remorse if the only pain she feels is aspiration. I pity before I speak and cry



before the weak. I wish she hurt a wee bit more. I wish she'd shed a tear.

Instead she passed the end and she chases forever and I am left a starving man.

Igotyoutoreadthis

Inspired by "The Great Figure" by William Carlos Williams (A)

Grey inanimate grass
trimmed short,
bound on four sides by
a firetruck whistle
Four bare walls
That I haven't touched
or felt or loved;
They're looking away from me,
minding their own business, playing
cards around a fire, smoking
cigars and glancing around at me the
Intruder.

The walls are the colour of veins on
a cantaloupe skin
They make the blue in the window so much more

startling.

A blue that should not be found
in nature,
so intense
as if it'll scrape the light cones
behind the dark fluid
in my eyes--
The room is glaring at me
with its opaque eyeball,
An expressionless face except for this
Ocular projection with
no pupil:
A human-sized tear behind horizontal prison bars.

The wind bellows behind the blinds and the blue--
It's the hiss of a children's story
Before Kay's heart is struck with ice

And
I am worried about more than just the ending of a story.
Whooooooosh goes the wind
the firetruck's whistle
Come closer, it says.

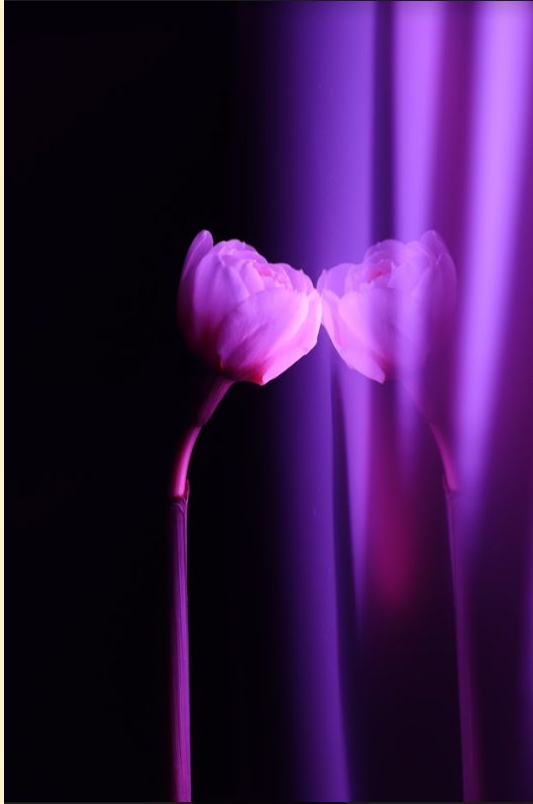
I lean on the ledge,
the wind
Cradling my face, not like a lover but
an antibiotic to the heat,
my hands
Singed by more than fire,
the walls
playing poker,
Brown beer bottles glinting flames,
me the newcomer
Unheeded--
Across I see an open window
A girl, or maybe a boy
A child
barefoot and chubby.



Can she see me?
"Who's that up there?"
Her voice comes not from below but from the
wind
Is she scared or curious?
"Who's that up there?"
I see feet
no more whistle
"Mommy who's that up there?"
Hips and thighs beside the child
Quickly I

Leave.

A cool pen name



Photography Feature (A)

Inspired by “Colors Passing Through Us”

By Marge Piercy

Purple as tulips in May, mauve
into lush velvet, purple
as the stain blackberries leave

