



TAIMUN TIMES

TAIMUN XXI

FIRST ISSUE

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Opening Ceremony

Written By: Carilyn Chang

Jun Choi

It was a big day for all of us. It was the day where we came together as a community to reignite the fire of hope forgotten in many corners of the world. It was the day where we came together in our suits and dress shoes, determined to make society a sanctuary for the future of humanity. It was the day that marked the beginning of TAIMUN XXI.

A nervous yet exciting ambience filled the grand auditorium, greeting and welcoming all participants of TAIMUN XXI with open, hopeful arms. As they took their seats and places, our beloved and humorous Master of Ceremonies, Declan Chang, strode onto the stage with blazing confidence. After a few kind words of introduction, we were presented with the TAIMUN XXI Theme Video made by our very own Press Video Team, which provided a visualization of the importance of hope. Next up was the AST Hand Bell Choir performance conducted by Dr. Michael Wiles, performing Douglas E. Wagner's "A Joyous Ring."

Following the performances, Deputy Secretaries General Angel Weng and Ting Tsai delivered a well-crafted speech providing a thorough synopsis of this year's TAIMUN theme. As their remarks faded into applause, AST TAIMUN Director Ms. Laura Moye was welcomed to the stage to present the history of TAIMUN to all—it was truly an impressive and enriching presentation. Next, we had the opportunity to listen to two speeches delivered by AST Board Chair, Ms. Anna Lee, and AST Head of School, Dr. Colin Brown.

Ms. Moye then returned to the stage, but this time she introduced us to the TAIMUN XXI keynote speaker, Mr. Bart Linssen. With 20 years of experience in the power-producing industry and as Managing Director of ENERCON Taiwan Ltd., Mr. Linssen strives to show that renewable energy has numerous potential to address and tackle environmental issues, providing a stream of hope for the world. His humble and humorous character, accompanied by his well-prepared, informational, and enjoyable speech, captivated us all.

Secretary General Lydia Chen, with her unfaltering confidence, was then invited to the podium. She informed the audience about the Green Citizens' Action Alliance (CGAA), an NGO that supports renewable energy and environmental protection. Afterwards, the chairs and presidents of the ten TAIMUN committees joined Lydia on stage, where the gavels were handed over.

And, finally, with the loud bang of the final gavel on stage held by Lydia, TAIMUN XXI has



Press Director's Message: Mr. Michael

Written by: Tim Michael



Challenges in life are always with us, and of course we are expected to meet them with all the tools people assume we have learned in our lives. Rising to meet challenges implies that one has the tools necessary to do so. More than that, we need hope to motivate us. Where does hope come from? Is it foolish to have hope when things overwhelm us and others? What does this have to do with journalism and a free press? For that matter, what is a free press, and how can it be instrumental in providing hope to those who suffer?

For some, hope comes from a faith in a power outside ourselves. For others, hope lies in a belief that one person can do something to face a challenge, even if that something seems almost like nothing. Those who have hope find a power to move forward, adding something positive each hour, each day, each week, however long it takes, to reach a goal. Just as a mountain climber conquers a mountain inch by inch--

lacking oxygen, sometimes falling back, but always chipping at the goal of summiting--so the goal is reached after efforts accumulate to the point where something like victory is achieved.

The goals of a journalist can seem vague or even suspect to the average consumer of media out in the wide world. With so many incidents of plagiarism, fake news, special interest influence and the like, right from the New York Times on down to the lowliest publication, journalism is often characterized as a deeply flawed profession. It truly is deeply flawed, just like every human endeavour. But journalism, and especially a free press, is, with all its flaws, absolutely essential to the function of and movement towards more freedom and more improvement in society. Ultimately, it can be instrumental in giving hope if performed ethically. Effective journalism can change society for good or evil, and so is a profession demanding great moral and ethical responsibility. Today, journalism faces new challenges beyond those dangers of censorship, violence, and death that have followed the profession for decades. Technology, particularly AI and the constantly shifting landscape of social media, presents complex challenges to both journalists and consumers. It is incumbent on parents, teachers, and school leaders to honestly assess their own biases, left or right, when teaching young people. We must resist the rush to judgement and adoption of reckless solutions for popular issues, merely based on assumptions that are influenced by the media's portrayal of what is good and right, and teach the young people in our charge to think critically for themselves, question authority, and especially question those in the media. At its worst, journalism can be a tool of darkness and division. At its best, it can shine a bright light into that darkness that threatens to smother hope.

Written by: Carilyn Chang

Fa Zhi Elementary School

-TAIMUN Closing Ceremony Performer-

As the only primary school of the Taiwanese indigenous Bunun tribe in Fazhi Village, Ren'ai Township, Nantou County, Fa Zhi Elementary School is well known for its baseball team, Bunun traditional ballads, and musical education.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the friendship between AST and Fazhi Elementary School, with our partnership dating all the way back to 2013. Since then, both schools have participated in interactive programs and activities, bringing joy, love, and music to our community as well as theirs.

We are fortunate to have the young, talented musicians of the Bunun tribe join us at the closing ceremony of TAIMUN XXI, where they will be presenting two songs. The first ballad is a compilation of Bunun nursery rhymes and children's folk songs: "Leeches on the Skin" or in Bunun language "Kahung Kahung Ka Vini", "Dennis the Menace" or "Vatan Kitnus", and "The Number Song" or "Tas a Dusa Tau Pat". The first and second verse are fairly straightforward, reiterating the title "Leeches on the Skin" in slightly differentiated ways. The third to seventh verses describe how naughty Dennis is—he chases the chickens around the shed and makes a mess. The last two verses simply count out the numbers from one to eight and then conclude the ballad with lyrics "which one of us is playing the ghost? Oh, it's you."

The second ballad is titled "Missing Mother". This song delivers a powerful and emotional message, telling the audience the burden and responsibilities all mothers carry on their shoulders. The first half of the ballad delineates a mother's unwavering perseverance and tenacity to always give the best to her children even in difficult times. The second half of the song then shifts perspective to the first-person narrator who is homesick, expressing his loneliness in the absence of his mother. The narrator in the lyrics emphasizes how much he longs to see her again, because only can he feel safe and sound in the presence of her motherly love.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Hsieh Zong-Yuan, the director of teaching and learning from Fa Zhi Elementary School. His continuous support has made this year's closing ceremony memorable.

