

Dear Reader,

Frankly, it is very daunting to realize that we have to somehow embody the spirits of an institution as diverse as Welham (in terms of attitudes, spirits and beliefs) in a way that both effectively relates to all our audience and also introduces us to you as the new Editors-in-Chief of this newsletter. So, let's get the introduction part out of the way. We aren't exactly new at this, having been in the Editorial Board for about 6 years, but we are still apprehensive about whether or not we will meet your expectations. Despite us having spent the majority of our school life anticipating being in this position, when the moment of change came, it seemed to have crept upon us unnoticed, catching us unawares.

Most big changes seem to happen this way - the proverbial monster approaching, gaining, on the ever-unsuspecting heroine in a Prowler-esque ceaseless cycle of humans just never being prepared enough. Two years ago, our world was turned upside down. Then followed the post-Covid rush to get back to pre-Covid life, only for that eager insistence to backfire in our faces as we unwittingly worsened the pandemic, and that same cycle again, and again, and again. Are we at fault for it? No - it is human nature to wish to return to where we are comfortable - to walk and hear the bajri crunch under our soles. Being jostled around so much, causes an itching dread to rise up our napes, bringing us to a conclusion that many have come across in history to varying degrees: we are just being pulled along the tides and currents of the world, unable to fight against their force.

Is that a sobering thought? Very much so. However, it doesn't really help us much in any way. The easier thing to do when change comes around is to accept it: adjust to the 'New Normal', as everyone's been telling us to do. There's nothing wrong with this: it's what keeps us going even in the midst of disasters. Which is why, as headlines scream about 10,000 deaths in Ukraine everyday, or the state of Sri Lankans is read out during assembly, we are able to skip over it, eat tuck, chat in class and pay more mind to what shows we are planning to watch in 'hols' than anything else. Depressing? Yeah. But it keeps the world running, right?

Except: remember when we said we are all just helpless creatures against the tide of destiny? We were wrong. Because even though we can't change the direction of the current, we *can* build a boat and prevent ourselves from drowning. *That's* what human adaptability is about, not just blind acceptance. Remember that as students of a fine institution like ours, we are granted more privilege than most. We have the capacity to drive change - through donations, sure, but also through our mindset and behaviour.

Lastly, regarding our new position: Please know that you're always free to walk up to us. We do not have an office, but our 'doors are open' too, and you'll have the firm assurance of there not being any waiting lines.

Happy Reading!

Shubhika and Vidushi.

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“I Could Make That”

Why the most common remark on modern and conceptual Art is to declare it unremarkable.

Art is pretentious. Take Marcel Duchamp's “*Fountain*” for example. Why is the Art world collectively slamming their credit cards on tables for an uninteresting urinal? Or in fact, why is a mass-produced object not created by the artist, even considered his own Art? Or take Jackson Pollock's ‘abstract’ paint splattering on huge canvases. Why has the Art world been fawning over this meaningless chaos for more than half a century? And most importantly, the sentiment of (*say it with me*):

“I. Could. Make. That.”

To answer these questions, let us create Art. Take two identical working clocks and synchronise their time hands. Hang them next to each other on a wall, close enough to make their edges touch. *Voila!* You have your masterpiece.

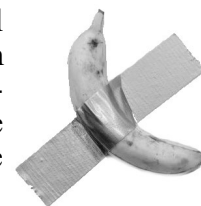
Except; **you do not.**

So it turns out that we missed a step. Without artistic thought, it is hard to have artistic expression. Our setup misses the attachment of an idea, the very soul of all Art. The idea behind the artwork we just created is an actual artwork called *Untitled (Perfect Lovers)* made by Feliz Gonzales-Torres in 1987. That same year, Feliz's partner, Ross Laycock, was diagnosed with AIDS. The two clocks he hung symbolised their relationship: the clocks were synchronised once, but would, with time, fall out of sync. Ross and Feliz both later passed away due to AIDS-related complications.

The artwork, now armed with an idea and its context, becomes a masterpiece: a note on the **impermanence of life**, on human connection and the tragedy of personal loss.

Finally, Art is **pretentious**. It raises the importance of seemingly mundane objects, with artistic ideas. Paint on a canvas or two clocks on a wall would hold no meaning on their own, if there were no genius assigning meaning to mundanity.

To further understand this, let's consider our next piece. When the famous and controversial ‘Comedian’ (popularly known as ‘*The Banana Duct-Taped To A Wall*’) was purchased by an admirer, the actual banana never left the museum. The buyer only received an NFT: a certificate to authenticate that if the buyer exhibited a different banana with different duct tape elsewhere in the same manner, the idea behind the artwork would be the same as that of the original piece and hence ‘**authentic**’. The buyer essentially purchased rights to an idea.



This brings us to our titular quote: “**I Could Make That**” Now we must ask ourselves again, *can you though? Is it possible to have exactly the same idea and exhibit? It may be possible to purchase the same clocks as the ones in the Museum of Modern Art, or the same model of urinal we see in ‘Fountain’, but the idea remains exclusive to the artist.*

Art is contextual. Debating over the recreation of an artwork is futile. Instead, fabricate your own idea. Turn that into Art. Make Art for **the sake of thought**; ideas for **the sake of expression**.

Anyone can splatter paint, but only an artist can give meaning, or a lack thereof, to chaos.