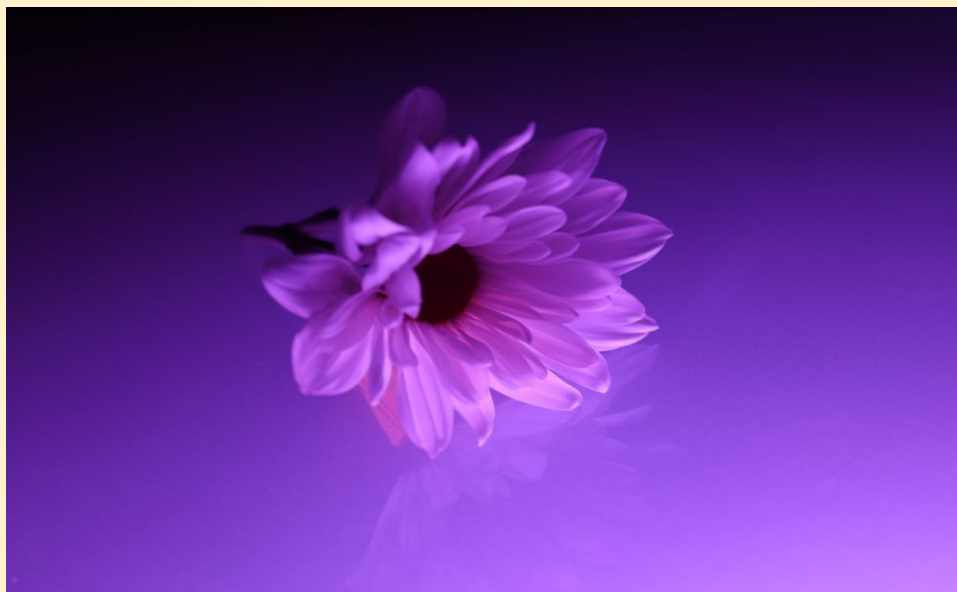
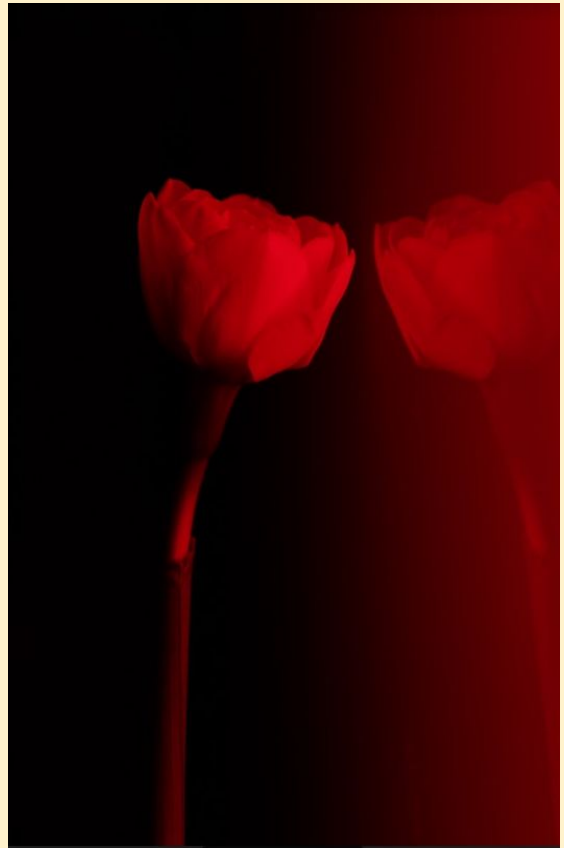


on the lips, on the hands,
the purple of ripe grapes
sunlit and warm as flesh.

Every day I will give you a color,
like a new flower in a bud vase
on your desk. Every day
I will paint you, as women
color each other with henna
on hands and on feet.



Red as henna, as cinnamon,
as coals after the fire is banked,
the cardinal in the feeder,
the roses tumbling on the arbor
their weight bending the wood
the red of the syrup I make from petals.

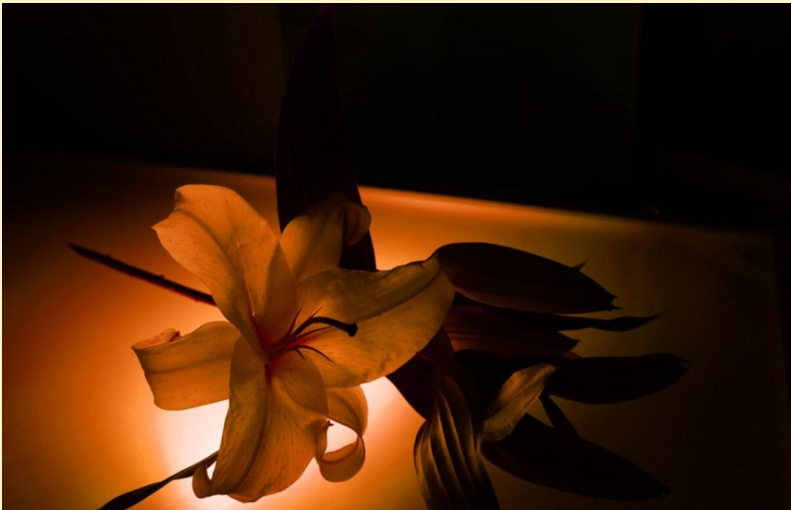




Orange as the perfumed fruit
hanging their globes on the glossy tree,
orange as pumpkins in the field,
orange as butterflyweed and the monarchs
who come to eat it, orange as my
cat running lithe through the high grass.

