

OUTPOST

Pg. 4

STORYTELLER

Mrs. Edoni

An article by Kekhriesino Meyase

Pg. 3

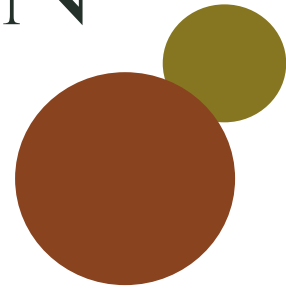
THIS WEEK'S THE WATCHLIST

Featuring:
Dynasty
Sweet Magnolias
Kim's Convenience
Natsume Yuujinchou

Sweet Magnolias

Pg. 6

PELLUCID CURTAIN OF MISINFORMATION



-Sriparna Gogoi, Head Girl, Batch of 2016, Cognitive Psychology Researcher, Zurich University of Applied Sciences

One year ago, I locked my modest apartment in Mumbai and carried a hastily packed bag to come back home. In those days, the winds blowing through the financial capital were pregnant with ambivalence. Masked policemen erected tall barricades around gated societies, and migrant workers rode on unbarred trucks with a bundle's worth of livelihood. The clock has

“You must understand that while pain and hope are not complementary, they do not have to compete with your logic to linger.”

rolled into a full circle, and somehow, we're no farther away from being exactly where we were: at almost. I recently watched a video of Baba Ramdev on television. The 'guru' seemed visibly irked by allopathic medicine. Calling allopathy stupid, he claimed that modern medicine has failed to make significant progress during CoVID-19. This became fodder for memes on social media, and I chuckled a little. But I came back to a distant relative sharing a message about corona virus being a

conspiracy on WhatsApp, only to realize that we are almost above stupidity because we are almost prey to it. My 86-year-old grandmother sighs watching the news every day. She knows more about geo-politics than I do, and sometimes I feel better for it. On other days, both of us grieve the loss of time that could have been. So you see, we're both almost in denial, but we're also almost petrified. There's something strange about ambivalence and human psychology. Apparently, it is better for us to know how we feel about things, even if it's horrible, than not knowing how we feel. We're almost feeling hopeless, but we almost want to put a positive spin on 'lockdowns'. So, I tell you, breathe in your heaviest sighs and cry for time has been lost- time with your loved ones, in your school campus, with your best friends, or dancing on your graduation. When you see a stranger wailing for the loss of a loved one, do not deny yourself painful, tearful fury. You must understand that while pain and hope are not complementary, they do not have to compete with your logic to linger. You are allowed your moments of hope and laughter, and you are also allowed dreadful depression because you see, no matter the strength of an attempt, there really is no certainty

of certainty. In fact, there never was any. We've slotted our schedules on calendars, and stored salted pickles for a tomorrow that may not come. Perhaps, that is the most difficult 'almost' we're struggling with- we only almost know that tomorrow will be. But my intention of writing this piece was neither to give you tips on mental health, nor tell you that we are in for a catastrophe. The point is, if there is no certainty of certainty then there is no certainty of uncertainty either. So, maybe it is all

right that you are not okay right now, but you still want to begin your statements with "when everything is all right again". But if you do feel okay for a moment, hold on to it with a Herculean grip. Tomorrow, you can go back to feeling scared, or being angry that life may not turn out the way you planned it, or worry about the weight of the world on your shoulders. But between the time that you almost had, and a tomorrow you almost know of, today definitely is.

BIRD IN A BOX

-Donavan Figg, XI

Following the example set by highschool students, social media giants prefer to do their homework on the last day of their vacations too, apparently. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) gave a mighty task to all social media giants three months ago; 256 bit encryption or no, make messages traceable to the initiator.

Failing this, a ban would come into effect on the 26th of May 2021. The government defines "Social Media Giant" as "any interactive platform that has over 5 million (50 Lakh) active monthly users.

This task was to be accomplished by having the social media companies appoint a "Resident Nodal Grievance Redressal Officer", opening at least one physical office in any major city of their choice. The most controversial directive however was to make 256 bit (32 Byte) encrypted messages traceable to the initial sender.

Players like Instagram, Facebook, Google (Youtube and Hangouts), Whatsapp and Twitter were also told to "ensure that grievances are addressed within a reasonable time".

The new laws would also require Social Media Companies to inform beforehand if they were going to remove a certain post, and give an explanation for their stance.