References:
 Duchamp, Marcel, ‘*Fountain*’ (1917)
 Jackson Pollock's Abstract ‘Action’ Art
 Gonzalez-Torres, “*Untitled*” (*Perfect Lovers*) (1991)
 Cattelan, Maurizio, ‘*Comedian*’ (2019)

Yatika Singh Class 11



‘Doomscrolling’

Continuous and irresistible web surfing, down a rabbit hole of flashy internet posts and online news platforms (or mainly Tiktoks, if we're being honest with ourselves), has earned a new name for itself: Domsday Scrolling or Doomscrolling. Social media algorithms, that have become adept at curating our feeds in order to appease our personal interests, have a tight grip on all of us - haven't we all found ourselves continuously scrolling through our social media feeds, despite knowing that we should probably get off and get to work? We keep thinking to ourselves, "Maybe just one more minute," or, "Let me just watch one last video," and then we find it's 3 o'clock at night and we can't keep our eyes open and we have managed to accomplish a sum total of zero work. Even I, personally, have felt this malicious compulsion, which was what drove me to write this article.

Doomscrolling is not just a monster of procrastination - it greatly impacts our mental health, and can cause fear, anxiety and stress. Sometimes it feels as if we're engaging in it to stay updated, on current news. But this constant surfing just shows us a sensationalized version of reality, presenting us with a wide range of information and frying our sensory inputs. Humans are not built to be stimulated in such a way. Our consumption of media in this manner, though tempting, and almost habitual, should be avoided.

Further, our physical and mental health is largely connected - so a negative habit like doomscrolling can affect our physical state by interfering with sleep patterns, and lowering attentiveness and performance on the following days. Research shows that people are already experiencing higher than normal levels of stress and depression since the pandemic (which was indeed a catalyst for an increase in high tech use issues like doomscrolling) with as many as 49% (previously 37%) self-reporting depression symptoms.

How do we set healthier patterns of internet consumption? Self-control and boundaries. This may sound challenging, because it is. There's no mind trick to suddenly reduce phone usage - no trick of hypnosis to cure you in a second. It *will* require an immense amount of discipline, but there's no escaping it. Self-taken steps won't work for everyone though. Internet addiction is a serious thing, and may at times require serious, professional assistance. If you suspect that this may be the issue with you, or if after trying out methods of self-discipline you find yourself unable to make any progress, it is advisable to reach out for professional help. Most importantly, we must focus on the present and find things that will make us feel better in the moment.

Vaaruni Swaroop
Class 11

Roses



A bouquet of freshly hand-picked roses to Mrs. Sambasivam for her rigorous and loving service over the past 6 years as our principal. We will miss you ma'am!



A single fresh and dewy white rose to Chunnu the Kitten for healing all our hearts by being so adorable:)



Bathtubs full of exotic blue and yellow roses to Mr. Joshua Paul, who has just tied the knot, and Mrs. Saraswati Bisht on her newborn baby boy!



Plates full of fragrant roses to Dr. Roma Saklani, Mrs. Seema Issar, Mrs. Meena Rajan, Mr. Sunil Kumar and Mr. PV Gurung - we wish you all the best for your future endeavours!



Baskets overflowing with freshly-scented, hand-picked rouge roses to Mrs. Vibha Kapoor. Good luck Ma'am!

Raspberries



Cartons full of foul-smelling, fungus-infested raspberries to Mrs. Sambasivam for making half the school faint due to her extremely long assembly talks.



Truckloads full of rotten raspberries to the English Department for making LIT-fest so competitive and stressing us all out.



Baskets filled with mashes, rotten raspberries to the monkeys for running away with our fruit during 'juice' break. Eat that!



Swimming pools full of maggot infested raspberries to all the diet-conscious juniors for throwing tantrums about tuck being unhealthy. Enjoy eating moong dal, I guess.



Hospitals full of gooey moth-eaten raspberries to everyone playing 2016 nostalgia pop on campus - please, get a life.



To Mrs. Sambasivam:

After a six year journey, encompassing both growth and stagnancy, we are now coming to part. So, I'd think that now is probably the ideal time to reflect on the path travelled and look at the journey that lies ahead.

Ma'am, under you Welham has undergone its golden period, with drastic changes in both her appearance and spirit. Every Welhamite, among other things, has been exposed to the essential values of integrity, determination and will-power under you - thank you for always stressing upon and insisting on them. We will benefit from it in the future.

For me, your office was always open (even though the waiting period was sometimes too long...) and you always listened, be it before passing judgement on some of my questionable acts in junior school or more recently as you mulled over my several requests and proposals. And even though I would always dread your constructive criticism, whenever I walked out your doors, I would have been set on the right path, however more tedious that right path may be. Speaking from a singular perspective out of about 600, you have done a lot for me, And I know this stands true for the 599 others as well. I wish you nothing but the best ahead.



Keya Aggarwal

Class 11

A Look Into The Departing Enigma

We interviewed Mrs. Sambasivam one last time—here's how it went:

QUESTION 1. What made you join Welham?

ANSWER. It was a very difficult choice for me - I had never been in either a residential or an all-girls' space. Moreover, I was from the South and quite unacquainted with schools of the North. But when I was invited for the interview, I did a bit of reading, looked at the website, the alumni body, which is very individualistic and spirited. Society stays upright because of inherently strong and ethical women - I had always wanted an opportunity to act on that belief. When they asked me to visit campus before I made my final decision, I walked into No. 12 and then I knew there was no turning back.

QUESTION 2. What do you think lies ahead of you, now?

ANSWER. Well professionally, there is a school in Chennai that is requesting me to establish their IB portal. But other than that, I'd like to be a... storyteller! This is because I think that we have not yet explored our own epics well. For example, if you take the Mahabharata, it's basically a treasure house for learning Psychology. But, for some reason, more than wanting to read our own epics, we are more interested in reading foreign perspectives of them.

QUESTION 3. Is there any piece of advice you would like to give us?

