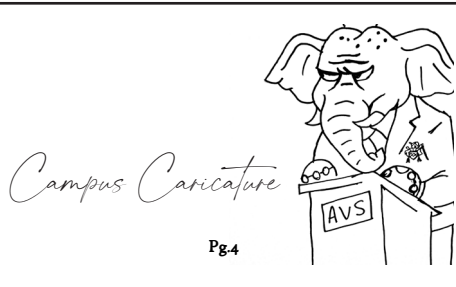


Pg. 3



Pg.4



Pg. 6

Gorbachev: Saint or Sinner?

-Gungming Phassang, XI

Illustration: Imnalemla Imchen, XI



Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev was a Russian and Soviet politician who served as the last leader of the Soviet Union from 1985 to the country's dissolution in 1991. He served as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1985 and additionally as head of state beginning in 1988, as Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet from 1988 to 1989, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet from 1989 to 1990 and the only President of the Soviet Union from 1990 to 1991.

Gorbachev died in 2022 after a period of illness. Widely considered one of the most significant figures of the second half of the 20th century, Gorbachev remains the subject of controversy. To the West he was a hero, but in his own country he was blamed for the humiliating collapse of the Soviet Union. For all the adulation he inspired in the West, Mikhail Gorbachev was a tragic figure who failed in the historic mission he had defined for his own country. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for the leading role he played in the radical changes in East-West relations” as quoted by The Nobel Prize Organization. Gorbachev was responsible for bringing the Cold War to a peaceful end. Gorbachev sought détente so as to be able to transfer funding from defense to civil society. He declared that he would not support Communist regimes in other countries if their people were opposed to them. He

thus started a chain reaction which led to the fall of communism in Europe.

Grachev, a Russian Army General and the Defense Minister of the Russian Federation from 1992 to 1996 said in an interview, "There is a contrast between the view of him from the inside and outside Russia. After all, it was Russian society that had to pay for the totality of the cost of the transition, while the West could profit from the benefits."

In the three decades since his fall from power, Russia has judged Gorbachev harshly. Russians have long been accustomed to viewing him as a weak leader who was

duped by the West. Many still blame him for the collapse of the Soviet Union. The Kremlin's refusal to declare a state funeral reflects its uneasiness about the legacy of Gorbachev, who has been venerated worldwide for bringing down the Iron Curtain but reviled by many at home for the Soviet collapse and the ensuing economic meltdown that plunged millions into poverty. It will not be incorrect to say that Gorbachev was a saint for the western world but a sinner in the eyes of Russians. Currently, it looks like this narrative is not going to change anytime soon.

WOMEN IN POP MUSIC: TAYLOR SWIFT

-Hana Ahmed, XI

Who does not know Taylor Swift? Blonde hair and striking blue eyes whose songs have lyrics that are sheer poetry. Her songs are for every season and reverberate with people of all ages although she remains a youth icon. The question that quizzes most who are not 'Taylordle' is: what made Taylor so special that she remained for her fans so much more than just a pop-star?

Winner of numerous Grammy and Billboard awards, Taylor Swift is a 32-year-old woman with a fandom across all ages. One wonders what made this seemingly unsuspecting country singer so iconic to the youth today. To receive a justifiable answer, one would have to listen to her songs. She has the ability to reach out and connect to her ever-growing audience with her music and her flamboyant personality. Swift's lyrics are magnetic- unfiltered, authentic and ubiquitously heartfelt. From guilt to pleasure to anger to horror to love- she has covered all emotions, creating a haven of validation. The University of Texas is even offering an undergraduate course studying her lyrics- "The Taylor Swift Songbook" this fall as part of its Liberal Arts Honours program. Swift has a brain that is commercially wired and is brilliant at marketing her art.

She is an industry by herself which has been producing over the decade chartbusters from which has born the adage that Taylor is Pop Music and Pop Music is Taylor Swift. They are synonymous to each other. She is talented and that is beyond doubt, but what remains her most telling character is her writing. She speaks in metaphors, interweaves literary references from icons such as Hemingway, and frames them in catchy lines. She is an engaging storyteller. "We do dwell in this world where women in entertainment are abandoned in an elephant graveyard by the time they're 35", she commented in a documentary. Taylor has established her activism on social media platforms, which is an unwritten selling point for artists today. It compliments her outspoken and communicative attitude. People don't just want good singers; people want good humans. She is an icon who has helped women claim a place in a music industry where they have been traditionally ignored. With Taylor Swift, the age of women in music has reached meteoric heights. And that is where it plans to keep going. To the top.

