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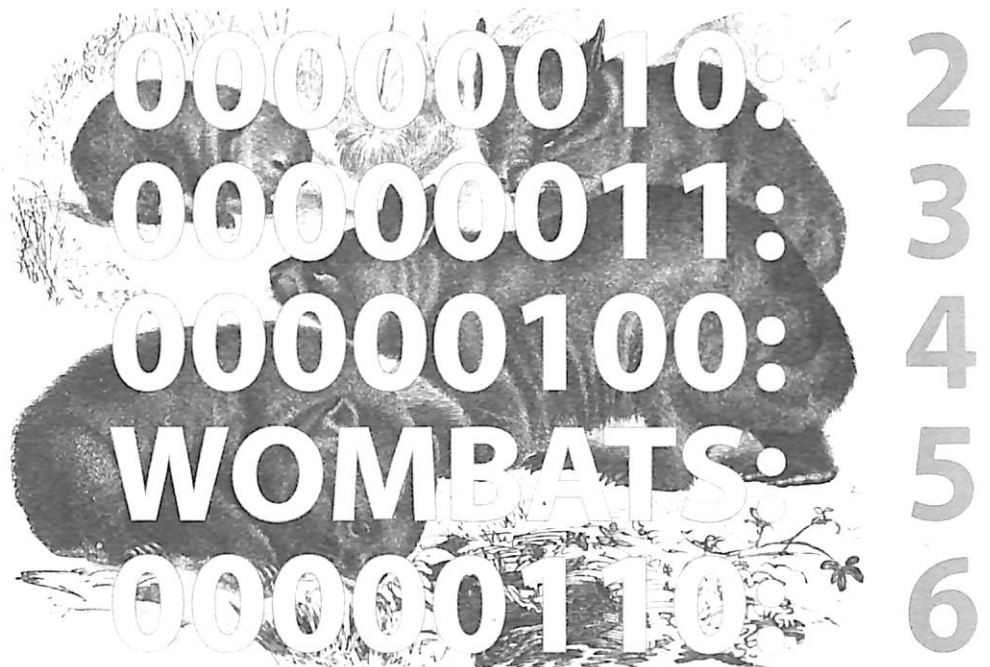
ISSUE Four.
(sept. + 09)



B&W
blue & white

front/back cover art "Bean Shots"
by Ryan Danyluik
photography, 2008

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in the name of a promise

written by Maria Sumalinog

Asians are stereotyped as having an incredible work ethic, inherent abilities to be academic overachievers, and an exaggerated sense of loyalty towards the family and the community. Such stereotypes are like the aces one gets in a game of cards. Because they are mostly desirable traits, they are an advantage. Yet, when played in the wrong place and the wrong time, they can impose an enormous amount of pressure. Creativity and individuality become limited, and the path towards self-destruction is built. Recent Asian immigrants of Canada—that is, those from the Orient who moved to the country in the last 10 years—are classified into three major categories: the hopeful, the regretful and the unknowing.

The hopeful are those who took the risk in leaving the power and prestige back home for the promise of a better life here. They eventually realize that the returns of such risk-taking might not be as favorable as first thought. The former Physics professor from Communist Hanoi is now a driving school instructor; the regional bank manager from Punjab, a sales clerk at a furniture store. Yet, they remain positive that things may get better. Upward social mobility in their adoptive country is still possible, if not for them, then their children. They do not mind working long hours, or working the jobs for which they are over-qualified. Their hope is in the future, and they are only happy to invest in it in the present.

The regretful are those who, like the hopeful, risked everything and invested in a promise. However, unlike the hopeful, the reality of substandard professions demeans their spirits. The former government high official from Manila now drags herself into serving coffee at a Tim Horton's; the surgeon from Seoul gets by through cutting meat at a local meat shop. They work long hours and curse the day they left their home countries. There is no turning back for turning back would mean losing face. Depression becomes a trap; and hope, a delusion.

The unknowing are the children of either the hopeful or the regretful. As their parents work long hours, they are left to fend for themselves. They grow up pretending not to understand a sentence of their parents' native tongues as if to mask a

stigmatized disease. Their pride in their ethnicities—Canadian and Asian—is superficial as their sense of selves is weak. They inherit both hope and regret, and do not know why. They need to scour the depths of their souls if only to understand the confusion that lies therein. Of course, many succeed, but most are turned away by their own unknowing.

