

A

AZURE

A Newsletter

Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers,

As I reminisce on the road that has brought me here, I find myself caught in a whirlwind of emotions, each one carrying me to a different memory. It feels like just yesterday when I stumbled upon the title 'Azure: The Student Newsletter' on the Parent Portal, oblivious to the impact it would have on my life. Back then, as I innocently submitted my first article, 'The Applications of Statistics and Probability in our Everyday Life,' little did I know it would lead me to this bittersweet moment.

In the footsteps of Keshav Saib and Risha Srinivas, whose vision paved the way for Azure's foundation, I have found myself challenged to fill their shoes, to embody the qualities of leadership and inspiration that I so deeply admired. It is this opportunity that has made me a witness to the limitless potential of the young minds of The Mother's International School to come together and create something greater than themselves. I've learnt invaluable lessons in leadership, expression, vitality, and above all, belonging. None of this would have been possible without the support of my fellow co-head editor, Shanvi Tanisha, and the diligent efforts of our associate editors, Pranika Singh and Nitya Jain. I am deeply thankful to my classmates, Vanya Savara and Dhara Mittal, whose dedication to the Design Team served as the backbone of our publication.

Over the past three years, what began as a mere medium of expression has blossomed into a vibrant community of readers, writers, and thinkers. Azure, at its core, embodies the essence of our student body—the truth of our collective voice. It is not simply a publication; it's a concept. It's an idea that is driven by the same spirit of creativity and innovation that defines each one of us in the school community. I remain deeply convinced that Azure will rise to even greater heights under the new leadership who will cherish the same values of community and expression that have led us here. Keeping my utmost faith in the immortal and ever-growing legacy of Azure, I sign off as the Head Editor and thank each and every one of you for making Azure what it is today.

With Heartfelt Gratitude and Hope,

Your Friendly Neighborhood Writer,

Hridayansh Kherra

Head Editor

2023-24

Jazz-y Nights

Katyayni Sharma X-D

It's a fairly cold night. You walk along the footpath, letting it take you wherever it wants. You put your hands in the pockets of your coat, the only thing that's keeping you warm. As you're walking, you hear music. A piano, you recognize. F#m, Bm, E, F#m, F#m, Bm. The piano classes you took as a child were useful indeed. You've never heard anything like it. It's different, familiar, new. It's jazz. Jazz is new every time you listen to it. Harmony in conflict, calm in chaos, independence while co-depending on one another. It is an outrage, in the best way possible. It's no less than a piece of art. Originating in a small club in New Orleans, with inspiration from genres like blues and ragtime, artists and musicians from the African American communities gave birth to this blissful music genre.

We cannot possibly put a finger on just one person that "invented" jazz. A jigsaw puzzle has multiple pieces. Only when all of them are aligned in the most perfect fashion, does it make sense. Buddy Bolden, Nick La Rocca, Morton were some of the first people to ever experiment with jazz. Jazz was made because people wanted something new, something refreshing; so diverse that every time you listen to it, it's completely different. Now, Jazz has moved billions worldwide. It is not just music, it is an emotion, an expression, and a story for those who listen. There truly is nothing better than jazz in the evenings, Charles Mingus on the record player, swaying to the subtle yet strong progressions played on the trumpet, while a slow and soothing piano plays in the background. Suddenly, the piano takes over! Rage, sadness, confusion, yet all is where it must be.



Art by Shanvi Tanisha XI-B

Is the first impression the last impression?

Kashvi Kapoor XI-B

We are often told, "the first impression is the last impression". Well, it is not as true as we may believe. Although first impressions are powerful and shape our long-term attitude, they are malleable to a great extent. They evolve and change

over time, with increased encounters and interactions, and the brain reassesses the previous perceptions based on recent interactions.

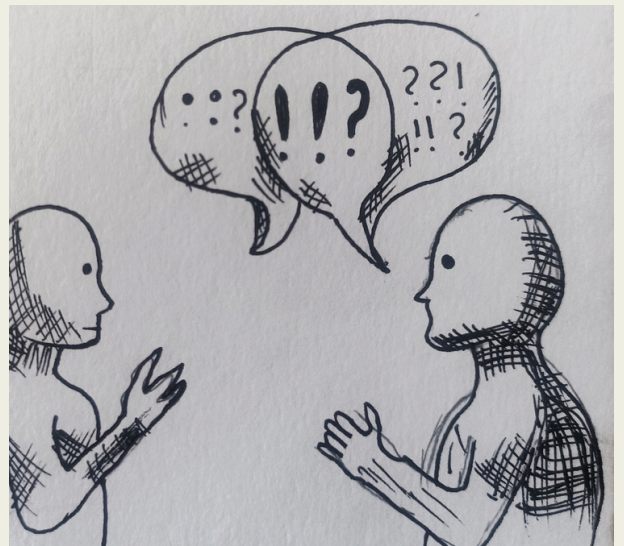
Why, one may wonder, are these impressions formed if they lack consistency? Well, the answer lies in automatic evaluation. It is a survival mechanism that comes from our ancestors- who needed to quickly assess potential threats. These rapid assessments lead to the formation of snap judgments in seconds based on visual cues, body language, and overall appearance. Astonishingly, research shows that humans tend to form 11 impressions of a person within the initial 7 seconds of meeting.

Even though first impressions are formed in the blink of an eye, they are influenced by cognitive processes, emotions, and societal norms. Cultural norms further complicate the matter, as variations in eye contact, personal space, and appropriate behaviour impact the subjective nature of first impressions. Hence, these subjective biases allow the same person to be perceived as confident by one and arrogant by another.

Interestingly, the first 7 seconds create a filter through which additional information about a person is processed. Any information learnt after those 7 seconds will be filtered through. That's why we say, "you never get a second chance to make a first impression".

However, the accuracy and reliability of first impressions are questioned by researchers. Alexander Todorov of Princeton University suggests that these impressions are often inaccurate, yet once formed, they tend to stick. This phenomenon leads to confirmation bias, where individuals seek information that aligns with their initial beliefs and overlook any contradictory information. The halo effect, a cognitive bias, further solidifies the impact of positive or negative impressions in one area on the overall perception of an individual. For instance, if we find someone to be soft-spoken, we may subconsciously assume they possess other positive qualities, such as kindness and compassion.

However, the first impression likely changes over time due to the recency effect that prioritises the memory of recent effects and reshapes these primary opinions. Yet, you may want to use the first 7 seconds to convey intentional non-verbal cues to shape the image you would like to project, because you never know if you'll get a second chance to reform your first impression.



Art by Shanvi Tanisha XI-B

The Age of New Printing

Technology: Replacing Ink with Living Cells

Kashvi Kapoor XI-B

Who thought we'd be able to print organs one day? Well, that day may come sooner than we expect. Tracing its roots back to the early 1980s with the advent of the first biocompatible 3D printing, to 2003, when Thomas Boland secured the first patent for a cell-embedded 3D bioprinter, to the present, biologists, engineers, material scientists, medical professionals and leading companies and research institutions such as Organovo, CELLINK, and Harvard University are pushing the boundaries of bioprinting research.

3D Bioprinting is a game-changer in the field of medical sciences, with its applications spanning across various domains. For instance, bioprinted tissue models can be used to create personalised tissues in the early stages of drug development to determine a drug's efficacy sooner, which saves both money and time.

3D organ bioprinting could help cope with the critical issue of an ever-growing demand for organ transplants that surpasses the limited availability from donors.

It enables the creation of a virtual representation, a digital model that can be fully customized based on CT or MRI scans. Bio-ink, composed of living cells and enzymatic supplements in the right proportions, is used for printing the model through two primary methods: extrusion-based and light-based printing. Then 3D bioprinted structures are cross-linked for stability, by treating the construct with either an ionic solution or UV light, depending on the composition of the bio-ink. It is then covered in relevant cell medium, and placed in an incubator for cultivation.