ORPHEUS

-Devansh Agarwal, IX

There are stories and then there are lores that become part myth and part history. Whatever their origin, they never fail to fuel human imagination. One such story is that of Orpheus of ancient Thrace, born to the Thracian king by the Muse Calliope. The god Apollo took to Orpheus and gave him a little lyre and taught him to play it.

Orpheus grew up to be a poet and musician such as the world had never known. His music grew magical by the day and he enthralled the living as he did the dead.

People started following him; men and women, boys and girls – particularly girls. He travelled from place to place singing his songs. While his audience changed constantly there remained one, who he had begun to recognise no matter the crowd. She was slender with a face that had begun to etch itself in his mind.

The day they finally spoke, she said she was Eurydice and wanted nothing but to love him even though she could not hope for him to love her back. This is something a man likes to hear at any age, especially a poet. He knew he had many choices, but he chose to marry her.

They lived happily and Orpheus remained consumed with Eurydice such that he found very little time for his music or his patrons. Rumours had it that he had been enchanted by a sorceress who kept him chained to her side. Amongst Orpheus's patrons was Aristeus, the king of Athens, and Apollo's son. He wanted Orpheus back at his court and found his absence a mark of disrespect

to his might. So, one day, Aristeus waited for Eurydice to come out of her house and charged at her. Eurydice tried desperately to save herself but stepped on a snake-pit and died even before she fell. Orpheus only found her at dusk, and was blinded by grief.

Unable to deal with her death Orpheus decided to enter the underworld to bring back Eurydice. There he passed the river Styx and sang the three headed dog Cerebrus to sleep. He met Hades and his Queen and played for them his lyre and sang till they were so enraptured that they gave him his wish. But as boons go, this too came with a twist. He was told that the spirit of Eurydice would follow him everywhere but would stay a step behind him. If he ever turned around to look at her, she would leave him and return to the world of the dead. Orpheus was delighted for he realised he would rather live with her presence than with her absence.

As time passed, Orpheus began to doubt the boon of Hades for who could truly trust the whimses of a god?

In a moment of doubt, Orpheus turned around to look for Eurydice. He found her walking behind him. The moment he reached out to her, her hand turned to smoke and her body turned to mist. Eurydice's smile faded from her slender face and she was blown away back to the crevasse of the underworld.

THE OUTPOST

President Zelensky began the week with the news that Ukraine has turned the tide of the war and had the Russian army on the backfoot in the Kharkiv region. Princess Anne, known as the most hardworking royal, created history by standing in silent vigil for her mother Elizabeth II along with her brothers. Mamata Banerjee faced a gherao over blatant corruption in her government as violence broke out in Kolkata. PM Modi unveiled the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the new Kartavya Path in celebration of 75th year of Indian Independence doing away with colonial symbolism.

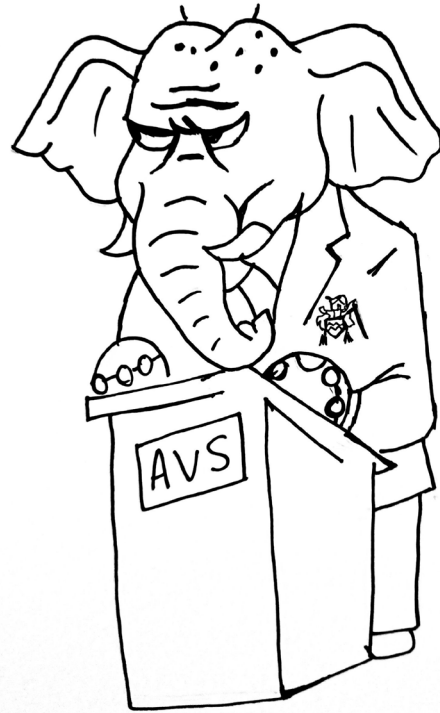


Illustration: Sara Jha, XI

Campus Caricature

THE MOTION HAS BEEN PASSED

-Siddhi Gupta, X



Introducing

The Assam Valley School welcomes Ms. Mitali Ghosh as a new Sunnyside teacher. AVE represented by Neilginryan Das And Aanya Paul Sarkar got to have chat with her.

AVE: How would you like to contribute to The Assam Valley School?

