

Higher And Higher

-Aakangsha Dutta, XII

The Class of 2020 is often targeted as being the unluckiest who seem to be perpetually poised on the threshold of change. We have borne this with a solemn acceptance that change is constant and in our case, inevitable. It has over time given us a bird's eye view of the many transformations in School and the ripple effect thereon.

The only constant that we see apart from the change that continues to reign is the unwavering devotion that each Aviator holds. Now that this Batch is at the helm of affairs, it can no longer be the bearers of change alone but be the harbingers of it.

The responsibility of choosing between being the children of the legacy that those before us left behind or to leave our mark by creating our own, now rests on our shoulders.

They say a great painting is borne of great ideas but a masterpiece is the labour of each brushstroke that sweeps across the canvas. AVS encompasses the collective efforts of people who have given in their blood, sweat and often their youth to this colossal establishment.

Each day in the life of every member of this community adds to the history of this School.

Holding the experience of a mere 24 years in a network of institutions that have grown roots over centuries, The Assam Valley School continues to groom and mold generations of the future.

To compare it to any other is a futile exercise, for no two creations are the same and each is marked by their own individuality and thereby etches out their own destinies. It is our efforts that will lead us to pave a path for the Silver Jubilee celebrations that will mark the twenty five years of the birth of AVS.

While the School prepares us for life beyond the gates, we shape the School with the attitude we possess; the attitude to rekindle the desire to reach for the stars that has evidently been latent over time. Like wax on a candle, our dreams may either die out or burn fierce as ambition in all those



who wish to see this institution grow from strength to strength.

Every time we walk down the L.O.C. illuminated under the yellow street lights on a cold winter evening, we must remember that we are a part of something bigger, something greater that together forms this enormous institution.

This School that is home, will be our alma mater that bears the legend AVS and makes us who we are- an Aviator. When we look up to the skies, the stars glow on us and under this illumination glows strongest the hands of time, that mark our purpose and will remain enshrined in the pages of history of this School.

We were here. We lived it. Together, we made it.

Weekly Newsletter of The Assam Valley Express

Crimson Lovers

-Saziia Selvia, XII

Your wife comes as usual to wake you and you untangle yourself from the sheets to step out of bed. A woman with a sweet temper and wise beyond her years, she religiously repeats the same ritual she has been doing for the past eight years. She hands you a glass of ginger tea and proceeds to slide open the windows to let the sunlight in. It's all the same except her eyes no longer search for your promiscuousness.

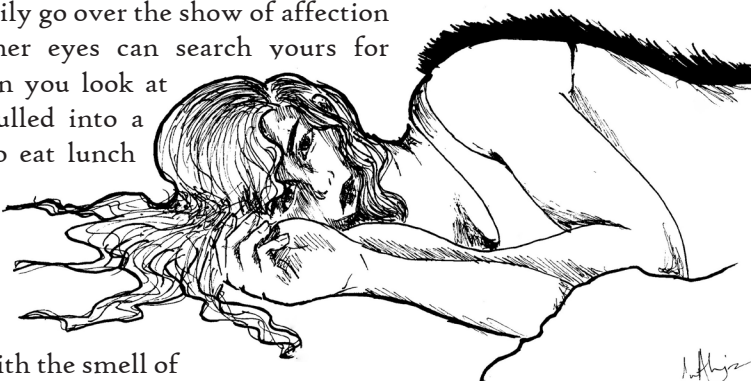
You smile and perfunctorily go over the show of affection and turn away before her eyes can search yours for tenderness or love. When you look at her again her lips are pulled into a tight smile, "We have to eat lunch with your brother today. Do get ready quickly, dear."

You stiffly nod at her and walk out to the garden. The air is filled with the smell of blooming flowers; yet another winter spent alone. There is a lump in your throat, a sense of wrongness at the sight of your young wife doomed to languish in the periphery of your life. You get the urge to fall at her feet, to beg for her forgiveness but you stand there instead transfixed, staring at the beautiful servant boy standing at her beck and call. He is dressed in humble brown garments carefree about the way he moves, like he knows he is free as the lark on the old cherry tree.

