

Artist of the Year statement and portfolio: Nava Mach
***The Augur Bit* | Georgetown Day School**

I first came across *The Augur Bit*, the student newspaper of Georgetown Day School (or GDS), as a favor for a friend. The *Bit* needed a last-minute visual for an article about ending Zoom school and I was already involved in many art initiatives and happened to be available. I joined the staff officially as an illustrator the following year and developed a close relationship with the visuals editor. Since then, I have completed almost 20 pieces. When I'm given a prompt by my editor, the first thing that I do is contact the author of the article. That way I can ensure that I portray the writer's vision and emphasize the true meaning of a piece while always making sure to include my own creative touches.

My work on *The Augur Bit* has shown me the crucial role of the press. For example, as soon as I turned on the Ketanji Brown Jackson Supreme Court confirmation hearings on my television and heard the senators talking about my high school, on whose board the nominee sat, I knew that it would be a major story. Sure enough, I was immediately contacted to create a graphic representation of the controversy (included in my portfolio below). *The Washington Post* later cited the *Augur Bit* article that included my illustration.

Another project that I have had the privilege of working on is *The Augur Bit*'s effort to gain editorial autonomy from the school administration. We worked on a special project to create a pamphlet containing an editorial on press rights. That project tested my abilities to both produce an impactful work of art and my ability to meet a deadline in time for national Student Press Freedom Day. I worked late nights conversing back and forth with the editing staff to add details and make it striking for the pamphlet. When it finally came out, I was reminded of the importance of an independent press. It helped catch the eyes of readers who, as a result, learned more about the fight for the *Bit*'s independence and the value of the student press.

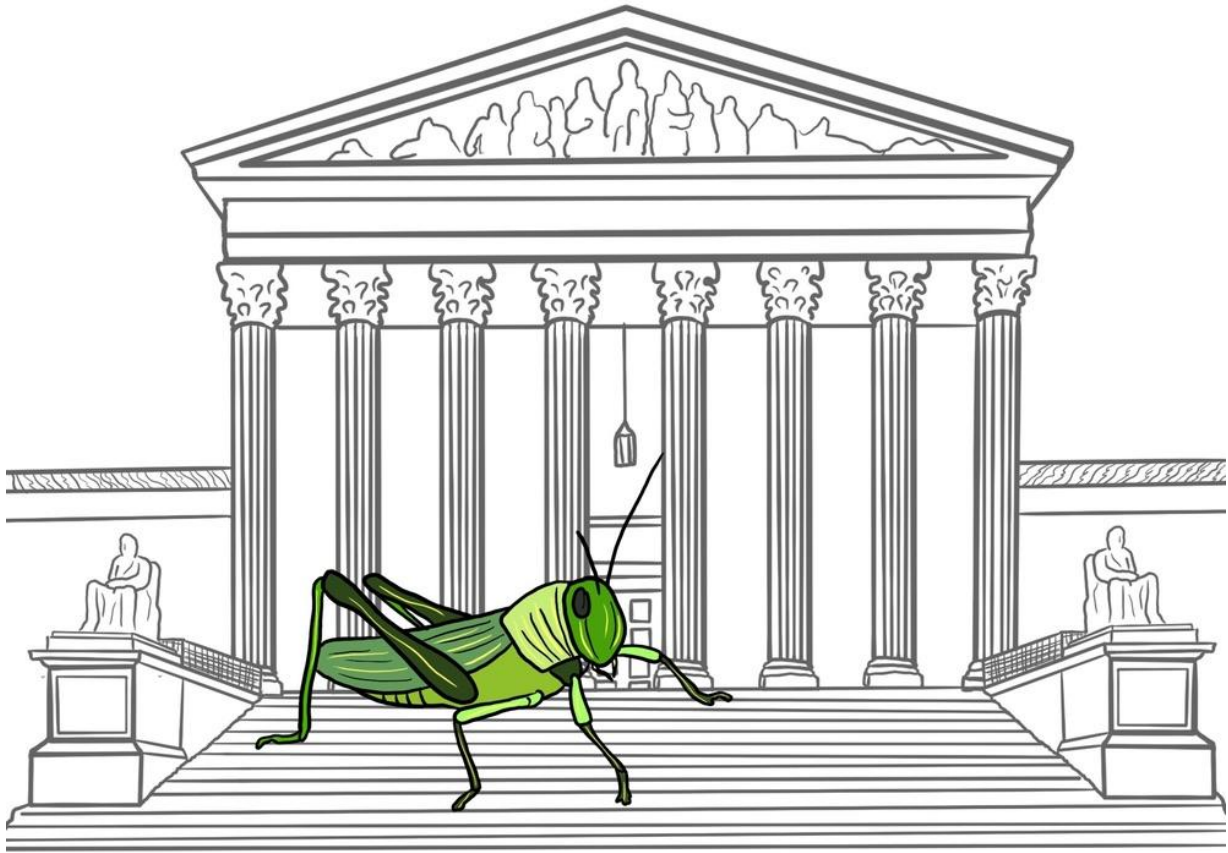
While I take extra care with special projects, typically I have one or two illustration assignments per week. Each visual tends to take me about an hour and all are freehand. Through my work on *The Augur Bit*, I've learned the importance of the power of student press and how to be organized and meet deadlines, and I've been able to share my work and talents with the world.



