

AT THE STROKE OF THE MIDNIGHT

HOUR

- Zaheen Rafia Shah, XI

“At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.” On the night of 14th August 2024, thousands of women in West Bengal marched through the streets with candles in protest against the rape and murder of, a trainee doctor who has symbolically come to be called ‘Abhaya’. The nightmare of brutality, torture and murder that she went through on the 9th of August within the ‘safe’ walls of the hospital she had just completed her 36-hour duty in, speaks acutely of the condition of women across the country. The only daughter of her aged parents, Abhaya was a good student who had worked very hard to reach where she had in her life, at the threshold of earning her medical degree. Her aged parents were made to wait for three hours before they could take a look at her mangled body. Who can fathom the pain, and anguish of parents who have lost their only daughter? What does it speak of the psyche of a society accustomed to such barbarity against its women? While the shivers of this incident were felt throughout the corridors of the medical community across the country, it brought the erstwhile Bhodrolok Bengalis across the social spectrum out on the streets with candle marches, and slogans asking for justice. The social media platforms

are overflowing with posts and thousands of reposts but the essential question remains- where will all this take us? What significant change are we demanding and where is that change supposed to come from?

The sad truth is, justice will in fact, not be served. The world is not fair and never will be. History has proven that to us. It will never be served in a silver platter. Justice needs to be demanded, by anyone decent enough to understand the monstrosity women across communities go through. Women’s safety is high up on every party’s manifesto till the vote is cast. And then it is the same tragedy, different women.

Laws can be formed and the emergency numbers can be circulated. However, no street and no neighbourhood no workplace or school, no parks or malls will be safe unless the justice we seek is drilled through a change of mindset across homes by women themselves. We have dulled ourselves crying for justice while wax melts on our fingers. We come with a history where the Mahabharat was fought over the dignity of a woman and the Ramayan was sung over a crime committed against another. It is time this country remembers their history and it’s women remember that justice cannot just be demanded but must be wrenched out from the heart of a society that is slowly dying.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

- Jentina Yaomei Shangkhu, XI

A tradition is a system of beliefs or folk customs passed down within a group of people or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. To me, traditions are more than just customs; they are the keepers of our identity. They connect us to our ancestors, reminding us of where we came from and who we are. They provide a sense of belonging, a feeling that we are part of something larger than ourselves. They remind us that we are part of a history that defines our past, shapes who we are today and who we are likely to become. Once we ignore the meaning of our traditions, we are in danger of damaging the underpinning of our identity. One of my favorite cultural tradition that I deeply admire, though I don't practice it, is the 'Dio dio de los muertos' or the day of the dead. The wife carrying championship is an actual tradition celebrated in Finland, the objective is for the male to carry their female partner through a 253.5 meters obstacle race. And how can we forget India's tradition of celebrating its many big festivals. The same is relevant to us at school. As AVS moves towards clocking another year to its rich history, we

remain as the bearers of its rich past. Practices that have become part of the school community, starting with handing over of badges, the relic of the famous 'AVS cake' a must at birthdays, House Farewells, AVE issues on Saturdays, the Media Centre's AVS News, The East India Debates, Srijanyam, the Headmaster's speech at Founders', the Founders' Awards, the trees at the pavilion changing colour that marks the quiet start to winter, these have become and indelible part of life at school. Alexis Goodman once said, "For me, having traditions in my life is a reminder that I am alive". Yes, it gives us something to look forward to doing consistently or on certain days. Even if you don't have something like this in your life already, try and find something that is meaningful to you and make it your own tradition. A consistency of having things on certain days such as special activities to look forward to, can be viewed as traditions no matter how big or small. We are entering the season of traditions. Don't worry if you don't have any. Maybe it's time to start a new one? Maybe then will we truly understand the importance of being earnest.

Tales From The Hills XIV THE TALE OF THE WAILING MOTHER

- Aliden Jahzara Ovung, XI

From centuries of passed-down stories and tales of ancestors, comes the oldest tale known to the ancient high peaks of Mount Tiyi—the story of the howling mother.

It is said that every waning gibbous of the month, a howl of a resentful, weeping mother is heard through the lamp-lit neighbouring villages that lay at the foot of Mount Tiyi. The children clasp their mothers as their fathers stand guard, awaiting the nocturnal rampage of the howling mother. She stumbles around in the dark, wailing and looking for her lover and her child, seeking to devour others if she finds herself

unsuccessful. Not one soul has seen her form, and those who have, haven't lived to tell the tale.

The tale began in a small village hidden behind the forests of Mount Tiyi. It was small but prosperous in their harvest and happiness. It is said that a young maiden named Thera resided on the outskirts of the village, cast out by her own family for bearing a child out of wedlock. Thera lived her life caring for her child and living off scraps for sustenance, barely making it through—until she met Pilanthung.

Pilanthung was a crippled man, a survivor of a wild boar attack.



- Illustrated by Erik Angie Riba, XI

Though unable to provide, he was honest, compassionate, and kind. Perhaps these qualities made Thera fall in love with him, even if he could not be the breadwinner. The two started as good friends, despite objections from his parents. Their relationship grew significantly and became a major part of their lives. Thera's daughter of 4 years, started calling Pилanthung "Apo" —father.