Finally, as we all bid goodbye to the twenty-first conference of TAIMUN XXI, let us immerse ourselves in the timeless melody of Fa Zhi Elementary School's performance.

Committee



Security Council

Welcome to the Security Council. President Fiona Stokes and Deputy President Matthew Hsieh are honored to guide delegates through a fruitful debate today. This committee aims to peacefully resolve international disputes. This year, for TAIMUN XXI, the topics of the committee are Addressing the Humanitarian and Security Crisis in Haiti (501) and Ensuring Protection of Trade Routes Through Taiwan Strait (502).

(501) Gang Violence and human rights issues have started to rise in Haiti. TAIMUN XXI's Security Council Deputy President chose this issue because he hoped to undertake the task of developing solutions to the current situation in Haiti. He enjoys researching humanitarian and security crises as they often involve a complex interplay of foreign relations as well as internal struggles, and this issue regarding Haiti embodies this aspect.

(502) With the overwhelming tension between Taiwan and China in the Taiwan strait, it is important for the UN to seek out ways to maintain peace and keep this tension from growing further. The Security Council President looks forward to hearing delegates' strategies for solving the complex issue of the Taiwan-China tensions or how they will work around it as other nations attempt to continue trade and maintain peace. She chose this issue because she spent a lot of her MUN career focusing on Taiwan-China tensions and is interested in diving deeper into the cross-strait issue. According to her, the delegates all seem to be enthusiastic to join in the debates.



GA1



Welcome to the First General Assembly. Saiya Kaufman (HIS) will be serving as the Head Chair and Michelle Yang (KCIS) the Deputy Chair. This year's General Assembly 1 (GA1) deals with Disarmament and International Security. The General Assemblies are mainly focused on political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal matters. This particular assembly is to give meetings on international issues to enhance the care for international peace and security to a great extent to eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

In TAIMUN XXI the chairs would like to bring their utmost attention and interest to the issues regarding the Prevention of Illegal Trading of Weapons on the Dark Web (101) and Adopting Measures to Regulate the Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) (drones) in Warfare (102). As Head Chair Siaya Kaufman said, she has always liked GA1 and is very passionate about every issue in this committee. In the interview, Siaya also mentioned that TAIMUN XXI is Deputy Chair Michelle Yang's first conference as a chair so she let her choose which topic she wanted to research on. The Head Chair and Deputy Chair of GA1 are looking forward to what

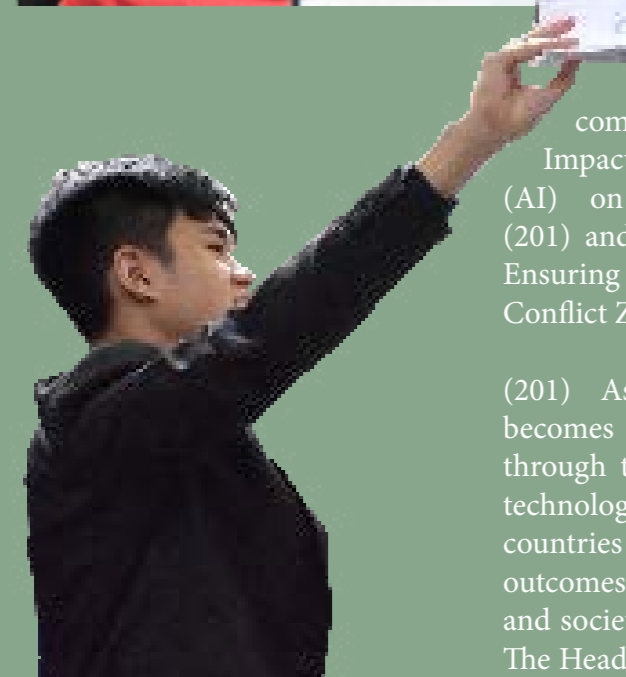
the delegates can bring to the table and hope they have a very fruitful debate.

(101) While the internet is a resource for all sorts of things, there are reasons for skepticism regarding its safety and security. Most people are not as aware or concerned about the dangers of the internet and the prevention of the illegal trading of harmful armaments that happen on the web. This issue helps expose the delegates to the importance of addressing security issues of the web.

(102) UAVs are a very big issue that is not talked about enough and deserves close attention. The Head Chair's goal this year for TAIMUN XXI is to address these problems and thoroughly examine how the use of UAVs can be well regulated.



GA3



Welcome to the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, also known as GA3. Kyra Dean and Tammy Hsu are deeply honored to be your Head Chair and Deputy Chair, respectively. This committee aims to examine human rights issues. For TAIMUN XXI, the topics of the committee are Addressing the Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Individual Freedoms (201) and Societal Concerns and Ensuring the Rights of Refugees in Conflict Zones (202).

(201) As artificial intelligence becomes more advanced through the development of new technologies, it is important for countries to embrace positive outcomes and solve the ethical and societal issues that AI creates. The Head Chair of GA3 is looking

forward to delegates' resolution for this issue.

(202) As the amount and scale of wars continue to increase around the world, the number of refugees gradually increases day by day. It is important for the UN to come up with locations where refugees can receive shelter, food, and other essentials for human survival. The Deputy Chair of this committee is interested in the delegates' solutions and looks forward to a fruitful debate.

GA6



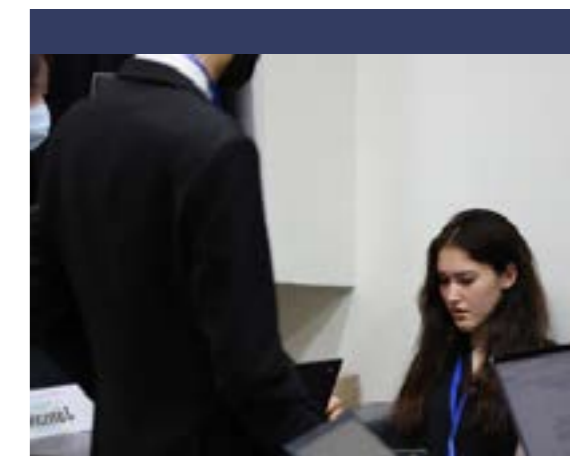
The Sixth Committee (Legal), also known as the General Committee 6, is one of the six main committees of the general assembly in the UN. As a fundamental part in the UN, the committee aims to conduct formal discussions tackling legal matters around the world, and with the ultimate goal of refining international laws and solving other legal matters to create a more stabilized society.

