

# Lam̄ca

ISSUE 2: SEPTEMBER

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# Editor's Note



**LAMĞA /Lamha/**, or a glimpse. A glimpse into our student life, and we keep these gorgeous and whimsical days.

Carnegie Mellon in Qatar is truly an intriguing place for all of us. At times we seem to all be plugged into the bright laptop screen, scraping off some coursework we hope to one day understand the significance of. At times the whole place seems dissociated, the people distant and oblivious. Other times, we have the best discussions on the injustices of the world in a random event we just happen to pass by. Other times, we break our voice roaring for that sports team, not even knowing the players and the game rules, just because they wear the CMU-colored bibs.

In CMU-Q, at times we feel like a monotonic degree-seeker. Other times we feel like home, like we have stories worthwhile to tell, and others around us have these sophisticated, lovable layers we are grateful to know about.

In this September Issue, also our second one - Plugged In, we aspire to uncover such duality of life in CMU-Q. We dedicate the issue to include more people with the myriad of stories and perspectives that they have to share. Our sincere hope is that you are motivated to embrace the eclectic aspects of yourself and others in the community, and continue to enrich your time in CMU-Q beyond just the manifold of tabs on your laptop screen.

**LAMĞA** is for the students by the students. We are more proud than ever to continue being an anchor for your monthly conversations, and an archive for your university experience.

Sincerely,  
**LAMĞA** Editorial Board





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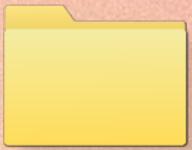
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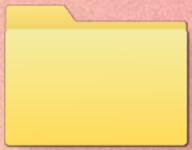


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FALL SEMESTER  
2022



SEPTEMBER  
ISSUE



You've Got  
This

*Humans of —*

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**CMUQ**

# Assignments to Algorithms

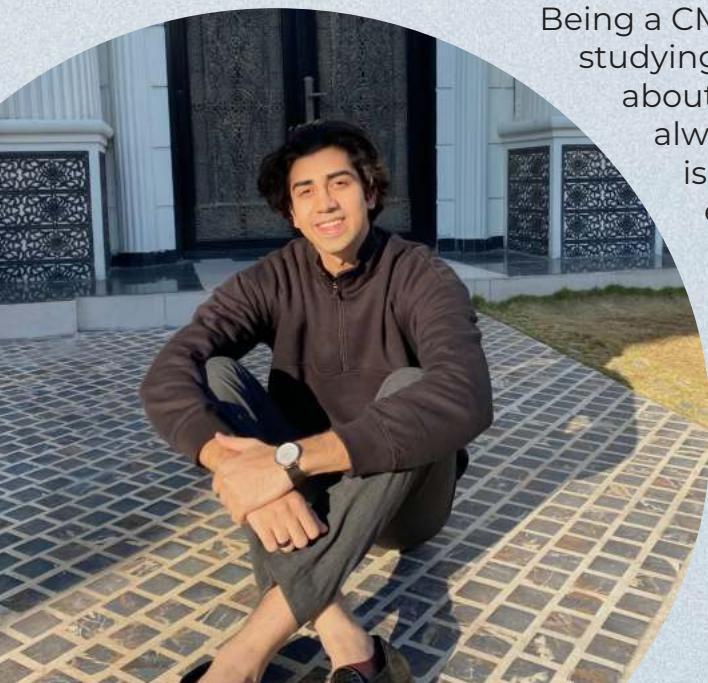
By Mariam Hamad

Muhammad Ali Raza is a Pakistani senior currently studying Business Administration. He recently became involved with social media and is now one of the fastest growing youtubers in Pakistan, reaching 98k subscribers in 16 months. He was also nominated as one of top 20 Gen-Z youtubers in Pakistan. We interviewed him to see what it's really like being a student and a youtuber.

I would refer to myself as an influencer only in Pakistan, but elsewhere I would say I am a youtuber. I started YouTube last year, around February 2021, just for fun. I started as nothing, I was not interested in it as a career at all. In my freshman year, I would make a lot of videos in Qatar for my personal memories, and one of my friends, Abdullah, suggested posting these videos on social media. During COVID, I was in Pakistan, and Abdullah called me and told me "Where's the videos?". So I started to put them together and posted. In 2 days, the video hit 1200 views and it meant so much to me. I was motivated to make more, so I did. I posted about Holi, an Indian religious holiday, and there was a replica in Pakistan, so I made a video of me attending the event and it blew up. After that, I started taking it seriously. In Qatar, I sometimes get too shy to pull out my camera and start shooting videos, so my full personality isn't really shown. I would say the real me is in the videos filmed in Pakistan. With exams and uni I stopped a little, but during the summer vacation, I was dedicated and posted twice a week. At the end of summer vacation, I had 10,000 viewers.



I consider social media a part time job that requires full-time capacity from me. I spend a lot of time brainstorming and I have a team of people in Pakistan helping me. They help me to come up with ideas and I approve, then make the video. Shooting takes almost 3-4 hours, I have some friends in the dorm that help me. I edit all the footage, and I have an editor that will edit my final version of videos and put in songs transitions, text, things like that. Being a university student in CMU, there's so much pressure and work to do, so I consider it a part time job when I am in university, and on vacations, it's a full time one.



Being a CMU student and a youtuber is tough. I've been studying business since I was 8 and am very passionate about it. I was never interested in science, it's always been arts and business. Also, my father is a businessman, and as the eldest son, I am expected to work for my father's family business in the future, which I still plan to do. Due to this, I prioritize university of course. YouTube is my main thing only during breaks like winter and summer vacations, but during university, I post once every few weeks and work on it only on weekends. Even this semester I haven't posted for 2 months, due to pressure from my Finance and Operations Management classes.



Mohammed Ali Raza |



There are a lot of negative stereotypes and assumptions about social media users. In Pakistan, some people love my energy, as I am very energetic in my videos, whilst some think it's all just an act. I don't care about stereotypes, it's my life and I like what I do. I believe whenever you're successful you will get hate. I get recognized by fans around every 2 days in Pakistan, and honestly, I love the attention. It's when my privacy is respected that I like it. But sometimes, there are situations where fans can be a little overwhelming. Once I was having dinner with my friends and two people came for a selfie. I told them I will take a photo later, after my dinner, and 10 minutes later they came again. I found it a little annoying. I got the picture, but I just felt annoyed that they were being pushy. Another experience was at a fan meetup in Lahore, and the capacity was too small for the people who showed up. While taking selfies, two people pulled on my jacket and I found it rude because I felt disrespected. Going into a crowd knowing they are all my viewers feels good but can be overwhelming.