You feel something stirring in your chest, a deep sense

of longing and envy. Later that day you eat dinner with her and tell her tales of the great big world, of men who turned into beasts and beautiful sirens who preyed on unsuspecting sailors. Her eyes sparkle with interest and hope while she hangs onto every word you speak. Your words lull her into a cocoon of faith making her believe that you will be there for her tomorrow as you were there for her today. The spring you began to love her was the spring she began to fade away. Her beautiful young body lay wasted in a sickening pall, the once lush hair wet with a deepening fever soaking the white of the pillows. You stay at her bedside, holding her hand crooning to her till the light finally seeped out of the once bright eyes.

The hushed whispers all around begins to get to you. The condolences wrung out like wreaths bear down until you begin to feel stifled with muffled screams. She was gone and with her, went your sleep and faith in deliverance. You no longer dwell on the choices you made to fulfill the desires of your heart. You look across the table and watch the servant boy pour you your ginger tea. You smile, the remnants of a similar cup she had trustingly sipped off your hands, long forgotten.



New Kid On The Block:

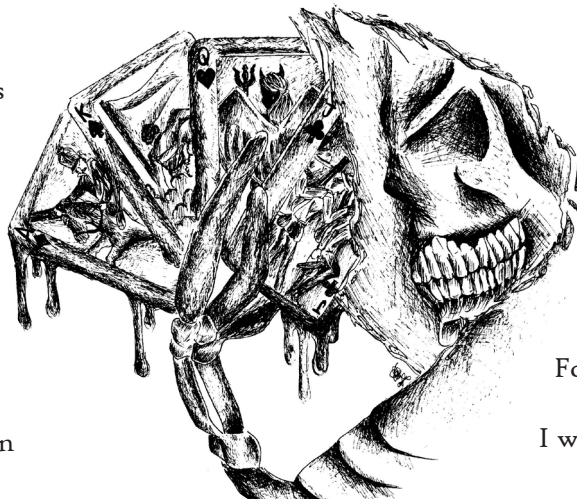
Dead We Lie

-Rhea Ladakhi, X

Here dead we lie
Amongst blood bled brothers
And heartbroken mothers

Here dead we lie
Can you smell the stench
Of rotting soldiers
Piling in the trench

Hear dead we lie
On rich home soil
Sweltering in the sun
Fingers recoil



Here dead we lie
Pale with grimace
Body stiff
Hands laced

Here dead I lie
For my hands unfold like the sky above
me
I walk tall amongst pines and streams
And all wild things.

Illustrator: Judah Abujam

Illustrator: Takhe Tamo Reela

In Conversation

Daksha Salam and Shaunak Shokey are alumni from the Batch of 2014. Graduates from the National Institute of Design (NID), Daksha Salam and Shounak Shokey held a workshop in School on textile dyeing and cartooning. AVE caught up with the creative duo in between their hectic schedule.



AVE: How does it feel like to come back to school?

Daksha Salam (D.S): It feels nostalgic. I clearly remember wanting to get out of School and attend college but that has changed because I associate School with so many memories and it's a positive feeling to be back here.

Shaunak Shokey (S.S): It feels good to be back to the institution where my love for animation and art began. This workshop is a way of helping the students to develop a passion for art and a small way of giving back to the School that has given me so much.

AVE: Did you think you'd be producing art of this calibre back then?

D.S: I had a vague idea of what I wanted to pursue but I wasn't so sure back then. It's amazing to see the number of students involved with the CDT today and this workshop is an initiative to help them learn to differentiate between design and art.

S.S: I never expected myself to move into animation and cartooning. I eventually figured out my strengths and moved along those lines to do what I love most, animation.

AVE: Where do you get your inspiration from?

D.S: My inspiration remains nature and the simplicity of art and life.

S.S: I have lot of inspirations in life but when it comes to work, my biggest inspiration is my mother. She has

always been a pillar of support and I owe it all to her.

AVE: What is your favourite kind of art form?

D.S: While I specialise in textile dyeing, I channel my feelings and express myself as much with sketching and drawing. It helps me evaluate and become a better version of myself.

S.S: My favourite art form is animation and if someone was to ask me what my favourite animation was, then it would be Kimi No Na Wa (Your Name).

AVE: What is the best thing about being an artist?

D.S: I wouldn't call myself an artist. I prefer to be known as an ordinary person expressing himself through art and craft.

