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Crisis In The Middle East

-Jigme Pao Tamang, XI

As the seven-day long festival of Sukkot came to an end on Saturday, a full-fledged surprise attack was launched from the air, sea and land by Hamas. Hamas' vicious assault left at least 800 dead in Israel, and could only have been possible through months or even years of preparation. Despite always keeping their eyes on Gaza with surveillance drones, a highly secured border filled with security cameras and soldiers on guard, and an intelligence agency reputed to be one of the best in the world – Israel's eyes seemed to have been blind to the build-up leading to the unprecedented onslaught by the Hamas militants operating out of Gaza.

Hamas went through great lengths to keep information from leaking: even going so far as to withhold information from everyone including their highest ranking officials, lulling the Israelis into believing that they would be satisfied with just economic benefits. Regardless of Hamas' countermeasures against information leaks, with the Mossad's reputation as a formidable intelligence agency, it is unthinkable that they had no countermeasures or information about Hamas' plot. Have they grown so complacent whilst basking in the face of their own power that they disregarded the issues within their own country or perhaps they felt that their military strength had reached the point wherein they believed, and fatally so, that they could take on Hamas' weaker but determined force.

Israel's complacency has led to hundreds of deaths, countless captives, and carnage within the Promised land. Their ineptness allowed Hamas to disable

the Israeli military' cellular communications and surveillance towers along the Gaza border, preventing the duty officers from monitoring the area remotely with cameras which proved to be fatal to the border defence. Coincidentally, this infiltration of more than 20 Israeli towns and military bases, occurred on the 50th anniversary of Israel's Yom Kippur War, resonating with Egypt and Syria's invasion in October 1973.

But in this war, the enemies come from within their country, their foes are armed with weapons far exceeding the capabilities of an average militant group, and suspicions have naturally fallen upon Iran – whose modus operandi has always been to avoid direct conflict but to act through proxies like Hamas and the Lebanon based Hezbollah. In retaliation, Israel has pounded Gaza with airstrikes and stepped up its offensive cutting off the strip from food and electricity. I pray, however, that Israel does not commit the same mistake the Americans made, and go too far, thus causing not just the loss of thousands of lives and trillions of dollars but also their moral standing in the world.

As Israel battles Hamas, queries will arise about the massive failure of Israeli intelligence; and as in the Yom Kippur War, the day of reckoning will fall upon Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government the moment the guns fall silent. In 1973, the Yom Kippur war cost PM Golda Meyer her position although her legend was made. Is this the fate awaiting Netanyahu, or will he go down in history as Israel's saviour?



Weeping Willow

-Aahil Faraj, VI

Long ago in Athens, when the Greek gods still ruled the world, there was a very mischievous man whose name was Faroant. He was rude and always cheated and stole from others as he was a demigod; a child of Hermes, the God of Thieves. Zeus finally decided to put an end to his pranks.

The God of Thunder pretended to be Hades' son and produced a magical willow tree with golden leaves. It piqued Faroant's interest, and therefore he went to the willow to "greet" his new neighbor.

"Hello, neighbour," Faroant remarked.

"Good morning," Zeus said.

"I couldn't help but notice that the leaves of your willow tree are gold!" Faroant spoke, "How have you made this great phenomenon happen?"

"My good friend," Zeus started, "my name is Ze-a, son of Hades. It is because of my parentage that I have been blessed with the ability to do this."

Faroant noticed that he didn't resemble a son of Hades at all. His eyes were vivid blue and sparked with an inner power uncharacteristic of Hades'

progeny. Even though he was unsure, he assumed Ze-a must be a son of Hades if he could conjure something so powerful from Earth. Faroant, attempting to capitalize on the situation, replied deftly, "The branch of your tree hangs over my yard, so it is mine!"

Zeus became enraged and said, "For one branch you dare say that the tree is yours? Let us proceed to the king!"

The King of Athens at the time was a very compassionate and wise man. He needed little time to figure out Ze-a's true identity and the scenario. The monarch paid attention to each of them.

