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Caricature

SKIN DEEP
An article by Rishita Choudhary
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**THIS WEEK'S
THE QUARANTINE
WATCHLIST**

Featuring:
The Blind Side
We can be around
Ratatouille
Minari

THE BLIND SIDE
STARRING: SANDRA BULLOCK, KELLY REILLY, BRADLEY SPIRO
CASTING: JIM WELTON, JIM WELTON, KIM WELTON, KELLY SPIRO

QUESTION OF WORTH

-Shripriya Kajaria, XII

Olympics, the renowned international sporting event, is held every 4 years. It brings together athletes from over 100 countries around the world for two eventful weeks. The Olympic Games are rooted in a beautiful idea, that is to establish world peace and international friendship by replacing military competition with athletic competition. The laying of the cornerstone of the five rings dates back to 3500 years ago in ancient Greece. The first recorded Olympic Games took place in the town of Olympia in 776 BC. The first Olympics were only running races, but gradually other events were added. Although the Olympics were not held for over 1,500 years, the modern Olympics were revived in the 19th century by an idealistic Frenchman named Pierre de Coubertin.

As one would imagine, hosting the Olympic games comes with a cost that crunches numbers to billions of dollars. As the International Olympic Committee receives fewer bids with each problematic game, the future of the tradition is looking unsure: every game in the last 50 years has gone over budget. The 2014 Sochi Winter Games went over its \$10 Billion budget by an additional \$41 billion. The games require about 35 different athletic venues, they require an Olympic Village that could cost one and a half to 3 billion dollars depending on the circumstance. They require a media and television production facility which usually costs half a billion to a billion dollars. They require a media village. They require ceremonial space and green space. They require transportation amongst all of it and special lanes for the IOC executives, transportation amongst all of the venues.

Cities used to make a profit from the games, mostly because they collected a lot of revenue in TV rights.

However, recently the International Olympic Committee has been taking larger percentages. In the '90s, for instance, it took 4% of revenue to compare with the 70% it pocketed from the 2016 Rio Games. The newly-built stadia can cost up to \$30 million to maintain, and they are often on valuable real estate. Most cities do not know what to use them for after the games. Those facilities fall into decay if they aren't kept up impacting the value of the property. Beijing's 2008 Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium cost the city \$11 million a year to maintain, and the stadium that seated 91,000 now sits unused. In Rio de Janeiro, the \$700 million athlete's village for the 2016 Games was turned into luxury apartments that are now "shuttered" and the Olympic Park is vacant after failing to attract buyers. Sofia Sakorafa, Greece MP and former Olympian stated of the 2004 Athens Games venues, "We are left with installations that are rotting away because we don't even have the money to maintain them."

Just months after the 2016 Games in Rio, pictures started emerging showing the decay and disarray of many of Brazil's Olympic venues, particularly the flagship Maracana stadium. Even London, one of the world's wealthier cities, had failed to address the issue of what happened after the curtains are drawn at the closing ceremony.

The problem has been the perceived extravagance of the Olympic Games and the more or less unlimited expenditure that cities and countries are expected to make, and the limited use that these facilities have after the event. We remain confused whether the Olympic scandals and sporting withdrawals that have challenged its status as the world's pre-eminent sporting event is worth the hassle at all.

SKIN DEEP

-Rishita Choudhary, VIII

The colour of skin is really just that, skin deep. So it seems so they say. It remains however, in most societies a significant parameter by which a person is evaluated. In the course of growing up one assumes that the lashes garnered over the years is dulled by a sense of wisdom, maturity or disdain over comments on one's skin colour. Truth be said, it never really goes away. It stays and mars one's perception of the world. The world is not black nor white and despite what the legendary King of Pop Michael Jackson sang he remained marred by it.