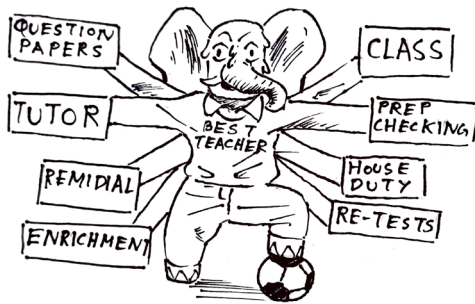
As time passed, the three lived happily, ignoring the whispers within their community. All until one stormy night; under a waning

gibbous moon shaded by the greying clouds of thunder and lightning, the wind blew its whistle in the night. Thera waited in her thatched hut, for Pилanthung who had taken her daughter to the forest to pick fruits. As the storm raged on, Thera felt an odd discomfort and on a hunch, she grabbed a thick weaved bamboopanel and ventured into the raging storm. As Thera rushed to the forest, she heard the cries of her precious child; wailing and screaming. Thera looked around frantically, trying to locate the wretched sound, unable to find where it came from. She ran on

through the forest, hoping it would lead her in the right direction only to find herself back at her doorstep. As she entered the hut, she found her 4-year-old daughter slain, her head chopped off along with her lover's severed torso. Overcome with pain and grief Thera wailed through the night, cradling her daughter and lover, eventually crying herself to death.

Now her spirit haunts the village, looking for vengeance for the death of the only two people in her life who she had loved unconditionally,

Campus Caricature



Super Heroes

- Illustrated by Mashunsing Keishing, X

CAMPUS NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM RECOGNIZES AVS FACULTY

Mr. Thajeb Ali Hazarika, Head of Department, Humanities, was recently recognized for his mentorship work by University of Buckingham's Department of Education. Mr. Peter Baylis, tutor from the university, certified him for responsibilities that included guiding his mentee on lesson planning, constructive effective feedback, classroom observation, deadline adherence on pending assignments by the mentee among other things.





IIMUN CHAMPIONSHIP, MUMBAI 2024

Twenty students from senior school participated in the IIMUN Championship 2024, that took place in Mumbai from August 15-18, 2024. The MUN conference, held in the iconic Amby Valley City, drew more than 3,000 delegates from 450 schools, 220 different cities, and 35 different nations. In her committee, Pranhita Jain received a special mention award.

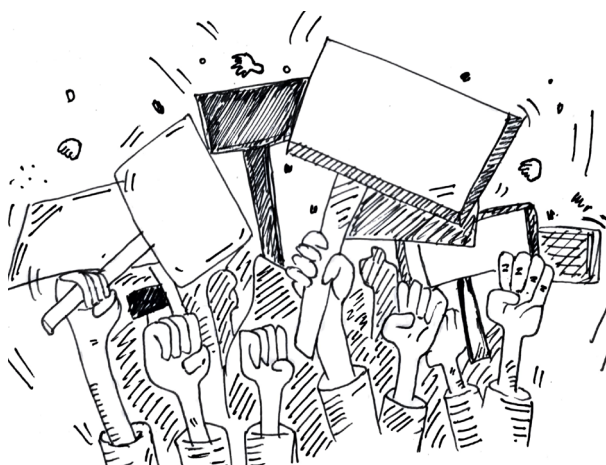
MEGHALAYA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

We wish all the very best to one of our academy players, Roshan Warbah (ISC 2018) whose name has been shortlisted for the upcoming BCCI's Ranji Trophy 2024-25 tournament. Meghalaya Cricket Association has shortlisted 30 players for the camp ahead based on their 2023-24 domestic record and their performances in the selection matches.



THE OUTPOST

'Anti Rape Bill' passed in the West Bengal Assembly, proposing Death Penalty while the streets of Kolkata remain clogged with people demanding justice. The CBI finally arrests Dr. Sandip Ghosh in financial mismanagement. With the death of six hostages in Gaza, the anger of the Israeli people burst open as thousands marched against Benjamin Netanyahu. His refusal to stop the bombings in Gaza could be Netanyahu's political stance to keep himself out of prison. Others weigh in that, perhaps the only way to save the hostages is to fight for them. Either way, peace seems still a distant call.



- Illustrated by Kavya Goel, XI

Ripple #232

- Atoti Zhimomi, Editor-in-Chief

Bella, who came into the museum
every Saturday, never seemed to age.
And she always just came to look at
one painting.

It was only in my 11th year of working
there that I noticed the similarity
between her and the painting.

Then I read the label,
"Painted by Anton Elsher for his
fiance, Isabella Sincliar, 1886."

Tongue Of Slip!!

1. How back is my wet? - Zaheen Rafia Shah, XI (Drier than your grammar.)
2. "Your hair might be you but the thing is mine" - Tivona Narzary, XII (The new L'oreal Paris Slogan.)
3. "I need to spear your seech." - Soham Agarwal, X (Yes, Soham Agarwal.)
4. "Please preef read my speech" - Soham Agarwal, X (Of course, Soham Agarwal.)
5. "Book out of moment" - Bornil Phukan, XI (Very deep, very poetic.)

Keep It Reel!

Cloudy

- Rianna Lingiel Irom



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