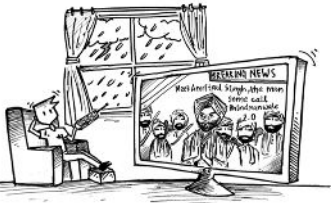


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The Hills
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world

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Deception. Death. Democracy.

-Hiyaneijemmy Das,
Deputy Editor,
2022-2023

Next year in 2024, I vote for the first time in my life and I've just been told democracy in India is under attack. Less than three minutes into Rahul Gandhi's Cambridge lecture, the first slide reads, "Indian Democracy Under Attack". He asserts that dissenters and opponents are arbitrarily jailed, harassed, and spied on. This eloquent tirade is followed by an account of his Bharat Jodo Yatra and one hopes he knows that such a 'Yatra' would never take place in Russia or China- and no, it won't simply be because of the word 'Bharat'. Unemployment is high, opponents and journalists are arbitrarily arrested, and trust in basic democratic institutions has dipped. The irony is, I agree with a lot of things 'RaGa' says. After all, shouldn't an opposition leader be continuously lighting the proverbial fire under the government? The raging, flushed faces of BJP members on television news debates don't help the matter for me, I can't help laughing and shaking my head multiple times. Surely, there has to be a better way to debate and discourse than this? Than incoherent debates dominated by shrieking BJP party members and unintelligible responses by the Congress spokespeople. These are my pickings when I vote next year? When the BJP faces a united opposition, it generally loses in state elections, the AAP and TMC being prominent examples. Wait, why isn't RaGa campaigning here in India, then? Where is the concrete resolution from his epic yatra? Rallying in Meghalaya might have done him more good than yawning in armchairs in Chatham House. Fierce, convincing leadership and a strong agenda might work better than pointing fingers. What he must understand is that he will always be heard (look at how he's riled so many already) because he is a citizen and a leader of the largest democracy in the world. To criticise, he must participate in our democracy as well. To speak up, he must show up. To make a change and fight for power, he must make clear what he wishes to change. Populist campaigns sound nice but fail in office, as is the case for the Congress now. The BJP government has a myriad of shortcomings, but if its alternative is a party with a negative and flimsy agenda, led by a man who fails to confront his opponents, then I'd be hard pressed to find confidence in a change in power. Rahul Gandhi is right. But he's a politician, and politicians don't thrive being right, they thrive proving the other side wrong. He is yet to do so. I look for confidence on the other end, and well... am greeted with red, enraged faces cawing the most vehement objections. I guess I'll sit and read some more before I make up my mind. After all, I can't be walking around next year with indelible ink on my finger for nothing. Right?

AROUND THE WORLD

-Deubale Meru, XII, Deputy Editor

Figure Skating is a sport in which ice skaters, alone or in pairs, perform dances, jumps, spins, and footwork in a graceful manner. It is a sport of elegance and beauty. Figure skating is a competitive sport in which artistic poise and precision are required. Producing an aesthetically pleasing performance necessitates a high level of athletic and technical skill. The Dutch were arguably the first skaters. As early as the 13th century, they used canals to communicate by skating from village to village. Skating eventually made its way across the channel to England, where the first clubs and artificial rinks sprouted up. By the 1850s, the sport had some significant developments. Edward Bushnell, introduced steel-bladed skates which allowed for easier complex maneuvers and turns. Jackson Haines, a ballet master in the 1860s, added ballet and dance elements to give the sport its grace. The sport was first included in the Summer Olympic Games in 1908 before being added to the Winter Games in 1924. Short and long (also known as free figure skating) programmes last between 2:30 and 4 minutes and require both athletic ability and artistic expression. The sport has produced outstanding athletes such as Yuzuru Hanyu and Alexandra Vyacheslavovna Trusova. The level of athleticism continued to rise as figure skating entered the twenty-first century. Top skaters, on the other hand, only achieved success by combining difficult jumps with artistic and elegant skating. Some believe that, as the emphasis on jumps grows, good skating is dwindling. Figure skating provided excellent training in balance, but today, very few skaters practice figures; a typical eligible skater may appear awkward in comparison to the best ineligible performers, despite having superior jumping skills. In the past the sport was adored with skaters such as Madge Syers, who was the first woman to participate in a world championship event, and Karl Emil Julius Ulrich Salchow, who won the World Figure Skating Championships ten times, from 1901 to 1905, and from 1907 to 1911. Skaters such as Yuzuru Hanyu and Alexandra Vyacheslavovna Trusova have recently emerged as some of the sport's greatest skaters of the twenty-first century.