After the hearing, the king issued the following decree: "Faroant, you do not own this tree, so you must not touch it, nor should you bother your neighbor about it." Nonetheless, the tree lingered in Faroant's mind and so he finally decided to cut down the tree at midnight.

He thought to himself that if he could steal the leaves and sell them, he would grow very wealthy. However, the minute Faroant touched the tree, Zeus transformed him into the world's first ant, and Faroant became the first of a species that does nothing but steal and breed!

CRICKET: A GENTLEMAN'S GAME

-Soham Agarwal, IX

Cricket, often referred to as the gentleman's sport, is a sport that has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. However, the journey to secure a place in the cricketing arena is full of hardships that test the patience of aspiring players. Cricket has long been celebrated for its sportsmanship and fair play, earning it the title of a gentleman's sport. The game demands not only physical strength but also a strong sense of respect for the rules. Players are

expected to display exemplary behaviour on and off the field, setting an example for aspiring cricketers. This unique aspect of the sport has helped cultivate a sense of honor and integrity among young players.

Despite its great reputation, cricket has also fallen victim to ridicule and mockery. In some instances, players, coaches and fans have laughed off the sport, turning it into a source of amusement rather than

admiration. Furthermore, the presence of favouritism within cricket's governing bodies has often ruined its image. The struggle for power and control has, at times, overshadowed the game's true essence. This political interference can lead to biased decisions, affecting players' chances of making it into the team and destroying the integrity of the sport.

One of the most striking examples of favoritism in cricket is seen in India, where the sport enjoys unmatched popularity. The immense demand for cricket has created intense competition for a spot in the team. While merit should ideally be the sole criterion, favoritism, nepotism, and regional

biases sometimes come into play when selecting players. This favoritism can be disheartening for talented individuals who find themselves overlooked due to factors beyond their control. In conclusion, cricket, the gentleman's sport, is not without its share of trials and tribulations.. Despite hurdles, the love for cricket continues to burn bright in the hearts of aspiring players and passionate fans alike. It is essential to preserve the values that make cricket unique while addressing the issues that spoil its reputation, ensuring that it remains a gentleman's sport for generations to come.

Folktales: Chapter XII

Hayainu's Wings

-Rianna Irom, IX

Among the ancient tales of Kangleipak, there is one of a girl named Hayainu. Her story resembles the famous fairy tale of 'Cinderella' and like most stories, begins with the death of a parent — in this case, Hayainu's mother. The girl, Hayainu, was quite young when her mother passed away. Even after his wife's death, Hayainu's father continued to dote on her and it was for her sake that he married another woman, believing that the girl should have a mother.

The woman he married seemed to be kind and loving, so the father left Hayainu in her care and traveled to the other side of the kingdom to earn. However, the woman was not as gracious as she pretended to be. Every day, she would hound Hayainu to run meaningless errands; she treated the poor girl as if she were some kind of servant. Even so, Hayainu did what was asked of her faithfully and obediently. She would do all the work in the household, go and catch fish to sell them in the market. Despite all of this, her

stepmother was still cruel towards her. There were times that the stepmother would lock Hayainu up in a room without providing her any food or drink.

One fine day, Hayainu was with her friends. They were bathing together and washing their hair with Chenghi when her stepmother rushed towards Hayainu in a rage. The evil woman had observed some cows grazing earlier, and she had thought that Hayainu had gotten careless about the fields. The woman grabbed Hayainu and dragged her back home to beat her black and blue. Tired of the abuse, Hayainu wept and wept until she eventually fell asleep. That night, she dreamt of her mother. It was in these dreams that her mother urged her to join the realm of the *Langmeidongs* (Hornbills). She told Hayainu to go down to the lake and request the flock of hornbills there for their feathers so that Hayainu could stitch them onto her body to fly away. When Hayainu awoke, she wasted no time in going

down to the lake as her birth mother asked of her in the dream. Once she arrived, Hayainu approached the hornbills and begged them for the feathers on their wings. Pitying her, the birds granted her request and Hayainu went home with a basket full of feathers.