Yellow as a goat's wise and wicked eyes,
yellow as a hill of daffodils,
yellow as dandelions by the highway,
yellow as butter and egg yolks,
yellow as a school bus stopping you,
yellow as a slicker in a downpour.

Here is my bouquet, here is a sing



song of all the things you make
me think of, here is oblique
praise for the height and depth
of you and the width too.
Here is my box of new crayons at your feet.

Green as mint jelly, green
as a frog on a lily pad twanging,
the green of cos lettuce upright
about to bolt into opulent towers,
green as Grand Chartreuse in a clear
glass, green as wine bottles.



Blue as cornflowers, delphiniums,
bachelors' buttons. Blue as Roquefort,
blue as Saga. Blue as still water.
Blue as the eyes of a Siamese cat.
Blue as shadows on new snow, as a spring
azure sipping from a puddle on the blacktop.



Cobalt as the midnight sky
when day has gone without a trace
and we lie in each other's arms
eyes shut and fingers open

and all the colors of the world
pass through our bodies like strings of
fire.

Photographs by Cole O.

ADVICE COLUMNS

[Procrastination: The Article I Waited
Three Months To Write \(O\)](#)



A couple of weeks ago, I had a math test. Due to having what I consider to be a decently busy schedule, I had very little time to study for it until Sunday, and so I put it off, despite knowing that I understood practically zero of what we learnt in class. That night, as I was panic studying, I texted one of my friends to see if they knew how to do a certain type of problem and learned that the test was not until Wednesday. Needless to say, I was greatly relieved. But then, rather than continuing to study so that I wouldn't be stressed on Wednesday, I put away my notes and watched TV for the rest of the night. Obviously, that Tuesday night, I ran into the same problem that I had on Sunday, only this time the test date was not moved back further.

Practically everybody procrastinates, and there are a wide variety of reasons as to why it's done. Sometimes it may be due to lack of motivation or organization, but far more often it is done out of fear of performing the task itself. People often become afraid that they won't be able to accomplish the task that they need to complete, and as a result they just won't do it. Using that test from before as an example, a lot of what kept me from studying was being afraid that I wouldn't be able to understand the material, and so rather than face my reality I put it off for later. When I finally got around to studying, it was too late for me to get any really good understanding of what I was doing, so I didn't perform well on the test.

Another common reason for procrastination is that people often don't tend to relate to their future selves. Whenever you put off a task, you don't tend to acknowledge that in the future you will still have to do the task, and you will find yourself in this same position later on. This can result in them putting off work, because "that's a problem for future me." Since it's not a problem that you see yourself having to deal with, you put it off and it doesn't get done.

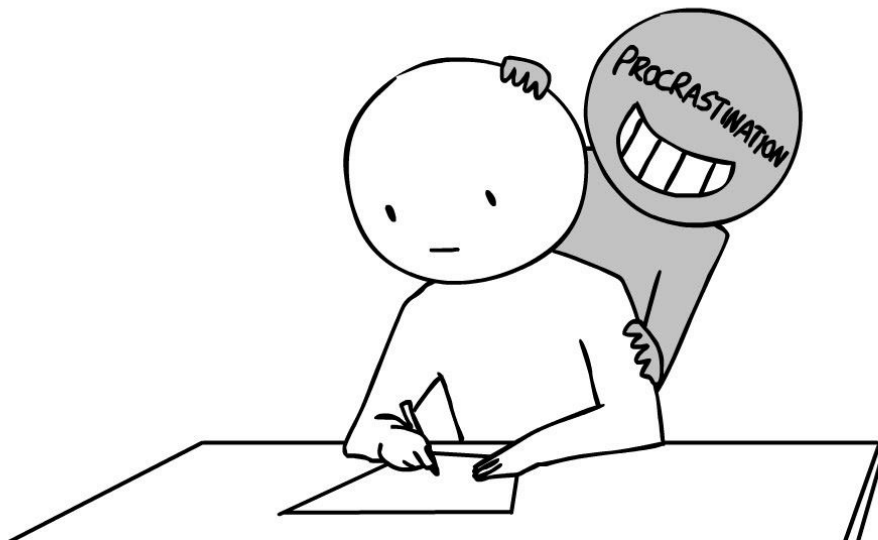
So what's to be done about these things? The first and most important thing is not to get upset with yourself about your procrastination. It's a process that is sometimes very hard to control and by punishing yourself for it you're only breeding more negative emotions and fear of failure -- thus giving yourself even more reasons to procrastinate. It's important to forgive yourself for it, and work to do better on the next task you have to do. Another method of preventing procrastination is working on tackling your tasks step by step. If you're studying for a test, view it as finishing one problem, then moving on to a definition, etc. This can help make your task feel much more manageable, so the fear associated with it lessens.