My favorite thing about being a youtuber is the attention and love I get. I love meeting fans and the positive vibes overall. I feel very appreciative towards my fans and love all their messages and positive feedback. I also like money, haha. My least favorite thing is how time consuming it is and it's very hard. Just making a thumbnail takes so long, around 2 hours usually. I am a perfectionist, so getting the content to that level takes a lot of time.

I do see myself doing youtube, until I hit 500k, then maybe slow down a bit. I am aiming for a million, but for now the goal is 500k. For at least the next five years, I still want to pursue youtube. It's not going to ever be a full time job for me, as I still want to pursue a career in business and eventually run my father's business. I think my content will change over time. My demographic of viewers are older teenagers, and I know they will grow with me, so my content will adapt to this demographic. I am considering adding some travel vlogs in a year or two.

Overall, I love being a youtuber. My fans are really great and I love meeting and interacting with them. I love creating content that makes people laugh and forget their troubles. I would love to help out anyone who is interested in starting a social media career.

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## Senior Advice

By Mariam Hamad



How would you describe yourself in three words?



Fatima Al-Hamadi

Bibliophile. Daydreamer. Matcha Enthusiast.



Anas Mouden

Moroccan. Multiculturalist. Original.



Aigerim Karatay

Kazak. Muslim. Chef.



Mikael Chima

Honest. Straightforward. Driven.

What's your biggest accomplishment?



Fatima Al-Hamadi

The Andrew Carnegie scholar and Qatar Campus scholar for sure. When I first started, just being on the Dean's List seemed like a huge accomplishment to me, and that was my goal each semester.



Aigerim Karatay

I started wearing hijab in my junior year and I think this was my biggest accomplishment, and I never regretted that decision. That was the best decision I ever made in my life. I remember getting a present from a person I didn't know at the time, Layla, and she gifted me a Quran and it was such a special gift to me.



Mikael Chima

Being able to slowly become sustainable and independent on my own while also being able to aid and provide for others.

**Anas Moudan**

The Washington Semester program was one of the best experiences I had that CMU helped me accomplish. It was an immersion into the world of politics in the USA and that was a really crazy experience. The accomplishing part is what I did there. For example, I attended many seminars and conferences with major US political figures. I worked with many people who had interesting backgrounds in law, which was really cool.

How have you grown throughout these years at CMU?

**Mikael Chima**

Personally, in these 3-4 years I have matured immensely and also slowly adjusted to some responsibilities of becoming an adult. CMU has been really helpful in allowing me to understand and prioritize myself.

**Aigerim Karatay**

Alhamdillah, I think I've grown a lot through these 4 years. If I compare myself to my freshman self and now, I would say we are two completely different people with different dreams and views of life. I wasn't focusing on myself and my actual interests, more about being a people pleaser. I stressed too much about grades as a freshman. I was able to combat this stress and grow as a person.

**Anas Moudan**

I've been to a Moroccan school my whole life (French system), and it's very different from the American approach. I came clueless to CMU and had to learn how to deal with it by actually doing it. I explored, learned, and saw how things work. CMU was a support in helping me stay true to myself, a means to achieve the person who I want to be. I believe CMU exposes you to different things and I learned a lot.

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## Senior Advice



### Fatima Al-Hamadi

Personally, I feel that I became much more social. CMU was a safe space for me, one where I felt like I could show who I am as a person to anyone, and it was very easy to be who I am. I changed from being someone who is quiet and shy to someone who is always ready to start a conversation with strangers. I made friends very quickly. When COVID hit, I could realize how strong my friendships were, because even though we were all on zoom, I didn't feel too much of a difference in my relationships. Although it was a lonely period, with my computer and zoom, I was able to hop onto a meeting with my friends at any time. I was able to get through COVID with my batch, specifically the bio department, and they made me feel less alone.

What will you miss the most about CMU?



### Anas Mouden

I think I would say the people. It's a very talented pool of people, from students to professors to staff, and I learned a lot from them.



### Mikael Chima

The people and community. Sometimes those late night study sessions in CMU are truly the most memorable experiences with the right group of people.



### Fatima Al-Hamadi

The people of CMU definitely. The ease of coming together, if that makes sense. It feels as though you're always a part of something bigger. Whenever an event happens, I know I will see my friends there. I'm scared that when I graduate it won't be as easy to get together with one another.



### Aigerim Karatay

I will miss everything. Especially the people, I was really able to connect with a great group of friends and even some of the professors; they all feel like family to me. I will miss the feeling of being a part of a community. At CMU, we have a sense of understanding with each other and it's easy to get advice from anyone.

**Aigerim Karatay**

I will miss the campus, I really love it because it gives me a lot of comfort; it's like home to me honestly. I almost live here, especially in the ARC.

Advice to freshmen

**Aigerim Karatay**

My first thing is to not focus on grades too much in your first year because it is so confusing, going from a straight A student in highschool to struggling with schoolwork. I felt stupid at first, and I remember I passed by the dean's list ceremony, and I would think it was impossible. But somehow it happened, and I've been on it 3 times now, because I tried to focus more on the learning rather than grades. Some of my favorite courses I didn't get an A and I still like them because I loved the subject.

**Fatima Al-Hamadi**

It's okay to be scared and confused, but at the same time, you have to be willing to overcome these emotions. You have to put yourself out there and you will realize that you have grown so much over the years. It's a long, scary process, but it is worth it in the end.

**Mikael Chima**

Look over the syllabus. There is no point stressing over a 2% Quiz that you have not studied for, when there is a 10% Exam the upcoming week. Use your energy and effort wisely, as you may waste your time on something that is extremely low in weight of grades and not spend enough time on something more important.

**Anas Mouden**

Plan ahead. That's the best advice for a freshman. Try to plan for what you want to achieve and try to stick to it. Planning will only help you not hurt you. Also, seize the opportunity. There's so many opportunities at CMU and you need to take as many as you can. You also don't need to be doing what everyone else is doing or fit into a certain framework, just do what is best for you. Personally, I would have told my freshman self to have tried to involve myself within clubs and extracurriculars.

# Members

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# Only!

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## SEPTEMBER SPORTS COVERAGE

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This September resumed after our Fall Break with the highest energy as we entered the Fall 2022 Education City Sports Tournament. Our Football, Basketball, Cricket and Volleyball teams really shook up the Tartan spirit and sent everyone to a sports frenzy with the most amazing performances. Lamha is very proud and excited to deliver our exclusive coverage of the September matches. Let's relive the heat waves these matches spurred within and beyond CMU-Q!

