

# Voices Of Today

-Indrani Nandi, XI

Gandhi once said “silence becomes cowardice when occasion demands speaking out the truth and acting accordingly” and I could not find a better opening line for this particular article.

Taking into consideration the occurrence in the recent past I believe it is only safe to say that a student body rebellion and protest is not an unfamiliar concept to our nation.

Varied people have varied opinions on whether student rebellion is morally correct or not. However, to be very honest with you, as a Student Leader myself, I believe that a student rebellion to a certain extent is healthy for an institution. Morality of the subject can only be judged by analysing what they are opposing. Silence only makes the authority stronger and it becomes a responsibility of the people to direct democracy when situations tend to get tumultuous.

When we protest, we remember that education is much bigger than classrooms. Education is the co-creative value and skill that includes thinking, critical analysis and actual participation in society and social processes.

The best way to answer the question, ‘Should a student be protesting outside, instead of sitting in class?’, is by rationalising, if these two domains actively oppose each other. My answer is no. Both these domains involve an ethical background and are proportionate. They are complementary to each other. To appreciate this, we need to understand what education really is and the role it plays in an evolving society. Students have always

played an important part in progressive societies.

Protests to most people hold a negative connotation. However, there have been multiple instances where student body protests have led to the betterment of society. In 1974, the Bihar Movement dealt with student protesting against corruption and nepotism while demanding electoral and educational reforms. Recently

in Australia, school students protested against global warming and climate change. 16-year-old Greta Thunberg from Sweden, singlehandedly started what went on to become a world-wide protest against climate change. Her iconic statement, ‘How dare You’, challenging world leaders on their environmental policies, became a clarion call for activists globally.

However, it would be cosmetic of us if we negate the negative undertone to protests. Student protests often become breeding grounds for anti-social elements and are regularly manipulated by the political regimes for their own specific goals. After independence, almost all major political parties launched their

student wings.

These associations unabashedly exploit students and take advantage of the power and the gullibility of the youth.

According to Article 19 of the Indian Constitution, citizens of the country are permitted to protest as long as they are non-violent. The fact that our Constitution allows protests proves that authority is not the supreme, but the people of this country are.



# The Program

-Nilay Dhakal, XI

In today's times, education is considered a very important aspect of one's life and a lot of resources and money is invested into the education 'industry'. Children are sent to the best of schools according to one's means, and parents and guardians expect good marks and grades in return of their investment on their child. The world is moving very fast where heinous crimes no longer shock and war has become an 'industry'. The question therefore remains as to 'where and how is our education system failing us?' The present education system concentrates into drilling data forcibly into a child's head, wherein the sole purpose of education is acquiring jobs. This system does not necessarily liberate or build individuals with a sound value system and a questioning mind. This system threatens to suffocate and stagnate imagination and curiosity. The three most popular industries of today are - weaponry, liquor and tobacco followed closely by drugs and medicine, particularly in that order. This probably puts the biblical city of Sodom and Gomorrah that God destroyed for their depraved lifestyle, to shame. It reflects clearly a civilization that is frayed and at whose core, lies a soul that is dying.

The solution to this, I feel is a Global Citizenship Education, wherein the values of world peace, harmony and a global perspective towards life is indoctrinated in all of us. An education system which would not force students to memorise rote subjects that they dislike, but would rather teach them practicality, where the proportions of practical and theoretical classes would

be, three is to one.

It would be an education system which would promote the feelings of cooperation, rather than competition. When all of this is achieved, maybe we will start moving towards a brighter future as the human race.

We have competed enough, for land, for gold, for power, for jobs and in today's scenario even for love. It is time to introduce a Global Citizenship Education where we are not divided by the boundaries of our countries, ethnicity or religion but are united as humans. The world seems to be inching towards Armageddon with thousands killed in war-struck zones. It starts to frighten me, when I ponder upon the casual manner in which world leaders take decisions that lead to the death of countless. These decisions that involve bombing towns and

launching missiles, in hopes of combating and killing 'terrorism'. 'Terrorism' on the other hand perhaps can never be truly eradicated because it is not merely a group of people or a concrete structure, but is rather an ideology.

These are the reasons why Global Citizenship Education must be paid heed to and the educators must crossover to a more wholesome form of education because numbers can no longer save us, only humanity can. This will lead to a peaceful rebellion where Ali, Ram, Joseph, Tenzing, Kolinda and many others will share a classroom and be leaders of tomorrow's world. A world which will know only love, a world where education does not remain an 'industry' but is a humanitarian service.



## Did You Know?

The last queen of Egypt wasn't born in Egypt. As best as Historians can tell, Cleopatra VII was Greek. She was a descendant of Alexander the Great's Macedonian general Ptolemy.

In 1834, ketchup was sold as a cure for indigestion by an Ohio physician named John Cook and wasn't popularized as a condiment until the late 19th century.

