

THE BATCH AND THE BADGE

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, XII

Every prefectorial batch on its ascension to power comes with a wish list of ‘changes’ they would want to incorporate or policies they would want to redefine. This wishlist becomes the wind to their sail, the altar at which they worship, and eventually the knot they find themselves tied in. Topping this list of priorities has always been the catchword- discipline. It is that fabled land that every aspirant promises the community they will aspire towards, during their tenure. It is also the very same mythical creature they try and tame while shadowboxing in the confines of their aspirational world. Predictably, therefore, they find themselves in a flummox when in their enthusiasm to do the ‘right

“Authority without wisdom is like a heavy axe without an edge, fitter to bruise than polish.”

-Anne Bradstreet

thing’ more often than not, they are caught between the left, right, and the centre. It is one thing to ‘want’, it is another to ‘work’ for it. It is very naturally a topic that most in the senior class feel very strongly about. The opinions in this form vary from ‘spare the rod and spoil the child’ to ‘each their own’. It is those few who try

to find a middle ground who find themselves caught in the floodlights of a racing truck called ‘school policies’.

An evolving aspirational school like AVS has always had a value system built around a bedrock of virtues that are eternal. While self-discovery is the goal, it must be guided by effort which can only come through discipline. So much of what we practice today is what we learned by simply looking at our seniors. The head bent in concentration following one dogged step after the other as one ran the marathon circuit, the squash courts teeming with noses pressed to the glass as they watched their seniors battle it out in a match. From endless practices in the music room to the quiet manoeuvres of words in the publications, we learned from what we saw. Words have never been necessary where actions have spoken louder.

To err is human. To correct the action is the eternal challenge. While we wish to do right by the responsibilities we bear, we cannot hope to bring changes that we, ourselves, cannot or refuse to shoulder. Indeed, we are often confronted by situations that demand a stronger action. It demands that we take steps that will become precedent for future actions. It is also necessary that we take a step back and discern our actions from our reactions to a situation. It is true that corrective actions can be deviously misleading. More

often than not we are caught in a loop merely trying to identify a measure that is just 'correct'. It does not help that the various awareness programs have drilled into us the many rights we enjoy and barely ever remind us of the responsibilities we must shoulder. Hence corrective actions remain more or less relegated to a paper they are drawn on while students find multiple ways to wiggle out of these programmes. Students are inventive and can bludgeon the unsuspecting senior with anything ranging from medical 'excuse' slips to mental health issues which have taken the shape of a giant invisible shield.

In such a scenario, one may choose to give up or choose instead to doggedly work around the problem. The prefectorial body (at least those in it who can think and are willing to spend hours problem-solving) must revisit the disciplinary blueprint and prioritise elements in this large juggernaut that they would like to perfect. Rome was not built in a day. An evolving school like AVS needs its student leaders to invest time, energy, patience, and ingenuity to draw up a constitution that will uphold order, and discipline drilled at the core which thereby becomes the very essence of an Aviator.

THE RIDDLES OF TITI

-Neelabh Kashyap, Associate Editor, 2021

The scene arranged itself exactly as they told it would: a pair of dining chairs, cracked right in the spine, and the halves dangling like wooden leaves by their petioles. The cold linoleum kitchen floor cold as a vine, as a body. In the aftermath of the party, there had been the anticipated collapse. The guests had all been sent home, thankfully, and there had been nobody to witness the mess she made as she sunk into the abyss - the plate of leftovers she had gathered for herself gone flying and left a rather "abominable stain" on the freshly-painted powder - blue walls.

According to them, she should have seen it coming years ago, about the time it was the size of a wrecking ball. She should have looked after her health more, they said; said she overworked herself to death, despite being promised full relief from her menial duties. That was a year back. In the back of her mind, she felt a dissonant, clashing wave, clashing against her walls. Before she could let that memory sink in, your average household chore was thrown onto her: the kitchen walls were to be freshly painted over. Again. Her mother had telephoned the painters and overseen the process herself as the walls crumbled, dyed blue, skied, dyed the colour of the worlds - her world, walls no more. That was a month back.

The mantle fell on her this time.

They made no explicit implications, but everyone in the neighbourhood talked among themselves, and they talked in tones loud enough to shame an alcoholic's breath. The professor is remarrying - isn't it a little too soon? Didn't the wife pass away just the other week? The little lady deserves a mother, he said. She's too young to be looking after herself. She needs a cheerleader, a care-giver. A fever. And the house rang with the cheer of wedding-bells and a new celebratory blue.