ICE SKATING



Illustration: Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XII

The Oscars

-Neilginryan Das, X

The most prestigious Hollywood film ceremony, the Oscars were held on the 13th of March this year. 'Everything Everywhere At Once' a mad comic rush across the multiverse won the Best Picture Award with American actor Ke Huy Quan, winning Best Performance Male in a Leading Role. Michelle Yeoh, won the award for Best Performance by a Female in a Leading Role and created history by becoming the first actor who identified as an Asian, to do so. Jamie Lee Curtis won the award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role. This year's award ceremony was more special, because it had three entries from India. Shaunak Sen's All That Breathes and Kartiki Gonsalves's The Elephant Whisperers, were nominated for the best documentary short awards respectively. SS Rajamouli's masterpiece RRR, scored one for best original song for MM Keeravaani's composition Naatu Naatu. Of the three, The Elephant Whisperers and Naatu Naatu won the coveted statues making it a wonderful stint for India at the Oscars this year.

Peace in EU

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

The catastrophe that is the Russia-Ukraine war was never confined to these two countries alone. Europe appears to be divided as people have taken to the streets with anguish in their eyes, carrying EU and NATO flags that scream of protest. The financial burden of supporting the war has taken its toll on the people. From sky high gas prices to the threat of a nuclear war, the Europeans have taken to the streets to ask their governments to seek a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict. The popular opinion on the streets of Europe wants NATO to stop supplying weapons to Ukraine. They are demanding peace talks be set up to settle the conflict at the earliest. The people want a diplomatic settlement to this conflict. The question is whether they will get one. While NATO will not back down from the fear of appearing weak, Russia looks upon this war as an existential threat. This leaves the European governments in a pickle and only time will tell how far they will compromise the needs of their own to fuel a war that refuses to relent.

The ED and the Opposition

-Zaheen Shah, X

The Enforcement Directorate is on the lookout for financial misappropriation made by anyone even remotely related to the Opposition. The political class has certain unspoken agreements with one another, one of which is the use of state machinery such as the CBI and ED by the party in power. It is a given that anyone in the Opposition today will use the same devices of the states to counter any competition they face, when and if they come to power. The BJP is playing the Opposition against each other making sure that they remain occupied in their own woes rather pose any challenge to it at the Centre. The imprisonment of Manish Sisodia will compel Kejriwal to pause his Prime Ministerial ambitions. Mamata Bannerjee is caught in her own web of lies. K. Kavitha, daughter of Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, faces questioning over funds even as her father hopes to lead a coalition against PM Modi.

Saudi-Arabia Iran Treaty

-Tanveer Ahmed, X

The two regional rivals, Saudi Arabia, and Iran, re-established their diplomatic relations with each other through a signed treaty brokered by China. The diplomats of both the countries stated that "The agreement includes their affirmation of the respect for the sovereignty of states and the non-interference in internal affairs." The agreement was a result of an initiative taken by the Chinese president aimed at 'developing good neighbourly relations'. China did this to strengthen its oil-trade bonds. Saudi Arabia severed previous ties between the two countries in 2016 when a Shi'ite Muslim cleric was executed in Riyadh. Three years later, there were a series of missile and drone attacks on Saudi's oil facilities which were blamed on Iran. According to the current terms of the agreement, both countries have two months to establish embassies and re-establish ties. This is a blow to America's hegemony and a sample of China's growing global power.

A Review: The obsession

-Lomika Benjamin, XII

Everyone works hard to better their craft and themselves in any way they can. Films like Whiplash and Black Swan show how the pursuit of perfection in one's own craft is a slow spiral wrought with hardship. Both protagonists in the film are afraid of mediocrity and strive for greatness, willing to sacrifice everything to be the best of the best in their respective disciplines. In Whiplash, Andrew endures harsh treatment due to his instructor's high standards, practicing until his fingers bleed, forgoing a faint promise of a relationship in his quest for greatness. In the Black Swan, Nina puts her body through much pain that she loses her grip of reality and identity in order to become the lead role. Their desperate pursuit of perfection drives them to jeopardize their mental and, in some cases, physical health in order to achieve