# **Men's Football**

**September 24 against GU-Q**  
**By Ahmad Hallaq**



Tensions are high, and the pressure is on. It is our first match in the QF tournament, and it is against none other than GUQ. Our coach, Professor Yilmaz, gave us our team talk, every player took their position in the starting lineup. Off the whistle goes. Game on. From the get-go it was clear, this game is ours to win. We were more organized, we controlled the flow of the game, and we were more dangerous on goal. Chance after chance, we kept getting closer. Off the pitch, the cheers were incredible. While playing, you can hear names being called, and feel the spectator's exceptional passion. From the very beginning, there was no way to lose, and so it began...

Mohamed Elsayed opened our streak with the first goal, stirring the crowd wild. Soon after, Georgetown started pressing harder, yet we were quick on the counter-attack, and before they knew it, Elsayed grabbed his second of the game to increase our lead. In the second half, we had to hold on and keep our composure. The team showed great persistence. Our defense stood its ground, our midfield orchestrated the game, and our attack was clinical. Towards the end, we managed to score a third. It was Elsayed, once again, who completed his hat trick in a dream debut to conclude what was an incredible performance by the team. Semi-final is now just one match away. See you Tartans, in the semi-final qualifier with HBKU this Saturday.



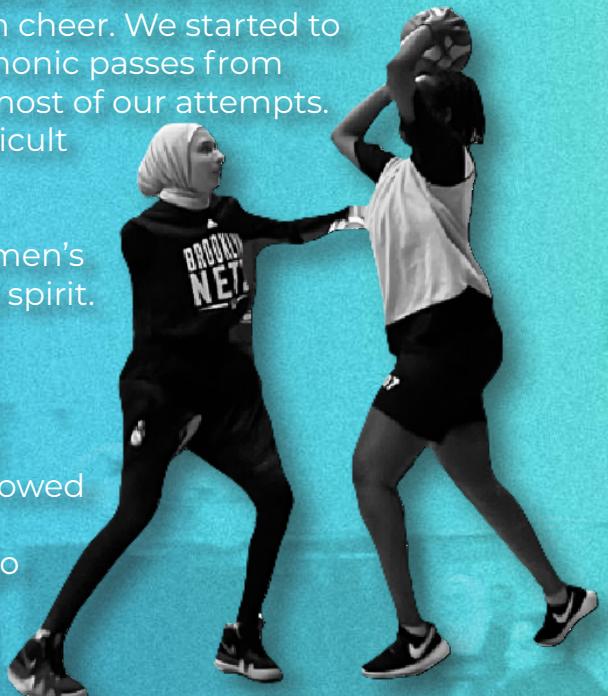
# **Women's Basketball**

September 24 against WCMC

By Boushra Bendou

Our women were strong on the ground at the first match that commenced CMU's next days of heated competition. Cornell with their swift and unhesitating drives quickly dominated the first quarter. Our team kept a defense post as advised by the coach to study the opponent's play. The mid-game break gave us some time to strategize and shook our spirit with an ardent team cheer. We started to rise up towards Cornell's ring more often with harmonic passes from Anuska and to May and Boushra, who performed most of our attempts. The girls did an amazing job at defending with difficult blocks from Ritah and Aigerim.

As a new team to basketball, I think the CMUQ women's team has shown a great deal of determination and spirit. Although we lost by a lot in our first game against WCMCQ, our opening match was a great learning experience. In less than a week, we managed to strengthen our defense significantly. In the match against Georgetown, each member of the team showed great perseverance. The team members were not afraid to be on the defence unapologetically and go on the offense every chance they got. Our aim for the next match is to attempt more attacks and turn the tables around to make CMUQ proud!



# **Men's Basketball**

**September 27 against NU-Q**  
**by Ibrahim Abu & Thuc Ngo**

After the first close loss to Georgetown, CMU was in a mixed starting mentality. Coupled with the earsplitting cheerleaders in purple from NU-Q spectator seats, we started off on the wrong foot, trailing during both of the first quarters. We couldn't score nor defend, and it seemed like the Northwestern Daily-Q was going to have entertaining coverage.

With every basket, the Northwestern fans roared and rang their bells, as CMU fans gradually sunk to what seemed like a hopeless quietness. By half time, the score was 36-18, CMU was down 18 points. To put that into football terms, it's like being down 4-1 at half time. The game felt like it was well over.

It all happened out of nowhere.



Lasha scored a lay up, followed by Ibrahim with a floater. Then Ghali with 3 Euro steps in a row. The CMU crowd was welling up in exhilaration. One has to be in the crowd to feel that interval where the squeeze of your hands and hearts lifted every time the ball dangled even close to the hoop, or when our guys started to rise up from the mix of neon greens and blues in the court.

By the final quarter, we had lost two of our best players, Edwin and Ghali. It was now on our bench players to step up, and step up they did.

Nurassyl opened his second debut in the basketball team with a jump shot, bumping the score from 38-30 to 38-32. Imron turned into us closer with 2 fadeaways. Northwestern scored a again nudging the score to 41-36. But it didn't CMU stepped up with Aaditya scoring a jump shot

Michael Jordan and brought couple of free throws, because us within 3.