This year, for TAIMUN 2023, the GA6 will be focusing on topics (301) Addressing human trafficking in Southeast Asia and (302) The

prevent crimes against humanity. Yu-Kuan Miao and Linson Lee will serve as this year's GA6 head chair and deputy chair, respectively.

(301) Human trafficking has always been an ongoing problem in the world, especially in the Southeast Asian regions, where 150,000 people are trafficked annually. The latest breaking news being the infamous trafficking incident in Cambodia, resulting in the trafficking of dozens innocent individuals. The committee has taken this legal matter into close consideration to prevent more people from becoming victims. Head Chair Yu-Kuan "Ken" Miao hopes to see plenty of verbal conflict between delegates, and in the end reach a common ground. The country of Cambodia strongly hopes that their amendment can pass and benefit their people.

(302) It is the government's responsibility to set rules that regulate people's actions, but more importantly it is people's responsibility to follow those rules. Crimes against humanity is a massive topic that covers a wide variety of serious crimes, including illegal activities such as murder, rape, and enslavement. It has come to the committee's attention that the topic needs to be discussed and set upon to formulate necessary actions to prevent any future damages. Deputy Chair Linson Lee hopes that each delegate can approach the debate in an aggressive manner, to question other people's opinion and defend their own, and in the end reach a common ground. Delegates on the other hand, are hoping the result of the debate would benefit their own country.



The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental council formed inside the United Nations system responsible for the promotion and protection of each individual's personal rights. The council also tackles issues around the globe related to violations of human rights and strives to counteract them.

This year for TAIMUN 2023, the Human Rights Council aims to discuss topics (401) Addressing Allegations of Torture in Recent Armed Conflicts and (402) Promoting Inclusive Education for Children. The committee president, Audrey Wang, and co-president, John Kao, will serve as this year's HRC head chair and deputy chair respectively.

(401) As war between Russia and Ukraine rages on, armed conflict plays an inevitable factor that will only bring damage to property and

innocents. A common practice in war is torture. Although it is an effective way to gain intelligence of the opposing party, it is a major violation of the human rights agreement, where prisoners face inhuman treatment as their personal rights are stripped away from them. The Human Rights Council has taken this issue under close scrutiny.

(402) All children in the world have the undeniable rights to receive equal education opportunities, however many countries do not have the necessary instruments to fulfill those educational needs. Sub-Saharan Africa has around 32 million children who remain uneducated and the same goes for Central and Eastern Asia, where around 27 million children remain uneducated. The committee has taken this issue into account, looking for a method to fulfill every children's learning requirements.

HRC

Article by:
Thoman
Chen

Economic and and Social Council



The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) deals with economics, social, cultural, and health issues related to human rights and fundamental freedom. It coordinates with the work of the UN, specializes in agencies, receives reports from UN funds, and programmes or issues policy recommendations to UN systems and Member States. ECOSOC is responsible for promoting and identifying solutions to the international community, facilitating the co-operation between the international cultural and educational systems, and encouraging the integrity for human rights under the UN Charter.

This year, ECOSOC focuses on the issues of Alleviating the Stress of Economic Recession on Global Supply due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and War in Ukraine (601), Measures to Reduce the Effects of Recreational Activities on the Environment (602), and Supporting Sustainable Development While Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels (603). The Head Chair of ECOSOC is Emma Hwang (HCAS) and the Deputy Chairs are Morris Chang (KCIS) and Jessie Chiang (TAS).

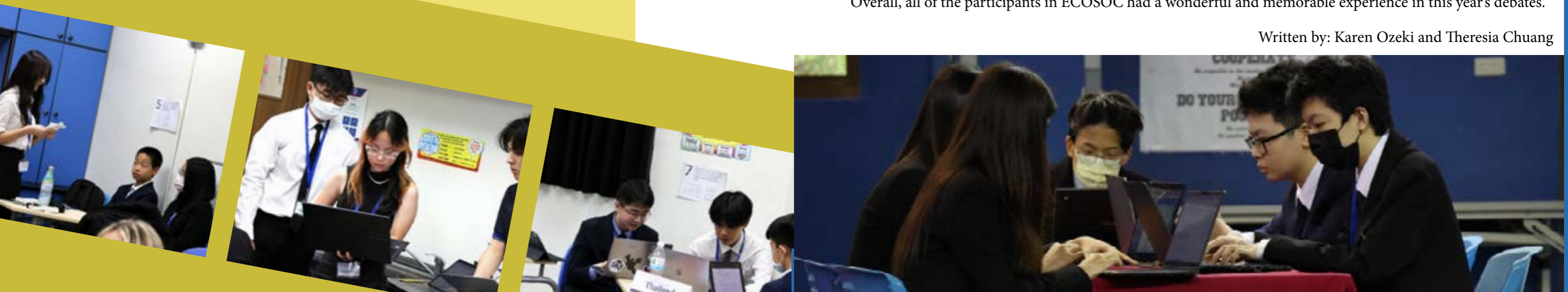
(601) The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic involves issues of financial consequences due to lock-down and the loss of economic growth, which led to food insecurity issues. Also, the Russia-Ukraine War, in which Russia has the most impact on food supply in the globe. Due to the war, Russia allocated most of their funds to their military facilities. The invasion of Ukraine has made it difficult to continue agricultural pursuits. These changes have caused global food shortages and have threatened the international economy, which has led to further issues of food insecurity. Deputy Chair Morris Chang believes that this issue is most pressing in our lives. He mentioned the situation food insecurity affecting many people and having a big impact in Taiwan, the role played by Russia in escalating this issue.

(602) The environmental impact of recreational activities, especially those performed outdoors, has raised many concerns. Though we may be unaware, our engagement and participation in recreational activities has threatened both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Tourism as well as a lack of government regulation further elevated the damage to wildlife. With this issue so pressing, action must be taken. Head Chair Emma Hwang shares that she has always been interested in sustainability and reducing our impact on the environment. Since recreational activities are sure to continue in the future, it is a topic that is challenging but interesting to learn about.