MEITY Spokespeople said that this move was aimed

at combating the barrage of fake messages being passed around on these platforms. We've all heard of Whatsapp University and its barrage of fake news and misinformation all pedaled in the name of free speech. At a time when the pandemic has rural India in its grip amongst everything else the health practitioners have to also deal with people's absolute refusal to take vaccines. Most of them claim to have made up their minds from the posts they receive through Whatsapp and Youtube.

Facebook-owned WhatsApp has moved the Supreme Court in a bid to stay the ban by a period of six months - a controversial move, seeing as how Facebook Inc. has avoided legal disputes in India so far. WhatsApp says "Making any kind of messages traceable would require reprogramming that would seriously disrupt any promises of privacy protection we've made to our consumers." The Government of India in its argument to the Supreme Court has cited multiple examples where Whatsapp has been used as a platform to incite masses to violence and disruption. The Government

stated clearly that no right or freedom can take precedence over national security. Seen as a stalling tactic by Whatsapp, the days ahead will prove to be a landmark and may well become the way forward for countries across the world in their dealings with Social Media giants.



Illustration: Tanisha Bhadra

STORYTELLER

Mrs. Edoni

-Kekhriesino Meyase, XI

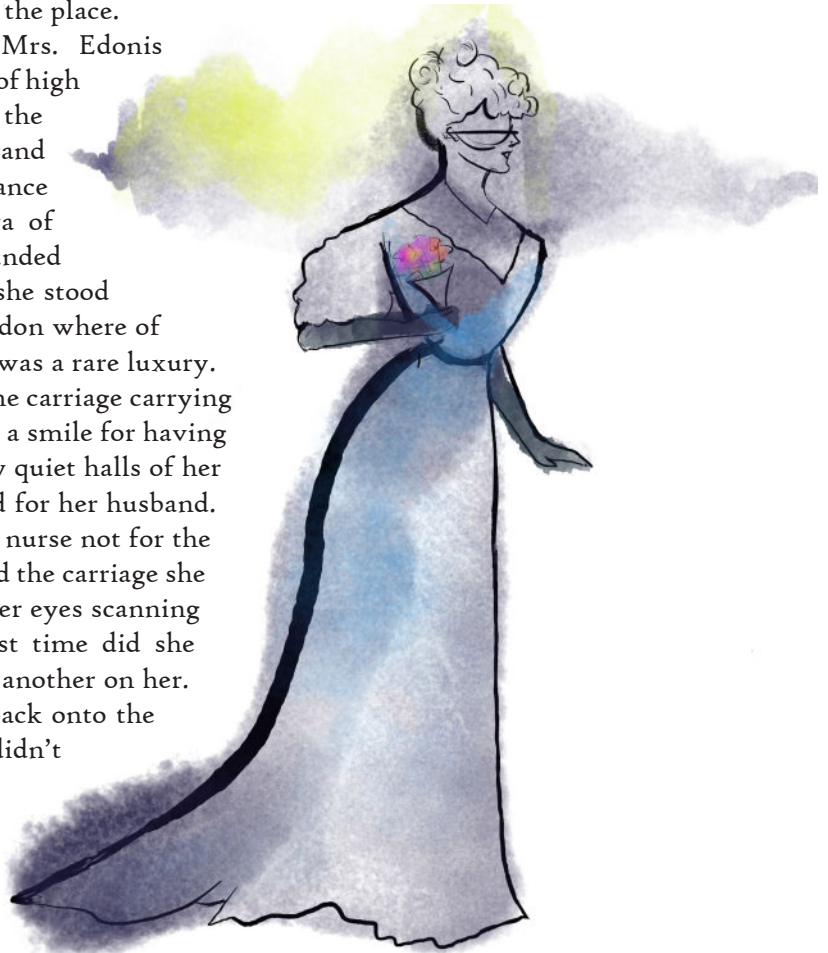
To walk through the garden every morning at exactly four thirty am, to have her hair up in a neat braided bun every time she walks out of her room, to have her working husband's lunch ready by six o'clock every day, Mrs Edonis was nothing but the most painfully perfect wife.

Sometimes she would dare try and go out of their well gated compound in hopes to stumble into someone she knew, only to be disappointed from the lack of acquaintances she failed to make in her vicinity in the last ten years since she had been married.

Mrs Edonis had promised her husband, she'd buy the gifts herself. With her long brunette hair clipped neatly into a bun and a bonnet on her head, she makes her way to the horse carriage waiting for her. Mrs Edonis would always pause, smile and thank the coachman, a habit of courtesy she couldn't shake off. Her elegant body fitted into a wide skirt and a tightly fitted corset to narrow her waist, with the sleeves of her bodices peaking at the shoulders, she walked into the sea of people, not for the first time that week.