ANSWER. Ah, I think I have given you all six solid years of advice. Every day I would talk about cleanliness, environment, about being thrifty, grateful, and humble. That was not advice maybe, but general reminders to always be mindful, resourceful and wise. No matter what you have, if you don't value it, you cannot appreciate it and use it accordingly. I just want you all to enjoy your life but also find the good in things around you. That's how I maintain my energy - I love what I do.

Arshiya Sharma (Class 11) and Anshika Saraf (Class 11)

From The Sidelines

Lt. Gen. Surendra Kulkarni (Retd.), the director of Mayo College, Ajmer, served in the army for four decades before pursuing his interests in the educational field. He was the Chief Guest for our Investitures Ceremony this year.



NV: With regard to you moving back to academics, do you think there is a similarity or a difference between running an educational institution and working in the army?

GK: There is a huge difference. The army people who are your subordinates always agree to agree. When it comes to children in a school, I don't want to train them to obey. I want to train them to think. Each of them must think independently for themselves. So, while collective action and conformity is good in the army, in a school it is just the other way around.

NV: Is there any similarity?

GK: Of course, there are similarities. In the army, people get trained pretty early. Here we have young children of various age groups. You don't see the merit of discipline. And when I say discipline, I mean self-discipline. Before you joined boarding school, how many times did your mother fail to give you a tiffin for school?

NV: Never.

GK: That is self-discipline. Even if she had a fever, she would get up early every morning. When I go home, sometimes I still don't want to get up till mid-day. But the real world told me that my parents were not waking at mid-day. So, discipline is very important. Discipline that leads to self-discipline. My teachers used to tell me that the so-called 'indiscipline' has gone down. But now, that phrase itself has gone down. I say that it has more to do with behavioral issues, not indiscipline. Our approach needs to be of redemption, not retribution. You have to give the child a chance to come back, sooner or later. And that coming-back does not happen out of the fear of punishment. It happens because something inside the child says, "I don't want to go down this path." And when that happens, it all turns out for the good. And of course, if someone is incorrigible: If you keep making the same mistakes, somewhere along the line you need to be pulled down.

NV: Having occupied leadership positions in both - the military and the academic field - what do you believe sets a true leader apart from the rest?

GK: Trust. When I go to battle, I have to believe the *jawaan* will follow me. If he doesn't follow an order, it can be counted as mutiny. But you don't set the system running on this premise. It runs on trust. You trust the soldier and the soldier trusts you as a leader. Similarly, with students and faculty there has to be trust. The first thing I said when I joined school was, "I trust all of you. Hundred percent. Now, your conduct can make it ninety nine percent. You decide how you want to work. If there is anything, you come back to me." Now, it works very well with most people. But there will always be some outliers, and you have to deal with them separately.

Simarna Paintal and Tara Govil

RAISING THE AGE OF MARRIAGE – ARE WE EMPOWERING WOMEN OR RESTRICTING THEM?

On the 16th of December, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, in an attempt to 'empower women and help them focus on their careers'. At first glance, this may seem like the right thing to do. Child marriage, a deep-rooted social norm in Indian history, violates children's rights and exposes them to exploitation and abuse - and while Government Acts over the years have managed to suppress it, it is still prevalent in many parts of India. Raising the age of marriage seems like the best way to get rid of this outdated tradition - however it seems that this measure may yet prove futile.

First of all, while it may be argued that this law would give women three more years to focus on their education, we often overlook some important cases. Several girls decide to get married early to escape violent and abusive households but this law would eliminate that option. Apart from this, experts suggest that the pressure for families to provide an education for girls till the age of 21 may increase the sex-selective abortion rates.

Furthermore, all that the proposed law is doing is raising the age of marriage for women - it still does not give women the freedom to choose their partners, which is essential to prevent marital abuse. Consent is a vital pillar of marriage, and the common practice of marrying younger girls off to older men, even if those young girls are now 21 instead of 18, is exposing them to a dangerous world full of social evils. It is impractical to believe that women can escape such bounds of culture, while still existing in that culture, with just three more years of education, sometimes not even enough for a job. Not everyone can just pack up and move away from their families after college. So, what really needs to change here is the culture. An overall change in mindset is also what would reduce the number of people who would break the law, since we all know that just an age limit is not going to stop those who were planning on marrying their children off anyway.

The problem the government is trying to tackle is not related to the responsibility of 18 year old girls, it is rather to remove the possibility of them being forced into unwanted decisions - after all, in India, 18 marks the age at which people can vote, drive, and go to college. Most countries across the world take 18 as the age when minors become adults, and in most scenarios 18-year olds are deemed capable enough to make their own decisions. If they are considered responsible enough to have the right to vote, they should be considered old enough to choose their partners as well.

So, perhaps, rather than raising the legal age of marriage, India should tackle the root causes: primarily poverty, lack of access to education and systemic patriarchy. It could maybe even work on the Right to Education Act, and increase the age for free and compulsory education from 14 to 18 - if not typical classroom education, then at least some vocational or technical training. This way, families won't be pressured into marrying off their daughters as the Government will be providing education to them until they are mature enough to either leave their homes, or earn their keep.

Raising the age of marriage, while seemingly done with good intention, removes the option of a choice. A civil matter like this requires change in society, not legislation.