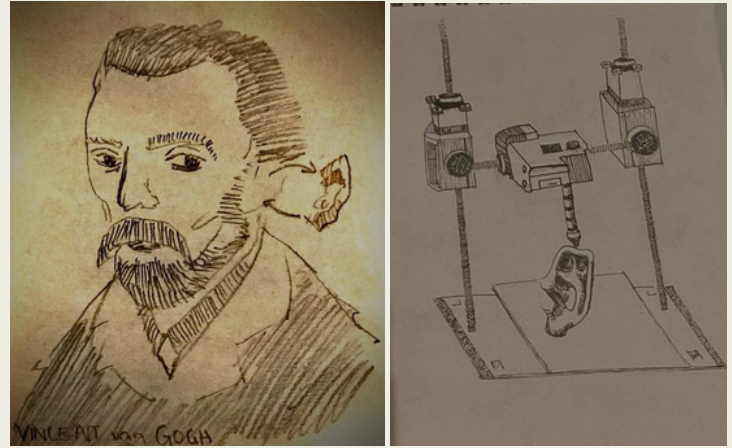
Using this technique, 3DBio Therapeutics printed and implanted an ear using a patient's cells in a clinical trial. This milestone was followed by another one. The team of researchers at Tel Aviv University, bioprinted a replica of an entire heart with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers, using a patient's cells and biomaterial.

Now, scientists are trying to incorporate multiple cell types, vascular networks, and intricate microstructures to meticulously replicate the complexity of natural tissues in internal organs, to make them fit for transplant. Additionally, the bio-inks are being improved upon to attain mechanical properties and compatibility to print a wider range of tissues. However, it is a major challenge because the available bioprinters have a limited resolution and can't achieve the complex vasculature critical to organ function.

Since bioprinting is still a new and developing tool in biotechnology, its interactions with the human body are little known. It heightens the risk associated with its implantation. At present, only the risk of organ rejection can be minimized by using the patient's cells with the bio-ink. However, this customization would raise the cost of treatment, making it unaffordable for the masses.

Another concern is the accessibility of printed organs. The existing laws prohibiting the trade of human organs, raise questions about the regulatory and ethical considerations surrounding the distribution and transplantation of bioprinted organs.

Today, as 3D bioprinting pushes the boundaries of what was once perceived as impossible, it comes with its own challenges. These challenges have to be dealt with, to promote the ethical and responsible advancement of this revolutionizing technology.



Art by Adya Shree Sahu X-D

The Dharma, the Teachings of the Buddha

Yashika Gupta, X-A

After achieving enlightenment, the Buddha gave his first sermon, teaching his disciples about suffering and the way to escape it. This teaching includes the Middle Way, the Four Noble Truths, and the Eightfold Noble Path. The truths that the Buddha revealed are called Dharma. The Buddha's sermons and teachings pointed toward the true nature of the universe, what is known within Buddhism as the Dharma. He gave his first sermon on the outskirts of the city of Varanasi at a Deer park called Sarnath. This first sermon presents an overview of suffering and the way out of suffering. It is called the "Four Noble Truths." The Buddha is often described as a physician who first diagnoses an illness and then suggests a medicine to cure the illness. The "Four Noble Truths" follow This pattern:

1. Life involves suffering, dukkha.

The "illness" that the Buddha diagnosed in the human condition is dukkha, a term often rendered in English as "suffering" or "unsatisfactoriness." The Buddha spoke of three types of dukkha. First, there is the ordinary suffering of mental and physical pain. Second, there is the suffering produced by change, the simple fact that all things—including happy feelings and blissful states—are impermanent, as is life itself. Third, there is suffering produced by the failure to recognize that no "I" stands alone, but everything and everyone, including what we call our "self," is conditioned and interdependent.

2. Suffering is caused by desire and grasping.

The Buddha saw that the impulse to crave, desire, or grasp something one doesn't have is the principal cause of suffering. Because of the impermanence and continuous change of all that we call "reality," the attempt to hold on to it is as doomed to frustration as the attempt to stake out a piece of a river.

3. There is a way out of suffering.

This is the good news of the Dharma. It is possible to put an end to ego-centered desire, to put an end to Dukkha and thus attain freedom from the perpetual sense of "unsatisfactoriness."

4. The way is the "Noble Eightfold Path."

To develop this freedom one must practice habits of ethical conduct, thought, and meditation that enable one to move along the path. These eight habits include:

- Right understanding: Truly and deeply knowing, for example, that unwholesome acts and thoughts have consequences, as do wholesome acts and thoughts.
- Right intention: Recognizing that actions are shaped by habits of anger and self-centeredness, or by habits of compassion, understanding and love.
- Right speech: Recognizing the moral implications of speech; truthfulness.
- Right action: Observing the five precepts at the foundation of all morality: not killing, not stealing, not engaging in sexual misconduct, not lying, and not clouding the mind with intoxicants.
- Right livelihood: Earning a living in ways that are consonant with the basic precepts.
- Right effort: Cultivating this way of living with the attention, patience, and perseverance that it takes to cultivate a field.
- Right mindfulness: Developing "presence of mind" through the moment-to-moment awareness of meditation practice, including mindfulness of breathing, mindfulness of walking, and mindfulness of bodily sensations.
- Right concentration: Developing the ability to bring the dispersed and distracted mind and heart to a center, a focus, and to see clearly through that focused mind and heart.

Thus we should all take motivation and inspiration from this and make our life more meaningful.



Art by Shanvi Tanisha XI-B

Julius Caesar- The Dagger of Betrayal

Reya Kaloya IX-E

Julius Caesar. Shakespeare's timeless tragedy delves into the abstruse dynamics of power, loyalty, and deception in the covetous race for the throne. It is a captivating chronicle illustrated around the theme of betrayal, which serves as the proverbial dagger that not only punctures the flesh of the characters but also penetrates the very essence of their moral and ethical values.

It is the tale of a dictator, an exceptionally cunning man of immense intelligence. Arising from a noble but poor family, he made up for his lack of wealth with an insatiable thirst for power. How did the man who shook the very foundations of Ancient Rome fall at the hands of those closest to him?

Caesar himself was the prime target of Judas kiss, with his close confidants, including Brutus, Cassius, and eventually the entire Senate, conspiring against him. Brutus justifies his actions as a fallacious sense of patriotism and a belief that he had acted in the best interests of Rome. The question emerges, forcing us to consider the moral ambiguity of Brutus' choice: was it betrayal or loyalty?

Shakespeare masterfully weaves the web of betrayal, where friendships are shattered, alliances crumble, and individuals are left to confront the consequences of their actions. The symbolism of the dagger becomes apparent not only in the physical act of assassination but also in the emotional and psychological wounds inflicted upon the characters. We are left to wonder whether the blade of treachery is wielded out of personal ambition, ideological differences, or a genuine concern for the greater good.

Moreover the play explores the ripple effects of betrayal on both the personal and political levels. The aftermath of Caesar's death plunges Rome into anarchy, paving the way for civil unrest and internal conflict. This emphasises the idea that dishonesty, even when executed with noble intentions, can unleash a torrent of unforeseen consequences.

Shakespeare's Julius Caesar is a riveting exploration of the knife that cuts through the fabric of trust and camaraderie. The play challenges us to reflect on the motivations behind betrayal, the ethical implications of such actions, and the lasting impact on individuals and society. As the characters grapple with the consequences of their choices, we are left with a haunting reminder of the enduring power and consequences of treason in the intricate tapestry of human relationships.

The Puppetry of Social Media: A Double Edged Sword

Anya Gupta XI-B

“Until you realize how easy it is for your mind to be manipulated, you remain the puppet of someone else’s game.”

Undoubtedly, each of us, at some point, has been puppeteered by someone. It's nothing new. Why then does it become necessary to address this seemingly unimportant issue?