One evening when Ameera's father and step-mother had left her to fend for herself in the house, as they habitually did after the remarriage, a Royal Bengal Tiger tiptoed into her room with pride. Ameera scurried to a corner to cry and braced herself for death - braved herself and asked:

"Tiger, o Tiger, what do you bear in your lethal

paws?"

"I go by a beautiful name. Call me Omen."

The mythical creature's fur smelled of moisturizer and shampoo.

"Omen, o Omen, what then do you bear?"

"A gift-" "A gift?" "A gift."

"Like a present?"

"No. A gift-" "A gift?" "A gift."

"Like the courage to stand up to injustice?"

"Something as silly as that?" the Tiger chuckled. "No. A gift."

Illustrated by Ikadu Ahozhe, X

Ameera decided that she liked being stumped no longer. "Well then, won't you give it to me?" she asked; "I shall," and Omen growled, "but before that, you must answer three riddles which have been simmering in my stomach for a while." Both their stomachs growled in unison. "You'll answer all three of my riddles otherwise I will kill you and eat you."

Ameera remembered the indestructible frame of her mother and mustered all the courage she could from the kitchen cabinets and mason jars; she would dine on myth with the Tiger tonight. She gave a curt nod and Omen began:

"Tell me this first: the girl who daydreamed much and mused poems - who was it that told her the sky was only as far as the roof he could provide?"

"Second, that on the Eighth of August, a husband-wife pair were having an argument in their bedroom:

the wife timidly suggested that she felt an abnormal pain in her cervix. Who was the man who suggested back that it was but another overthought on her part - a daydream? It was a terribly uncomfortable night.

"And finally, what was that ugly grating howl valiant Abhimanyu let loose as he lay atop his broken chariot wheel, caught unawares in that deadly wheel-like formation?"

At that moment, Ameera wanted to outwit the whole world if she could. As she prepared to answer - that no father should have to be so cruel - she decided to set the tables and plates and turn them even.

"What does that make you?" she retorted.

"Me?" the Tiger blinked.

"Yes - you."

Omen smiled.

"I am your mother. Let's go."

A GAME OF POWER AND POSITION

-Soham Agarwal, X

The main contenders to the 18th Lok Sabha elections are The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by the ruling party Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A) led by the Indian National Congress (INC), and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). These alliances being the main contenders are working day and night for the upcoming elections. While most of the opinion polls suggest that it is going to be Prime Minister Narendra Modi coming back for his seat in the 2024 elections, Rahul Gandhi is still on with his Bharat Nyay Yatra which, rather than a political campaign looks like a debacle because many cities have denied the Yatra entry.

Power is currently in the hands of the BJP and looks like they are gearing up to keep it for another term with an even bigger majority. The Congress party is at an all-time low with members leaving the party almost every other day. The Congress' inability to function without the Gandhis' patronage and the absence of Rahul Gandhi from the headquarters during these crucial decision-making days will lay heavy on the crumbling

party. The BJP with its philosophical base functions like a well-oiled conglomerate and is secure in its support base with the middle class despite the heavy burden of taxation it has levied on them. The slogan amongst the masses remains 'Modi-hain to moomkin hain'.

Many will decry that elections in India have become more like a "Choice between bad or worse", rather than its main motive of democracy and equal chances for all parties. It is safe to argue that Indian democracy and its populace remain grounded in a strong democratic foundation. It is the responsibility of the Opposition to get its act together and present a strong unified front to take on the tidal wave of the BJP. It cannot be the burden of the ruling dispensation to also take up the reigns to build a strong opposition.

There is no denying that the mood of the nation clearly shows a rise in the civilizational awareness of the people. At a time when India seems to enjoy a position in global diplomacy, we remain in the shadow of a recurring threat of China. While the economy

continues to grow at a steady pace despite a world at war, the people are keen to shed the burden of a socialist state and embrace prosperity. The opposition will have to rethink its modus operandi and come up with a stronger and better narrative to challenge a government

that has taught the ordinary citizens to check and balance the performance of their governments against a report card. This is India which is Bharat, and it needs a political class that can be as aspirational as its people are.

LIMERICKS

Contributed by Mrs. Dayita B. Dutta, Head of Department, History

There was an old man of Darjeeling
Who took a train from London to Ealing
It said on the door
“Don’t spit on the floor”
So he carefully spat on the ceiling.

A gentleman dining at Crewe
Found a large mouse in his stew
Said the waiter “Don’t shout,
and wave it about!
Or others will be wanting some too.”

Written by Anonymous

A limerick is a humorous five-line poem with a rhyme scheme aabba.