Anushka Prakash

Class 12





Chapter 1: *Music is Art for the Ears*

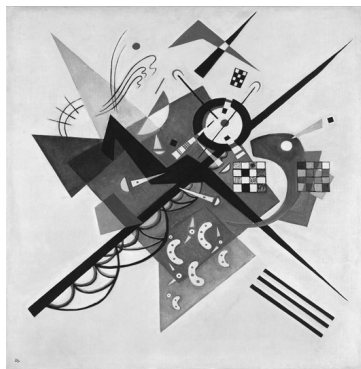


Imagine a movie without sound and only picture, or a movie with no picture and only sound. These in simple, popular terms are called 'paintings' and 'music'; inherently being nothing other than—movies. The Romantics had their own, similar, thoughts: Goethe declared that architecture was "*frozen music*", and the mid-Victorian über-aesthete Walter Pater breathlessly announced that "*all art aspires towards the condition of music*". By the late 19th and early 20th century, however, blurring the edges between music and the other art forms had become a widespread obses-

sion. Wassily Kandinsky, the founder of abstract art, too felt a deep connection between music and art in terms of visual representations and believed that both of them being abstract in nature shared a common origin. The artist used musical terms such as "*improvisation*", "*impressions*" and "*composition*" in the titles of his pre-war paintings, emphasizing the links between the two art forms.

Kandinsky's paintings are a burst of emotion, somewhat like a concert where he paints to the rhythm of his inner music. He called them, "**suddenly created expressions of processes with an inner character**". And as for the Impressions, although this may seem less of an obviously musical title, we know that several of them were specifically written in response to the experience of hearing particular pieces of music.

To support his color theories, Kandinsky appealed in his manifesto to the evidence of *synesthesia*, the scientific name for the condition in which the senses are confused with one another (as when someone finds their sauce tasting too 'blue'). He wrote enthusiastically of how "*Our hearing of colors is so precise ... Color is a means of exerting a direct influence upon the soul. Color is the keyboard. The eye is the hammer. The soul is the piano with its many strings. The artist is the hand that purposely sets the soul vibrating by means of this or that key. Thus, it is clear that the harmony of colors can only be based upon the principle of purposefully touching the human soul.*".



Music, and the idea of music, appears everywhere in Kandinsky's work. He believed shades resonated with each other to produce visual 'chords' and had an influence on the soul. The white in his painting "**On White**" (1923) was the sum of all colors, and they cancel each other out. It is like absolute silence, where we do not perceive emotion; a non-sound. It is a pause between one bar and another in a musical performance, which is a prelude to either sound. The thought of sounds and colors existing in a harmony of ecstasy is further evident from his painting "**Composition X**" (1939) where black is the silence, the final pause of a musical performance, the conclusion - *the end*.

- Avika Mantri Class 11

What's going on with Russia and Ukraine?

On 24th February, 2022 (which, at the time of the publication of this article, was just a little over two months ago) President Vladimir Putin of Russia addressed his nation in an unplanned, but not unexpected, emergency broadcast, stating that he has “decided to launch a special military operation” against Ukraine. He also said that the Kremlin’s plans “do not include the occupation of Ukrainian territories” - yet as it stands, about 60 days into the invasion, Russia has not only captured and brought under military control large parts of Ukrainian land, notwithstanding the territories already occupied prior to this year’s invasion, but it has also resulted in the death of about 3000-25000 civilians (depending on the source), 2000-4000 Ukrainian defense personnel, as well as at least 1500 Russian soldiers (though some estimates guess at as much as 10,000 fatalities in the RAF up till now) - not to mention the approximately 10 million Ukrainian citizens who have been displaced.

Undoubtedly, this is quite a bloody ordeal. There are new developments coming up by the minute, and all parties involved - including NATO, the world’s largest military alliance - are engaged in a volatile and politically delicate situation. A thought that reasonably has been shared by many during this time is: Are we heading towards a Third World War? The simple truth is that we don’t know - we can’t predict the future. Since the future is uncertain, and the present too unstable to accurately report on in a monthly students’ newsletter - let’s roll it back and go back to the past. What exactly led to this situation?

As mentioned above, Putin’s actions against Ukraine were anticipated - not only because Russia had, in the few months before its attack, been amassing troops and conducting drills around its Ukrainian borders, though that’s an obvious giveaway - but also because the two countries have literally been at war since 2014. Surprised? Yes, it seems not many people knew that before February. The truth is, that in the past two decades, Russia has slowly been inching forward from an initial policy of making a strategic alliance with Ukraine (like it did with Belarus, which many call a Russian puppet state), to that of completely obliterating and delegitimizing the Ukrainian government.



Do you see that peninsula titled ‘Crimea’ at the bottom of the map (which is slightly outdated, please ignore)? Well, on 20th February, 2014 (strikingly close to the day of the Kyiv invasion) Russia captured the entire peninsula on the grounds that its inhabitants are all of Russian ancestry, and so, deserve to once again, be a part of Russia (if you remember, Ukraine, as well as several other countries in that region, used to be a part of the Soviet Union before its collapse - so this entire move was played off as Russia wanting to return to its original glory). Of course, this was an illegal conquest, since this island is Ukrainian territory. Further, also in 2014, the two shaded regions to the east of Ukraine - Donetsk and Luhansk - declared themselves to be sovereign nations independent of Ukraine. Both of these so-called “People’s Republics” are neo-Stalinist and have environments resembling the DPRK (North Korea) - with almost no foreign passageways, massive political oppression, and widespread capital punishment. No major country (notwithstanding Abkhazia and South Ossetia) in the world had given recognition to these rebel states as separate nations - until Russia did, this year, just before the Kyiv invasion, touting the whole ‘right to self-determination; upholders of freedom’ agenda. A country that actually cares about fighting injustice for wholly unselfish reasons - really? In this economy? *insert flabbergasted face*

Sure, Putin claimed that Ukraine - a country that literally has a Jewish, democratically elected President, is a neo-Nazi and fascist regime that needs to be demilitarized and taken control of for the greater good. Meme culture immediately swooped in on this to make him seem like a rambling old man with baseless suspicions and way too much power - but considering the man has managed to stay in power so long, we think we're not giving enough credit to his intelligence. So if not a fight against neo-Nazism, what is the real motive here?