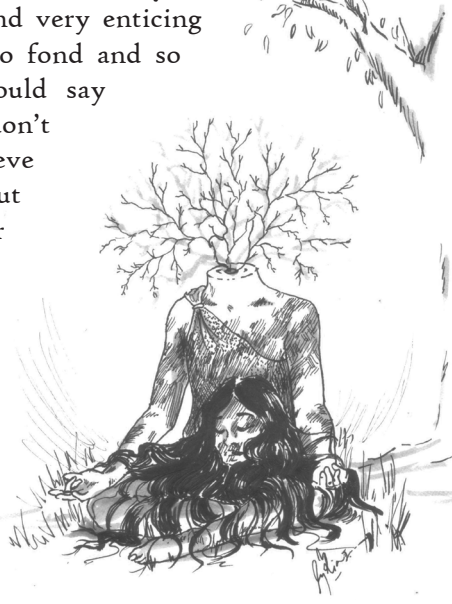
Forks were once seen as blasphemous. They were first introduced in Italy in the 11th Century. They were seen as an offense to God because they were "artificial hands" and as such was considered to be sacrilegious.

# What We Don't Know

-Lavanya Adhikari, VIII

Alright, I know the title doesn't sound very enticing but it is what it is. We are grown so fond and so accustomed of not listening, one could say we've grown deaf to opinions. We don't want to know things because we believe that we've got everything figured out and the universe is in the palm of our hands. Our nonchalance to everything around us reeks of our ignorance. To us however it seems merely like the attitude we adorn to deflect everything that we do not understand and cannot appreciate. I hate to break it to you, but our ignorance is not bliss. There is so much in this world and so little we fathom, that the larger universe stares at us in a magical spread. They say the

Illustrator: Lydia Timungpi



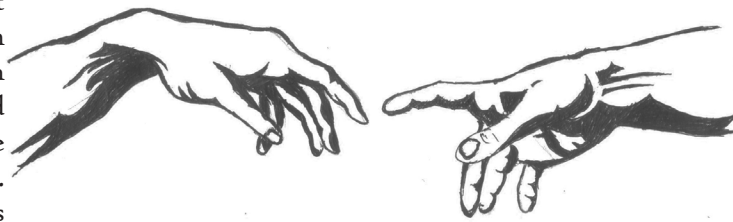
universe is ever expanding and we know not even a tiny fraction of it. Despite it all, we keep resisting the urge to seek, to learn, to grow. Perhaps it is fear that stops us. We fear that the more we delve into a subject, the more we will realise how precious little we know. This will goad us to find out more and read out further, however who would want to risk the comfort of boredom for such adventure? This is where perhaps we make our choices to either stay cocooned in the shell of obliviousness or break the shell in the search for light. I leave the decision to you.

## THE HANDS THAT I THOUGHT WOULD NEVER LEAVE ME

-Tanishka Sharma, VIII

So easily do we hold hands of those we have not known for as long as we would have liked. We do not know how long we can hold on to them, because as times change, so do people. Just like how the flavour in a cup of tea varies from table to table, the hand that holds another, change from season to season. We chant to ourselves and anyone else who will listen that we have been through a lot yet we get hurt when someone stops caring for us. Was that not a lesson that ought to have been learnt over the familiar pit-holes? When we have been dragged through the muck, why do we find ourselves stepping into the same puddle again and again? One must know that diamonds are not found in landfills.

Illustrator: Akinali Ayemi



It is crucial that we know the value of such rare pieces of natural wonder, as in this day and age, one will find that resources cannot keep up with the demands. I am not talking about commerce or the market of expensive stones.

This conversation is metaphorical you see. I speak of those friends I count on to have my back on my darkest of days. Finding friends who truly

understand you is more often than not, the same as drinking water from a sealed bottle. The objective here, is to understand that we cannot strive to seek happiness through individuals but rather to realize that happiness is something we give to ourselves. I am happy therefore, for I choose to be.

## CAMPUS NEWS

Republic Day Celebration  
Chumki Biswas, IX

On the 26th of January, 2020 along with the rest of the country, AVS celebrated the 71st Republic Day of India. The Special Assembly, conducted by the Department of History under the aegis of Mrs. Dayita Dutta, Chair of History, began with a flag hosting ceremony. Mrs. Sahana Majumdar, Director of Education Administration and Chair of Geography, was the Chief Guest for the event. The Preamble was read out and the Music School performed a moving rendition of patriotic songs. A group recitation was done of the iconic poem Lalkar by the legendary Urdu poet Bismil Azimabadi which brought forth the fire that had once driven the young freedom fighters of India. The Social Service League had organised a fund raising carnival with food and game stalls for later in the day, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the community. The day ended in smiles and a feeling of camaraderie.