We are the internet generation. The emergence of new technologies, platforms, Instagram reels and videos enough to fill a bottomless pit to its brim brings a deviation to the ordinary notion of being manipulated. The twist is, it is not a person's game that controls our mind. Rather, that of a menacing technology: Social media.

Startling statistics reveal the extent of Social media's impact. 32.4% of all teenage girls have now become bothered about their body image and 6% of teenage boys who had suicidal thoughts felt worse after using Instagram, a visually-driven, burgeoning platform. Its algorithmically-tailored content feeds have woven a web of unrealistic ideals, leading us down a dark path of self-doubt and negativity.

One particularly striking aspect of Instagram is the ‘Reels’ feature. A term previously used for cinematic masterpieces and memories captured on film, reels have now taken a turn towards short videos for entertainment and laughter that often come with a dose of toxicity. Not only do they perpetuate the illusion of a perfect life by portraying flawless lifestyles, relationships and routines, thus fostering an immensely destructive culture of comparison, they also provide a cradle for trolling and cyberbullying by amplifying negative actions and hurtful comments all in the name of ‘self expression’.

However, while reels and other social media features do contribute to these problems, they are not inherently harmful in nature. Much of the toxicity perpetuated is dependent on the user engagement and digital literacy. It is very convenient to say, the platforms that once gave rise to micro-influencers, small-scale businesses and nascent artists have now birthed a myriad of problems, inducing severe negativity. It is also equally important to be mindful of its usage and admit the fact that the extensive hours spent on social media do drag us down.

Thus, the various issues associated with social media cannot be attributed solely to the platform or even its users. Instead it requires collective efforts to create a healthier online environment.



Art by Durva Pande X-C

“We must cultivate our own garden” : dissecting the true meaning behind Voltaire’s Candide

Saanvi Sharma IX-B

Voltaire is a well known intellectual from the French Revolution. He was a prolific writer and during his lifetime he published many pamphlets, novellas and histories. Perhaps one of his best works and certainly his most widely known novella is Candide: or, Optimism. A beautifully witty piece of prose written during the Age of Enlightenment, a time period that stood witness to some of the greatest evolutionary inventions, ideas, art and reforms.

Believe it or not, Voltaire never actually liked the effect that period of time was bringing upon the people of his country. He found them to be too hopeful. According to him, people should find meaning in their lives through experiences they have lived, rather than through technology, politics, or religion. To exemplify his belief, and even mildly mock those of the growing aristocracy, he wrote Candide. A book that provided a great deal of wit and satire.

For the main plot, it follows Candide, a young aristocrat who is living his best life, taking lessons from his tutor Pangloss and frolicking about his grand estate. He falls in love with the beautiful Cunegonde and wishes to marry her. However, there is a war that strips Candide off of his materialistic joys, as well as his family and friends.

All alone, without any home to go back to, he begins to travel the world and discovers that his teacher, Pangloss; once a shining intellectual, was now stricken with illness. The once beautiful Cunegonde, now haggard and dishevelled. As his travels progress, he stands witness to many atrocities such as poverty, famine, disease— a far cry from his previous lifestyle of luxury. It is at the end of his venture that he lands in Turkey, on the farm of a rich farmer. The farmer has a peculiar philosophy towards life. He disengages himself from all matters of politics, or any other affairs regarding the lives of others. He keeps to himself and lives a life of comfort only through simple work. Along with his four children he has fashioned an Eden, freeing himself from the three great evils that plague man. Namely; boredom, vice, and poverty. Witnessing all of this, Candide is inspired and announces the way to live an ideal life: “ We must cultivate our own garden.”

These words, though they may sound peculiar, only mean to convey; that in order to live a life of fulfilment, we must do so upon the fruit of our own personal labour, without infringing upon the lives of others. On its publishing, it was welcomed with controversy. Voltaire must have known this, which is why he did not publish it under his own name, and instead under the pseudonym of ‘Doctor Ralph’. However even then people did seem to know that it was him who had written the delightfully brazen manuscript.

Now, after hundreds of years, it is still regarded as a wonderful piece of literature. It was bold, daring for the time, and stirred people just as much then as it does now, making it truly impactful with an undeniably ability to stimulate the mind; which is exactly how amazing literature should be!



The Commercialisation of Festivals: Balancing Tradition and Consumerism in the Modern Era

Anya Gupta XI-B

How many of us are truly aware about the significance and religious reason behind the celebration of many cherished festivals such as Christmas, Holi and Diwali? Or As it may happen, aren't we more concerned about what we will be receiving for them rather than the festivities themselves? Believe it or not, most people belonging to our generation would resonate with the latter. And why is that? Well, the answer lies in one simple word: commercialisation.

Festivals have now become increasingly associated with fashionable clothing, expensive crackers and wrapped boxes containing valuable gifts. The festive season in itself has become a means for industries to extract maximum revenue by selling roses on Valentine's Day, crackers on Diwali, and chocolate eggs on Easter. Weeks and months in advance, we find markets glittered with exuberant decorations and scrumptious meals in an attempt to attract the eager passer-by and exploit their wallet. Let us take the commercialisation of Christmas as an example. The festival itself can be seen as a marketing strategy to sell maximum products for the 'exchange of goods' to spread festive cheer. The commercialisation of Diwali has led to the use of dangerously harmful firecrackers proving to be detrimental to both humans and animals.

While all this has surely accentuated the beauty and glamour of festivals, it has also diluted and withered the real relevance behind them. This is not to say that commercialisation of festivals is entirely a bad thing. However, even amidst all the glitz and pomp, the core rituals and elements of religious themes must not be forgotten and we must make an effort to delve deeper into the true meanings behind these festivals simply because we must cultivate an understanding of the wise origins that many of them stem from, for that may just be more riveting and mesmerising than any gift one could receive.

Dark Patterns

Hridayansh Khera XII-E

1. FTC enforcement action against Amazon relating to Amazon Prime subscription, including explicit mappings in the complaint to five types of "dark patterns"
2. Vermont held AdoreMe liable for hidden subscriptions, misrepresenting time-limited discounts, and obstructing subscription cancellations.
3. Nintendo faces a class action lawsuit over allegedly compelling players to make in-game purchases by creating hurdles for non-buyers and employing fake limited-time offers.

What is common in above law suits is action against practices such as "nudging", "privacy invasion", "subscription traps", "false urgency/time based discounts", "automatic renewals", "pre-approved claims" etc. by the respective global regulators. These are common practices/design elements that are being used by online platforms to subvert consumer choice and nudge them to make decisions that they otherwise would not have made. Such emerging practices have become a digital menace and are called dark patterns. They involve various tactics employed in websites and apps to steer users into actions they didn't intend to take, such as making purchases or signing up for services unintentionally.

A dark pattern in advertising preys on consumer's FOMO, or "fear of missing out." A website might advertise a sale that ends in a few hours, or a limited release of a good or service, which may not actually be true. In marketing, dark patterns can entice consumers with promises of free trial periods, only to complicate the opt-out process, making it challenging for users to cancel subscriptions. Additionally, these patterns may rearrange the layout of a typical screen, placing the "sign up" button where users would typically find the "opt out" option, leading to unintended actions by users. While booking a flight, the online platform showcases the price as X at the checkout page, and when payment is being made, price Y (which is more than X) has been charged by the platform. This is an example of "Drip pricing". In recent times, attention of public policy makers has been drawn to such manipulative practices of online platforms and to the need for a regulatory policy framework to identify and regulate 'dark patterns' in digital transactions.



What Do We Know? The Dunning - Kruger Effect

Aliya S. V. X-D

“The more I learn, the more I realise how much I don’t know.”
~ Albert Einstein

As I write this article, I do so with the confidence that I know enough to write a good four paragraphs. But am I justified in this assumption? Have I actually earned this confidence? The Dunning-Kruger Effect would suggest that perhaps I do not know quite as much as I think I do. Now, I would like to clarify, dear reader, that I am not basing my article on a five-minute video I viewed in 2020. Yes, it sounds like an insane thing to do, doesn’t it? Yet, we all do it all the time.