Campus Caricature

caught in the moment

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X

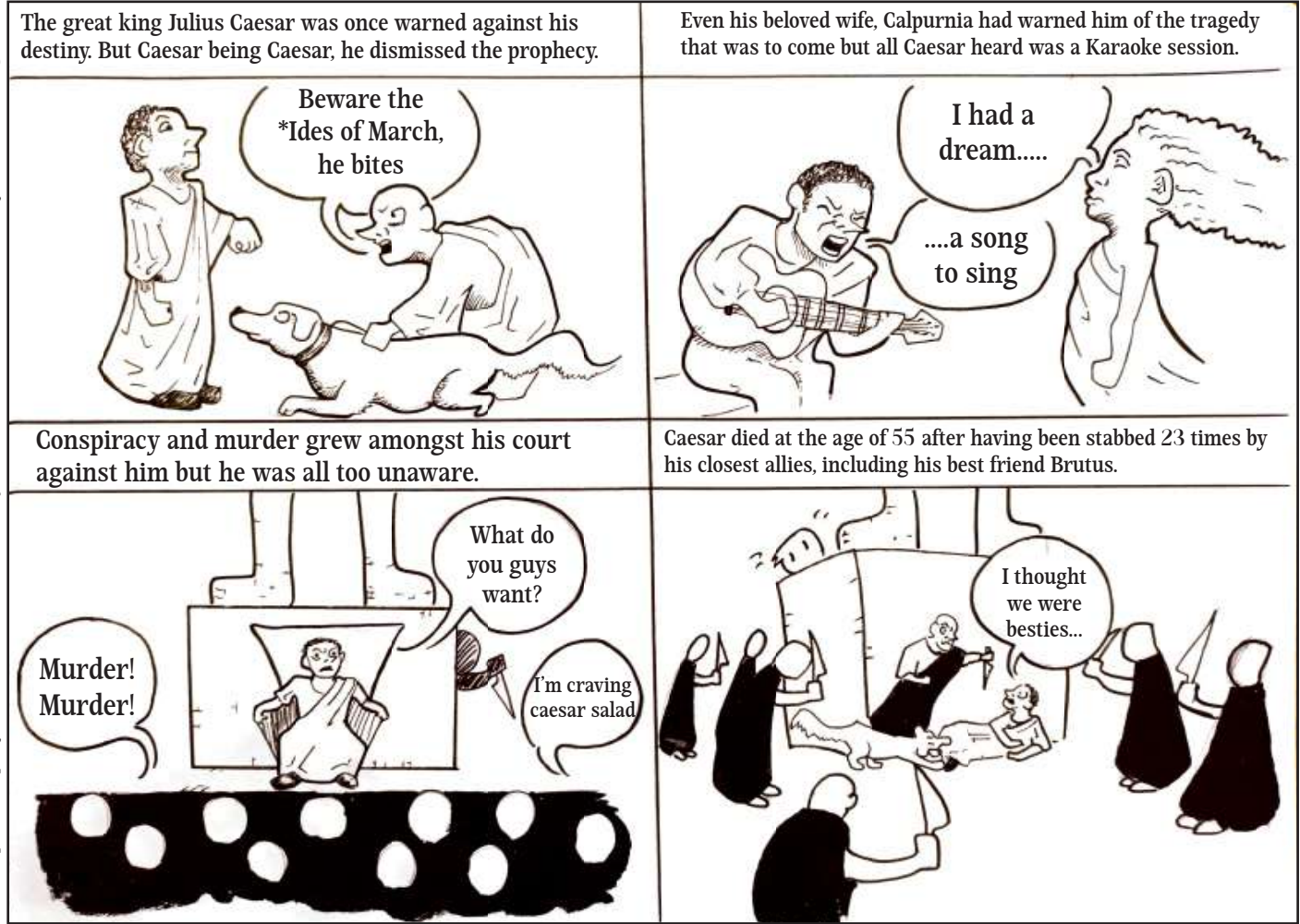


*Julius Caesar, the Dictator of Rome was murdered on the 15th of March. The line 'ides of march' is taken from Shakespeare's play 'Julius Caesar' and refers to the Ides as a Soothsayer's warning towards something dark and gloomy.

A DAY IN HISTORY

CAESAR'S TERRIBLE WOES

Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X



AN OPINION: CONFLICT AND PROPAGANDA

-Rianna Irom, X

Five months into the Israel-Palestine war, news about the conflict seems to continuously flood our screens. It has reached the extent where social media seems to be a crucial battlefield of opinion, with both sides trying to achieve the moral high ground and win the support of the world.