greatness. The fear of mediocrity, of becoming the fading star, drives them to strive for perfection. Their pursuit of greatness is a slow spiral wrought with hardship. Both protagonists in the film are afraid of mediocrity and strive for greatness, willing to sacrifice everything to be the best of the best in their respective disciplines. In Whiplash, Andrew endures harsh treatment due to his instructor's high standards, practicing until his fingers bleed, forgoing a faint promise of a relationship in his quest for greatness. In the Black Swan, Nina puts her body through much pain that she loses her grip of reality and identity in order to become the lead role. Their desperate pursuit of perfection drives them to jeopardize their mental and, in some cases, physical health in order to achieve

Illustration: Immalemma Imchen, XII

Their moment in glory becomes the raging testimony of their devotion to their craft despite what it cost them. And perhaps therein lies the essence of art.

Folktales: Chapter X

Tales of the Dodum Village

-Taka Dodum, XII

This story is from the Arunachal Pradesh village of Dodum. There was a boy named Kyolo, and his grandfather had once beaten up the shaman's son, causing the shaman to curse his grandchildren to be born abnormally. As a result, Kyolo was born with enlarged canine teeth, speech impairment, and was a little slow-witted; however, he was known to be physically strong. His father had taught him how to fish, and it was one of the things he excelled at. When his father became ill one night and there was no one to bring home food, he was forced to go to

the river to fish. It was during this time that he was greeted by an old man dressed in the traditional attire of shamans. The old man asked Kyolo for an ember from his flame so he could start his own fire. Kyolo was large hearted and readily agreed to share embers from his fire. After a few minutes, the old man returned asking for more embers, and Kyolo complied again. This went on for three more times, with Kyolo complying each time. By this time however, he had become



Illustration: Gaurish Sathia, X

suspicious of the old man and decided to follow him. Kyolo made it to his house and lived long enough to tell his family about the shaman. The next morning he was discovered dead with foam coming out of his mouth. His teeth had elongated to large canines. They remain preserved in the Dodum village to this day. It is believed that the shaman's spirit continues to haunt the fishermen of the village. It is advised that if a gradually growing shadow of a man is seen on the water while fishing, the fisherman should not turn back, or they would not live to tell the tale.

The Lone Man

-Nivaan Lal Baruah, VIII

Peter was a young man who lived in the outskirts of Dehradun, Uttarakhand. He was shy and an introvert. His dream was to settle in Switzerland one day with his parents. He tended to avoid crowds and preferred his own company, so his mother worried about his mental health and wanted Peter to see a counsellor. His father understood Peter better and convinced his mother that he was a healthy man who saw the world differently. Peter was a gifted writer and wrote stories and poems. Two years later, Peter completed writing a book he named 'The Lone Man'. Neither he nor did his parents realise that their lives were about to change. Peter had published an extract from his book in the newspaper. It was appreciated and received positive feedbacks. This encouraged Peter to continue writing and publishing his work. His parents, now aware of his talent and his interest began to post his work on social media which brought him more attention. Peter

now began to be approached by many publishing houses. Before he knew it, he was approached by filmmakers for his scripts. He began to write scripts as well as screenplays for various movies. His movies began to do very well and eventually he won the award for the best scriptwriter, and was voted as India's most promising young writer. He also became an inspiration for the younger generation. Despite being an introvert Peter began to give interviews and attend social events for his books. His parents were as proud of his achievements as they were of him. Peter fulfilled his life's dream and brought a property in Switzerland, where he settled along with his parents. His mother realised that all her son needed in his growing up years was her support. It made her happy that as parents they had done right by their son and had supported him through all his endeavours.