It is inhuman to judge a man or woman on the basis of their colour. A vast majority of the population continue to suffer racial discrimination merely because of the skin they wear. The colour that a person wears is not something that they chose or make, it is something that they have been born with. The demand for a clinically changed skin colour grows especially amongst teenagers who wish to step away from a colour they believe makes them socially unacceptable. At the end of the day underneath our skin we all bleed the same, we bleed red. People are excluded from groups and activities at schools and workplaces because they don't contain the acceptable amount of melanin in them. The impact it has on a person's mental health can be devastating. One might assume making a joke about another person on the basis of their colour is funny and at times the person may laugh along to ride out the moment. The 'joke' invariably plays on a loop constantly eating away at every single of their waking moment allowing them no respite even in sleep. Intentional or not it is ethically and morally wrong and those who are pushed into this suffering battle with it throughout their days. It has become common place to pass comments and enjoy a laugh over another person's skin colour. It is almost acceptable in our society to do so. Nobody raises an eyebrow nobody squirms or hesitates nobody questions this so called 'practice'. Every single matrimonial advertisement or creams professing light skin must first perhaps sell it to the pantheon of Gods and Goddesses in Hinduism. Where else do we see dark being celebrated as in here. If they do not have a problem, I wonder why those who worship them, do.

We must raise our voice against racial discrimination because "All Lives Matter".

"There's a mess to clean inside our own selves. Yet, we only focus on what's outside."

Illustration: Tanisha Bhadra



TWISTED TAIL

-Deubale Meru, X

There once lived a woman who was desperate for a child. One day as she was returning from the fields, she found a human, a tiger cub and the devil. She took this as a sign from god and quickly took all of them home where she cared for them till they were adults. As she grew older and weaker, the human, the tiger and the devil decided that they would each take turns to take care of her.

The tiger, on the days he took care of her, threatened to eat her after her death. The devil on his days, scared the woman to hiding. The human however, was the kindest of the three and having seen what the others did to the woman, he took care of her, bathed and even cooked for

her. The woman died on the day when she was in the care of the human.

The human knew the tiger would sniff out the body of the dead woman and eat her. He decided to cremate her body under the traditional stove to camouflage the smell. Thus, the tiger was unable to locate the dead body. Legend has it that this action is the reason why humans can cook food on the stove, and even eat in graveyards.

A slightly different version of this story speaks of an argument between the human and the tiger over who would go to the graveyard to live there. They decided that whoever managed to pelt a sculpture using a catapult would not have to go to the forest. The human with the help of the devil, cheated his way to winning this competition. The tiger's stone missed and thus, he had to go and live in the forest.

Folklores are immersed in the practices we follow to this day. They hold within them the roots to our culture and the secrets to how society came to look and be as it is today.

HEAD IT FOR A DAY

-Anam Aviva Ahmed, XII

On national girl child day, 20 year-old Shruti Goswami from Haridwar was given the opportunity to become the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for one day. For the first time in the history of Uttarakhand, a girl would become the C. M.

She is a student of B. Sc agriculture at a Roorkee-based institution. Shruti was chosen for this honour after she was elected chief minister in a mock 'Bal Vidhan Sabha' (Children's State Assembly) in a symbolic event organised by the state commission in 2018, for protection of child rights and to help the children understand the democratic system. On January 24, the National Girl Child Day, officials from various departments will make five-minute-long presentations before me. I will give them suggestions, particularly on the issues related to girl-child safety," said the one-day girl Chief Minister.

Her main Idols were Mother Teresa and a Haridwar based hockey player named Vandana Kataria. She mentioned that she would want to give her inputs in matters such as agriculture which supports 65% of the state's population. Shruti Goswami would play the role of the Chief Minister from 12 noon to 3p.m.

During this time, Shruti would review the presentations of officials of 12 departments including the PWD, education, women and child development, and tourism, among others.

The fact that a one day girl C. M. has to be appointed highlights the gender inequality in this country. I really hope to see more and more Girl/female C. M'S in the future.