The basic premise of the Dunning-Kruger Effect is:

1. People who know very little about a subject tend to overestimate how much they know about it.
2. People who know a good deal about a subject tend to underestimate how much they know about it.

I’m sure you must have experienced the feeling of not knowing, or, specifically, not knowing as much as. It’s never a pleasant feeling. It makes us feel insecure and lost. To combat that feeling, there’s only one solution: to know more! So we go find out about what we were previously ignorant of, and the more we find out, the more we realise how much there is left to know about that subject. This awareness of our ignorance is ultimately what gives rise to knowledge. This then makes two kinds of people: the ones who acknowledge their ignorance, and those who don’t.

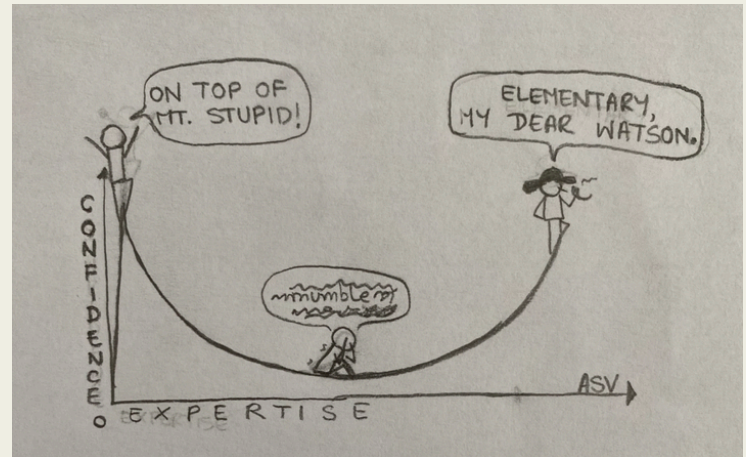
Now, we have all been each type at some point without realising it. We may have read the first paragraph of an article about tarantulas and considered ourselves experts. This is obviously far from helpful to us, since not only does it mean we ourselves are ignorant, but we may also spread that ignorance among others. When we know something, we are all inclined to immediately tell someone—to show off—and so when we have complete self-confidence despite our erroneous ideas, people tend to believe us when we say that tarantulas are deadly; they are not.

On the other hand, we have also felt that we know practically nothing for an exam, but have come out with better marks than expected. People who feel like they know less are usually those who know more, and, going with the exam metaphor, that is because we’ve studied more subtopics and therefore find out how much there is left to revise. As we all know, this leads to a lack of confidence. This, too, is harmful to everyone, leading to a situation in which the people who know nothing are the ones doing all the talking and the ones with some knowledge are too hesitant to speak up.

This effect is more relevant than one might realise. Today, there is a constant stream of information of all kinds—true, fake, or unclear—and it has become extremely difficult to know

what is true. Governments manipulate the media to their advantage. Even the public can tweet a random collection of words and then call it a ‘fact’.

It takes effort to determine whether what we think we know is even true or relevant, and that effort is not one we often make. Ergo, it is imperative that we learn a lesson from this effect and acknowledge our ignorance to become a more enlightened and knowledgeable society.



Art by Aliya S.V. X-D

Art into STEM

Aadhyan Pandey XI-B

In recent years, the traditional boundaries between disciplines have blurred, giving rise to new and dynamic interdisciplinary fields. One such intersection that has garnered significant attention is the integration of Art into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and practice. While STEM disciplines have long been heralded as the cornerstone of innovation and progress, the infusion of art brings a unique dimension, fostering creativity, empathy, and holistic problem-solving skills.

Historically, art and science were not perceived as disparate entities but rather as complementary facets of human inquiry and expression. Thinkers like Leonardo da Vinci exemplified this synergy, seamlessly blending artistic creativity with scientific inquiry in his renowned works. However, with the advent of the industrial age and specialization, the two domains became increasingly segregated, leading to a perceived dichotomy between the arts and the sciences. Nevertheless, the 21st century has witnessed a resurgence of interest in their integration, spurred by the recognition of their intrinsic interconnectedness.

At the heart of the integration of art into STEM lies the recognition of the crucial role of creativity in driving innovation. While STEM disciplines provide the tools and methodologies for problem-solving, art offers the imaginative spark necessary to envision novel solutions. Moreover, the incorporation of art into STEM education enhances engagement and retention among students. Hands-on, project-based learning experiences that integrate artistic elements not only make STEM subjects more accessible but also imbue them with a sense of relevance and meaning. Whether through designing interactive exhibits that elucidate scientific concepts or creating aesthetically pleasing data visualizations, students are empowered to explore the intersections of creativity and technical proficiency.

Design thinking, an approach rooted in empathy and user-centricity, underscores the importance of considering human needs and experiences in technological development. By integrating principles of aesthetics and user experience design, engineers and technologists can create products and systems that are not only functional but also intuitive and emotionally resonant.

Furthermore, art offers a powerful medium for critiquing and contextualizing the societal implications of technological advancements. Through mediums such as film, literature, and visual art, creators can explore ethical dilemmas, interrogate power dynamics, and envision alternative futures. By fostering dialogue and reflexivity, art catalyzes a more nuanced understanding of the ethical, social, and cultural dimensions of technological progress.

The convergence of Art and STEM also gives rise to rich opportunities for transdisciplinary collaboration. By bringing together individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise, interdisciplinary teams can tackle multifaceted challenges with depth and breadth. Whether in research laboratories, design studios, or entrepreneurial ventures, collaborations between artists, scientists, engineers, and mathematicians yield innovative solutions that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

The integration of art into STEM represents a paradigm shift in how we approach education, innovation, and societal progress. By bridging the gap between the analytical and the imaginative, the empirical and the intuitive, this convergence enriches human endeavors and cultivates a more holistic understanding of the world.



Economicsophy

Hridayansh Khera XII E

Economists often employ various hypotheses and assumptions to study economic phenomena and present their findings as conclusive. However, upon closer scrutiny, it becomes apparent that many of these assumptions do not hold true in real-life situations. In particular, the assumption of consumer rationality proves to be problematic as consumers do not always make rational decisions. This renders several economic models inaccurate when applied to reality. Whether it is the law of demand, the indifference curve, or the Keynesian theory in macroeconomics, these concepts would not hold true without the assumption of rationality. It is important to acknowledge and critically evaluate these assumptions to better understand the limitations of economic models.

In reality, human behavior is influenced by many attributes like morality, loyalty, and love, amongst others, therefore humans aren't always rational. Therefore, 'Economicsophy' could be a new branch of Economics that considers the impact of moral inclinations on human behaviour in uncertain economic markets.

Economics is derived from the Latin word 'oikonomia' which means household management and philosophy comes from the words 'philo' meaning love and 'sophia' meaning wisdom. Therefore, 'Economicsophy' refers to the study of knowledge and wisdom in the context of managing and understanding household principles and practices, encompassing both the practical aspects of economic decision-making and the philosophical underpinnings of these choices. In fact, 'Economicsophy' fosters a unique interdisciplinary wisdom that goes beyond the limitations of either field in isolation. It brings together the critical thinking and moral reasoning of philosophy with the practical insights and quantitative tools of economics, leading to a richer and more holistic perspective on societal challenges and policy decisions.

Adam Smith, often referred to as the 'Father of Economics,' made significant contributions to both economics and philosophy. His work in 'The Theory of Moral Sentiments' emphasized the importance of self-interest and benevolence in human behavior. This balanced perspective can be integrated into the concept of 'Economicsophy,' which recognizes self-interest as a driving force behind economic activity while promoting concern for the welfare of others. By acknowledging the moral foundations of economic choices, 'Economicsophy' challenges the assumption that economic actors are solely motivated by self-interest. This interdisciplinary approach has the potential to create economic systems that prioritize both individual prosperity and the well-being of society.