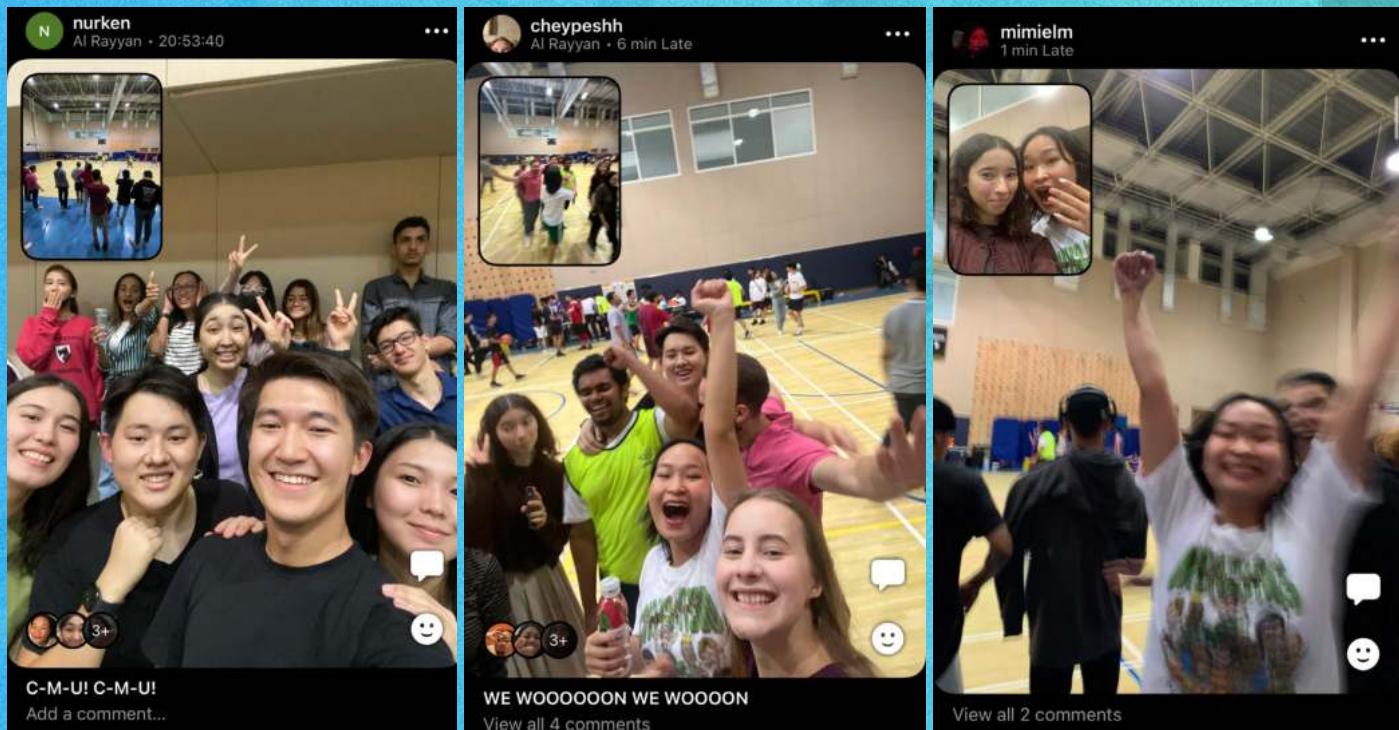


With the clock ticking 1 minute and 38 seconds left, Lasha ran the ball up the court and passed it off to Ibrahim who delivered an explosive 3 pointer to tie the game. With the game tied up after being down 18 points at half time, CMU fans were tearing the air in disbelief.

Lasha got two free throws and calmly scored both. It looked like CMU was going to win, but after a questionable call by the referee, and a technical foul charged to the CMU bench, Northwestern tied it.

In two hard-fought overtimes, the scores in both teams inched bit by bit. Every single point was accompanied by thunderous applause from the audience, as any ball stolen would dramatically change the course of the game. Our Tartans were relentless and with pivotal free throws and amazing defense from Imron, and big rebounds from Nurassyl, CMU broke the stuffy tie, ending the game at 5.

Anyone who stayed at the game knew how phenomenal the match was. It wasn't just the players whose constant, unyielding efforts and emotional bounce-backs that made it schizophrenic to witness, but it was also the waves from the fans. The spectator seats kept welcoming more and more; people rounded up near the court to cheer the players louder; they sat on the ground, up the stairs, anywhere to see and support our fellow Tartans. For one thing, sports bonded everyone, but for another thing, it's even more lyrical seeing how the Tartan spirit came back, and came together so strongly at this small AWSAJ basketball court - all our hearts in the work.



BeReal came at just the right moment.

# *Cricket*

## October 1 against HBKU

### By Ruban Faisal

It was a sunny afternoon. Team CMU reached the ground with their heads high and morale even higher. They were confident from their previous win but the tables were soon turned. After winning the toss, Ruban - CMU's beloved captain - opted to field first. HBKU underdogs of this tournament were able to capitalize the field in the powerplay with some fine strokes over the fielders raising to the boundary. However, their momentum escalated even faster once the power play was over. Every bowler from CMU's side was at least struck for one boundary every over. Thus, a mighty total 149 was on the scoreboard after the first innings – highest total for this tournament. CMU, never being in this situation before, were totally under pressure until Salar and Ali, opening batsmen for CMU, went on to the crease. They had a partnership of over 50 runs giving a solid start to CMU. Salar's wicket was a major breakthrough for HBKU and their side seemed to be getting dominant once again. Nevertheless, our senior most player Ali Najeeb went onto the crease and struck every ball to the boundary that came towards him. HBKU, trying to get their momentum back, got another couple of wickets but it was our opening batsman, Ali, who was unstoppable. Striking 16 runs of the last over, he helped CMU cross the line registering their second win and reserving a spot in the Semi Finals of the tournament as well.

If anything, the Cricket Team has been CMU's silent hero during the whole EC League. So far they were the first team to win two consecutive games under the 40 degree Doha scorching heat. Let us gather and give them the support and recognition they deserve from the CMU community in the upcoming Semi Final.



# Volleyball

## 28 September against WCMC

### By Mariam ElMeragawi

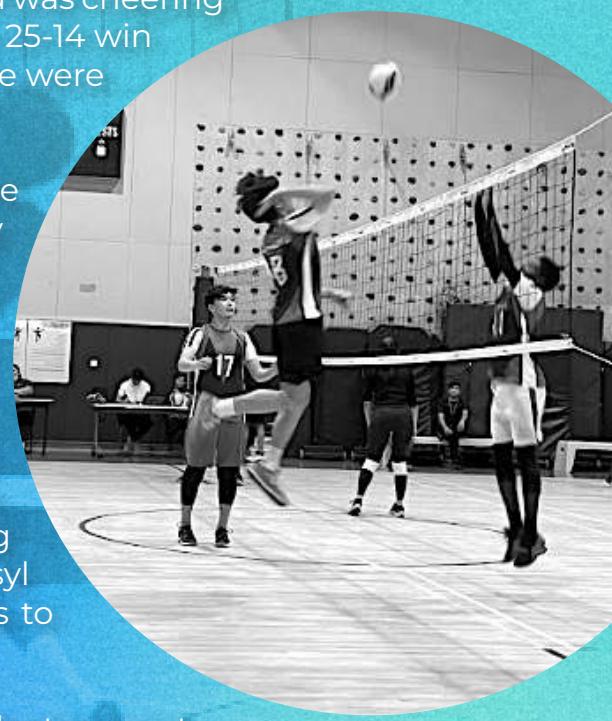
This was the first match to kick off the tournament and it was against Cornell- the team we had played in the finals of the last tournament. So, pressure was high for both sides of the court. The beginning of the first set was a bit tense and Cornell's gameplay was different to our own; it took a bit of time to get used to their tips and they managed to get a lead over us. However, once our players got used to the game Cornell did not stand a chance...