(603) The UN has been working to fulfill its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), facing environmental, economic, and political challenges in today's society. The majority of the nations have participated in these goals; however, some countries which can only rely on nonrenewable fossil fuels have refused to become implementers of renewables, which has become a concern. The Deputy Chair, Jessie Chiang, reported that she is most interested in renewables, energy resources, and in transitioning away from fossil fuels – long term issues that the world has to face immediately. She was also looking forward to elevated solutions from the delegates. Although their solutions might not be practical, their creative minds might inspire people in the UN who are currently working at solving these problems.

Overall, all of the participants in ECOSOC had a wonderful and memorable experience in this year's debates.

Written by: Karen Ozeki and Theresia Chuang





United Nations Development Program

Welcome to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Anderson Chung and Jason Yang are honored to be the President and Deputy President, respectively. UNDP aims to help eradicate poverty and reduce inequality by developing policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities and institutional capabilities, and building resilience to achieve Sustainability Goals.

This year, the UNDP will be focusing on the issues of Addressing the Food, Fuel, and Economic Crises Resulting from the Ukraine-Russian Crises (701) as well as Addressing Vanishing Ecosystems Under Threat of Industrialization (702).

(701) The Russo-Ukrainian War was triggered when Ukraine began developing its connections with significant parties in the West, such as NATO. Russia feared that relations between Ukraine and the West would jeopardize its national security, which is when Russia decided to invade Ukraine in 2022. This resulted in the implementation of economic sanctions to aid the many Russian citizens who are facing poverty and hunger as well as starting a global economic crisis as many countries depend on Russian exports such as fuel and technology.

(702) The effects of industrialization on the planet's ecosystems have led to both good and bad outcomes. On one hand, industrialization has led to the rapid development of both economic growth and advancements in technology, resulting in a higher living standard with higher wages, and easier access to goods and services, and greater environmentally friendly industrial practices. While on the other hand, industrialization has caused mass environmental degradation, with increasing pollution and a decrease in biodiversity, as a result of water pollution from the use of fossil fuels for energy production.

We encourage all participants in this year's TAIMUN XXI UNDP to further negotiate, lobby, and debate in order to gain a larger insight at hand for a productive discussion.

Article by: Brenda Hung



World Health Organization

Article by: Brenda Hung

Welcome to the World Health Organization (WHO). Cindy Yang and Hannah Chu are honored to be your president and deputy president, respectively. WHO aims to help promote health worldwide, keep the world safe, and serve the vulnerable by improving access to essential services, allowing people to have universal health coverage, and providing a billion people with better health and well-being.

This year, the WHO will be focusing on the issues of Addressing Personal Security in State Medical Interventions in Future Epidemics and Pandemics (801), as well as Measures to Regulate Human Genome Editing for the Advancement of Public Health (802).

(801) The importance of personal security in state medical interventions during epidemics and pandemics was emphasized by the recent Covid-19 outbreak back in 2020. Pandemic response management is essential for decreasing the spread of a virus and its association with morbidity and mortality. 20 countries worldwide were affected with 60 million cases of Covid-19 and 1.4 million deaths. The pandemic sparked many concerns related to personal security, such as data confidentiality, transparency, and informed consent. Due to this, numerous people are hesitant to disclose medical records or comply with public health regulations that may compromise their freedom and liberty. As a result, governmental actions have ignited a debate regarding the extent of medical intervention allowed and the tracing and mandatory actions to prevent such viruses from spreading.

(802) "Human genome editing has the potential to advance our ability to treat and cure diseases," said Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the Director-General of WHO. Human genome editing is one of the many new emerging sciences said to come with many potential benefits such as an accurate diagnosis, more steps toward targeted treatments, and the prevention of genetic abnormalities. Human genome editing could also vastly improve treatment options for cancer patients. Due to a lack of governance and oversight, there are many abstract areas to human genome editing including the knowledge of such processes and the potential risk of unsafe research.

We encourage delegates in this year's TAIMUN XXI to conduct thorough research and debate fervently in the conference to successfully gain more insight into the issues at hand.



Advisor

Panel

Questions

Article by: Declan Chang

This year's TAIMUN Advisory Panel Question (APQ) focuses on two issues: The Question of Child Labor Protection (901) and The Question of Equity for Pregnant Students (902). The issue of child labour is led by Deputy President Celine Shih, while President Jaida Dean is leading the issue of teen pregnancy. The presidents found the committee filled with overwhelming excitement, with all delegates ready to participate in the coming debates. The delegates forming the resolution on the issue of child labour were interviewed about their thoughts on the upcoming debates. While the delegates themselves strongly oppose the use of child labour, their roles as representatives of different nations might force them to speak for the justification of it. The delegates understand that the two polar stances that exist in the room will result in a fiery debate session.

Whilst most of the committee members chose to tackle the issue of child labour, there were few who chose to focus their efforts on teen pregnancy and discrimination surrounding the issue. With only three members collaborating on a resolution, the delegates are eager to formulate creative solutions to the issue. President Jaida Dean is pleased with the issue that she chose as she understands that it is an important issue not many people understand or focus heavily on. She hopes to witness how the creative minds of the delegates' joint effort can result in an entertaining debate.

Finally, the presidents shared a memorable moment that happened prior to the lobbying time: Upon walking into the room, you will find a plaque card that is not like any other. A hand drawn picture of the United States of America's flag followed by the word "MURICA" written in colour pencils. The proud delegate behind the plaque card is Lorenzo Dombkowski, one of the three members tackling the issue of equity for teen pregnancies. Even though the other member of his bloc, Chloe Lau, finds the chances of their resolution passing is slim, Lorenzo is confident that the resolution will definitely pass and will spark "juicy debates."



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- UNESCO -

Article by: Declan Chang

The United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is responsible for maintaining and improving the standard of living for citizens around the world. This year at TAIMUN XXI, the UNESCO council is discussing two issues: Addressing the Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites in Conflict Zones (1001) and Preventing the Loss of the Mother tongues of ethnic minorities (1002). Upon first glance, the committee seems surrounded by an aura of anxiety and nervousness in the students. However, President Maya Braunstein and Deputy President Jeffery Wan are hopeful that the many first-time delegates will soon break out of their shells and begin socializing with their peers. The presidents are diligently assisting the delegates, ensuring the blocs are forming viable and well-constructed resolutions. Delegates such as those representing Korea and Italy both share the same belief with the presidents, stating that delegates will become more lively and participate more avidly as the debate progresses.