Procrastination is something that can often feel out of our control, and it more often than not leads to negative effects on things like our mental health and sleeping patterns. Hopefully, you now

have some understanding of why you might be drawn to doing it, and have gained some tools for how to prevent yourself from doing it in the future.

Kyler

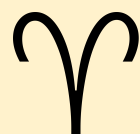
PROCRASTINATION

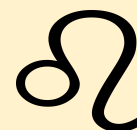


[Horoscopes with Jamie! \(B\)](#)

Aries

March 21-April 19





This Aries season, you may be disappointed. Your birthday party may have been cancelled or your book club meet might have been postponed, but try your best to accept the changes in your life for the better and stay on top of things. This is your season and you should embrace it as such. While extravagant plans may be difficult to let go of, trying to find alternatives can be a whole other ballpark of fun that you had not been expecting. Whether it be skype calling for your cousin's Bat Mitzvah, or mailing your friend the answers to the last assignment, see this crisis as one of opportunity and get out there (metaphorically) and try something new!

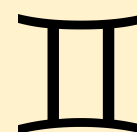
Taurus



April 20-May 20

The world is a mess and your life reflects that to a tee. With so many things in your life changing, you may be tempted to slip into old habits for any semblance of control. Right now you are in a position of disarray and you are prone to forgetfulness. Be sure to make a habit of double checking! Ensure that all your assignments are submitted early (especially those submitted digitally) and take some time out of your day to make sure everything is exactly where it should be. Your future self will thank you for your proactivity.

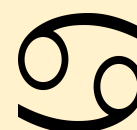
Gemini



May 21-June 20

Ew :)

Cancer



June 21-July 22

Cancers are traditionally seen as being pretty reserved in their ambitions. Over the next few weeks you'll likely come across what seems to be a life crisis. Know that while not extending yourself has its benefits, sometimes you need to reach for the stars to make the most of your time. Don't be afraid of being ambitious and trying at things that may result in failure. Join an extracurricular club like student council or respect-ed and have your voice heard; you have so much to say and people are willing to listen.

Leo

July 23-August 22

With such a big personality, Leo's are almost always in the limelight. People admire your positivity and strong opinions but this doesn't come without its drawbacks. Particularly this season, there is a lot of

built up anticipation for the freedom that comes with a summer break. With this excitement comes an anxiousness; people are short tempered and are less willing to tolerate your antics. Be willing to tone yourself down and be patient with other people. Regarding school -- listen to those bigger personalities and avoid argumentation with people who are known to be more confrontational.



Virgo

August 23-September 22



Amidst all the panic, you will be a key player when it comes to grounding the public. The calm in the storm, you are highly pragmatic and see this ordeal as a wave of passing colours. While you may not always be comfortable with being the centre of attention, leave your mark through little contributions and over time you'll (hopefully) see a shift in public perception. Call your friends and talk to your neighbours because your practicality is needed now more than ever.

Libra

September 23-October 22



You've managed to put off a lot of important things you've decided you would do last weekend. Impressive, but admittedly... a bit unhelpful. Your perfectionist mentality is stifling, and you've found yourself a pigeon held by a fear of risks associated with opportunities. Take that indecision and throw it in the dustbin. While there is no problem with being careful, this season is one of opportunity. Take risks and you will find yourself being rewarded.

Scorpio

October 23-November 21



Easily one of the most misunderstood signs, you are a passionate force that can get anything done if you put your mind to it. This is a season of change for you and your academic career, so work on honing your energy and making an impact on your immediate surroundings (such as joining a newsletter :D). Take some time out of your day to make a vision board or organize your thoughts while you have this spare time and list all your long term and short term goals and extend that thought process into one that will form the blueprints for what you will be doing for the next few weeks.

Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

Wow, has this been a great month for you! With so many resources being shut down you're finding more and more time for you to invest into yourself. With a hatred for the routine, your spontaneity is a valuable asset and you're constantly finding new ways to spice up your day. Your appreciation for the little things is something admirable and we hope you're able to see that in yourself. Your positive outlook is wonderful and our advice to you is essentially just keep doing whatever you're doing sweetie.

Capricorn

December 22-January 19



This season is going to be difficult to accept for you. After having taken so much time to adapt to your new quarantine lifestyle, you come to accept the new world order. Try your best to break the repetitive nature of your daily routine by trying out something new everyday. Hang out with an air sign buddy (libra, gemini, aquarius) and learn a thing or two about impulsiveness because you could desperately use a change of scenery. Just whatever you do, under no circumstance should you get remotely involved in politics.

Aquarius

January 20-February 18



It's a paradox for you; with more free time than ever before you should be able to get to all those creative endeavours you've been planning for weeks on end and yet here you are, experiencing the worst artist's block you've had in a long time. Keep your chin up and recognize that this does not speak to your integrity as a creator. While there are a lot of different tips on how to get through an art block, my favourite advice has always been a "fake it until you make it" approach. Indulge in different styles and even shift to other forms of art that you may not be so great at.

Pisces

February 19-March 20



This season has been taking an emotional toll on you. You are exhausted, everyday feels like a new battle and sometimes you're struggling just to get out of bed. You feel like people around you are taking life too seriously and are frustrated that people aren't willing to live in the moment sometimes. Your frustration is warranted but sometimes you need to take the high road and be empathetic. While not everyone may "get" where you're coming from, know that they may not need to. Stop trying to justify your world view to people who don't get it and focus on yourself.

[Surviving Quarantine: Life Hacks \(S\)](#)

Okay BuzzFeed, better move aside -- there's a new life hacker in town. It's day 3 of the 2020 Worldwide Coronavirus Pandemic, and things are looking pretty bleak. I have made two nighttime attempts to dye my brother's hair bright pink, but *apparently* being slightly bored is not an "appropriate justification for my behaviour" and it was an "intrusion of his privacy". Pshh! Obviously I had to, since the green dye I put in his hair last month is already washing out. But that's no matter. Let's just get down to business: how to survive the following three weeks (or more, don't get excited all at once everyone) stuck at home with your family without going crazy.

1. Reconnect with your old passions! We all know that school can be pretty busy. Oftentimes we lose touch with activities we used to love doing because we have more important and perhaps stressful commitments. Well, the quarantine is a perfect time to reignite those hobbies that make you truly feel like a unique human being instead of the soulless blob yearning to rebel for the last time in your life in a vain attempt to feel *something* before the education system pumps us off the assembly line and integrates us as just another trivial unit of society. So... Read a book! Maybe try your hand at sewing! You could get really good at puzzles; that's pretty cool. The point is, get your lazy self off of Instagram and find some old-fashioned ways to entertain yourself. Oh! My friend just sent me a cute cat video. Hold on a second, this is really important.
2. Talk to your family! Chances are, your parents are stuck at home too -- trust me, they're just as miserable as you. And despite popular belief, parents aren't just providers of iPhones and dinners; they're actually human beings. So set aside your ego, suppress your angst, and at least attempt to be pleasant to be around. Some fun family activities include Monopoly, cards, puzzles, bingo, charades, and pretty much anything else that pops up when you search up "how do I waste my Sunday night" on wikihow. Just make sure to limit your exposure to a maximum of 75 minutes, to decrease the risk of pulling your hair out. Thus, through careful management, you may begin to tolerate interacting with the only people you will get to physically see over the next little while.
3. Explore new interests! We rarely get the time to look deep inside of ourselves and decide what we want to change to make ourselves fundamentally happier. Well, here's your chance to do just that! Tired of feeling pressured to post filtered, practically photoshopped photos on Instagram? Try flipping the camera on your phone and you might discover a love for photography -- you could even end up posting vague captions on unrelated photos and calling it "deep". Don't like your reliance on posting anonymous troll comments to validate your self worth? Watch a contemporary musical to realize that you are indeed the wallflower you keep

making fun of. Can't get over your addiction for classic 80's movies? You might tell it to... "Hasta la vista, baby."

And yes, I know what you're thinking... I'll be back* (And so will the Jolly Roger!)

Happy quarantining everyone!

A cool pen name



*Not sponsored by Stephen Spielberg (but could be)

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