Furthermore, Smith's concept of the 'impartial spectator' represents an ideal observer who judges our actions. 'Economicsophy' could incorporate the idea of an impartial economic observer who evaluates economic decisions based not only on their efficiency and utility but also on their moral and ethical implications. This observer could encourage economic actors to consider the broader societal consequences of their choices.

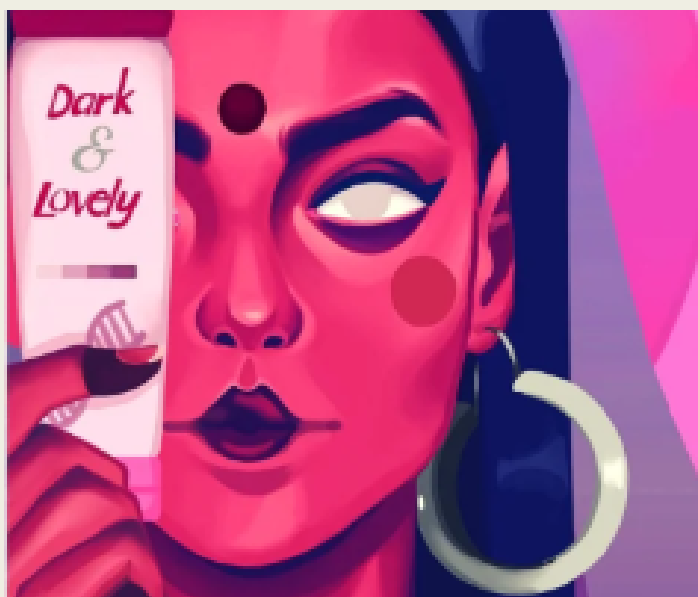
Economics traditionally quantifies value through prices and utility. 'Economicosophy' delves into the profound philosophical discourse about the nature of value, questioning how society values goods, services, and human well-being. This leads to a more nuanced perspective on the subjective and often deeply philosophical nature of value. This means moving beyond purely utilitarian principles to consider what is morally right and just, leading to more equitable and humane economic models.

'Economicosophy' also emphasizes the idea that true human flourishing involves more than just economic prosperity. It calls for a broader consideration of well-being, quality of life, and personal fulfillment, which align with philosophical discussions about the "good life."

By urging economists and policymakers to acknowledge the moral and ethical aspects of their decisions, 'Economicosophy' fosters an evolution of economics that aligns with the ever-changing values and requirements of society. It recognizes the significance of morality in the often-irrational behavior exhibited by individuals in economic markets, making it an apt fusion and offshoot of Economics and Philosophy.

The Dark Side of Beauty

Chinmayi Pande IX-C



The term colourism was first coined by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker. It is defined as the prejudicial or preferential treatment of same-race people based solely on their skin colour. It is believed that the Aryans came to the Indian subcontinent from Europe and Central Asia. They were fairer than the vast majority of natives, and this was the beginning of colourism. We can see this influence when the Britishers took over. They were fairer and ruled over us for a significant period. Naturally, being fair was associated with being beautiful or being "in power".

People with darker skin tones are not represented enough in the media. Skin colour is not a choice. It is a genetic combination they cannot change. This brings me to our beauty industry. Have you ever seen ads like Fair and Lovely or Pond's telling you as an individual that fairer skin tones equate to beauty? No matter who you are, I'm sure you have.

'Fair and lovely': the name (which is now Glow and Lovely for the same reason) suggests that one can only be "lovely" or "pretty" if they are fair or lighter skinned. From newborns to women and men (and others), everyone is a target of this unfair prejudice by brands selling fairness products. Words such as "bright", "glowing", "radiant", "flawless" and many others can be seen quite clearly written on the packaging with colourful packaging that scream and beg you to buy them but, in the end, it all comes down to fairness. Expensive skincare and makeup brands promise beauty through a lighter skin tone.

Now, stepping aside from the beauty industry for a bit let's move on to the film industry.

As someone who loves films and movies, it pains me to say this but it has to be said. The trope of a damsel in distress mixed with a fair-skinned heroine is the perfect blockbuster. Of course, this is not always the case but it is seen quite often. Bahubali, for example, – the royal (who was raised by the tribals) – is shown as a dark-skinned character which is acceptable, right? On the other hand, Avantika, who is a skilled fighter and warrior of the rebel group is shown as fair, especially during the songs. For the most part, she is shown as a tough person but since a "beautiful apsara" was required for the highlighted song scenes, she is portrayed as lighter-skinned, fairer, and ultimately beautiful, directly linking fairness to beauty. When a man says he is tall, dark, and handsome (I recognize that this may also refer to his eye colour or hair colour or demeanour), that's fine, but when a woman says the same she is made to feel as if she cannot be dark and beautiful. These are the double standards prevalent in our society.

Moving on to the music industry (I apologize for spoiling your favourite songs).

India's music industries have probably done more damage to our perception of skin colour. I'm sure you've heard "Kala Chashma" from Baar Baar Dekho, a movie released in 2016. Its chorus translates to: the black glasses suit your fair face. Similarly, the song "Gori Gori" from Main Hoon Na (2004) refers to a fair-looking lady. The song "Chitiyaan Kalaiyaan" from the film Roy (2015) refers to the heroine having white/fair wrists or just being fair in general.

There's a bias in skin colour representation everywhere, be it in the film industry, the music industry, the beauty industry or just general life. In society, darker skin tones are looked down upon. No matter how much we deny it or say we're not like others, it doesn't resolve the fact that fairness and beauty are considered directly connected. Usually, people with darker tones are told to take better care of themselves or not to go out in the sun too much to avoid getting further tanned. They're told to wash their face properly and cover-up. This is where name-calling begins. Sadly, the first people to call us names usually end up being the ones closest to us. It starts as a joke and turns into an insecurity. The same is the case with acne and other skin problems that accompany puberty and young adulthood. If someone has a skin tone that is too light, they are called a ghost and told to take better care of themselves or to go and get a tan. It has been deep-rooted in our subcontinent and sub-conscience that being fair-skinned and flawless is equivalent to beauty when people within the darker range of skin tones can be beautiful too. In fact, people with flaws are also beautiful (not that dark skin is a flaw at all). It's the sad reality, folks. (Although this article highlights wanting to have a lighter tone to fit in the beauty standards, it does not highlight the struggle of people with darker or lighter skin tones.)

"If they matter, they won't mind. If they mind, they don't matter"

QWERTY Chronicles: Unravelling the Key-Stone of Typing History

Rubani Singh Tyagi IX-B

In today's fast-paced digital world, where we communicate more through text messages, chats, and emails than phone calls, there's an unsung hero that quietly facilitates our written conversations—the QWERTY keyboard. This ubiquitous layout, found on virtually every device with a keyboard, has a fascinating history dating back to the 1870s, and it's high time we shed some light on this unassuming yet essential component of our daily lives.

The QWERTY keyboard, named after its first six alphabetical keys, emerged as the brainchild of Charles Latham Sholes, a multifaceted American figure who was a politician, newspaper publisher, and inventor. This seemingly unremarkable arrangement of keys, which we often take for granted, is nothing short of a legend among keyboards. Comprising a total of 101 keys, it has become the standard for electrical equipment around the globe.

But how did this keyboard layout come into being? The QWERTY layout's first appearance occurred on July 1, 1874, a staggering 148 years ago. However, it wasn't without its quirks. Sholes, along with his collaborators Samuel W. Soule, James Densmore, and Carlos Glidden, initially crafted a version with a mere 28 keys. In their eagerness to make typing more convenient, they placed the alphabetical keys in the "right" order, assuming it would ease the typing process. Little did they know that this seemingly sensible approach would lead to type-bars clashing when adjacent letters were typed in rapid succession, inadvertently increasing typing speed and frustrating typists. It was only after multiple iterations and mechanical tweaks that Sholes was able to address these issues.