(1001)

Deputy President Jeffery Wan believes that preserving cultural heritage sites is vital for the modern age. As an impressive amount of information is becoming digitalised, many individuals of our generation might forget the roots of their culture. Therefore, the president wishes to bring awareness to this issue and guard these timestamps of history that hold great importance to a culture.

UNESCO



(1002)

The other issue of the committee is focused on ensuring many local and indigenous languages do not get lost. The president leading this issue, Maya Braunstein, believes that languages have an extremely close bond with culture, so if a language is lost, the culture is as well. With as many as 6000 endangered languages around the world, she hopes that the committee can arrive at solutions to better the situation.

The delegates from UNESCO are also extremely optimistic about the coming debates as all of them believe the resolutions will be passed. As the debate continues, they hope all members of the house will get involved and participate in discussing these intriguing issues.



Mr. Bart Linssen

Written By: Carilyn Chang, Jun Choi



You have to stay positive. Don't just accept the situation—stay optimistic and angry. At the same time, make sure your voice is heard because it is important that all of us get the chance to take a stand. It isn't fair how your generation are the ones who have to deal with the consequences; it has never been fair. You should remember to raise your voice to face the “challenges of humanity.”

Q: When did you first become interested in renewable energy in general? What motivates you to be in the wind industry?

I first learned about climate change a long time ago, which really concerned me. I wanted to be able to do something about this, so I combined my passion for the environment with my other interests such as electrical engineering. Wind turbines are electrical machines that contribute positively to reducing the impact of climate change on Earth. After I graduated, I applied to several companies. However, I wasn't hired, so there was a time when I was on the verge of giving up. Then, I started working for an engineering company, and later for an electrical equipment company that focuses on renewable energy. In 2007, I took my daughter to a beach in Zhunan. When I see people installing wind turbines there, I suddenly realized that I've always wanted to be involved in renewables. I applied to a company that developed wind turbines, and they eventually hired me. So, what motivates me is that I'm not just doing it as a job—I'm committed to the wind and renewables industry because I'm passionate about it. If you don't have passion for a good cause, it's going to be difficult for you to go on with life.

Q: How can we avoid becoming cynical when we hear unpleasant or troubling news about global issues?

A: It is very difficult not to be cynical. I frequently face people who totally deny or ignore things that I believe to be a fact. They do not face reality even if the truth is there; they are not willing to listen; they are not willing to think about the consequences. A long time ago, one of my professors reminded me that even if you don't believe it, you have to approach it with some kind of insurance. When we talk about environmental advocacy, it's like buying insurance: you're trying to make sure bad things don't happen. Cynicism and desperation—I feel that as well. But you need to try to find the good stories and the little points of hope. What encourages me now is knowing that one of our customers works in a community wind farm in Penghu. About three to four years ago, people there protested about the wind farm because they were really angry about all the equipment there. I was frustrated. I thought to myself that there must have been a misunderstanding since the wind farm was there for a good reason. It shouldn't be something that affects you in a negative way. I was sad to see that those wind turbines were just standing there, not producing any green energy. But recently, the customer I mentioned went through a program where they spent a lot of time teaching the residents about renewable equipment. Their view has completely changed.

Q: What keeps you hopeful that humanity can tackle climate change? Do you think humanity is capable of becoming the solution?

Sometimes I doubt that. But from my opening ceremony presentation, I see some positive developments. I think that the impact of climate change is becoming really obvious. I try to tell that to people around me, but I face problems convincing them. When I first tried to convince my own mother, she would tell me that I shouldn't worry too much. I tried to encourage her to use less plastic and switch off electricity when not using it, but she continued to be ignorant. However, on a small scale, I'm starting to see changes recently. My mother gradually became concerned about the future and the life that my daughter (her granddaughter) will have. These small changes will slowly bring realization to the future generations. It's really unfair for you all because my generation and those before had a comfortable life where we did not need to be worried about the environment. I hope that the previous generations will realize the consequences of climate change, and in order to spark that realization, I suggest people to be angry like Greta. I suggest people speak up. Try to change the mindset of the previous generations. My daughter is an angry person in that respect, so she is very direct to my mother about using plastic, wasting energy, and many more. She's very straightforward on what she wants. Many people agree to stop climate change, but they don't speak up. On the other hand, people who are against environmental protection will try to stop the positive developments. I hope the younger generation can stand up and realize there's a problem. When people do, you will see hope.

Q: You mentioned Greta Thunberg in your Opening Ceremony speech—what are the qualities in her that stand out to you as an environmental advocate?

Greta is amazing, because she is very determined and has a clear set of principles. She follows those values almost to the limit. These are the qualities that not everyone has, and I think they are very admirable. She is not afraid to speak up, and she is able to voice her opinions. She dares to be angry at those in power even if it means sparking negative reactions and feedback from the public. I respect her, and I think we should all learn from her. We shouldn't just sit still. We should stand up for what is right like Greta did.

Q: And finally, what advice would you give to the younger generation on maintaining hope and taking action to face the “challenges of humanity?”

You have to stay positive. Don't just accept the situation—stay optimistic and angry. At the same time, make sure your voice is heard because it is important that all of us get the chance to take a stand. It isn't fair how your generation are the ones who have to deal with the consequences; it has never been fair. You should remember to raise your voice to face the “challenges of humanity.”

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Articles



Super Smash Bros

One thing I love the most is playing video games with friends; not only does it help me relieve stress, but it also enhances the friendships I have with those who live far away. Couple years back, I was introduced to the Super Smash Bros franchise. I've heard of the game from time to time but never had the opportunity to give it a try—not until my friend urged me to play with them. The experience left me in awe, amazed by how entertaining and approachable the game is. In this article, I want to thoroughly go over the pros and cons of Super Smash Bros, and introduce this hidden gem to many

other people who seek joy and fun. To start off, Super Smash Bros is a renowned game franchise that has been entertaining the community since its release in 1999. Developed by the famous video game company Nintendo, the game is able to showcase an array of different characters from across many franchises such as Mario, Donkey Kong, the Legend of Zelda, and many more. This in return helped the game to gain popularity, as well as a strong fanbase.