It's not as if there isn't a lack of support for Israel — it's just that pro-Palestinian content seems to dominate phone screens. Be it Instagram or X, no matter where you go, you'll probably see or hear the words "From the river

to sea, Palestine will be free". People from all over the world are clambering over one another on social media to advocate not just for Palestine but even for Hamas.

Video clips and photographs seem to go viral every second, which only seems to incite people sitting behind their phone screens to be more aggressive regarding their support. The disproportion between pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian content makes you wonder how much of the truth is visible and how much of it isn't.

CAMPUS NEWS

INTERHOUSE BASKETBALL

1ST PLACE:

Bhoroli-Lohit and Subansiri-Namdang

2ND PLACE:

Jinari-Manas

3RD PLACE:

Kopili-Dhansiri

MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS:

Lower School:

Girls - Atoliu Jakhalu

Boys - Tayu Natung

Upper School:

Girls - Shruti Dutta

Boys - Theja Rio



Photograph by Reetisha Daimari, XII

INSCIGNIS, TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

Tezpur University organized the annual science fair INSCINIS on 28th and 29th of February, 2024. It is one of the leading and the biggest science festivals in North-East India, celebrated every year on the occasion of National Science Day, commemorating the contributions of the first Nobel Laureate in Physics for India, Sir C.V. Raman. Along with many other educational institutes our school also took part in many of the events that were organized under this event and our students have excelled and have achieved many positions under different events. The list of events and the achievers are as follows:

BLITZ: Saanchit Agarwal and Krishang Choudhary secured 1st position

Einstein's Enigma: Archit Phukan, Kelden Rigsang, Prayaash Khakholia secured 1st position

Chess-e-matics: Kelden Rigsang secured 1st position, Pahal Bajaj secured 2nd position

Equipulaten: Ashmit Phukan secured 2nd position

Astronomy Board Game: Karan Somani, Archit Phukan and Badapbiang Kashiar secured 2nd position, Aalmas Maibam and Akshat Poddar secured 3rd position

What If: Karan Somani and Archit Phukan secure 1st position, Badapbiang Kashiar and Vidhan Fogla secured 3rd position

NERLSE (North Eastern Regional Level Science Exhibition): Archana Yumnam and Mishna Sarangthem secured consolation prize in school level category

Lights Camera Action: Pradyumn Bhajanka, Abhinav Agarwal and Manas Keleng secured 2nd position.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Ikalu Ahozhe and Naitik Bhilwara participated in the 9th National Level Painting Competition and Exhibitions titled 'Japan on Canvas' conducted by Experience Japan. Naitik secured the winning position while Ikalu won the Outstanding Performance Award.

The prime objective of this competition, held from October 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023, was "to make students learn and explore bonding between two great nations (India and Japan) and showcase their learning, talent, skills on canvas."

We congratulate Ikalu and Naitik on their achievement and wish them all the best for their future endeavours with the brushes and paint!

Photograph by Tivona Narzary, XII



WE BID ADIEU

Mr. Debnath Pyne joined The Assam Valley School on the 14th of June 2013 in the Department of Accounts and Commerce. During his decade-long tenure, he served as HSM of Lohit as well as the Mi/c of Dramatics. Under his aegis, AVS won the IPSC dramatics for three consecutive years. He was referred to universally as 'Deb da' and was a favourite amongst his students as much for his booming voice as for his famous 'aada sessions'.



AVE: What are you most excited about stepping into this new chapter of your life?

The new place, the new challenges and new people will keep me totally occupied at the beginning. Moreover, transacting and looking over the department operating with two different curriculums at the same time is quite exciting.

AVE: If you were to have any lasting memory of AVS, what would it be?

It will be an never ending list, from encounters with elephants during the late night drives through the tea gardens, the madness and sleepless nights during Founders', the continuous adda with the students during breakfast or lunch, the countless meetings and off course campus exploration in the beginning and then again during the covid time. Actually, we rediscovered the campus during that time.

AVE: What was your favourite production and why?

It will be very difficult to mention any one, particular production since I was so deeply involved in all of them. I can pick two of them which are the closest to my heart - "Tasher Desh (Land of Cards)", a mega production involving all the performing arts departments, i.e. Drama, Dance, Music that came together to present a show involving 270 students (almost 50% of the strength of the school) along with 30 staff members. Three Blind Mice, a thriller which kept the audience glued to their seats from the beginning to end. I saw the production crew work brilliantly behind the scene to create the necessary eeriness. It worked perfectly like clockwork. The audience



did not leave their seats even during the interval.

AVE: What are your last words to AVS?

Keep the spirit high and keep growing and achieving.