Well, there is of course the militaristic advantage of it all. Back when Russia was still the Soviet Union, and the entire Ukrainian belt was a part of it, the two main military alliances of Europe were NATO (Western Europe - UK, France, Germany, etc.) and the Warsaw Pact (Eastern and Central Europe - Soviet countries plus Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, etc.). The Warsaw Pact fell along with the dissolution of the USSR, but the CSTO - Collective Security Treaty Organization (though a more apt description for it would be 'Russia and Friends') - came to take its place. However, Ukraine did not want to join the CSTO. As you can see, Ukraine is smack in the middle of NATO and CSTO, providing a comfortable barrier between the two. For it to join either side would be a major loss to the other one, as it would provide a clear passage of attack. Since Ukraine had been showing interest in becoming a NATO member, it would have been a clear cause of concern for Russia, resulting in them waging war. Russia has had similar motivations in the past, too, when it prevented Georgia from joining NATO in quite the same way - it declared two rebel states within Georgia - Abkhazia and South Ossetia - as independent separate nations, effectively dismembering the country. It then gave those states military backup (quite the same way Moscow is currently giving backup to Donetsk and Luhansk) and attacked Georgia, causing NATO to reject its membership pleas. Is anyone else noticing a repetitiveness in Russia's military policies?

Yet, perhaps more keenly, is another motive; the modern-day lust for oil. You see, in 2012, it was discovered that just around the Crimean Peninsula, in the Black Sea, there is more than 2 trillion cubic meters of natural gas. And, around Donetsk and Luhansk, there are shale gas reservoirs. Russia is currently one of the world's leading natural gas exporters - this development would have negatively affected that, dealing a huge blow to Russia's GDP. Thankfully for them, Ukraine did not have the economy to buy the technology and equipment to actually harvest their oil and gas reserves - but the country was already attracting private investors, as well as the attention of NATO (of course, it's easier to join a military alliance when you are also a major trade partner). Isn't it suspicious that Russia occupies these exact economically viable areas of Ukraine, considering their reasons were 'defending political freedom' and 'ethnic unity'? It seems that those of Russian ancestry, much like Russia itself, only goes where the oil is.

Now, we're not experts or anything - we can only present the evidence and leave you to draw your own conclusion. Whether you believe Putin is conducting a righteous campaign to free a weaker people, or that the Kremlin is (as it truly always has been) a bunch of greedy men, that is your own opinion. However, we would like to remind you of Russia's previous acts such as the holodomor, as well as Putin's last essay published in 2021 "On the Historical Unity of Russians and Ukrainians"- from this, one may gain a general understanding of their desired goals. In his sixteen years of presidency, which is estimated to continue until 2036, Mr. Putin has repeatedly stated his goal of reunifying the former states of the USSR - and they definitely seem to be willing to stoop to any level to achieve this. This brings up the question, though, what will Russia stop at? While it might seem like an impossibility right now, the rebuilding of the Soviet Union is definitely not a far-fetched plan considering modern developments and Putin's temperament - at which point the likelihood of a World War, the explanation of which was our initial conquest, is very probable.

Shubhika and Vidushi

Class 12

Sources:

RealLifeLore

Al Jazeera

The Conversation



JUNIOR *Lamboree*

Football

Football is a sport famous all over the world. But what did you first think of immediately after reading the title? For most people, it's the image of a group of men in alternating jerseys kicking a ball around in a dirt field - the ideal, testosterone-filled image of sweaty, masculine, 'real' men. Now, what about the women playing the sport? Immediately, you attach a prefix to it - women's football. Your perception of the sport changes. It seems more like a subcategory now - not the real thing.

Why is it that people know Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, but not Alex Morgan - or that they consider MS Dhoni better than Mithali Raj? Are they not equally distinguished sportspersons? No. The problem does not lie in the absence of talent, but rather in the acknowledgement of it. People say that they support equality, and sure, in the sheltered bubble of our school, sports are promoted and encouraged and we are provided with an environment where we can foster our interest in them - I, myself, developed my passion for football at school and I pursued it at home, seeing my brother and cousins playing it. But the perception of women in sports is very skewed. There are only certain sports considered 'acceptable' for women and looked on with respect - say, volleyball, or tennis. Anything more physical than this is usually not taken seriously.

In India, respect for sportswomen seems to only be induced when they reach a superstar-like status and win us gold medals, or have a biopic made on them starring a major Bollywood actress. Although this disinterest is seen in general in our country for any sport that is not cricket, the attitude is doubly harsh when it comes to women's sports: if a certain sport is allotted a limited budget anyway, chances are that those funds will be channeled to maintain a men's team rather than a women's.

Are sports women just movie fodder? Why are we only looking at the rare success stories? Why aren't we supporting women in this field in general? Why isn't there more talent scouting, and more provision of resources? Why aren't female athletes remunerated equally? Gold medalists aren't just born, they need to be made - and they can only be made when raw talent is not left unseen due to lack of respect. All that's needed is a chance - a chance to an equal opportunity.

Tanisha Chowdhary Class 7

Have you ever tasted a moth?

Okay, hear me out - I know the title above probably just made you want to puke out your guts, but I swear I have a genuine explanation! Confession time: Yes, I have tasted a moth. I was a kid, okay? Kids eat weird things, that's how life works. I was playing outside, I saw a bunch of moths on the porch ceiling, I climbed a chair, grabbed a few, and just shoved them in. Pretty normal story, right?

For your information, they were scrumptious. To be exact, they tasted like peanut butter and shea butter shampoo mixed with caramel popcorn (now don't ask me why I know what shea butter shampoo tastes like - kids, eating weird things, you know how it goes). Now, I might have just been hallucinating, since, as I later found out, some types of moths are actually quite poisonous when consumed in large amounts (so do NOT try to replicate my actions!). Still, it was a good crunchy snack - at least until my mother barged in and demanded that I spit it all out (:/).