The consistent receives by the whole team made for a reliable rally on our side, Ammar's sets were perfectly placed for Edwin and Rainier to hit juicy spikes. Sejal made a hit and won us another point. Adel and Nurassyl served several aces and we managed to rack up the points pretty quickly after that. By now the crowd was cheering like crazy after our comeback and the set ended with a 25-14 win for CMU, the team was thrilled but still determined... We were just getting started.

For the second set, we subbed in Massa to help secure the win. This time Cornell never got a lead on us, they got pretty close but our team never lost focus. Our team's energy was still so high so far into the game and the crowd was just as lively cheering for each player as they continued to clutch points.

As we approached the final points, Nurassyl made it to the back line and was serving. We were 5 points away from victory and the crowd's excitement was exploding from anticipation of the win. And surely enough Nurassyl clutched the win with his no receive aces, bringing us to game with score 25-17.

We won our first game clean 2-0. The hours of practice the team put in showed in their performance and teamwork. Although the competition is just starting we have a full team of dedicated players whose hours of practice and bonding shows in the chemistry we have on court. CMUQ volleyball team is special in that way and we will continue to show this dedication and teamwork in the rest of tournamnet!







*Social*

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# *Synergies*

# The Best Introvert Places in CMUQ

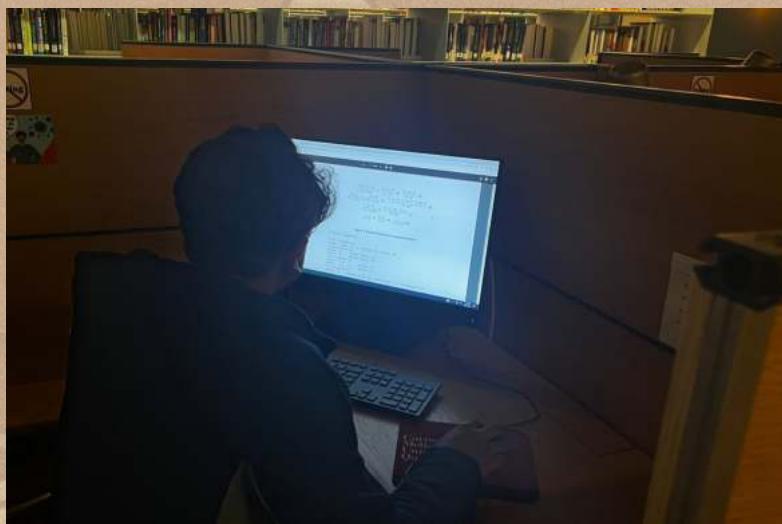
By Mariam Al-Malki

In this piece, I'll be exploring the places on campus that are hidden from the general public's eye. Where is it that we introverts disappear to when we need our time to be drowned in comfortable seclusion? A place where no other soul resides... we sit and commence our introverted rituals; reading books, working on assignments, performing a seance... ah, I mustn't reveal too much. Speaking of revealing, dearest reader, please be aware that I will not be unmasking all the locations! Indeed... one of them will remain a mystery. With that... let's begin our journey.

## **The Library**

Expected, isn't it? The silence that washes upon the ears the moment you step inside a library is a very enticing concept for introverts. The ambient lights that paint the atmosphere and the secluded cubicles; everyone existing under the same roof yet being submerged in the comfort of solitude -you cannot go wrong with a library.

Sometimes I'm comforted by the distant shuffling of other students, like an audible acknowledgement of the existence of nearby planets with their own civilisations, comforted by the knowledge that they will not invade your space, but they are just there wanting to exist under their own climate. On the other hand, an extroverted friend would find this torturous! The war of silence that is performed continuously behind the curtains of a library is something that scares them away. They have no other choice sometimes, however, when the workload piles up and they find themselves forced to enter the bubble of introverts for the time being. So it's alright, fellow extroverts, to allow yourself to indulge in the eeriness of our world until you finish your duties. But I do wonder, what is it like for you? Do your legs itch for you to escape this muted hell and fall into a palette of noise and social interactions? Does it fuel you, perhaps, to float in a pond of people? I'm intrigued, so do enlighten me when you get the chance.



**Catching An Introvert:** Aman caught in his library space working on mysterious alien equations, or as he calls it, "Constructive Logic". Nice try, Aman.

## **Room Number [REDACTED]**

An unexpected colour washed upon my sight as I entered this room for the first time this year. Its theme did not match the rest of the rooms, and I knew that I found a prize the moment I entered it. Despite the humongous sign that leads you to this room, I found that no one ever approaches it, and this was entirely too fascinating. It is secluded from the rest despite the signs drawn in clear sight.

I had stumbled upon it when I was looking for a quiet place to read a book. My legs were wandering mindlessly into well-known corridors stained with the noise of distant conversations. Some small greetings were being thrown around lightly, like small patches of sunlight scattered around the building and sifting through the transparent ceilings. Mellow, pure, fleeting.

"Surely, there is no hope for me to find my destined place," I thought to myself, so at this point my aim was just to follow wherever my legs decide to take me; taking turns as the melody playing in my headphones escalates, and turning back on my heels when it slows down ever so dramatically, until, to the tunes of a piano piece titled "Nocturnal Waltz" by Johannes Bornlöf, I have found my golden ticket. The number of this room is a secret I shall never bestow to you, and for that, I am not sorry.

## **CS corridor**

The aroma of intelligence taints the atmosphere of this corridor in a manner that is so vivid. The combination of the low lights and the couch waiting for you at the end of the corridor is something straight out of a movie scene, if you're dramatic like me. The offices are typically quiet from the outside: closed doors with genius minds behind, creating different elixirs of AI and robotics and cybersecurity and other wonders of the universe.

Now and again, you glance up for a second to see a professor with all their glory leave the office and you hear the satisfying tap-tap-tap of their shoes fading away in the distance. A greeting is bound to happen sometimes; you catch the eye of a professor and a beautiful conversation commences for a few seconds before they reenter their world and you get back to yours.