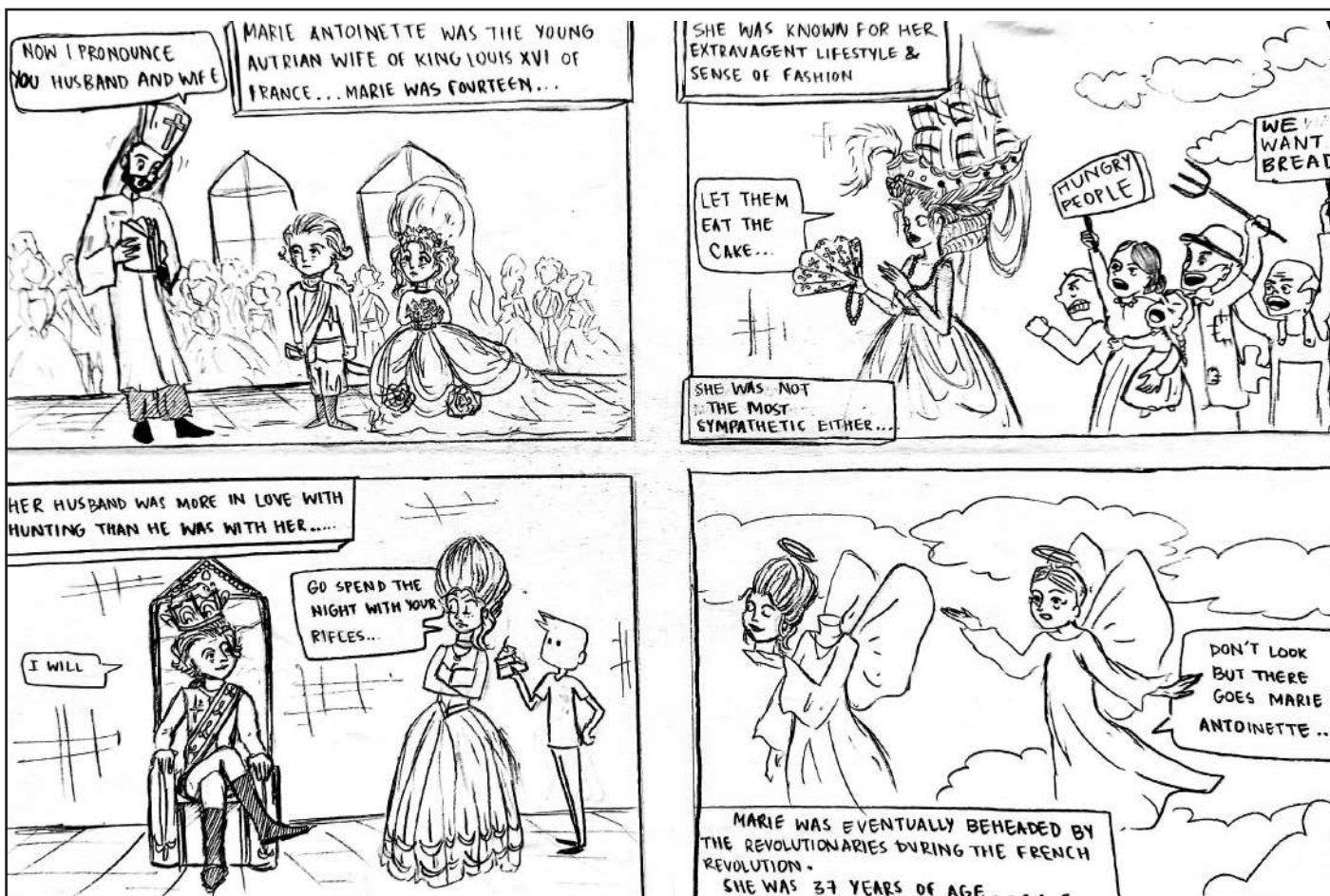
Quickly, Hayainu set to work and began to sew the feathers together. Once she was done, she ran outside with her pair of wings and called out to the hornbills. The flock responded to her call and arrived to pick her up. They carried her off of the ground and flew away with her, and Hayainu left her dreadful home behind for a new one in the sky. Hayainu's father returned home bearing gifts for his