Now, I don't know what the lesson from this incident is supposed to be either, but I do like to think of my younger self as a free spirit with a daring, imaginative bravery. For the record, I do still believe that culinary artists are missing a very essential taste from their palette, and there definitely is potential in my gastronomic activities, even if you think it's gross.

Tisha Verma Class 8



Q. Who won the 94th Academy Award for Best Director (officially known as the Academy Award of Merit for Directing) ?

Q. Which Asian country has recently imposed its longest power cut since 1996?

Q. Major Dhyan Chand Sports University is being established in which place?

Q. Who recently became the first black woman to appear on a US coin ?

Q. Which country is set to build its own space station by 2030?

If you know the answers, come to the editors-in-chief to get a special treat!

History of the Gulab Jamun

Gulab Jamun, a precious dessert consisting of rounds of dough submerged in an ambrosial syrup of warm milk and caramelized sugar perfumed with cardamom, saffron, pistachios and rose water, is beloved to the whole Indian sub-continent but especially to Welhamites, who affectionately refer to it as a 'gulabo'. We eat this sweet treat mindlessly every Monday and make lines pouncing over each other to get hold of any leftovers. But, have we ever considered its history? Its origin? What is our beloved Gulab Jamun's ancestry, my friends? We are here to answer that question for you.

Even though it is commonly believed that this positively heavenly dessert was first made sometime in medieval India, surprisingly, it actually hails from Persia. The delicacy is greatly linked to an Arabic dessert named Luqmat-Al-Qadi, which was introduced to India with the invasion of Mughal emperors. Interestingly enough, this Arabian counterpart was served cold, unlike our Gulab Jamun, which we eat warm (or at least prefer to - dining hall shenanigans usually mean that gulabos have cooled down before we can get to them). Temperature aside, the similarities are large enough to conclude that this must have been what had inspired chefs in India to invent our favorite dessert.

Etymologically, 'Gulab Jamun' comes from the marriage of two words - 'Gulab', acquired from the Persian words 'Gol' and 'Ab', meaning flower and water respectively (referring to the rose water scented syrup the dish is usually plated with) and the Hindi-Urdu word 'Jamun', which means 'black plum', probably alluding to the similarity in size of the fruit to the dessert.

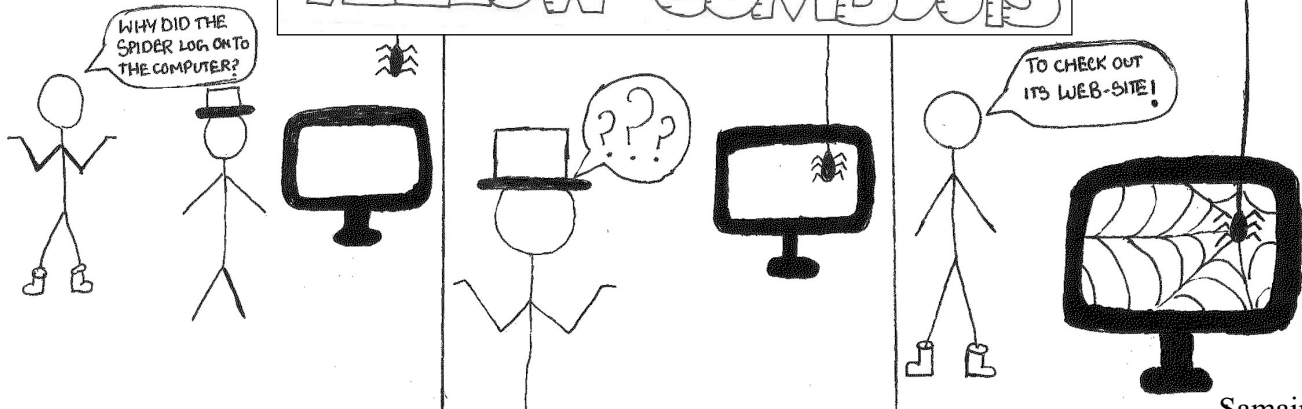
Before you blame us for the irresistible craving for a gulabo that you are probably currently experiencing, we want to remind you to remain grateful to the Persians for their perfect creation, and the journey this 'mithai' has taken, from the sands of Arabia, through the mountains up North, to the plains of Indus River and finally to our own humble mess at Welham Girls' School all to end up in our stomachs on Monday nights. Quite a long road for a simple dessert to travel, isn't it?

Aanya Gupta

Gayatri Bhatia









Class 8

YELLOW GUMBOOTS




Samaira Seth

SPOTTED-

-  A monkey peeing in the audi during Mrs. Sambasivam's assembly speech.
-  Bhai Gang going in and out of the audi gate every two hours.
-  Guard-ji chasing Mahika through the auditorium screaming, "Baby ko roko!"
-  Bulbul SCs using wipers and dustbins to make their litfest props.
-  Bullies finally winning something other than 'Sporting Spirit'.
-  Vidya falling off a tree in the senior garden.
-  All the new flowers appearing in the gardens just before the Board of Directors visit - keep it up malijis!
-  Yashashvini slapping Teista's earring off during the SC litfest event - go Will Smith!


 Kaira: Head is pounding, heart is beating, foot is cracking.

'Mind is reeling' after reading that.


 Mr. Abhishek: Can anyone name medical careers that start with an 'a'?

Nitya: Arthritis!

Well... good luck for your career (you seem to need it).

 Kaira: My mind is working in China.

And ours is working in Pakistan.

 Mrs. Bhatia: Which state was Jharkhand carved out from?

Vidushi: Ranchi.

Are you sure you're qualified to be our editor-in-chief?