Had I been given this opportunity not for a day but

almost a year I would have brought drastic changes in the state.. Starting with the current rape cases in India. Yes, Rape cases which have been normalized in India, rather than being acted upon. It really disgusts me to hear that men and women, especially women in our country do not feel safe to step outside their houses due to the normalization of rape in India. If such a case had arrived during my tenure, I would immediately order their hanging after it has been proved that this particular person has committed this crime. Secondly I would ensure that there are more kids in schools than in factories by setting up more government schools and colleges also.

Due to a high poverty ratio, we often see children engaging in hazardous work from a young age. They literally learn how to crawl at the time they are sent to work to earn a living. I would make strict rules. These children, who lie in the category of child labour often do not grow mentally as well as physically and they end up having issues with this world. A major one is unemployment, which later eventually follows the cycle of forced child labour.

When it comes to education I would introduce taxes and all the basic skills in life as a subject because in India it's only rote learning, which teens eventually end up forgetting in the future. I would listen to my people. I would have assured you that most people living in my state get the feeling of belonging, and the unified feeling of being a people. I am pretty sure other states will consider implementing my plans too. With that we come to an end and I hope that I get to become a leader in the future, that i can better serve the people.

STORYTELLER



The Thief

-Ojas Krish, XI

The sharp steps of the horses on cobblestone were the only sound that could be heard as fifty men, headed by a captain in dull navy clothes with a golden badge pinned near his heart, reached a castle. The castle was huge; made of mossy stone with wooden intervals; golden torch-holders glistening still in the dim sunlight. A king, dressed in flashy leather and the finest wool, noticed the arrival and came down the steps. "Sir, we have a situation." Said the captain; sporting a deep Yorkshire accent. The king raised an eyebrow. Things in the kingdom were running smoothly enough; after all, it was 2 years since the last major war, and last he checked, the bandits and rebels towards the north had been subdued. "It's the vault." The captain clarified. The king raised an eyebrow. The money-land was running out of coffers; so he decided to give the extra gold to the treasurer himself. "30,000 pieces of gold are missing."

The king balked. 30,000 pieces? He needed to fight wars for that much amount of gold. "Who has done this deed? Was the capital attacked?" asked the king, rubbing his beard. "No, we saw no military action tonight. Someone just came, took the gold, and left." "What?" asked the king, both eyebrows disappearing into his hair. "It...got taken. Without permission, you know?" said the captain uncertainly; dirty fingernails scratching his stubby beard. The king's mouth was open; an expression of pure befuddlement in his face. "Why? Why would someone just do that? Just take it without consent and leave?" asked the king, resting his chin on his palms. "I'll get my horse, let's go to the palace." Said the king, running off to his stables.

Soon the force of fifty-one became fifty-eight, as the king, his queen and a contingent of soldiers rode the paved roads to the palace. The cold morning wind whipped their faces. The king's normally calm façade was now marred with a countenance of puzzlement. They soon reached the palace, the king dropping of his horse. He ignored the greetings of the ministers, heading straight for the scholar's room. It was huge; the bookshelves stuffed with hand-written books, and a center pedestal in which a magnificent copy of the Bible stood, covered by gold-surrounded glass. "LISTEN UP!" said the king. The scholars paused their reading, instead standing in attention. "I have received a report which says that 30,000 pieces of gold was taken without permission from the treasure area. I need you to come up with a word that actively describes his deed." Said the king. This would make it easier to discuss the issue, he thought.

After a lengthy two hours which consisted of the king lounging on his throne in thought, the scholars rushed in. "Stolen. He stole the pieces from the area." Said the scholars. "He is a thief." Added another, all finishing bowing. "Thief? Why would someone just steal?" asked the king to no one in particular. As the gossip continued in the court, the king cradled his head in his hands. He did not realize the profound effects this would have on humanity.