MTG: In all possible ways. Being young and full of energy, I am sure AVS SUNNYSIDE will benefit from me. I love to be with little ones and this job profile demands that. Wherever possible I would like to help the AVS community to reach greater heights.

AVE: What philosophy do you live by?

MTG: Be honest and true to yourself.

AVE: If you were an Aviator, what house would you like to be in?

MTG: It's difficult to choose a house as a teacher because for me every house is the same, however since my favorite color is red, I would like to be with JINARI-MANAS.

AVE: What are you expecting from your tenure here at AVS?

MTG: As a teacher I want to collaborate with other teachers. Everyone should value each other's opinions. I want my colleagues to share best practices and offer

advice as this is the beginning of my career. I want to have some of my best memories in AVS and I am sure I will be able to make them.



ASSAM STATE TAEKWONDO CHAMPIONSHIP

AVS students participated in the Assam State Taekwondo Championship 2022(37th Kyourgi and 9th Poomsae) held at the Adhayeswari H.S & M.P School from the 17th to 20th July 2022 under Bongaigaon District Taekwondo Association. The winners at the Kyourgi category to win the Bronze Medal were:

1. Suvechha Borah, (Class 7)
2. Eeksha Saikia, (Class 7)



JOURNEY OF TABLA IN ASSAM

We are proud to share that, Mr. Pranjal Baruah, Head of Percussions at the AVS Music School, got a special mention as a disciple of Ustaad Zulfiqar Hussain in author Sukumar Barthakur latest book “Journey of Tabla in Assam”. Many congratulations to Mr. Baruah and family.

EAST INDIA DEBATES

The 17th East India Debates were conducted from the 8th of September to the 11th of September. The debates were held online this year and saw participation from 19 schools across the country. The finals saw a clash of titans between The Lawrence School, Sanawar and The Sanskaar Valley School. The iconic trophy this year was lifted by The Lawrence School. The EID Team led by the Mi/C Ms. Ishita Malhotra and the Debating Captain Hiyaneijemmy Das held fort and put up a tremendous show.



INTERHOUSE CRICKET TOURNAMENT



Results at a glance:

- 1st Position: Lohit
- 2nd Position: Namdang
- 3rd Position: Manas & Dhansiri

NATIONAL CADET CORPS

National Cadet Corps (Airforce Unit) has arrived at The Assam Valley School. AVS will now host its first NCC Unit with a maiden batch of 35 cadets. The students in addition to the NCC training will learn Aeromodelling and will get the opportunity to fly a Microlight Trainer



Aircraft. Mr. Samuel Daniel David, post a two-month training at the Air Force Station at Trivandrum, was made Third Officer at NCC. Many congratulations to Mr. David and we wish him the very best in his enterprise to train and lead the first AVS NCC Unit.

TED ED IN ASSAM VALLEY SCHOOL

Under the guidance of Mr. Samuel Daniel David, AVS has acquired the TED ED license which will allow the school to organise TED ED programmes for the students. Aviators will now have the benefit of instructors from across the globe who will conduct workshops over diverse topics. The programme will also see students interact and collaborate with TED ED clubs of schools from across the globe and develop original content for the TED ED channel.

Ripple #191

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, IX

*The cathedral tainted with age,
Where choirs once sang grace
Gypsies came and gypsies left.
But he stayed, abandoned.
In the shadows of La Ville,
Lumiere
Freak! Labeled inhuman,
Yet more humane there was
none than,
Quasimodo, the Hunchback of
Notre Dame.*

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "They are what they is." -Adella Massar, XII (I know what you are: pretty dumb.)
2. "I bed on the sleep." -Tanveer Ahmed, IX (You're sleeping on some real education.)
3. "I want to eat some water." -Hiyaneijemmy Das, XII (The Assamese in you is showing.)
4. "I was chair on the sitting." - Tanish Hansaria, XII (The only kind of Chairperson you'll ever be.)
5. "Submit your lights out." - Neilginryan Das, IX (And you've submitted your brains, haven't you?)

Keep It Reel!

Pages and Glances

-Awanya Jasrasaria, XI



Editor-in-Chief: Kekhriesino Meyase

Deputy Editor: Hiyaneijemmy Das

Correspondents: Ssara, Hana, Emidaka & Deubale

Design & Layout: Kekhriesino Meyase

Photography Credits: The Photography Society

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. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



The views expressed in articles printed are the authors' own and do not necessarily reflect those of AVE or its editorial policy.