 Nandini: Isn't Bangkok in Bangladesh?


...the Geography Department might have cause for concern.

 Shreya: I'm compensating life very seriously

We hope to get compensation for having to read that sentences.

 Yashashvini: Isn't Alonso the King of Nepal?

Yes, and Gyanendra Shah is the King of Naples.

 Ayati (at basketball IPSCs) : What's the score?










Zenisha: It's 19 all.

Ayati: So, who's winning?





Are you sure you should be at the IP-SCs?



WHAT'S IN

-  Maggie Masala Toasts
-  Isolation Ward
-  Tang
-  WGS Wifi
-  Lawn Tennis
-  DIY Haircuts
-  Hair dyed black
-  'Chunnu'
-  Josephs

WHAT'S OUT

-  Plain Toast
-  Shooting Range
-  Tea
-  WGS_Students
-  Basketball
-  Long Hair
-  'Lal Bal Pal'
-  'Sita'
-  Lizards

Violence Is A Legitimate Means of Protest

FOR

"Henry David Thoreau once said, *"That government is best which governs the least"*; that is to say, a government that allows the most liberty. Recent political developments suggest that foundations for authoritarian governments are already being laid down. This certainly is not a new phenomenon - the world has witnessed many throughout history who have tried to go beyond the constitutional boundaries of administration time and again. It has also witnessed what happens to them in the long run. Governments are set up not to control us and limit us, but to guide people towards a better path. If a State fails in this duty, or actively goes against it, protest is inevitable. Sometimes this protest is peaceful, but sometimes, the situation is really quite desperate and, well, desperate times require desperate measures.

If someone is not listening to you, you need to shout loud enough for your voice to be impossible to ignore. Similarly, when a government does not listen to you, you need to use means that ensure attention and subsequent action. Those means are violent protests.

Violence, despite all the nay-sayers, is the ultimate tool of protest, the final expression of dissatisfaction. Non-violence and peaceful methods can only do so much - when a situation is truly dire, it is only violence that can bring about real social change, because it is impossible for a government not to react to violent protest. Non-violent methods seem to rest upon the flimsy belief in the other side's morality - a naive thought process at best. Nothing major, in the modern world, can be solved by non-violence. What proponents of violence as a means of protest want to say is that when the situation presents a conflict, then one should do something that can actually solve it.

Governments, if not kept in check, will inevitably become authoritarian, or something resembling it. Constant checks of the sort, therefore, are instrumental in the smooth functioning of a nation's polity. To prevent the onset of dystopia, it is the people's duty to protest and keep the ones in charge under scrutiny. Some will say that violence causes harm to person and property, which leads to more unrest, seeming almost counterproductive - that as an intellectual, civilized people, it is unbecoming to resort to 'base primal instincts' like violence, as if we were cavemen. Yet when the government itself is unable to follow the rules of civilization, perhaps it is the most natural response to injustice that is the most effective. The truth is, violent protest is not a cause of political instability, it is a result of it. And is it not better to take action and do the needful than to remain indifferent?

Mahi Chandra Class 12

AGAINST

"Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Protest is an integral part of democracy but is violence? If someone is not listening to you, you need to shout loud enough for your voice to be impossible to ignore, but does that mean violence? The proposition's entire argument here seems to suggest a great deal of hypocrisy. In protesting against an authoritarian government, one should keep in mind what they are protesting for in the first place. We say we believe in world peace and human rights, and condemn countries that threaten the idea of it, but where is that belief when violent protests cause near-civil wars and several fatalities? Where is that supposed moral uprightness about the innate rights of man? When protests lead to grief and anguish in the homes of the people, then what is the difference between the oppressors and the oppressed?

Violence has always, and will always, have grave consequences. To discount these consequences on account of ultimate intention is quite frankly reprehensible. Too often does any sort of clash between two sides become just about victory, as we lose sight of the higher ideals we should actually be fighting for. I say 'fight' in the sense of a peaceful fight, because peaceful methods like mass demonstrations, vigils, picketing and general non-cooperation are just as effective as violent ones, if not more so. This is because they strike at the heart of an administration. If the government does not receive tax money, how are they supposed to function? It follows that they will, even if after initial pushback, eventually capitulate, and give in to the people's demands, at least as long as there is wide-scale mobilization and unity. So no, such methods are not dependent on a 'flimsy belief in the other side's morality.'

And such methods of protest have worked in the past as well e.g.- Gandhi, Boston Tea Party, Women's Suffrage Parade of 1913- they have also worked better. A study shows non-violent campaigns lead to political change 53 percent of the time, while violent ones succeed at a much lower rate of 26 percent. Erica Chenoweth an American political scientist said that "Countries in which there were nonviolent campaigns were about 10 times likelier to transition to democracies within five years compared to countries in which there were violent campaigns regardless of whether the campaigns succeeded or failed." Not only does non-violent protest ensure lesser overall harm, but it is also more efficient and has more lasting pay-off in the long-term. So why should anyone compromise their ideals to gain 'freedom'? In gaining this freedom, they are also losing it, because they are bending to the ways which they wished to fight in the first place.