Campus Caricature

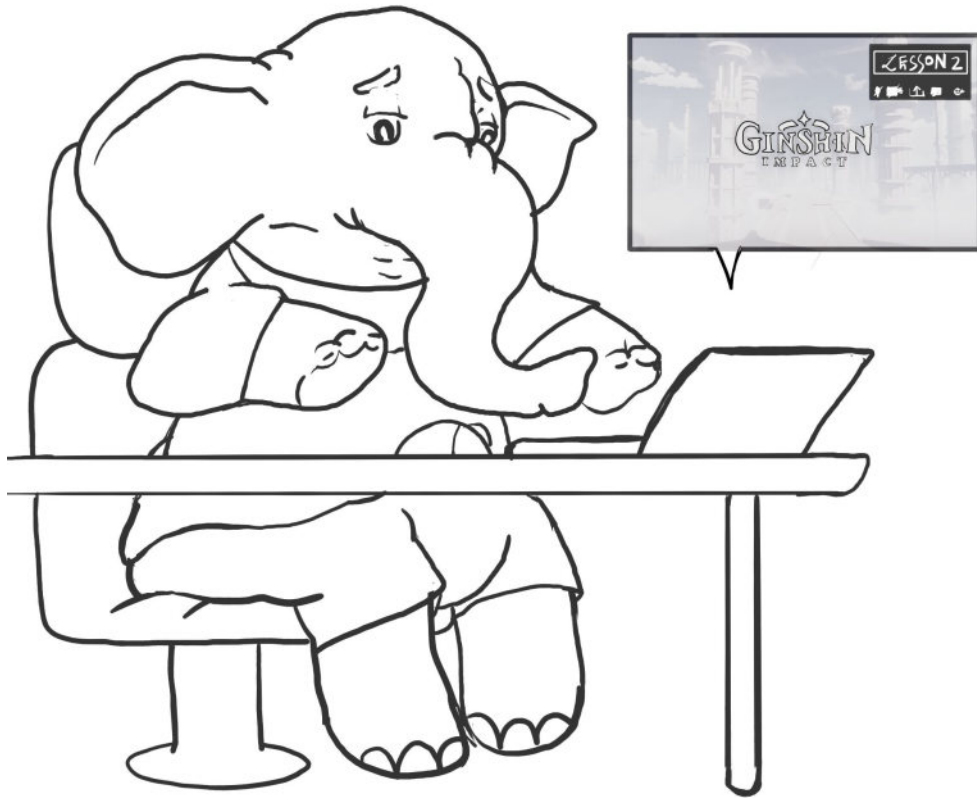


Illustration: Elozini Senachena

THE OUTPOST

With over 200,000 deaths in India during the second wave of COVID-19, several states have imposed lockdown and other restrictions to reduce the increasing number of cases. Himanta Biswa Sharma, Chief Minister of Assam, held a Cabinet Meeting discussing the new measures to tackle the virus. The Israel - Palestine conflict has escalated the tension between the two communities after this week's bombings. French Soldiers warn people of a Civil War that was brewing over French President's 'concessions' to Islamism. The Indian Premiere League (IPL) 2021 has been suspended after few players tested positive for COVID-19, leaving the fans disheartened.



Illustration: Sara Jha

The Quarantine Watchlist

Ripple #161

-Neelabh Kashyap, XII

A large mass of alabaster
The result of years of error
He dropped the hammer
and chisel,
His blood, sweat and tears
onto the floor
And he admired the
masterpiece he had created
Reflected in the mirror.

Feeling sick and tired of the same four walls at home? Well grab your popcorn and immerse yourself in the world of media, here is a list of some of our suggestions:

THE BLIND SIDE: A heartfelt story from slice-of-life genre that depicts how abandoned Big Mike finds a home, an identity and leaves a legacy.

WE CAN BE HEROES: When the best superheroes of Earth are abducted by aliens, who saves them? A silly little animated movie, ideal for family time in quarantine.

RATATOUILLE: The Pixar movie highlights changes with the ageing of a person as each age group can have different view of value and meaning of the the movie.

MINARI: A poignant story of a Korean family that shifts to America and strives to live The American Dream, while dealing with many real life issues. It is an organically crafted slow burn.

Keep It Reel!

Reassuring Reminiscense

-Zainab Ahmed Khan, XII

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