I think most introverts have a mutual unspoken understanding. If I approach the place with the intention of sitting there for a bliss of solitude but find another introvert sitting there already, then I silently and understandably move on to the next place that would satisfy my goal, and mentally applaud that person for finding a place where comfort and peace engulfs them... like the performance of a macrophage confidently engulfing a pathogen.

Goodbye for now, treasured reader... may we always walk the path that leads us to where our ideas bloom.



# *More than Enough – About Unlearning Labels*

A book-inspired discussion by Mary Olouch Effie

Riveting, raw, and relatable, More Than Enough is Elaine Welteroth's "offering to the next generation as much as it is a tribute to the women who have come before her and offered their shoulders to stand on."

**In this beautifully written memoir, Elaine explores what it means to curve your own path - on your own terms, in a world that is more than eager to place labels on you, and then use those labels to define who you are and the direction your life ought to take.**

She takes the reader on her life journey from childhood to adulthood as a mixed-race, black-identifying, female-American tackling challenges faced by individuals who are labeled as a 'Person of Color' (POC) and/or a 'First', 'Only', 'Different' (FOD) in whatever spaces they go into. Her unique experiences are shaped by the fact that she never fits perfectly into any categories. She was never black enough, never white enough, always in-between. What begins as a challenge in her childhood becomes her weapon of choice. She leverages it to contribute to critical conversations around race, gender, representation, workplace bias, fitting in, and navigating a fast-moving public career journey as a young POC and FOD.

I read this book during Fall Break. It was also around this time that the #notmyAriel hashtag was trending, and I thought the book was so timely! At some point in the first chapter of the book she talks about two incidences that directly link to the #notmyAriel conversation: her relationship with her hair and a lack of representation for people of color. **Reading through this section, I couldn't help but awe at how much representation, in whatever form, matters.** To not see people who look like you in spaces you aspire to go into indirectly communicates that you do not belong in those spaces. So whatever little effort is put into enhancing representation goes a long way changing this narrative and impacting grossly underrepresented groups in significant ways.

Although the story mainly revolves around Elaine, she uses other well developed characters - mostly women - to drive her narrative. Her recount of the numerous times the women around her held forte and provided shoulders to lean on, was particularly laudatory of the intricacies of female relationships.

I've always thought I could use a life manual. Something to make this whole thing less. Less complicated, less confusing, less uncertain. Although Elaine says to not adopt her story as a life manual, I cannot help but borrow from it. I was entertained, challenged, and inspired.

A solid 12/10 read! Would highly recommend!

# Easters

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By Sanziana Stan

Easter, one of the two main holidays in Christianity, represents and celebrates the belief of Jesus Christ's resurrection. Easter is usually celebrated in April or May, on the first Sunday after the first full Moon following the Spring equinox.

Growing up, Easter was my favorite holiday. I didn't really understand the religious and spiritual meaning behind holidays as a kid, but I loved every single part of the things we do around this holiday. Painting eggs, Easter lunch, going to church on Easter night to get the Paschal Fire, the egg knocking competitions.

Those very "things" that made me love Easter, as I matured to understand, are all about the traditions within the community and the small traditions I had within my family. Going grocery shopping with my mom only to get the chocolate bunnies. Painting eggs with my younger sisters and staining our clothes with the dye. Cooking with my grandmother and messing up the tiramisu by accidentally adding an extra yolk. **Easter was always our resurgent sense of uplift - that weird little feeling I cannot grasp and put into words.** That feeling of pure happiness and getting in touch with your spirituality - one of those moments of realization that life is so much more than what is happening to you.

When I left home to study in Qatar, I knew I wasn't going to be at home for Easter for at least 4 years, but I didn't really know what that would mean and how it could affect me .

## Freshman year, Easter 2021: Lockdown.

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It was the first time in my life I celebrated Easter without my family. A few Georgetown girls, Anastasia, and I gathered and tried to make the best out of what we had. There wasn't much space for creativity in the dorms, so we painted Easter eggs... with acrylic paint and old make-up brushes. Despite masking over that empty feeling of not being around friends and family, a big part was missing: I couldn't link the day to anything special, I didn't feel anything, and there was no higher meaning to anything that was happening.

# Apart

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## Sophomore year, Easter 2022: Finals.

As the last days of the year approached, I was entirely occupied with dealing with the two finals I had on the same day, completely forgetting that day was also Easter.

It got to a point I completely detached myself from everything that Easter meant to me. As dramatic as that might sound, if Easter once brought me the happiest memories with my family, once provided me with the most sacred moments to reconnect with my religion and culture, it's now the day of my Regression Final. I don't think anyone should have to distance themselves from something with so much meaning, but in moments like this homesickness gets a bit too heavy, and except for being completely consumed by two finals in one day, nothing can really take your mind off of everything that you are missing out on. I certainly don't think that temporarily removing a part of your identity is a solution, but sometimes that is better than facing the brutal reality of distance.

At the end of the day, we have to make the best out of what we have. **My favorite holiday is now Christmas until further notice.**

# Outlines

By Thuc Ngo

Thoughts are outlines, ambiguous, roughly-sewn. They are wrapped in different dimensions of time and shapes, unfocused and blurry, never fully developed into clarity.

I've come to think that my thoughts, spontaneous and rich regardless, are probably the most valuable asset I have; one that after wandering through strange and seemingly too intense desires of having what others have, I can safely crawl back to and feel again my feet on the ground. **So I'll write, I'll keep a notebook around, as I read, or think of something worth deliberating, I'll jolt down.**

Since a while ago I've come to realize that I have a wistful longing to communicate myself, to be able to explain my complexion of thoughts to different audiences, and to be understood by them. Yet even as I talk and talk, incessantly, the "thing" itself remains untouched, shrouded and mysterious, inaccessible, both to me and the audience. I don't think, however, that I lack the necessary vocabulary to get the "thing" across; it just won't come naturally, so I'll have to make a concerted effort to build up my own vocabulary of the self - through writing.

Thoughts, as you converse, don't come up so articulate like a conversation in classic English novels. They need to be nurtured, almost like preparing for a speech - you can't really make a good one without understanding what you are going to say. Ultimately, this kind of practice is necessary for me to understand myself, and then to make people understand it. Not that I am necessarily seeking attention from people, a kind of bourgeois deception that I possess a deep and beautiful mind, but it genuinely feels amazing to be understood and to know that you've communicated what you wanted to.

So here are some scattering notes that at least once nurtured my thoughts, giving me the venue to jolt down small bits of what I wish to communicate about myself to people.