daughter — only to find out from his wife that his precious girl had fled from home. Angered, the man chased her out of the house and called out for Hayainu to come back. Once Hayainu received word of her father's state through the hornbills, she flew back with them to tell the man that she had already found a new home. Still, her father offered her rice and called her to dine with him. He told her that things would be different from then, but the girl was stubborn as she told him that she was now a part of the hornbills. Thus, the tale comes to an end with Hayainu taking to the skies and disappearing into the horizon with her new family.

A DAY IN HISTORY

Antoinette's Troubles

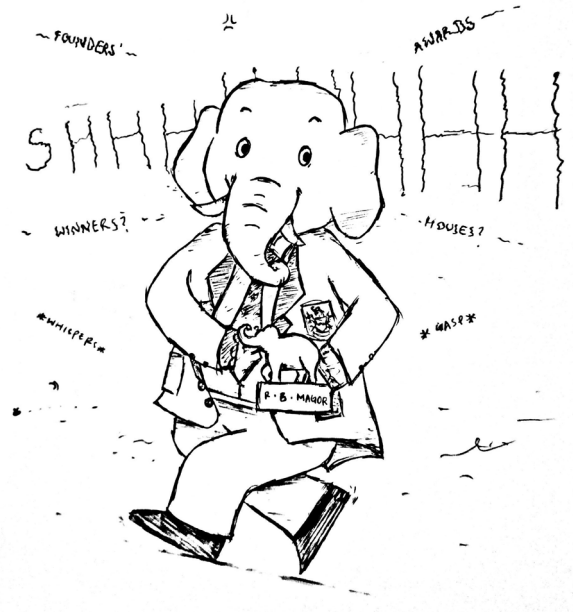
Illustrated by Ssara Jha, XII



Campus Caricature

RUMOUR HAS IT

Illustrated by Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XII



CAMPUS NEWS

IPSC ARCHERY

Results at a glance:

Naisha N. Gogoi: 3 Gold medals and best Archer award in U-17 Girls category

Suryanandini Sharma: 1 Silver and 1 Bronze medals and overall 3rd best Archer in U-17 girls.

Gaurisha Saikia: 1 Bronze medal in U-17 Girls category

Hansika Agarwal: 1 Silver Medal in U-14 Girls category

A total of 7 medals were won by Team AVS

Heartiest congratulations!



IPSC CRICKET

We are glad to share that the AVS Cricket team participated in the All-India IPSC U-17 cricket tournament held from the 1st to 5th of October at YPS, Patiala. In the league stage AVS topped the group and faced DPS, Mathura Road, Delhi in the Quarter Final where the team lost by 29 runs.

Heartiest congratulations!



MILITARY HISTORY SEMINAR

12 students guided by Sir Sanjay Sharma attended the 7th Military History Seminar hosted by Welham Boys' School, Dehradun from 5th to 6th October. Norzin Lhamu of Class XI spoke at the 4th Session, covering the North-East. It was an enlightening seminar that gave each student a better understanding of our country's military history and made them appreciate the effort of the Indian Armed Forces which safeguard our nation.



INTER HOUSE VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

Over Result of Volleyball Interhouse Competition 2023

- Bhoroli/Lohit - First position
- Jinari/Manas - Second Position
- Subansiri/Namdang - Third position
- Kopili/Dhansiri - Fourth Position