The primary objective of the game is to knock your opponent out of the battle stage

using special attacks and combos unique to each character. The more damage your opponent takes, the further and easier they can be launched, making it harder for them to stay in the stage. There is a percentage system that determines how far a character will be launched when hit, and players can also use various items and powerups to their advantage.

What distinguishes Super Smash Bros from other fighting games is its approachability. Unlike games such as Street Fighter or Tekken, which can involve complicated button inputs and an in-depth knowledge of how the

in-game mechanic works, Super Smash Bros is designed to cater to players of all skill levels. The controls are straightforward, and the game's mechanics of knocking your opponent out of the stage instead of depleting their health bar is both welcoming for new players to adopt, and an interesting concept for gamers that are looking for a refreshing experience.

Super Smash Bros is a game that can be equally enjoyed by players of all skill levels, from casual gamers to competitive esport players. One of the things that make it such a popular game is its sheer number of characters available. The latest version, Super Smash Bros Ultimate, features over 80 different characters, covering up to 20+ different franchises, many of which are not even owned by Nintendo themselves. Each character demonstrates different strengths, weaknesses, and a unique set of moves; this challenges the players to understand and remember how each character functions, and



allows more possibility to enjoy the game when they get bored playing one character.

In addition to the standard fighting mode, Super Smash Bros also features a variety of other game modes, such as classic mode, where the player engages in a series of battles against different difficulty of computer, and adventure mode, which features a story along with levels and boss fights. With this vibrant selection of modes, the gameplay wouldn't be too repetitive, allowing players to experience more aspects of the game. For players looking for competitive

gameplay experience, the ranking mode allows players to compete against players of similar skill level; winning increases your global ranking, whereas losing decreases it, this challenges players to compete in a more serious and cautious manner, where every precise movement matters to the overall outcome.

Super Smash Bros also has a large and dedicated community, with players all around the world competing in tournaments and events. These events can be held

locally or online and can range from casual outside meetups to major international tournaments with thousands of participants and massive prize pools. These tournaments provided the opportunity for some of the world's best players to compete with each other, not only bringing a massive amount of entertainment for the whole community to enjoy, but also extending the game's life-span by gaining more attention.

Super Smash Bros is a video game that is largely cherished by its creator, especially the latest version Ultimate. From fluent gameplay, to the beautiful battle stage backgrounds, to the iconic character model and voice lines, it's hard to deny that Nintendo put their best effort into making this game. Nintendo also largely

recognizes the gaming community and respects them. During their development in adding additional characters, the developers listen to the community's requests and pick characters where the majority favors. This shows that Nintendo not only loves their own game, but also respects the community for playing them.

Super Smash Bros has been around for many generations and has continued to entertain many without losing much popularity. From having a mix of different beloved characters, to having a massive friendly community and a supportive developers team, Super Smash Bros is definitely a game that is worth trying out.



The Game that Withstood for Centuries: CHESS



Article by Alan Lin

With trillions of possibilities that even the most advanced computers can not calculate, the game of chess is nothing like the other board games. First originated from India in the sixth century in the form of chaturanga, the predecessor to chess, chess has evolved to become a two player game played on an 8x8 grid featuring six different types of pieces: pawn, bishop, knight, rook, queen, and king. Each of these pieces can land on designated squares on the board or capture the opponent's pieces with varying movements. For instance, a pawn only travels forward, a

bishop travels diagonally, a knight travels in a L shape, a rook travels horizontally and vertically, a queen travels in all directions, and a king only travels to the squares surrounding it. Although the objective of the game is simple, which is to checkmate the opponent (capture the opponent's king) under a certain time constraint to win, it is incredibly difficult for players to defend and attack with 32 different pieces on the board (16 pawns and four of every other piece) that all move in distinct ways. This provided chess a quality that no other board game possess:

the requirement of immense commitment.

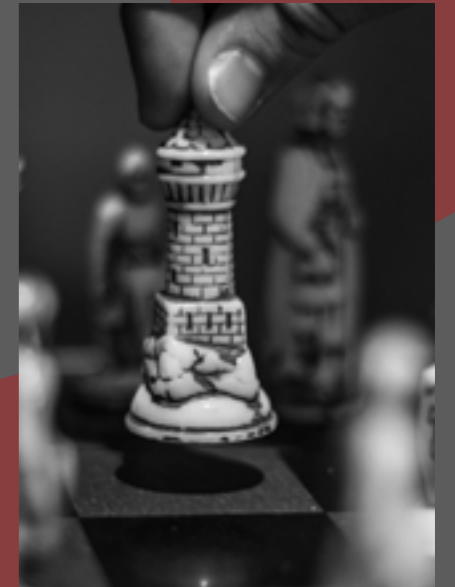
This means that in order for a person to be proficient in chess, he or she must not only learn the fundamental rules, but also devote years to understand the intricacies of the interconnectivities between all pieces of chess. Otherwise, no amount of luck can save you from the great calculations needed to win the game. Since this is the case, chess in the early days were highly regarded as a noble, prestigious, and exquisite pastime for only the wealthy, powerful, and

intelligent. However, as time progressed, more public clubs and lessons were established for people all around the world to learn chess, diminishing the social inequalities that had been held in the game for a long time. As more and more people are exposed to chess, its popularity began to reach its peak around the 12th and the 15th centuries. This also led to the creation of multiple tournaments, such as the first World Championship in 1886, that provided methods for players to contend competitively, further expanding the scale of the game and discovering more brilliant players.



As all competitive sports have their own G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time), the same concept holds true for chess as well. The first person to be regarded as the best player of all time was Bobby Fischer (1943 to 2008), an American grandmaster, the highest level of chess title. He portrayed an absolutely outstanding skill by defeating multiple Soviet Union players with ease, even though they were the most dominant players at the time, winning the World

Championship from 1972 to 1975 with a peak rating of 2785 (a numeric value that indicates the strength of the players). However, everything changed when Garry Kasparov (born 13 April 1963) began his chess career. Becoming the youngest undisputed world champion in 1985 at age 22, the Russian grandmaster has reached the second highest chess rating of all time with a peak rating of 2851. Yet with Kasparov came a crushing defeat to humanity as he lost to a supercomputer named Deep Blue in a chess match in 1997, marking the first time that humans are no longer able to beat computers in chess. As chess softwares began to develop far beyond human comprehension, emerged yet another player considered to be the best of all time: Magnus Carlsen. Born 30 November 1990, the Norwegian chess grandmaster is the reigning five-time World Chess Champion, four-time World Rapid Chess Champion, and six-time World Blitz Chess Champion with the highest peak rating of 2882. Although the conversation for the G.O.A.T. of chess is still debated amongst individuals, Carlsen has a strong chance of crowning this title as he is only 32 years of age with no signs of slowing down.