**"You are a pastel-coloured Persian carpet, and loneliness is a Bordeaux wine stain that won't come out. Loneliness is brought over from France, the pain of the wound from the Middle East. For Men Without Women, the world is a vast, poignant mix, very far side of the moon."**

(p.223-224, Men Without Women by Haruki Murakami)





**“And I felt an incredible excitement at being able to witness the love re-emerge inside her, because it was a total, prime-of-life love. The kind that could only be possible in someone who was going to die at some point in the future, and also someone who had lived enough to know that loving and being loved back was a hard thing to get right, but when you managed it you could see forever.”**

(p.208-209, The Humans by Matt Haig)

**“What I’ve always loved about the Pop vocabulary is its generosity to the viewer. And I say “generosity to the viewer” because Pop Art is very much about accepting the world around you, and making you feel that you are perfect the way you are, no matter what your background is, what your tastes are. It is the great equalizer”**

(Jeff Koons, Popeye)



**“I could create a fake luxury. I never wanted real luxury, instead I wanted proletarian luxury, something visually intoxicating and disorienting. The surface of stainless steel is very much a false front for an underlying degradation.”**

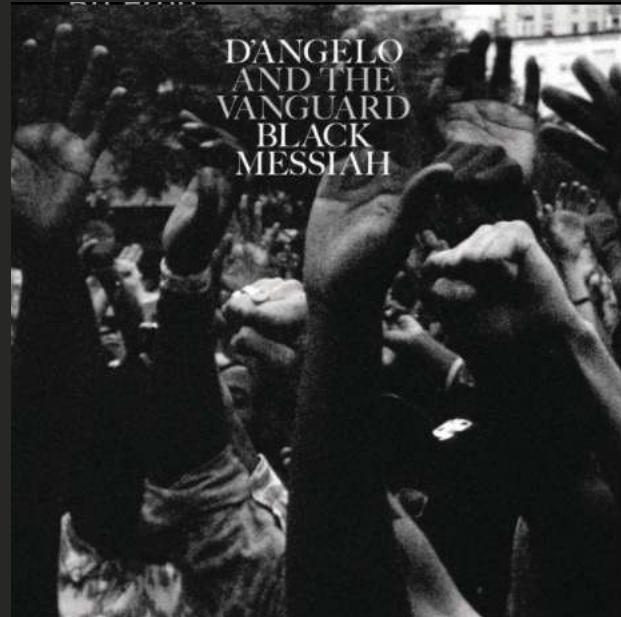
(Jeff Koons Doha Exhibition, Objects of Desire)

**Artscape.**



# songs of the month

By Abdulrahman Darwish



## It's Been a Little Heavy Lately

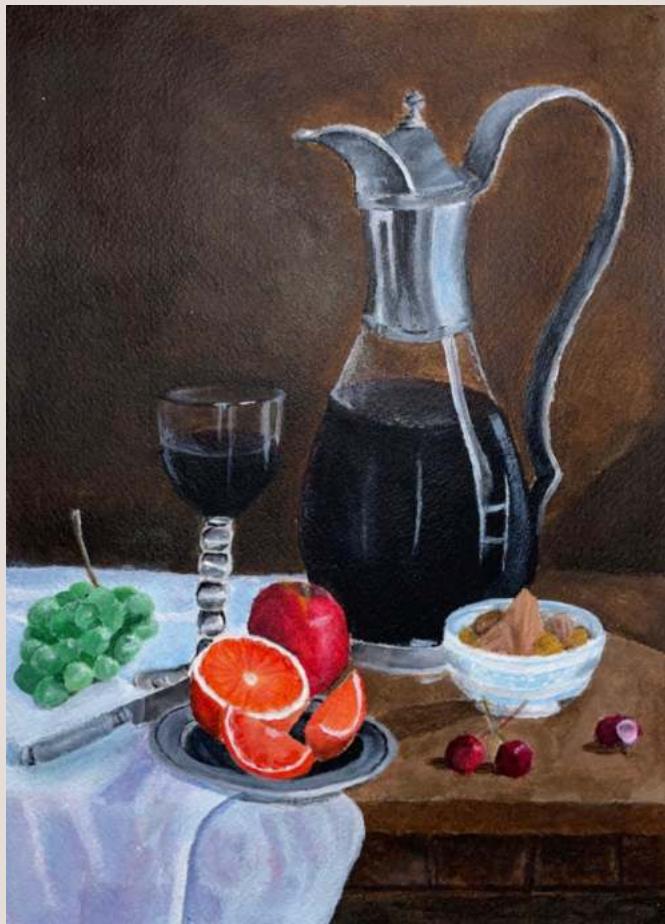
Joesef

As always, the month of September feels never-ending. Even with fall break, the month was still filled with stress, exams, and just long days and nights at campus. To add more to our plate, the fast-paced semester didn't help at all. So I have decided to make one of the first song submissions It's Been A Little Heavy Lately by artist Joesef. The high tempo, with the beat of the drums and guitar, mixes well with the lyrical aspect of the song. He clearly stresses how he makes bad and stupid decisions, which a lot of us can relate to but at the same time acknowledges them and tries to move past it. I am sure this month, and in life in general, we commit impulsive actions...but again what is life without impulsivity and growth. Enjoy the listen!