Stereotypes among recent Asian immigrants work to define a generation on the verge of defining itself. The hopeful, the regretful and the unknowing reflect variations in response to a reality marred by a betrayal of a promise. Stereotypes, as they often do, pose a challenge to a community admired for its quiet courage and enduring resilience. Asians continue in their struggle until the fittest survive, until a broken promise paves the way to one that is kept. ●



You Can't Do That Here

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ISSUE ONE.
(sept. 01 + 09)

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ISSUE TWO.
(sept. 14 + 09)

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ISSUE Three.
(sept. + 09)

READ A COHERENT PAPER.
(we promise we are working on it, though.)



short stop

written by Brittni Carey

Mandolin Books is a small coffee shop and used-books store on 112 Avenue, a few blocks west of Concordia. The perfect fusion of literary and social atmosphere, this quaint little place is the preferred hangout for many students, mothers, bookworms, poets, and postal workers. Mandolin Books is also the center of a growing artistic community, through holding open mic jam sessions, book signings, and art displays.

If you've never been to Mandolin Books, it's definitely worth checking out. It's a great place to find piano scores and leather-bound copies of *Alice in Wonderland*. Once, I came across a Norton Anthology, sitting unassumingly on the shelf, for only eight whole dollars. Concordia students receive a 15% discount with their student ID cards. Free WiFi access is also available. The sitting area is warm and welcoming with its small tables backed by deep armchairs. It's the perfect place to meet people, read, study – or simply vegetate.

Mandolin Books and Coffee Company is located at 6419 112 Avenue NW and may be reached at (780) 479-4050. ☛



open your ears and fill your mouth

written by Brandon MacLeod

Concordia recently hosted their first literary reading. If you are unsure or perhaps a little afraid of what a literary reading entails, here is an account of what goes down as per my own first literary reading.

First things first, they set up in a nice, cozy spot, a place where a medium sized crowd (of about thirty people) can sit comfortably. The podium is placed perfectly in front of the large library windows overlooking the green valley, creating an aesthetically pleasing backdrop of nature and sunshine.



Also adding to the comfort and sociability of the event was the snack-table, which was neatly set off to the side and covered with collectively comfortable food and drink. From fruits to cheese, from chocolate to oatmeal, the vast assortment of snacks and desserts were a great touch. Beverages available to wash your snack down included your choice of coffee, tea, water, juice, pop; almost anything you can think of. No beer though. I can only assume the insanity that would follow if the readers got a hold of a few brews. But, the best part is that it's all FREE. That's right! You can listen to stories while stuffing your face with the best-priced food on campus. Oh, and they also provided free plastic utensils, something the cafeteria can't always claim.

As for the actual reading that went on at this event, it was even better than the table full of goodies.

The first two readers, Lisa Martin-DeMoor and Jasmina Odor, are both current English professors at Concordia. They are both experienced writers and presented their differing styles of writing very well – Lisa with her poetry and Jasmina with her fictional stories.

The third reader, Thea Bowering, taught at Concordia last year. Her excerpt was by far the funniest, taking a witty look at

stereotypical, Albertan rednecks.

After a short break and nice attempt at depleting the table of its food and drinks, the readers were right back at it.

Katherine Miller read next and did a fantastic job presenting several pieces of her poetry.

The final reader of the day stole the show. Mark Morris writes operas and has a strong Welsh accent. After hearing this initial introduction, I had no clue what to expect. He stepped up to the podium, gave a quick personal introduction and began reading. But not just reading. He moved about on stage, waving his arms and changing his tone, all of it adding emphasis and energy to his opera. He was so energetic that by the end of his reading, he had inadvertently pushed the podium to within inches of the front row.

All in all, each reader did a great job in his or her own way, although my highlight surely remains Mark Morris and his energetic opera.

So next time (and there had better be a next time!) a literary reading is taking place at Concordia, or anywhere for that matter, go check it out. It's a great opportunity to listen, learn, socialize and even eat cheese with some of literature's most interesting friends. ☛

(three.)

lies your professors tell you

written by Karen Leonhardt

Editor's Note: Every once in a while, we feature an article written by a person with whom you have little or no interaction with until either you're enrolled in his class, or the smell of garbage starts to bug you. Lovingly contributed by faculty and staff members, this is an opportunity for you to get to know your community that is Concordia. This is the second.