Mrs Edonis has done this many times. Out by herself in the midst of other men and women, seeking for what her husband desired. Black gloves covering her slender fingers, a reticule around her wrist and her foot covered with black heels made out of leather, she strolled into stores, as though she owned the place.

To a complete stranger, Mrs. Edonis would come across as a lady of high birth given to the ways of the aristocrats treasured by husband and family. Her elegance did not quiet hide the aura of innocence that still surrounded her. In this regard perhaps she stood out in the bustling 1898 London where of all commodities, innocence was a rare luxury. She made her way back to the carriage carrying back with her a bouquet and a smile for having made the outing. The empty quiet halls of her home waited like she waited for her husband. But that was only for her to nurse not for the world to see. Having reached the carriage she paused and turned around her eyes scanning the crowd. Not for the first time did she sense the persistent stare of another on her. She hesitated but climbed back onto the safety of the carriage. She didn't notice me, like I knew she wouldn't. Regardless of her confidence and her perceptiveness, she never noticed.



Eyes On AI

-Raghav Agarwal, XI

It's no surprise that there is a significant digital element present in all of our lives right now. In that process to get here. There were numerous leaps that were made, and as for a matter of fact, the handset computers we hold in our hands today are far more advanced than previously. For example the state of technology today is a trillion times more powerful than of 50 years ago. For some perspective, if you take a 10 rupee note and stack a trillion of them, it will be enough to go from the surface of the earth to the international space station and back again 125 times over.

If you are someone born in the 21st century, it is almost stereotypical to think that technology is going to take us to stupendous heights in the future, but there are also some horrendous impacts. A study suggests that if you take a baby from 50,000 years ago and raise it today, there will be a negligible difference in how the child turns out to be because human intelligence in the last 50,000 years has barely budged. Humanity has built some incredible things as time unfolded, but the individual brain power has remained the same. This brain power has started to diminish, our reliability on calculators and other many powerful applications have started to ebb off our intelligence in a very subtle way. For a more physical example, without fire and tools to cut down raw meat, our ancestor's jaws were far wider and powerful than our own. The same can be applied to our brains also.

Technology can lead us to the finest of times but can also

easily turn those into the darkest. All these revolutions that our race has come through, from the age of fire or the dawn of electricity, it came at a cost that we did not foresee. Then if all these seem so precarious, why are we even moving towards them? Well, we are just being human, and human minds are never satisfied. Our minds are super-efficient when it comes to thinking, but the bottlenecks come when we try to communicate, so

“WISDOM CANNOT BE GRANTED, IT MUST BE EARNED, SOMETIMES AT A COST”

-PETER CULLEN

we have to be cautious when taking decisions regarding science and technology.

AI is uncharted territory, and is extremely prone to turning nemesis to our cause. People say AI can never be more powerful than the one who created it, but we have to take this fact into account; AI was created by the brightest minds of our generation, and everything from the discovery of fire and the dawn of electricity has led up to this point.

We have to take each step with extreme heed for this revolution to not go wrong.

THE OUTPOST

The call for 'transparent probe' grows as the scientific community becomes convinced of the Covid19 being lab made. The country finds relief as positivity rates drop even as numbers of cured rise. The post-poll violence in Bengal continues even as it readies itself along with Odisha for Cyclone Yaas to make a landfall. Two-time Olympic medalist Sushil Kumar arrested by the police on charges of murder of a fellow wrestler bringing his career to a possible halt. The Government takes on the big techs and Twitter's India office is raided for non-compliance which could bring tweets to a screeching halt.