However, it is not just the level and number of professional chess players that have been increasing in the past few years, the number of casual chess players have also been proliferating. Due to the Covid pandemic, online chess has gained a massive increase in popularity as the only way to play chess while quarantined at home is through online platforms. In addition to the famous show "The Queen's Gambit", chess has become a growing global sensation, inviting more and more people to experience its greatness. Although chess has been around for centuries, it has never been altered, discarded, or abandoned, and it will only continue to grow, expand, and improve in the future.

Top Art Places in Taiwan

Article by Emily Ko

Taichung Art Museum



Photo from *Taichung Travel*

A museum located in the west district in Taichung, this art museum has a variety of different things that you can do when admiring the art. There's an outside area similar to a little park where you can take a stroll on a beautiful day or children can run around and play. Furthermore, there's even a Chun Shui Tang (春水堂) that you can get drinks in and a place

to enjoy afternoon tea time. Inside the art museum, there are various sections with a variety of art. There's also countless good restaurants less than five minutes walk from the museum so that you can get food with friends or family after enjoying a soothing time in the art museum.

Tainan Chi Mei Art Museum

A museum located in Tainan, this is a place that can bring awe to even someone who is not interested in art. You are greeted by large areas of flowers and trees and a beautiful fountain decorated by a sculpture seemingly of a Greek god pulling a chariot of horses. There are also various gardens with Greek sculptures and sculptures about the Twelve Olympians. Inside the museum, there are countless rooms filled with arts ranging from

the renaissance to taxidermied animals, and even musical instruments and even historical weapons! It can take as long as two days to slowly look at every artifact in every room. It is about a fifteen walk to the museum building from the parking area so be prepared for a challenge before entering the museum. If you are bringing a small child then I recommend bringing a stroller because you will get tired!



Photo from *Klook*

Ju Ming Museum

A museum located in Jinshan district, New Taipei, Ju Ming Museum takes you on a journey of art inside the creative mindset of the famous Taiwanese sculptor Ju Ming. There are countless stone sculptures in unique looking poses placed both inside the museum building and in the areas outside. The museum is mainly outdoor so make sure to check the weather

forecast before traveling to the museum. There are sculptures of figures doing karate, yoga, soldiers on their way back to camp, and other interesting sculptures waiting to be discovered. There is even a battleship outside the museum building! This is also a good place for children to be since children can run around on the large lawns in the outdoor area of this museum



Photo from *New Taipei City Travel*

National Palace Museum



Photo from *Undiscovered Taipei*

A museum located in Taipei, this museum features a permanent collection of nearly 700,000 pieces of Chinese artifacts and artworks, most of them moved from Beijing. Inside, different rooms house a variety of artifacts such as ancient Chinese calligraphy, sculptures, and Chinese ink painting. There are also several gift shops located inside the museum. There is an

area for resting where they serve tea and small desserts even though they can be a bit pricey. This is a museum I recommend if you want to know about Chinese history or look at Chinese artifacts.

National Taichung theater

A theater located in a popular area in Taichung, this theater is the go to for watching music performances in Taichung. Even though this is not an art museum like the other places that I recommended, this theater features an assortment of different performances for a musical ear to enjoy. Often, there are Taiwanese musicals, concerts, theater performances, and other performances in either Chinese, Taiwanese, English, and other languages. I once watched a French opera there when I was younger!

Inside the National Taichung Theater there are also many shops that sell small goods that are often good if you want to send them as gifts for families and friends. There is also a shop that sells very tasty grass jelly if you are a fan and there are some restaurants for you to enjoy your lunch or dinner. Outside the theater there is a fountain that lights up at night and shoots high water jets into the air so be sure to take some good pictures at the theater.



Photo from *National Taichung Theater*

SUSHI

You examine the platter presented in front of you, the delicacy laid there waiting, beckoning for you to give it a taste. It is a simple dish—two vibrant, orange pieces of salmon resting atop light and fluffy clouds with white glimmering streaks of fat running across the thick cut of salmon; further enticing you. As per usual, you paint the tip of the sushi a deep brown as you carefully steep it in the shallow dish of soy sauce. You enjoy the beautiful combination of flavour, the saltiness of the soy sauce hits the tip of your tongue first forming a delicate harmony with the fatty flesh of the salmon and suddenly the piercing sensation of the wasabi cuts through the rich taste as the performance concludes with the bed of rice mellowing out the burst of relish.

Whether it be for 40 dollars or 400 dollars a plate, everyone is familiar with sushi. It's one of the defining symbols of Japanese cuisine, the seemingly simple dish has been a hit in many regions of the world, leaving its mark on the modern dining culture. Whilst many people are familiar with sushi, its history is not as widely known.

The most primal form of sushi originated in 900 A.D. in Japan as a dish that involved fermenting salted fish with rice, resulting in a product that was described to smell like the hybrid of blue cheese, fish and vinegar. The method was used to simply preserve the fish for an extended period of time; at this point in the history of sushi, the rice was merely a byproduct of fermenting the fish thus not a part of the dish. Because the fish resulting from the preservation process tasted sour, the dish was named sushi—the Japanese word for sour-tasting was pronounced similarly.

The sushi that we know and love in contemporary times gained much of its development and popularity during the Edo period of Japanese history. This was the time when the modern form of nigiri sushi was created, the popularity of sushi spread around the nation, and sushi becoming a widespread and cheap food for the majority of the population. The final major step in the history of sushi was after World War II and the surrender of Japan. After the war, the nation faced an extreme food shortage crisis and relied heavily on governmental provision to survive. Whilst most restaurants were not allowed to open, sushi stalls obtained permission from the government to continue operating. Citizens would bring a portion of rice to the sushi stalls in exchange for the rice to be processed into a 10-piece sushi set for a person. This was the course of action that truly set sushi as an essential part of the Japanese people's diet. Since the US military also occupied Japan at the time, the idea of sushi followed them as they went back home and spread into western culture.