It is a confession rather than an accusation when I say this: sometimes (we) students lie. It happens, and with increasing frequency as the semester's pressure mounts. Some of the lies are flat-out fibs nowhere near the truth. Others are those "sort-of" lies that fall a little short of the whole truth and nothing but. I remember handing in a late assignment once and mentioning that I had been in a car accident. It was absolutely true: I had just neglected to mention that the accident had taken place three years earlier. It wasn't my proudest moment, I can assure you.

What students may not know is that (we) professors can also be masters of the not-quite-whole truth. The longer I teach, the less likely I am to masquerade certain truths, such as, "I don't know," or "I didn't get your tests marked because I didn't do a thing all weekend." As an instructor, I choose to assume that most students are generally honest most of the time and I believe the same is true of professors. There are a few things you should instantly dismiss, however, when you hear them. Here are my two favorites:

"You will have deadlines in the real world, so you might as well get used to it!" This one is just silly. It's true that school is not "the real world" as we are so fond of calling it. In fact, school is much more difficult. I have worked for over 20 years, and I never came home with hours of homework (until I began teaching). I have successfully told employers that I am not able to take on an additional project

until I have finished my current workload. Try that one in the "unreal" world of university and let me know how it works for you.

"Professors are under as much or more pressure than students!" This one is not quite the WHOLE truth. The first thing I learned as an instructor is how incredibly heavy the workload actually is; the more you care about teaching, the heavier the workload becomes. Like students, professors are never "done" at the end of the day, and you aren't "off" for those 4 months. For every paper a student has to write, the professor has to mark 40. Still, it isn't the same. For one thing, I get paid to do the work instead of paying for the privilege. I give the marks instead of getting them. That's a whole different pressure. Think about what I do for a living: I read. I think. I write. I talk. And no matter how heavy the workload, life doesn't get much sweeter than that. ♣

enhanced and superior garbage

written by Bobbi Belsek

The food we eat isn't what it used to be back in the day of our parents childhood where they could stroll down the country lane and pick up a pint of farm fresh milk and a dozen eggs that had been 'produced' earlier that morning. Then several decades ago some wise scientist guy got the idea that we weren't getting enough riboflavin and vitamin D in our diets, so they decided to make the food we eat healthier. They started fortifying things like milk and other foods with nutrients that our diets were lacking in, riboflavin and plenty of other things the purpose of which a select few really only know.

Now our esteemed friends—the food scientists—have decided to take the whole scheme one step further. Someone got the bright idea to put nutrients, vitamins and minerals into foods that otherwise have no nutritional value. Soon you may be able to go out and be able to get a chocolate bar with the same nutrition as milk or potato chips with your recommended daily intake of dietary fiber!

I think the problem here is very clear, the proposal is now going to create something that has never before existed in history: class struggle between junk food. With the addition of vitamins and minerals one bag of chips will now have reason to feel superior to a bag of chips that does not have added nutrients. This is not a place that we want to

go we should aim to break down injustices and inequality in the world, not artificially create another area for discrimination to run rampant. Imagine if you will the despair felt by a chocolate bar that was not created equal to all the other chocolate bars. It would never have the pleasure of being taken out of its wrapper and being consumed by some ferocious human being. How sad would that be if you were not able to fulfill your life's one purpose?

Now if you will allow me, there is another group being victimized by this crisis. The traditional garden variety vegetable will no longer have a home at dinner tables across our great country. When overcooked, they taste like soggy cardboard and of course they are always so expensive. Why not replace them with something more economical, tasty and easy to prepare? Fruits and vegetables may disappear from our tables quicker than you can find out why you need your daily recommended intake of riboflavin.

In all seriousness, I think it is time for a little bit of common sense. According to an article on Maclean's website, this is actually an issue that Health Canada is considering. According to the article many Canadians actually think it is a good idea. Maybe I'm just too much of a traditionalist but do we really have a good reason to mess with our food sources? ♣



(four.)

youtube your blues away

written by Bobbi Belsek

Midterms, papers, quizzes, assignments... All of that *and* you have to work your part-time job in order to pay for all this well-deserved fun and recreation! Does anyone really wonder why university students hit the loonie bin for a good portion of every year? What can you do about it? You can't just ignore it, as eventually the insanity caused by everything you have to do will catch up with you, resulting in even more unproductivity. This unproductive period will even rival those times when you're putting off studying for that nearly universally feared stats midterm!