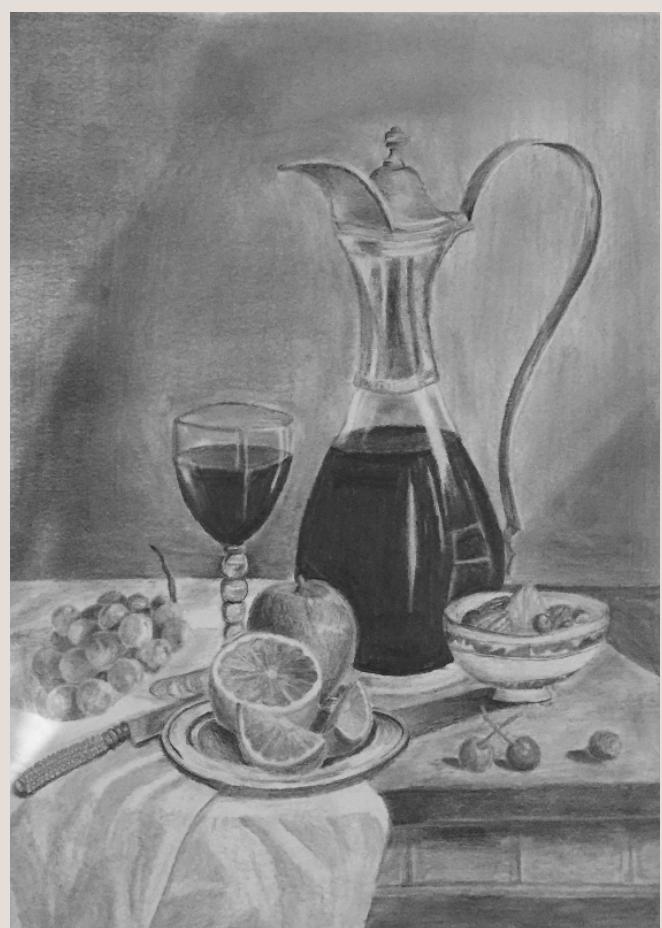
## Really Love

D'Angelo

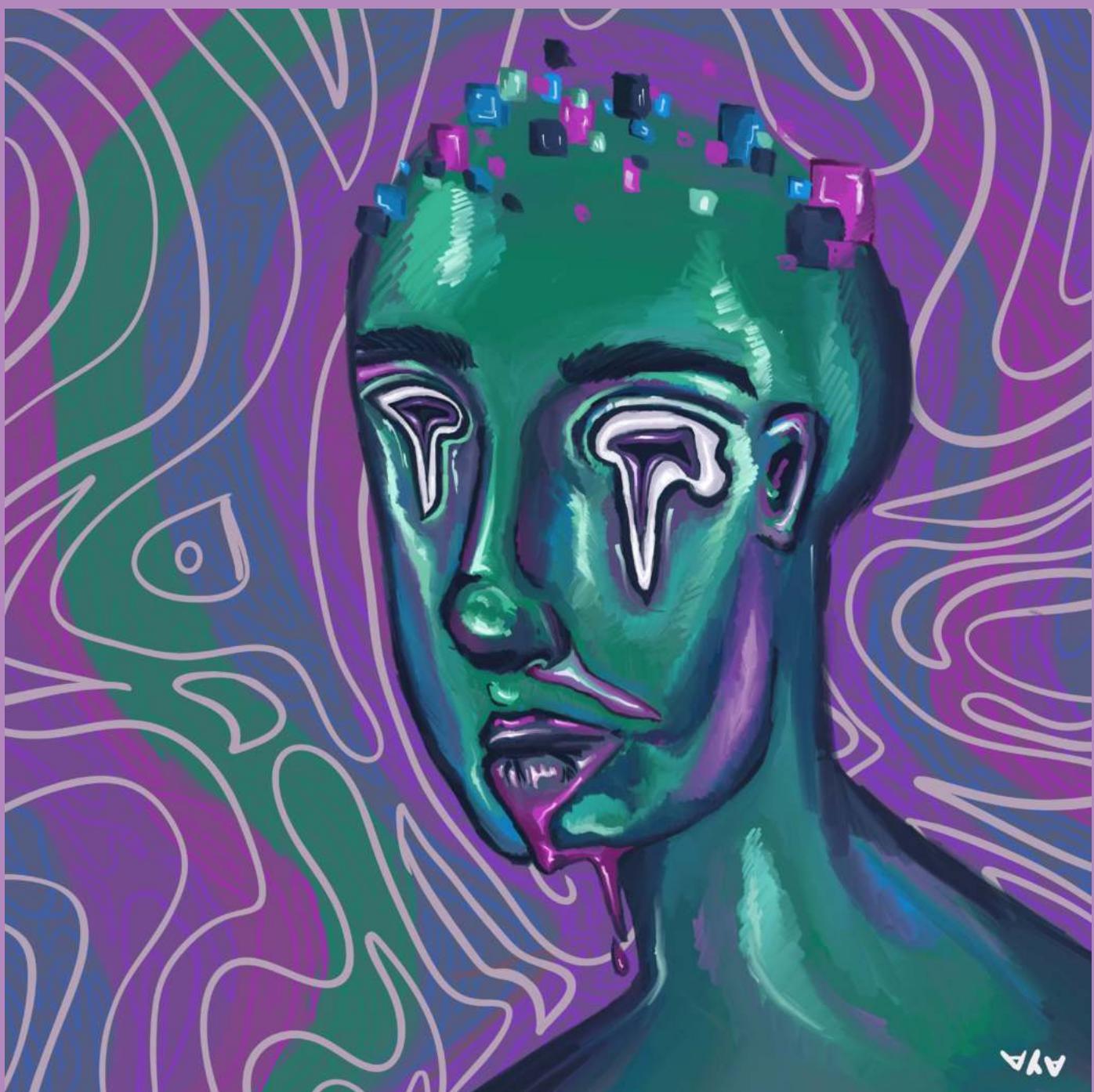
Arguably, one of the most beautifully crafted songs in the 21st century. This grammy-winning song perfectly captures the different styles of R&B. Taking the first two Duolingo Spanish lessons, I can confidently say I am an almost fluent speaker, and the Spanish vocals really hooked me in the start. The hypnotizing Spanish introduction, followed by the guitar and D'Angelo's vocals perfectly harmonizes the song together. An extremely underrated artist and a beautifully produced song. The song about love and heartbreak is clearly inspired by earlier soul legends such as Curtis Mayfield and Marvin Gaye who are known to change the course of music forever and are artists everyone should listen to. This is definitely a song to relax to, get your mind off daily life and stress, and just unwind in the background, yet at the same time truly appreciate his craft. Place this song in front of friends and family and pay attention to all the Shazam applications being opened.



Untitled  
By **Maya Salameh**  
Class of 2024



Untitled  
By **Maya Salameh**  
Class of 2024



Untitled  
By **Aya Al Sabahi**  
Class of 2025



Untitled  
By **Diana Gazizova**  
Class of 2024

# Contribute

You can contribute to **LAM<sub>7</sub>A** through many ways:

**Opinion Piece:** Submit your writing on anything, really, as long as you feel like it will add value to the community.

**Event Coverage:** Reach out to us if you want to spread the word about an event, or have us cover the event and interesting outcomes/insights that come out of it

**Club Affairs:** Fun things that your club has been doing? Why not!

**Arts Submissions:** Any piece of art that you want to share with the community. They may be selected to be the cover of the next issues!

- Cartoon
- Paintings
- Photography
- Poetry

We're also opening our editorial team for interested individuals in many positions: Editor, Writer, Photographer & Designer. Please send any inquiries, submissions and applications to [lam7a-mag@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:lam7a-mag@andrew.cmu.edu)

We look forward to hearing amazing ideas from you!

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