The revised QWERTY layout introduced keys placed far apart intentionally to deter common letter pairings like -er, -st, -ed, -th, and more. Sholes even made a bold decision to exclude numbers '0' and '1,' suggesting that uppercase 'I' and 'O' could serve as substitutes. In 1873, Sholes sold his model to Remington and Sons, who made further enhancements. By 1878, the QWERTY layout had gained widespread recognition, with the Remington No. 2 typewriter being the first to offer both upper and lower case letters via the shift key.

Originally designed to assist telegraph operators writing Morse code, the QWERTY keyboard has since evolved to become the default layout for an array of electrical devices, including computers, laptops, tablets, and phones. It's praised for its perceived speed, making it the favored choice for many. However, it's important to note that QWERTY is not the only option out there. Competing layouts like Dvorak, Kalq, and Colemak offer alternatives for those willing to embrace change. As the saying goes, "Change is the only constant." It's an open secret that people tend to resist change, especially when it demands significant effort, QWERTY remains the most widely used keyboard layout because we've grown accustomed to it.



Art by Rubani Tyagi, IX-B

It may be debatable whether QWERTY truly provides the fastest typing experience, but it undeniably offers familiarity and ease of use.

In conclusion, here's a fun fact about QWERTY keyboards: 'TYPEWRITER' is the longest word that can be typed using only the top row on a QWERTY keyboard, a delightful tidbit that adds a touch of trivia to our everyday interaction with this iconic layout.

The Harsh Reality of Hong Kong's Housing: Caged Cubicles, Coffin Homes, Subdivisions

Rubani Singh Tyagi IX-B

Hello there! I'm glad you've chosen to stop by this article. Welcome, to a journey beyond the dazzling lights and bustling streets of Hong Kong. While the cityscape may project an image of prosperity and modernity, there exists a harsh reality that often escapes the glitzy facade. Prepare to be taken aback as we delve into the gripping tale of Hong Kong's housing crisis, where caged cubicles, coffin homes, and subdivided flats reveal a startling contrast to the city's opulence.

Picture Hong Kong—a dynamic metropolis nestled amidst lush mountains and a captivating harbour, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity. Its vibrant streets, diverse cuisine, and iconic skyline symbolise a fusion of cultures and boundless opportunities. Yet, beneath this glittering exterior lies a stark truth: Hong Kong is the most expensive place to live globally, boasting the least affordable housing market.

If you're earning around \$50,000 annually, the prospect of finding a home in Hong Kong becomes an astronomical challenge, with the average house priced at a staggering \$980,000. Beyond the opulent lanes and towering buildings, the city grapples with a severe shortage of land and soaring consumer demands, culminating in a housing crisis that has persisted for over a decade.

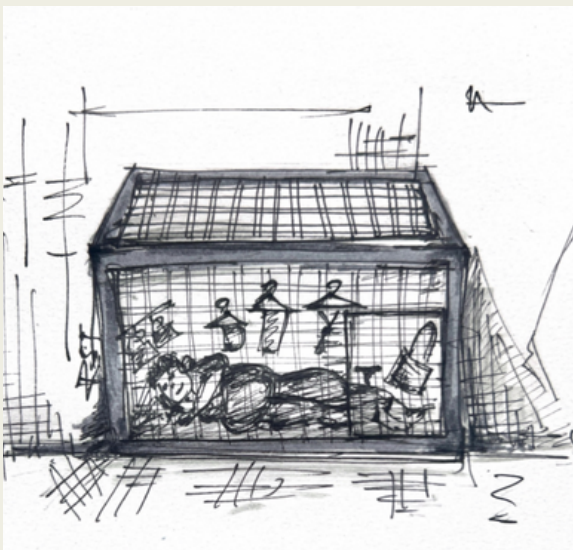
Caged homes, coffin cubicles, and subdivided flats epitomise the extremities of cramped living, with spaces barely larger than a standard car parking spot. The real estate market's relentless surge, with a 239 percent increase in residential home prices between 2004 and 2021, has pushed ordinary citizens to unimaginable living conditions. One in five Hongkongers live below the poverty line, dwelling in confined spaces, and remain hidden during the day, while they are away contributing their life to the city's essential services.

Enter the world of "subdivided flats," where over 220,000 people reside in 4 by 4 by 6 feet spaces at night. These spaces, reminiscent of coffin cubicles, force inhabitants to sleep in conditions scarcely suitable for a single person. Belongings hang on hooks, and meagre shelving minimises the impact on precious bed space. Shared toilets and kitchens add another layer of challenge to an already dire situation.

Amidst these distressing living conditions, a glimmer of hope emerges. Hong Kong has initiated a \$3.3 billion plan to construct 30,000 temporary apartments over the next five years—a crucial social project aimed at providing residents an alternative while awaiting public housing. However, the legality of such living spaces, euphemistically termed "bedspace apartments," raises questions about the government's approach to addressing the crisis.

Several measures could address Hong Kong's housing problem, particularly the issue of caged homes. These could include implementing affordable housing initiatives, investing in urban planning reforms to optimise land use, and enacting regulations to ensure minimum living standards. Additionally, efforts to increase the supply of public housing and provide subsidies for low-income individuals could alleviate the pressure on housing affordability. Such multifaceted approaches aim to tackle overcrowding and improve the quality of life for residents in Hong Kong's constrained housing market.

As we conclude this exploration into Hong Kong's housing crisis, let us reflect on the city's dual identity. Beyond the headlines and media-driven narratives, it's essential to acknowledge that not all "bedspace apartments" mirror the windowless shoeboxes depicted in sensational photos. The tale of Hong Kong's housing crisis is complex, and as we strive for understanding, may it inspire collective efforts towards sustainable solutions, ensuring that no one is left in the shadows of the city's glittering skyline.



Art by Rubani Tyagi IX-B

To Build A Fire: Man Versus Nature At Its Finest

Vanshika Mahajan X-D



Art by Vanshika Mahajan X-D

In English class, during story writing, we were taught that there could be two types of conflicts: man versus man and man versus nature. I think that To Build a Fire by Jack London is a brilliant example of the latter. The story starts with an unnamed man. He could be anyone. He is hiking up a cold trail to reach some friends for the purpose of moose hunting. He encounters the adventure of a lifetime during that hike. This book report will attempt to dissect the details of this classic short story.

The young man starts his walk through the frigid, dense forest without a hitch. Soon however, he encounters some ice which ends up with him getting his moccasins wet. He proceeds to try and build a fire but it keeps getting doused. Three desperate attempts later, he ends up having to burn his frostbitten fingers in order to get them to work. This act saves his life and the incident leaves him a wiser man.

There are two versions to this tale: one where he lives to be older and smarter, and one where he dies young and foolish, leaving his dog to find his cadaver. In both versions the man is foolish, full of hubris and overconfidence. In the first version where he lives, he is shown to possess a certain amount of toxic masculinity which ultimately leads to his downfall. He refuses nose straps which would keep his nose from falling off due to frostbite, believing them to be "feminine contraptions".

"He was a man, a master of things." These thoughts of his were the ones which led to him nearly freezing to death in the snow. It is a bit of a personal bias, but I must say: the man believing he

could control nature and him having to submit to those elements in order to survive was easily one of the best narratives I've read in a while. He was inexperienced and audacious, and only when he had to struggle to survive was he able to snap out of this thought and reform himself into a more experienced person.