The next time you're sitting at your computer just staring at the screen because you simply cannot write another essay on Shakespeare or Chaucer, there *is* something you can do something about it! Why not turn where you have turned countless other times for hours of mindless enjoyment? Go watch your favourite video on YouTube! The hours you spend watching high-quality videos on your computer will not only be completely mindless, but promise to restore your mental awareness. Really, select videos on YouTube can even prove to be educational! Did you know that there is an animal called a *pygmy jerboa*? Have you ever learned about a *loris* in your biology class? These and many other wonders await you on YouTube! If you are a handyman with a huge problem that has no apparent solution, you could almost certainly find suggestions for a fix on YouTube. Did you know, for instance, that if you encounter a dead whale stuck in the middle of a road, you can simply blow it up with dynamite? Wow! We all know about the prevalence of this problem in Edmonton.

What if you're like me and wish you could play a musical instrument but can't find the time to take lessons from a real instructor? You can have some shady YouTuber come into the comfort of your own home and teach you via the Internet! I haven't actually tried this and I happen to think that most of these videos are just plain irritating. However, perhaps you can let me know if it works for you?

Finally, if you happen to be like the artful side of my personality and like to listen to music or watch movies to destress, you don't have to stretch your already thin food budget to cover entertainment. Get a little mental respite from the thought of impending doom of your calculus class! Many of your favourite songs or full length movies are available for free courtesy of the Internet. You just have to hurry

before the copyright police catch up with the times and remove all of your favourite entertainment from the Internet, making you pay for it like a law-abiding citizens did sometime in the Stone Age.

So the next time you are having trouble imagining why you ever wanted to put yourself through the pain of a post-secondary education, search for a few of these on YouTube:

- Slow Ticking Loris
- Pygmy Jerboa
- Dancing Divorce

And my personal favourite: Exploding Whale. 🐳

Editor's Note: Even though I'm not too avid a "Youtuber", I have to add that anything with Keyboard Cat is definitely one of the better internet memes. That silly cat makes me chuckle after many-a-fail.

And for something less goofy, check out Martin Scorsese's Key To Reserva. It's his take on classic Hitchcock filmography and it's pretty much the best thing to ever hit those tubes of flowing information we lovingly call "the internet". --C.W. 🐳 🐳



(five.)

thunder athletics

<http://athletics.concordia.ab.ca/>

a look behind the numbers

written by Tanmeet Samra

In every game, there is a winner and a loser. The score says it all—who wins, who scores more points, and, generally speaking, who the better team is. However, it's crucial that the spectators always take a look behind the numbers displayed on the scoreboard. The game needs to be analyzed by the style of the game, not just the score. A team is judged by the result of the score, and that judgment may sneak into a player's mind resulting to a poor game and a disappointing season. At the end of every game, whether won or lost, there is always a story behind the scenes which is just as important as the score. Be it a fight pursued by the leaders on a team, the consistent efforts of a player, or even a double role taken on by one, all those factors in the end add up to more than the scores. Those solid performances are what counts and what builds a team. As some seasons are ending and others just beginning, professional or amateur, we all need to look behind the scoreboard and see what our teams are doing day in and day out to succeed. So, put that negativity behind, show some respect to the hard work put out by our athletes, and rally them on to victorious seasons. 🍀

scoring first place

written by Tanmeet Samra

It seems as if Concordia and NAIT are always in a tight battle for top spots in soccer in the North Division. The men are continuing on with their winning streak of 5-0 to tally a total of 15 points early into the season. With a huge win by the men this weekend over Keyano, 9-2, they move into first place. NAIT's men's soccer team isn't behind much, only by two points, which will sure be a battle all season long as it was last year. The story on the women's side is a bit different. The women are in second place in the North, also with a winning streak of 4-0. The only difference is that Grand Prairie has one point more than the women due to an extra game played this season. 🍀