Shivani Thakkar Class 12





- **4th March, 2022** - The Investiture Ceremony took place, introducing the new captain body for the academic session 2022-23. Lt. Gen. Surendra Kulkarni (Retd.), Director, Mayo College, was the honorable chief guest.
- **11th March, 2022** - Renowned Odissi dancer Smt. Vidushi Mudgal put up a spectacular performance as part of a Spic Macay Event.
- **1st April, 2022** - Two students took part in the Emerald Heights Inter-School Quiz. Six students from SC's and PreSC's attended a Round Square Conference themed 'Cultural Coincidences'. It was hosted by Birla Public School, Pilani.
- **1st to 2nd April, 2022** - The LiterIT Fest was conducted with great success, with a multitude of events held for all batches.
- **2nd April, 2022** - The Special assembly was conducted to hand out academic and co-curricular awards for the past year, and to announce the new Vice-Captains. Congratulations on your new posts!
- **3rd April, 2022** - Two students participated in the Sunbeam Lahartara Inter-School Quiz.
- **5th April, 2022** - Ten students from A3s attended a Round Square Conference hosted by the Millennial School, Dubai. The theme was 'A Sustainable Today for a Resilient Future'.
- **13th March, 2022** - Four students participated in an economics Olympiad entitled 'Meccademia'. Big-brain time!
- **14th to 15th April, 2022** - The National Cooking Competition was held at Udaipur. Two of our girls participated.
- **18th to 20th April, 2022** - The 'Virasat' Arts Festival took place in Dehradun, where several students showcased their photography as well as Sitar and Bharatanatyam performances.
- **23rd April, 2022** - The Inter-House Dramatics Competition was held, where the houses put up several famous Rabindranath Tagore stories adapted as plays. Kudos for the good show!
- **29th April, 2022** - Ten girls participated in the Inter-School Folk Dance Competition at Kasiga, and bagged the 2nd position. SRCS also hosted a Kathak Competition called 'Feet O'Inspiration', where four students participated and bagged the 1st prize. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ms. Vibha Kapoor for her accession as the new Principal! All the best Ma'am, we look forward to this new chapter of Welham!

The Romance of Hand Knitting

"In the rhythm of the needles, there is music for the soul."

It is that time of the year when the sun has started to sting again, and an overwhelming humidity seems ever present on the skin. It is that time of the year when the bees sit down to devour the sweet nectar of the changing delicate flowers, new ones springing up where the others have wilted away. It is that time of the year when the trees bear dewy, translucent leaves once more, like tentative crowns, their white petals falling at our feet, as once-empty branches yawn above our heads. When cool lemonade from a pitcher fills our parched lungs, the ground cracks open in wait for the rain. It is then that one may settle oneself into the shade of their room, comfortable under the constant breeze of their fan, and reach for a pair of needles to knit their affection into a sweater for a distant harsher season - a sort of cautionary, protective love. Paradoxical heat with cold, paradoxical traditions.

In India, the time period for the introduction of knitting is unknown - and so it has carried on since time immemorial. A rocking chair going back and forth, back and forth, and spools of yarn is pulled away for days on end, till a pattern forms at the end of a needle (a tenderness produced by a sharp instrument). Us, sitting as children, staring open-mouthed and fascinated at the whole process, and eventually turning into the being on the chair ourselves.

Will we, though: turn into the knitter instead of the knitted for? The Ordnance Survey listed hand knitting among the twenty forgotten skills in danger of dying out - because a machine is more economical than ten stumbling fingers (as always, the human frame has its limits). What is the place for knitting in the modern world? A musty sweater in a colour you don't like, with a collar that is too tight, catching dust in the back of your wardrobe? Or does it lie in the crudely-knit, mismatched-colored muffler sitting around the neck of an occupied parent who may forget to call home, but never forgets to pick up the gift their child gave them everyday before work? Or in online forums, with people of all ages and nationalities excitedly sharing guides and designs, forming kinship along the way? Or in the happy smile of an Alzheimer's patient who has been assigned to knit a sweater, the fine motor skill keeping that hazy fog away, if only just a bit longer?

Knitting may not be what it once was, but it still *is*. It is: an Escape. An Expression. A Memory. A Medicine. The romance of hand knitting is not dead yet - and for the sake of culture, or tradition, or preserving the thoughtfulness of our relationships - it never should be.

Ananya Ratan Class 11

CRANK IT UP !!!

1. *Northsiders* - Christian Lee Hutson
2. *Heat Lightning* - Mitski
3. *Kya Tum Naraz Ho?* (Raw) - Tanmaya Bhatt-nagar
4. *Guys* - The 1975
5. *Chinese Satellite* - Phoebe Bridgers
6. *Softcore* - The Neighbourhood
7. *tis the damn season* - Taylor Swift
8. *Maniac* - Stray Kids
9. *Time For the Moon Night* - GFRIEND (여자친구)
10. *As It Was* - Harry Styles





Q. What does bajri taste like?

\Dear overly-gastronomic-Welhamite,

While I was aware that your lot 'are willing to do anything for food', I am quite appalled to see your definition of food extended to this. Now that you've reduced yourself to "eating off the ground" (or literally the ground of the school in this case) so brazenly, just to suit your whim let me remind you that the 5 second rule can only be extended for 10 seconds (and that is already the amount of time it took you to read till this line). Eating bajri as such causes stomach ailments, by the way, and as for me, proves your insanity.

But for your information, in the hopes that it may prevent any experimentation on your part, I did ask one of our dear editors (in-chief) to try it out, and the verdict is: "Like hard-pellet candy, except it's not sweet, just dusty." Well, that should be satisfactory enough for the likes of you.

Q. Captain America has a shield, where's his sword?

Dear artillery-engrossed-Welhamite,

It seems like you have looked a little too closely at the cinematography of the MCU - and if that is the case, you should also have noticed the fact that Captain America's character is entirely based on the fact that he is an 'American war hero', and therefore a means of propaganda and glorification of the spread of Americanization. But of course, this wouldn't have occurred to you, as it didn't occur to you that Captain America wields Mjolnir now, and does not have free limbs to carry a sword. In any case, I suggest you divert your attention to more pressing matters - such as your classes, your schoolmates eating bajri, why Saumya used a dustbin lid instead of a more reasonable cardboard... you know, the usual stuff.

Signing off,

Sincerely yours,

Aunt Agatha.

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