The version which London wrote later was a much sadder tale. In it, the forces of nature get the best of the man, who is now named Tom Vincent. He dies miserable and without warmth. His lone companion, his dog, is present to witness his death. Without a master, the dog goes to the other campers, and we do not know if he reached or not. While this version is notably more to take, it is also more impactful and conveys a clear message: hubris will lead to your downfall.

To conclude, To Build a Fire is a lovely short story, good to read when in a pinch. It has a beautiful message, and I would give it 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Mythological Marine Monsters

Vanshika Mahajan X-D

When I was younger, myths and stories fascinated me, and I loved researching about the ocean and the creatures that lurked within it. These two sectors of my interests have never mingled with one another, but in this article I shall relay to you the various creatures that haunted not just the depths of the ocean, but the minds of all who narrated, wrote and heard their tales as well.

Let's dive into the abyss with one of the most renowned sea dwellers – The Loch ness Monster. It is said to live in the deep, black waters of Loch Ness, a sizable lake in the Scottish Highlands. The sightings of Nessie usually describe the creature as being large and green with a pointed head and long elongated neck that sticks out of the water, suggesting that it is a serpent-like creature. There are so many debates upon whether this creature is a hoax or real; sometimes it becomes difficult to differentiate fact from fiction, reality from delusion.

For ardent Percy Jackson enthusiasts, the following monsters will be familiar. In Greek mythology, sirens were creatures with the upper half of a woman and the lower half of a bird. They had beautiful, seductive voices, made to enchant sailors and lead them to their death. In Homer's Odyssey, Odysseus was advised by an enchantress, Circe, to cover his ears with earwax when traversing the ocean to avoid meeting an untimely death. Lesser known Greek ocean creatures were the Ichthyocentaurs, who had the body of a man, and the hind parts of centaurs and dolphins simultaneously. Opposing what sirens did, they protected sailors and guided them towards safe harbor.

In Neil Gaiman's Norse Mythology, he conveys the role of Jörmungandr in Ragnarok very eloquently. I do recommend checking it out from our school library. He was a sea serpent who encircled the earth, offspring of Loki and giantess Angrboda. It is said that when he rises from his slumber and out of the ocean, Ragnarok or the end of the gods will be upon us.



Art by Ananya Kwatra X-B

Jörmungandr will battle Thor and both will slay each other. Fearing this fate, Odin, King of the gods, cast the serpent into the ocean where from that day on, its movements became responsible for tidal waves and storms.

Regrettably, due to the word limit, I can only share these snippets about mythical marine monsters. Nevertheless, the beauty of human creativity lies in the meaningful tales passed down through generations. Understanding our myths is essential. If this article has left an impression, I encourage you to delve deeper into the stories of these creatures. With that, I leave you to reflect on the captivating tales you've encountered today.

Antibiotic Resistance

Aadhyan Pandey XI-B

Bacterial resistance stands as one of the most pressing global health challenges of our time. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics have accelerated the emergence of resistant strains, rendering once-effective treatments ineffective. However, amidst this alarming trend, there are practical actions individuals can take to mitigate the spread and development of antibiotic resistance.

Preventing infections serves as the cornerstone of combating antibiotic resistance. By staying current on immunizations, practicing thorough hand hygiene, and adhering to safe food handling practices, individuals can reduce their risk of contracting bacterial infections. Simple habits such as these play a vital role in minimizing the need for antibiotics in the first place. Understanding the role of antibiotics is crucial. Antibiotics are ineffective against viral infections, such as the flu or common cold. Recognizing when antibiotics are truly necessary for bacterial infections empowers individuals to make informed decisions about their healthcare and avoid unnecessary antibiotic use.

By adopting these simple yet impactful practices, individuals can actively contribute to preserving the effectiveness of antibiotics and safeguarding public health against the growing threat of antibiotic resistance. Each person's commitment to responsible antibiotic use is essential in collectively addressing this global health crisis.

Fuelling the Neoteric of Tomorrow: An Interview with Kushagr Grover, Secretary General of MIS MUN 2023

Saanvi Sharma IX-E and Mandovi Ray Chaudhari IX-C

Saanvi Sharma: The MUN is an enlightening experience for each individual who participates in it. It opens one up to new views and ideas. How would you say that the MUN has broadened your views and ideas towards life?

Kushagr Grover: Before I did MUNs, I was a very silent kid. I rarely expressed my opinions although I held my views; at times I would be easily influenced by others. Since I did MUNs I learnt how to form my opinions without being influenced by other people as well as to be firm about my opinions and stand my ground. It has given me a ton of confidence and has also helped me make many new friends and connections.

Mandovi Ray Chaudhari: So, MUN interests different people for different reasons. What is it about MUN that made you, personally, want to start doing it and to keep participating every year?

Kushagr Grover: I tend to make quick opinions. Fun fact: when I was in class 9th, I wasn't initially going to take part in an MUN; but since my sister was in the secretariat a few years back, she convinced me to take part in an MUN and my first committee was an Indian committee. Indian committees aren't as civilised as the UN committee, there are a lot of arguments and fighting. But when I did my first MUN, it helped me understand how real-world conferences work. It helped me to assume the roles of various countries and politicians, fighting over various issues which are important. After that, all the MUNs I have been a part of, I just try to be more socially aware and just understand what the issue is and try to solve the issue; according to my country's stance, of course.

M.R.C: Based on your own experiences, what do you think is the most important learning aspect of MUN for a student? There is not just one the most important thing.

Kushagr Grover: I feel MUNs teach you how to speak. As I said, I was a very silent kid but MUNs taught me how to speak in public. Secondly, they also teach you how to socialise with people. As you enter your teenage years, you obviously become very conscious about yourself and how other people think about you; an MUN helps you to talk to different people, regardless of how you are at that point. So, again, it has helped me make a lot of friends in school and out of school as well.

S.S: With such an important task of organising, conducting and managing such an event, how do you deal with the pressure while ensuring a top- notch experience as well as managing other student duties?

Kushagr Grover: I would say that it's because of my strong work ethic. If I am convinced to do something I will leave no stone unturned in doing that job. My studies are important as well and even though I knew the MUN would impact my studies, I did not let it influence my academics in a negative manner. I put all other distractions aside. One must always learn how to manage their time well. Even in an MUN one has to learn to manage their time well whilst listening to speeches, form questions and ask points of information. Both in and out of a committee, time management is the most important skill I've learnt.

M.R.C: What is something that you would advise every person participating in MUN, whether a first-timer or having some experience, to do to make the most of it?

Kushagr Grover: Speak out- That's it. You have to speak. If you have a lot of research and you do not speak out, there is no point. Of course, the experienced ones would try to intimidate you but you have to ensure that you hold your stance. In April of 2023, I did my first college MUN. So, there were a lot of first year kids, second year kids and third year kids and obviously, they all were much more experienced than I am. But I chose to speak out a lot; I spoke my way and I won an Honourable Mention in that. So, my advice is- do not be shy while talking. If you make a wrong question or a wrong statement, it doesn't matter, you are here to learn how to speak because eventually, after school, after college, you will have to speak out to make yourself successful in your career. So just speak out, that's it.

S.S: Finally, could you fill us in on your most memorable and hilarious MUN anecdote ?

Kushagr Grover: The Mun that I participated in 2021, this was when I won my best delegate award. In that committee (The UNSC) the agenda was the occupation of Crimea by Russia. Since my portfolio was China, I had the entire committee against me. Everyone was against China's support of the occupation. Still I somehow managed to threaten the rest of the committee to comply with China and the entire thing turned out to be very ironically hilarious.



ART SECTION

"Every artist dips his brush in his own soul, and
paints his own nature into his pictures."

– Henry Ward Beecher



A Bridge to Tranquility

Sneha Dogra XI-F

True beauty resides in the mystery of nature. The sunlight filters through the trees that sway gently along with the tranquillity of the day, the cascades tumbling into the lake as it mirrors the sky and the life around it. The bridge crosses over to unknown lands, allowing for imagination to take the reins to envisage the wonders that lie beyond.