Campus Caricature

Little Joys

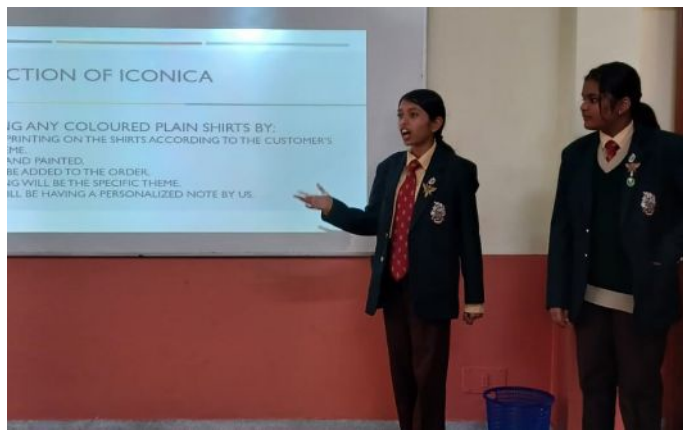
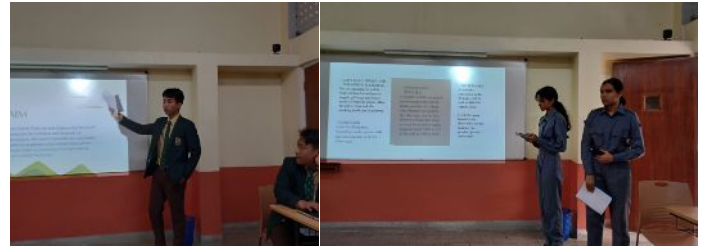
-Imnalemla Imchen, XII



CAMPUS NEWS

InHouse Business Idea

The Assam Valley School organized its first-ever In-House B-Idea under the aegis of the Department of Commerce. It saw students conceptualize, collaborate, and create new business ideas and present them to the audience. The event was a success and saw interesting concepts on sustainability come to the fore.



Madras Regiment Visit



AVS has long held a warm relationship with the army. On March 18th, Major Baljinder Singh of the Madras Regiment visited the school to speak to the 12th graders about the various opportunities offered by the armed forces. He proposed a special, no-cost course for a select group of students to prepare them to take the NDA exam. The presentation gave the students a good understanding of a career in the armed forces.



Doctor Of Philosophy

The Socrates Social Research University granted a scholarship of merit and an honorary degree of 'Doctor of Philosophy' to Ms. Lipika Borah in recognition to her extensive work and contribution to social service. She was awarded the degree on 18th March 2023 at the Constitution Club of India, Delhi. The occasion was graced by Mr. Brijlal, a Member of Rajya Sabha and Padma Shree Subhadra Devi. Ms. Borah, heads the AVS Social Service League and has been associated with service for the past 15 years. Under her leadership the AVS Social Service League have brought to fruition many projects including pavement construction at Khelmati bazaar, awareness camps on Menstrual hygiene, free health camps, 'Anaemia mukt bharat Abhiyaan - awareness campaign for women, organizing blood donation camps, and upgradation of the KGMT school.



Bidding adieu

It is difficult to find a competent and skilled teacher like you. I consider myself really fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet you. With your perseverance and endurance, you have inspired us to take pride in our studies. May you continue to guide and inspire those around you! We appreciate everything you've done for the class and send you our best wishes.

- Karan Ngatey Gam, Dhansiri House Prefect

Mrs. Kamalica Bhowmick, leaves AVS after 6 years of service. Her tenure as Head of Geography will be remembered for its brilliant Board results which made it a popular subject amongst the pupil community.



THE OUTPOST

With the Silicon Valley Bank going bust, Credit Suisse is saved from a similar fate by a fellow Swiss bank. The possibility of a world financial crisis looms large. In the midst of G20 flurry, Japan's PM Kishida lands in Delhi and an Indo- Pacific plan promises to be in the pipeline. Imran Khan faces arrest charges over the Toshakhana scandal even as Pakistan threatens to bubble over with economic doom and the possibility of a civil war cannot be rooted out. The Central government cracks the whip and sends Amritpal Singh, the new Bhindranwale 2.0 on the run.



Illustration: Sara Jha, XI

Ripple #203

-Abhishree Keshari, XII

The rain poured in the dim
streetlights.

You rolled your first dice and played
your first stone.

Opening to a game of GO and
welcoming the spring.

Almost like a pocket of warmth in
the fleeting winter.

Tongue Of Slip!! Slip!!

1. “You guys act like class two year olds.” - Ritudeep Deka , XII (Atleast our inner child is still alive.)
2. “They have a classroom in the desk” - Amasa D. Sangma, XII (But not a brain in your head.)
3. “Please pay the attention” - Sir Umesh Singh (How much are you willing to sell sir?.)
4. “From inside why is your head so outside” - Harsita Baral (My mind exceeds the human brain.)
5. “I forgot to watch my wear” - Yukta Saikia, XII. (Much like your english .)

Keep It R

Almost summer

- Ma'am SPS



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