Mrs. Priyankoo Kashyap Das, Department of Commerce:

Mr. Pyne, has been a mentor, and a great friend to me. I met him in 2018 as a colleague in the Commerce Department and then we went on to work together in Dramatics and in Dhansiri House. I saw him spend countless hours mentoring hapless students before their boards. He was a tutor who liked to speak with the boys and spend quality time with his students. The greatest thing about him was the ability to accept people as they are. Children really appreciate that. He is ever curious about learning new ideas and has serendipitous ideas when it came to pranks! Amidst a whole range of people who don't get me, Mr. Pyne, thankfully, understood and accepted me as I am. Mark of a true brother. I truly miss him and wish him a great life ahead.

Nivranshu Baruah, ISC 2020:

Mr Pyne was a role model and a mentor to me throughout my formative years in school. Being my theatre teacher I had the privilege of being in the cast of his first Founders' production "Tasher Desh", an adaptation from Tagore's play. Having given me my big break in school Mr Pyne has influenced many pupils to pursue their interests in theatre be it writing acting or directing, maintaining the overwhelmingly high standard of theatre productions at AVS. The times spent with him have been memorable and I wish Sir and Ma'am Pyne the very best in their future endeavours.

INTERHOUSE LOWER SCHOOL ART AND POTTERY

The winners of the Lower-School Art and Pottery Competition are as follows:

Painting: Kopili-Dhansiri

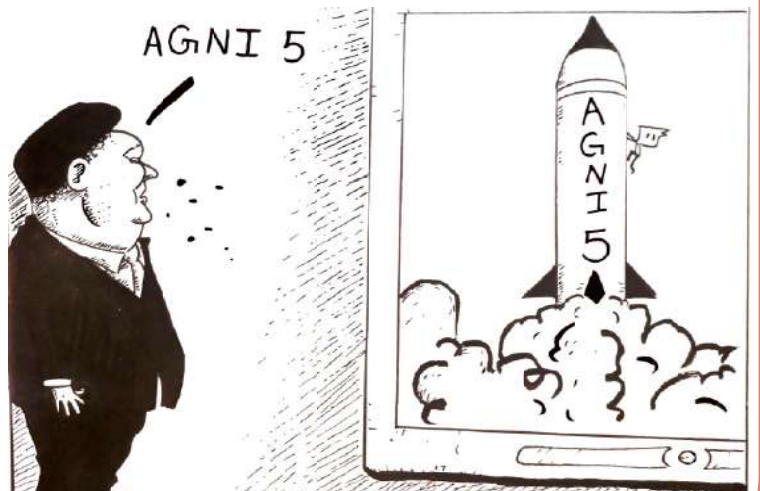
Pottery: Jinari-Manas

Overall Winner: Jinari-Manas



THE OUTPOST

The tenuous history of Haiti, a proud Caribbean Island country, the only in the world to be created by slaves, faces an existential crisis as gang wars take to its streets. The question of electoral bonds brings the SBI, India's largest government bank, under the rap of the Supreme Court which has asked it to bring out the list of those who have donated to the various political parties on the eve of the Lok Sabha elections. India's DRDO tests home-built inter-continental ballistic missile Agni 5 even as China sends its ship to snoop on the results.



Illustrated by Mashunising Keishing, X

Ripple #221

-Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief, XII

The ingenious con-man confidently walked out of the bar with a skip in his step, thinking he had pulled off yet another successful scam.

Unbeknownst to him, he had just struck a deal with the Devil and the Devil always takes his due.

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. "High loud is called loudness." -Uttam Pukhrabam, VIII (*We never thought we would say this but this one actually has us speechless.*)
2. "Remind me yesterday to explain it again." -Mr. Umesh Singh (*Yes, Sir. We will get ourselves a time machine just for that.*)
3. "Don't go inside, you nonsense!" -Pratiti Barua, XII (*This is going on the "Indian Parents List of Creative Name-Calling 2024"*)
4. "You're saying the long lyrics." - Nonika Meitram, X (*As opposed to short lyrics?*)
5. "They can spend together as much as time." - Gaurisha Saikia, X (*We wish nothing but the best for whoever's going to spend their time with you.*)

Keep It Reel!

Fiery Embers

-Pradyumn Bhajanka, XII



Editor-in-Chief: Atoti Zhimomi

Deputy Editor: Jigme Pao Tamang

Correspondents: Tanveer, Aanya, Rianna and Siddhi P

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E-mail: ave@assamvalleyschool.com

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

Patron: Dr. Amit Jugran, The Headmaster of The Assam Valley School



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