This illustration accompanied an open letter preparing new high school students of color for their time at GDS. The white students in the background are faded because the student of color reading the letter moves from blending into the background to being able to shine as an individual.



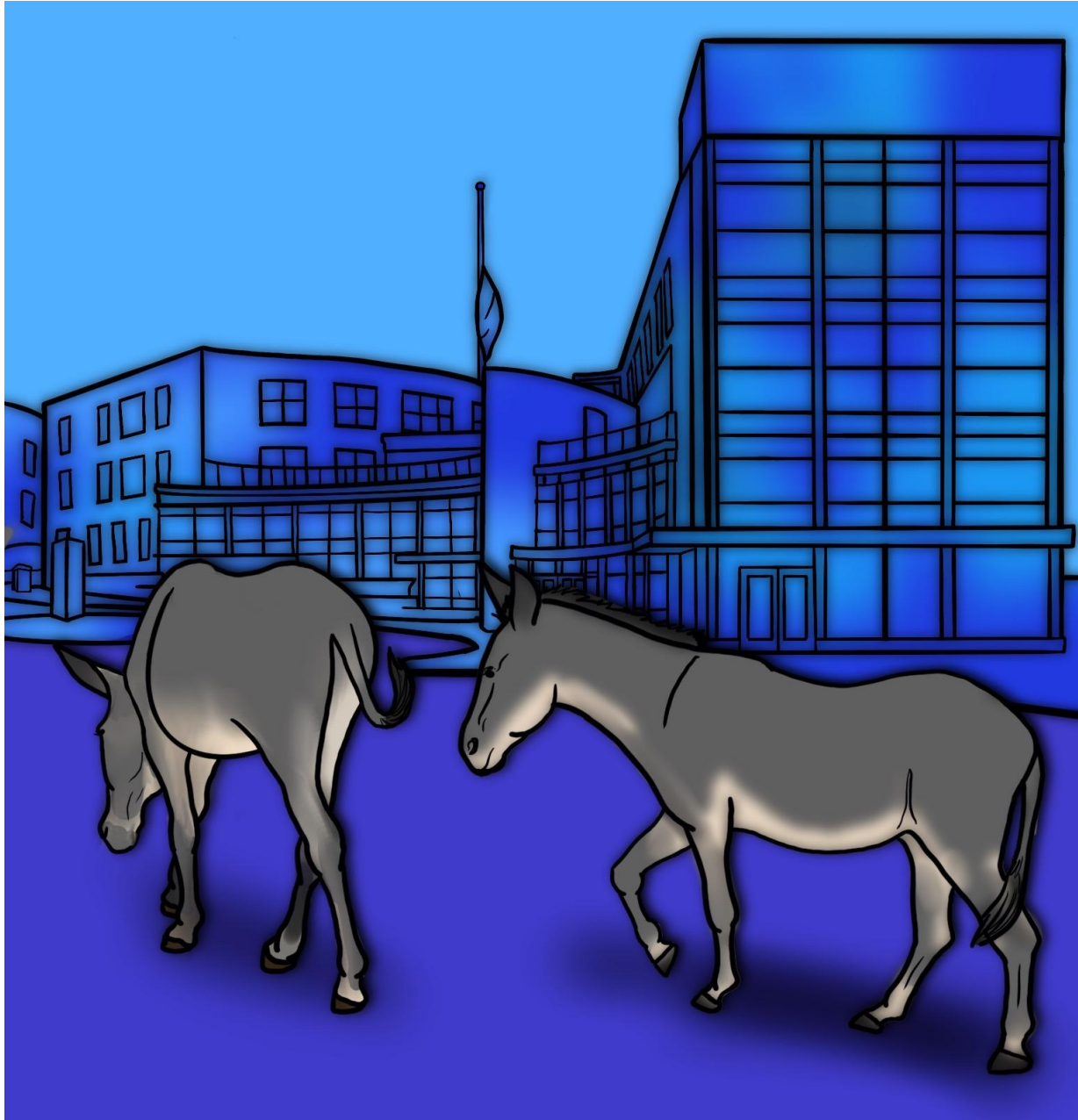
This work, attached to a piece advocating for a remote schooling option, illustrates the difficulties with both virtual and in-person learning. The divider is blurred to show how sometimes hybrid learning days blur together and hurt students' mental health. The color palette is muted to represent the dull nature of navigating different school models during a pandemic.



This drawing accompanied an article about the possibility that a GDS parent and board member would be nominated to the Supreme Court. The grasshopper, the school's mascot, is the only part of the piece in color because it highlights the school's history of connections to the Supreme Court, including two prior justices.



This visual was put out after Ketanji Brown Jackson’s confirmation hearings, where two senators attacked her for her involvement with the school as a parent and board member. In this illustration, Jackson is drawn in a style inspired by pop-art similar to the Barack Obama “Hope” print since that was an impactful piece of political history. Behind Jackson are motifs of her association to GDS, which are blurred to allow Jackson to shine above as the focal point of the piece.



This visual represents the overwhelming liberal majority at GDS and it accompanied an opinion piece that emphasized the importance of exposure to different political viewpoints. The two donkeys, as the central figures in the illustration, walk towards the school building to symbolize a heavily Democratic community while the school is colored blue to also align with the liberal tone.