S.S: I feel like it's the best profession. It's awesome to be able to do what you love and are passionate about. It's a beautiful way to express yourself and is a method of growth as a person.

AVE: What are the challenges you face professionally?

D.S: I feel that translating art into design is the hardest aspect of my career. Teaching artisans about design is also an aspect of my work that requires considerable amount of effort.

S.S: To me time has always been a constraint to creativity and art. There never really is enough time for me to draw and bring out what I wish to.

CAMPUS NEWS

The 11th of February witnessed the School celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Foundation Day. The auspicious ceremony was led by Mr. Bharadwaj who emphasized on the power of dreaming big and going beyond the confinements of our mind. The assembly ended with a video presentation by the Media Centre. The Hindi Kavita Path for the Lower School was organised by the Department of Hindi on the 12th of February where selected students of classes 5 to 8 participated under the guidance of Mrs. Mandeep Kaur. The Centre of Design and Technology held an Acrylic Painting Workshop with the renowned artist Mr. K.K Gandhi from the 12th to the 14th of February. The workshop has produced some exceptional canvases over a two-day period.

THE OUTPOST

42 CRPF men were killed and many wounded in Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir making it the worst terrorist attack in 30 years. While the national fervour was stroked by Uri, the anger against the terror attack continues to brim in the country. The controversial Citizenship Amendment Bill lapses in Parliament along with the Triple Talaq Bill amongst others as Rajya Sabha adjourns Sine Die. With the Elections a month away, promises made were not necessarily kept. Michelle Obama makes a surprise appearance at the 61st Grammy Awards, an event that took the stage and the internet by storm.



STAR OF THE WEEK

Abdullah Ashraf Imdad, Riding Captain 2019-20 has brought accolades to the School by participating in the prestigious Prime Minister's rally at *Cariappa*. Abdullah also won a gold, a bronze and the trophy for the Best Show Jumper in the All India NCC Horse Show. He has been recognised and given a trophy by the Chief Minister of Assam for his contributions towards Equestrian pursuits. We congratulate Abdullah on his awards and wish to see him ride to future successes.



BAZINGA

-Sempisang Toy, Quizzing Captain

1. Under which British Prime Minister did Great Britain retain the Falkland Islands, a British overseas territory from Argentina?
2. Which scandal pushed for US President, Richard Nixon's impeachment?
3. What was the secret agreement signed between the government of Britain, France and Israel during the Suez Canal Crisis of 1956 called?
4. Who was the first female Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who was also the UPA's presidential nominee for 2017?
5. Which country is going to have its first general elections this year, after a military coup in 2014?
6. What was the name of India's first successful nuclear bomb test called?
7. Who was the Chief Guest for this year's Republic Day?
8. Venezuelan's self proclaimed interim President, Juan Guaido previously served in what capacity in the National Assembly?
9. Who was the shortest serving Prime Minister of India, serving for only 26 days?
10. Which British Musician's statue was erected in 2000 by Fidel Castro in Cuba, after Castro declared him to be a music revolutionary?

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|--|
| 1. | Margaret Thatcher | 6. | Smiling Buddha/Pokhran-1 |
| 2. | Watergate Scandal | 7. | Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa |
| 3. | Protocol of Sèvres | 8. | Speaker |
| 4. | Meira Kumar | 9. | Sh. Gulzari Lal Nanda |
| 5. | Thailand | 10. | John Lennon |

Answer :

ON ORDER

-Jirmin Toko, XII



Ripple #94

-Eloziini Senachena, X

The day's history lesson flashed on their individual screens – "Contamination of Earth and settlements on Mars!"

The students however were more interested to know about their origins.

The start of the AI programme.

Tongue of Slip!!

1. She's must be beautiful – Sempisang Toy, XII (And you must be beautiful too, ey?)
2. It happens day in and day night - Trisha Barua, XII (Well good day to you then.)
3. I never said even – Arhata Saikia (How odd!)
4. Why am I the always the one? – Sieyina Meru, XII (Would you rather be the two.)
5. You doing play school – Ma'am Sarika Brahma Hazarika (The play is over, Ma'am.)
6. Mug up it fast fast – Dikshita Bhuyan, X (Spells don't work like that, muggle.)

Keep It Reel!

Finding Picasso

-Tamanna Ahmed, XII



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