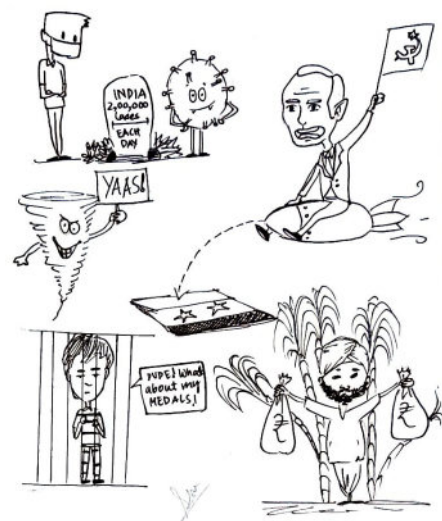


Illustration: Ssara Jha

Lower School Inter House English Debates

The Grand Finale was held on the 20th of May. The virtual debate competition had four students each from Boroli-Lohit and Jinari-Manas with the blue team speaking in favour of the motion and the red team speaking from the opposition. The jury included esteemed teachers Mr. Tushar Bharadwaj, DAMA, Ms. Joyce MacDonald HLS, and Mrs. Priyankoo Kashyap HSM, Dhansiri. Eyes sparkled with anticipation as Mr. Watts, Master In-Charge of The Athenaeum, the Society for English Debating and Global Awareness began his speech. The motion was lost, crowning Jinari-Manas as the winner, and Boroli- Lohit as the runners up, both second time in a row. Aakansha Kumar received the title of the 'Most Promising Speaker' while Ahsash Agarwal was awarded the 'Best Speaker'.

Inter-House Lower School Quiz

The Inter-House Lower School Quiz was held on the 18th of May 2021 by the Ai/c's Ms. Pamela J. Syiemlieh and Mrs. Indra R Mahanta. Each House was represented by two members who came together to contest the multiple rounds.

The event came to an end with Jinari- Manas lifting the trophy followed Subansiri -Namdang as Runners up while the third position was shared by Kopili-Dhansiri and Boroli- Lohit. Mrs. Debjani Nath and Mr. Bijan Panigrahi were the score keepers of the event.

Online M-Quiz

The Department of Mathematics organized the Math Quiz for quizzing enthusiasts on the 17th of May. The event saw 16 students participate along with four teachers. The trophy was won by Team B led by Mr. Umesh Singh, Department of Physics, Vasuman Lohia -Class 12, Chesta Nowal Class 11, Gunming Phassang - Class 10, Krishna Agarwal - Class 9.

Lower School Individual Online Hindi Elocution Competition

The Lower School Individual Online Hindi Elocution Competition was held on the 9th of May and saw participation of thirty-eight performers. The results were as follows:

Class -5

1st: Aanvi Ghosh
2nd: Jignasa Bora
3rd: Avntika Khesra
Consolation Prize: Bhavya Chandak

Class-6

1st: Shambhavi Chauhan
2nd: Ananya Yadav
3rd: Shabahat Sabir Ansari
Consolation Prize: Adrika Dey

Class-7

1st: Tanay Pansari & Jeevitesh Agarwala
2nd: Deepshikha Nath
3rd: Jhalak Todi
Consolation Prize: Anushree Singh

Class-8

1st: Aanya P Sarkar
2nd: Ahona Chowdhury
3rd: Pratham Hawelia
Consolation Prize: Shirin Jaiswal

Algebra Workshop

The Mathematics department organized a workshop on 'ALGEBRA' for classes 6 and 7 on the 21st May, 2021 at 3:30 pm over the digital platform. A total of 27 students participated in the event. The interactive workshop covered introduction of algebra, algebraic expression and saw participants enthusiastically solving algebra pyramids.



The Quarantine Watchlist

Ripple #163

-Marwati Imsong, XII

*Confined inside an
interim Chassis*

*Exposed to a desolate
terrain*

*He felt the powerful
engine stir rearing to go.*

*He smiled. He now felt
like the Creator.*

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:

DYNASTY: This TV series follows two wealthy families settled in America and how they leverage control over their families and the lives of their children.

SWEET MAGNOLIAS: A wholehearted and coming-of-age drama that centers around three South Carolina women, best friends since high school, as they shepherd each other through the complexities of romance, career, and family.

KIM'S CONVENIENCE: This show tells the funny and heartfelt story of the misadventures of a Korean-Canadian family running a convenience store. A hilarious sitcom to lift up the mood.

NATSUME YUJINCHOU: A wonderful slice-of-life anime that touches on aspects of loneliness and fitting in that one could relate to. With gorgeous art and the touch of Japanese folklore, this anime will not dissappoint.

Keep It Reel!

True Blue

-Mr. Tapas Das, Department of Mathematics

Editor-in-Chief: Tanisha Bhadra

Deputy Editor: Moom Lego

Correspondents: Neelabh, Marwati, Raseen, Donovan, Ojas & Lavanya

Design & Layout: Moom Lego & Tanisha Bhadra

Illustrator: Eloziini Senachena, Karun Thapa & Ssara Jha

Mistress-in-Charge: Ms. Sarmistha Paul Sarkar

Publisher: The Assam Valley School, P.O. Balipara, Dist. Sonitpur, Asom-784101, India

E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

Telephone: 09678074320/08812009627 Website: www.assamvalleyschool.com

Patron: Dr. Vidhukesh Vimal, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School