# Opinion Poll

This is a new initiative we are taking, where we want **YOU**, our readers, to give us **YOUR** opinion on various topics ranging from standard day-to-day opinions to school issues and even things about our newsletter. We want to know what **YOU** think and the results will be published in next weeks issue. All you need to do to get **YOUR** opinion submitted is to write in to us at [ave@assamvalleyschool.com](mailto:ave@assamvalleyschool.com).

The opinion for this week is:

"Is Murong  
in need of more women Masters?"

## THE THINKING CORNER WITH MR. WATTS

*"Challenging the way you think"*

How dare we be pompous and presumptuous when we talk about corruption. We often point a finger at politicians, public servants or the government for corrupt practices, for not delivering what was promised, for misusing or wasting taxes collected from citizens on frivolous endeavours, for misrepresenting us in parliament, for tardy execution of programmes. Let us take a good, hard look at our own lives and see if we can stand up to scrutiny. Are we not corrupt when we give a bribe to get something done out of turn, when we try and get away with excess baggage when we travel, when we try and skip a few places in a queue, when we use our position or status to violate traffic and parking rules. Indeed, we are corrupt when we copy our friend's work and present it as our own, when we attempt to use unfair means in an examination, when we miss an activity because we want to do something else, when we want to win even by using unfair means, when we take somebody else's things and conveniently make them our own. Is it not corruption when a teacher walks in to a class unprepared, when a teacher does not correct assignments or does so in a very perfunctory manner, when a teacher is late for a class or activity, when a teacher favours one student over another. We would do well to first remove the log from our own eye before we attempt to remove the speck from our neighbour's.

## THE OUTPOST

The number of confirmed cases of the Wuhan Coronavirus has overtaken the SARS outbreak inside mainland China. Breaking borders it spread across the world starting with the neighboring countries. Approximately 44 people have been killed after heavy rains hit southeastern Brazil. The N.B.A. legend Kobe Bryant and eight other people were killed in a "high energy impact crash" in Calabasas, California leaving his family and the Sport fraternity in disbelief and grief. Shaheen Bagh and the Jamia sit outs take on a communal sheen even as all plugs come off for the fight for Delhi in the upcoming Assembly elections.





# BAZINGA

-Mrs. Dayita Dutta, Chair, Department of History

How much do you know about the Father of the Nation?

1. The Story of my Experiments with Truth, was originally written in Gujarati. Who translated it into English and gave it the title by which it is known?
2. Mahatma Gandhi was shamefully never given the Nobel Prize for Peace, but he did get a sort of international recognition in 1930, the only Indian to get this recognition. What was this?
3. We all know Tagore returned his Nobel Prize to protest Jalianwala Bagh. Less well known is Gandhi's return of a medal he had received for his work as a stretcher bearer in the Zulu and Boer Wars. What was this medal?
4. What role in Raj Kumar Shukla play in Mahatma Gandhi's first satyagraha in India?
5. To represent which Indian company did Mahatma Gandhi go to South Africa in 1893 – and eventually spend two decades there?
6. Gandhi spent many years in prison, often in poor conditions. But during the Quit India Movement he was interned in fairly comfortable surroundings. Where did Gandhi spend these years 1942-44?
7. For ninety years, which organization has had the exclusive copyright of Gandhi's works?
8. With whom does Mahatma Gandhi share his birthday – a largely forgotten Prime Minister of India?
9. Two persons were hanged for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. One was Nathuram Godse. Who was the other?
10. Gandhi's death anniversary 30th January is celebrated as \_\_\_\_\_ Day in India.

- Answer
1. Mahadev Desai Mahatma Gandhi's long standing secretary and close companion. Desai was fluent in Gujarati Hindi, English and Bengali
  2. Gandhi was named Time Magazine Person of the Year 1930
  3. Kaiser-i-Hind Medal
  4. He persuaded Gandhi to come to Champaran to lead the struggle of the long suffering indigo peasants
  5. Dada Abdulla and Co.
  6. The Aga Khan Palace, Pune
  7. The Navjivan Trust
  8. Lal Bahadur Shastri – a Gandhian in spirit
  9. Narayan Apte
  10. Martyrs Day



## Ripple #119

-Nizovino Meyase, XI

With daus on their  
waists,  
they set off into the  
morning.  
Basking under the sun  
form which they hid.  
Yesterdays rebels,  
today's leaders

## Tongue Of Slip!!

1. Bell the ring - Indrani Nandy, XI (Does grammar ring any bells?)
2. I will not forgive this for you - Ipshita Kashyap, XI (So much for culture, 'eh?')
3. You like my colour grads dress? - Gayatri Sapru, XI (Makes up for the poor english skills.)
4. The prep overs at 10 p.m. - Anshu Kumari, XI (You won't be over this mistake for a while.)
5. My parents grew me - Indrani Phukan, XI (But your brain remained the same.)
6. Anyone has sauce on my plate - Anushka Adhikari, IX (You could've just asked.)

## REFERENCE TO CONTEXT

-Ssara Jha, VIII



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