The sushi we know now mainly consists of 5 major varieties: the sashimi, uramaki, maki, nigiri, and temaki. The sashimi being the one that most resembles the predecessor of modern sushi is simply raw seafood served alone. The nigiri is the most popular variety of sushi, which is a piece of seafood or meat served atop an elliptical layer of rice. The temaki has a unique cone shape with various fillings within the cone. Finally the maki and uramaki are usually referred to as sushi rolls, with the uramaki serving as a western take on the maki; the maki is a classic sushi roll with a layer of seaweed surrounding rice and filling, whereas the uramaki has rice on the outer layer and seaweed and other fillings being surrounded.

As a food that has evolved from being described as smelling rotten and tasting sour to something such a wide demographic enjoys; sushi as a style of cuisine has come a long way. Next time when you have a chance to visit a sushi restaurant, knowing its history, the sushi might just taste ever so slightly better or remind you of a rotting carcass.

Article by: Declan Chang



Symphonies *of the* *Soul*

As I lay my head to the side of the window, I stare off into the sun filled sky, feeling the breeze of early spring rush through my hair. I hear the chatter of people, yet so slowly I feel as if I am lifted from this world. My senses become dull; I sigh; one by one the sound of cars fades into the distance. "Where am I?" I wonder.

At the click of a button, I hear the notes as if they have come to life. The sound of music embraces me; it hugs me ever so tightly, dragging me down to depths that reach no bounds. I am no longer confined by the limitations of my body, to a journey neither limited by time or space, a power that looms below me, beckoning at the soles of my feet, where there I am guided to a place of infinite imaginations... a place of wonder.



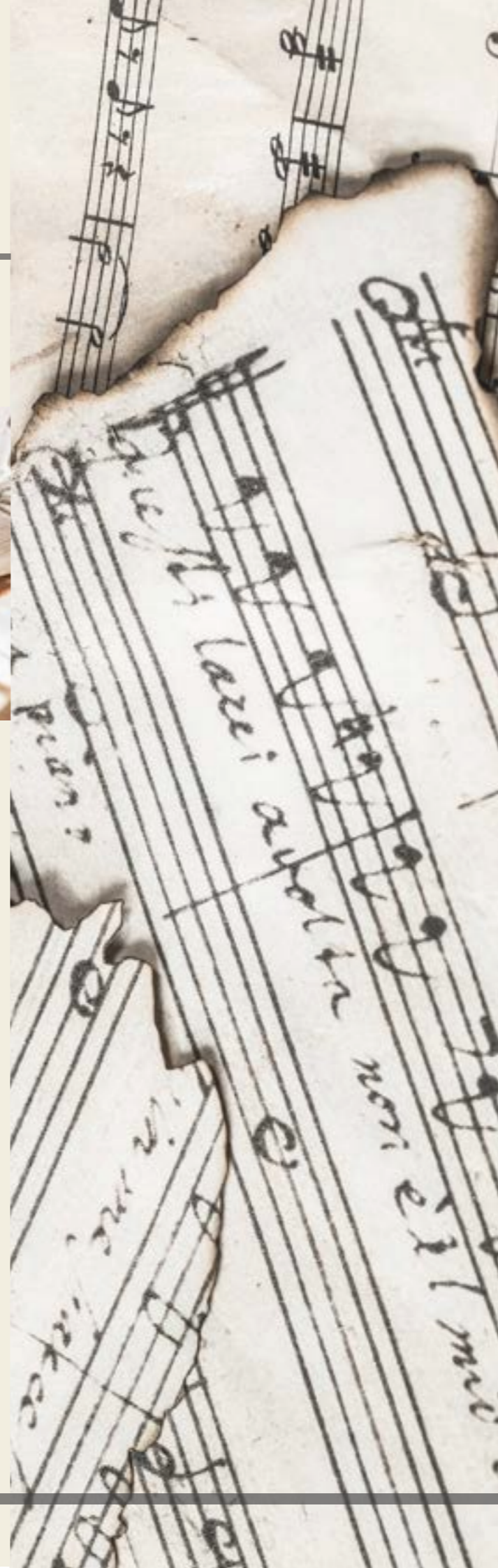
Music to me is a language of the soul, a force that touches us in ways words cannot. It is what moves us, inspires us, and shapes who we are. To me, the beauty of music lies in its ability to evoke emotions, like a puppet before its puppeteer, I stand powerless beneath the conductor.

There is something about music that has always held a special place in my heart. Music holds a power over me. The effect is undeniable. To be swayed and moved by its every whim. It's a beautiful kind of surrender, one that allows me to experience my emotions to its fullest; I am captivated. It's as if I am under a spell, completely in the thrall of the melody and lyrics.

In many ways, music is like a mirror. It reflects back to us the bad and the good, the pretty and the ugly, a beauty to its beast, a complexity of our own emotions. It allows me to see myself in a new light, to explore my innermost self, and to discover the undiscovered.

The beauty of music is that it can mean so many different things to different people. For me, it is a form of escape. When life gets overwhelming or stressful, music has always been there for me. It's a way to step outside of my own head; it allows me to forget my problems and lose myself in something so intricate and beautiful. I am free to explore, to dream, and to create. It is a place where anything is possible, and where the boundaries of reality are blurred.

As a dreamer myself, there are many songs that have played a profound impact on me over the years. Songs that have become one with me, a fragment of my soul, a new identity. But beyond myself, there is something so universal about music that brings people together. A new common ground in the midst of a world of differences. Music has the power to unite us, through thick and thin.



For those who feel music deeply, it is not just a form of entertainment or a means of escape. But a form of communication, as we are able to express the reality that lies in our hearts, where even words have failed us.

Music is a universal language that speaks to all of us, no matter where we come from or what our background is.

When we truly embody music in our lives, we become one with it. We feel the rhythms and melodies coursing through our veins, and we are filled with a sense of purpose and belonging. To some, music is not just a hobby or a pastime but a way of life. We live and breathe for music, dedicating what feels like a lifetime to conquering the land of the uncharted, adventuring into the fine art of music and its intricacies.

Thank you.



THANK YOU!

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