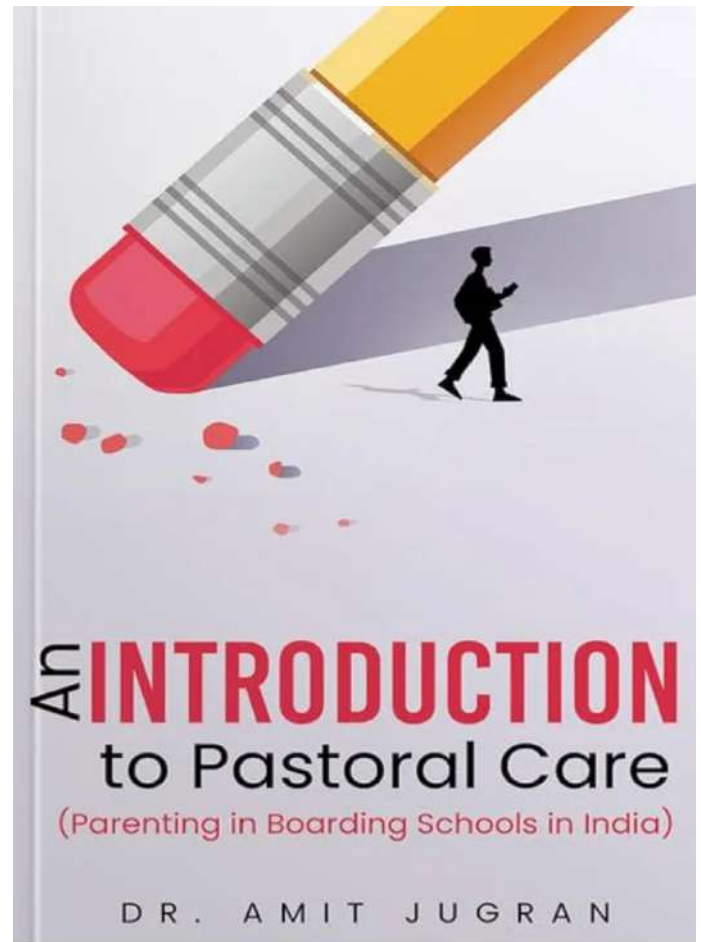
NEW ARRIVAL

We are happy to share that the book 'An Introduction to Pastoral Care' written by the Headmaster, Dr Amit Jugran has been published and is now available on all leading online and physical platforms for sale.

Boarding Schools have survived many generations in India and continue to thrive. A Boarding School experience provides students and teachers with an unforgettable experience while fostering independence, building resilience and nurturing lifelong friendships.

This is a book that delves into the same workings of a Boarding School and gives the reader a peek into what really goes into the functioning of one. From exploring various themes of pastoral care to delving deep into a child's life in such a setup, the book attempts to unravel different avenues like dealing with conflicts, gender in education, dynamics between various age groups, mental health, the role of caregivers and more.

Through insightful anecdotes, firsthand accounts, and experiences, it attempts to shed light on the various transformative experiences that a Boarding School experience may bring about in a child's life.



Heartiest congratulations!

THE OUTPOST

On the early morning hours of the 7th of October Israel was caught unawares as Hamas terrorists poured in through its land borders, flew in on gliders and came on boats to strike mayhem in the heart of Israel. For a country that takes immense pride on its safety network this was a humongous failure. While Israel braces itself to face an onslaught from the Hamas and the Hezbollah, it has vowed that its retaliation will change the face of Middle East. This poses PM Netanyahu on the brink of history one way or the other.



Illustrated by Hana Shanifer Ahmed, XII

Ripple #214

-Aanya Paul Sarkar, X

Her daughter said she had
greying hair,
Streaks of silver, they'd glint at
the sun and catch the light
And speak of the stories she
could never write.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "I am an only sibling." -Neilginryan Das, X
(No doubt you're the bright one back home.)
2. "Ma'am, I've shared you." -Anushka Jitani,
XI (Pretty sure that's very illegal.)
3. "It's the twenty-fived one." -Asis Gill, XII
(What has your primary teacher even taught you?)
4. "Who do not eat food even?" -Miriam
Lalfakzuali, XI (That indeed makes sense.)
5. "Yes, it gets very hot during winters." -Buno
Sonam, XI (We're guessing it gets freezing cold
during summers.)

Keep It Reel!

Heat Wave

-Reetisha Daimari, XI



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