Alumni Relations

Student Volunteer Profile

Aaron Adamkewicz

written by Kate O'Gorman

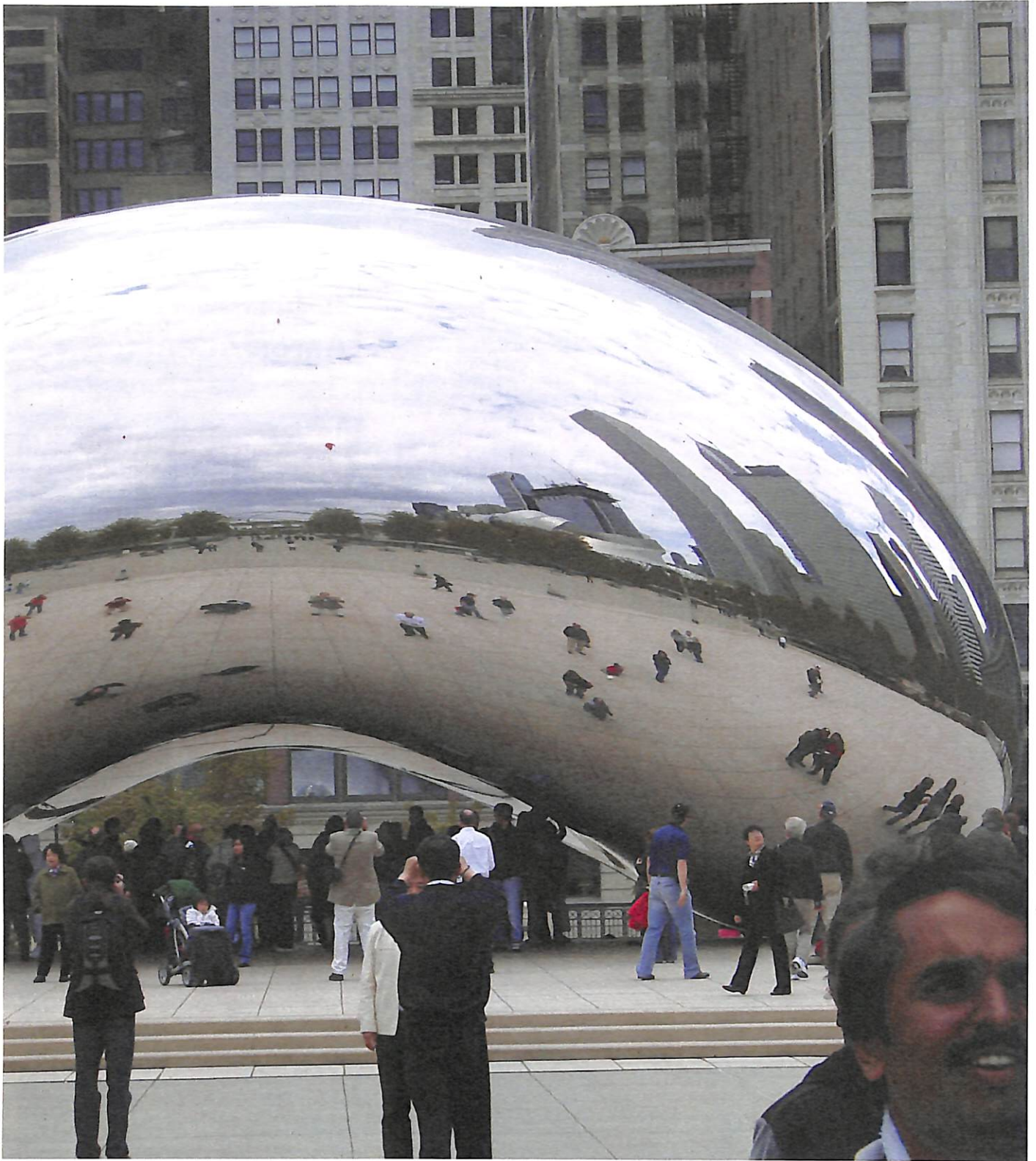


Amidst the bustle of this year's Orientation week - Aaron finds a small window to have his thoughts about his first year at Concordia. Though for anyone who knows Aaron, it is no surprise that he would make time for others. In fact, volunteerism has been a priority for this music major since high school. Whether it was volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club in Bruderheim, assisting with his high school's spring clean up and recycling program in Fort Saskatchewan or playing his euphonium at local nursing homes with his jazz band, Aaron has always made time for others and his passion for volunteerism has naturally extended into his life as a full-time university student.

Aaron does all he can to be involved with campus life and with the Concordia community at large. In point of fact, since beginning his studies in September 2008, Aaron has volunteered with numerous university events, including the Annual Grande Masque Gala, the President's Dinner, the Alumni Benefit Concert and the Annual Concordia Open Golf Tournament - to mention a few. It is clear he loves to be involved and connected with his community and, according to Aaron, volunteering is the best way to accomplish that. He recognizes that by being involved with these events, student volunteers have the opportunity to gain valuable experiences, meet interesting people, learn effective networking skills and create some wonderful memories.

"I would encourage all students to volunteer even a little bit sometime throughout the year. When you contribute your talents and your energy to the wider community, a world of opportunity opens up. You never know what kind of adventure you'll get to be a part of."

~ Aaron Adamkewicz 🍀



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