Cerulean Cascade: A Swirl of Leaves

Shanvi Tanisha XI-B

Like a gentle breeze, the leaves in this painting intertwine with each other and overlap on each other, creating an enchanting spectacle of nature's beauty. The cool tones evoke a sense of tranquility and serenity, giving one the chance to lose oneself in the soothing rhythm of the swirling leaves. Sometimes, this tranquility is what we need to find true happiness.



Earth's Call for Confrontation

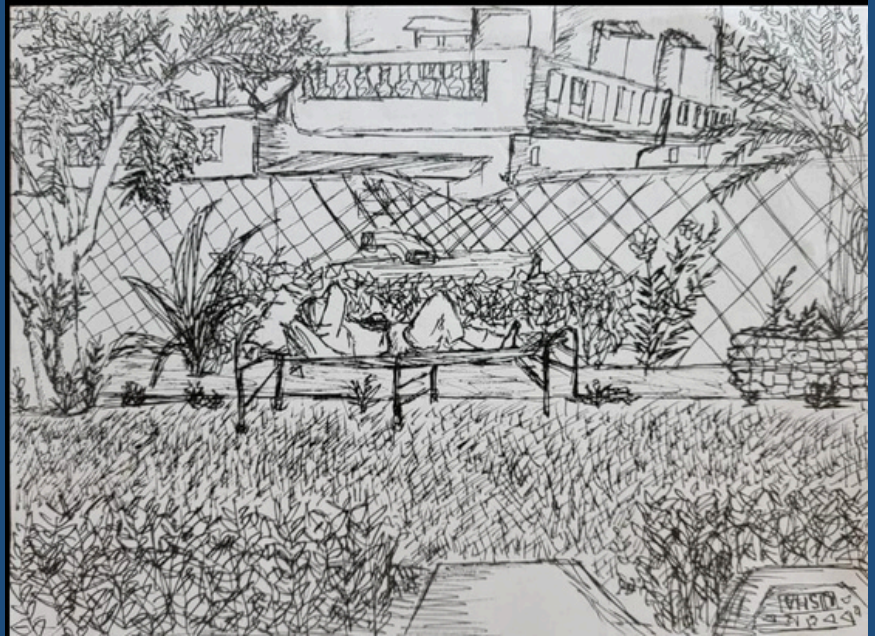
Promiti Bhattacharya- VI-D

This artwork aims to depict the dichotomy between the outcomes of ignoring Earth's environmental crises, and addressing them by choosing better, more sustainable ways of living. Unless we, as a population, decide to improve our planet and protect the environment, it will degrade to an unsalvageable condition. Choosing renewable energy sources, cycling whenever possible and saving every drop of water are some steps we can take.

A Farmer's Reverie

Sneha Dogra XI-F

True beauty resides in the mystery of nature. The sunlight filters through the trees that sway gently along with the tranquillity of the day, the cascades tumbling into the lake as it mirrors the sky and the life around it. The bridge crosses over to unknown lands, allowing for imagination to take the reins to envisage the wonders that lie beyond.



The Dance of the Koi

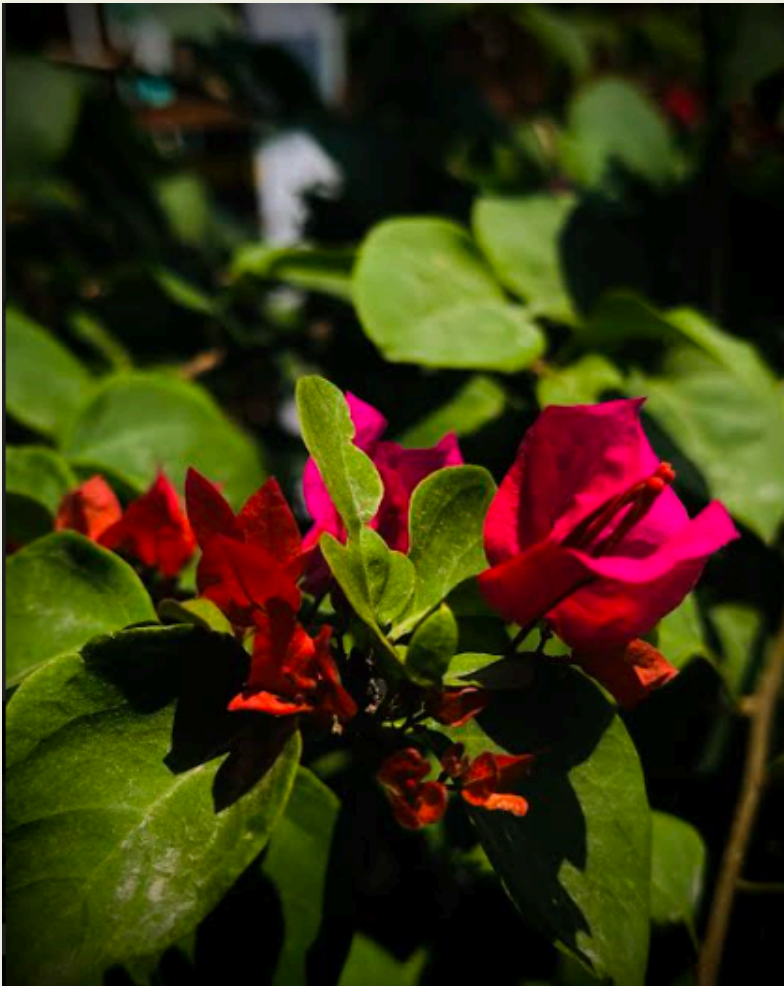
Shanvi Tanisha XI-B

In Japanese folklore, koi fish are revered for their resilience and determination. They are often associated with success, prosperity, and overcoming adversity. Legend has it that koi fish possess the strength to swim upstream against powerful currents, eventually transforming into dragons upon reaching the Dragon Gate—a symbol of achieving one's goals and aspirations. Also, the koi's vibrant colors and graceful movements symbolize transformation, growth, and the journey of self-improvement. Their presence evokes a sense of harmony and balance, reflecting the serenity found in Japanese gardens and ponds.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION

"Photography takes an instant out of
time, altering life by holding it still."

- Dorothea Lange



Fiery Foliage

Myra Bahl, XII-D



A Mother's Embrace

Myra Bahl, XII-D



Teamwork in Motion

Myra Bahl, XII-D



Blushing Bloom

Aditya Raj, VIII-A



Pink Perfection

Aditya Raj, VIII-A

CALENDAR

Date	Event
10 Nov	Prof. Nadkarni Memorial Inter-School Competition
12 Nov	Diwali -GH
16 Nov	Inter-House Quiz: Classes 9-12 Sanskrit Quiz: Classes 6-8
17 Nov	Special Assembly: The Mother's Mahasamadhi Day
21-22 Nov	Athletic Meet: Classes 9-12
24, 26 Nov	MISMUN
25 Nov	Mathematics Quiz: Classes 9-12
25 Nov	Online Quiz 'Evolve-PD' Biology Club Synapse: Classes 9-12
5 Dec	Special Assembly: Sri Aurobindo's Mahasamadhi Day
8 Dec	Human Rights Day: Classes 9-12
16 Dec	Art Exhibition
22 Dec	Special Assembly: Christmas
25 Dec	Christmas: GH

CALENDAR

Date	Event
30 Dec	Farewell to Class 12
1-7 Jan	Winter Break
19-20 Jan	Khelo MIS: Shri Anil Kumar Jauhar Memorial Sports Workshop
20 Jan	Special Assembly: Shri Anil Kumar Jauhar's Birthday
25 Jan	Republic Day Celebrations
26 Jan	Republic Day - GH
21 Feb	Special Assembly: The Mother's Mahasamadhi Day
29 Feb	Annual Examination
30 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meeting

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