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#### FEATURE ARTICLE JANYA GAMBHIR

# Filling the Gap at Graduation

For the past five years, not a single student-elected graduation speaker has been a female. Parents, students, and teachers all agree: it is time for a change.

Two girls and five boys (one boy later dropped out) ran for graduation speaker this year. However, after speeches were conducted, the High School administration announced a new voting system in an attempt to provide equal representation at graduation. In the first round, we would have to vote for two male candidates to equalize the number of girls and boys. Then, in the second round, we would vote three times: once for a male, once for a female, and once for anyone.

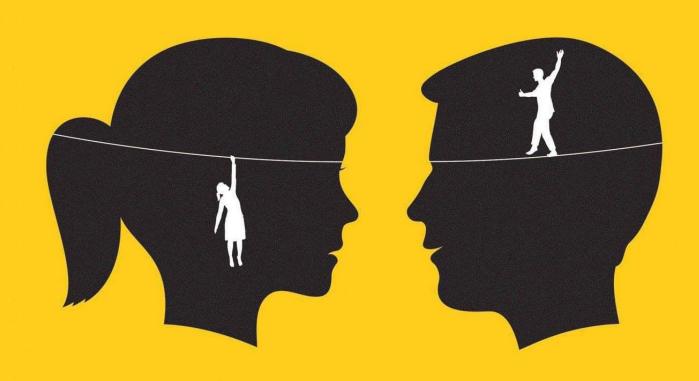
This system would give a statistical benefit to a girl running for speaker. To be precise, according to calculations that The ROAR conducted, the probability of a boy winning round 1 and round 2 was 6.25%; on the other hand, the probability of a girl winning round 2 was 12.5%. In other words, an individual girl had double the chance of winning relative to an individual boy.

12th graders were frustrated with this new system for a variety of reasons. Some objected to the fact that it was only announced after speeches were made; a 12th-grade boy described this as "unethical." While a few appreciated the effort to increase female representation, certain males running for speaker felt that it was unfair considering that they had a smaller chance of winning. Alternatively, other students believed

that the process was flawed as a matter of principle. Joya Kumar, another senior, and I started a petition against the system, which was signed by over half the grade.

Many were shocked that two females (supported by others) were against a scheme that, in theory, benefitted girls. A girl in my grade called me a "misogynist" when I asked her to sign the petition. In fact, I am the exact opposite of a misogynist; I consider myself a feminist. I am simply against the idea of "inclusion for inclusion's sake," i.e., tokenism.

Tokenism is defined as "the practice of making only a perfunctory or symbolic effort to be inclusive" (Oxford Dictionary). These policies are often a temporary measure to change a recurring pattern in society. The phenomenon is ubiquitous across the media industry, the workplace, and politics, wherein authors, producers, and managers place a member of a minority group into a specific position to create the impression of social inclusiveness. Tokenistic policies arguably have advantages, as they have a positive intention of generating visibility for marginalized people. But in the case of electing our graduation speaker, the increased chance of winning for a girl is silencing the wider gender dynamic issues. Imagine that you have a sharp pain in your back. Rather than seeing a doctor or getting an x-ray to investigate the matter, you take a painkiller. Week after week, the pain increases, but you keep popping pills, hoping that it will eventually subside. But it doesn't. You have a





muscle strain that will require more than just analgesics: it will take hours of physical therapy and possibly surgery.

The "ache" that is present in our grade is an intrinsic power imbalance. I believe that we need to tackle this issue at its root instead of altering the voting process. According to Consuela Knox, a Diversity Recruiting Manager at Vanderbilt University, the three main steps to avoiding tokenism are diversity, equality, and inclusivity. Our school contains a diverse body of students consisting of both boys and girls (though, in our grade, there are about 10 more boys than girls). There are equal opportunities for both genders to apply for a leadership position and have an impactful presence in the community. Many girls are present in high-level leadership positions, such as The ROAR, Service Council, and a majority of service clubs. However, an area for growth is fostering inclusivity in positions that require a popular vote. As stated by Suraiyaa Khan, a girl who considered applying for speaker, "Over the past couple of years, I have run for CC along with other girls. Yet, each time, the same pattern occurs where an all-male-or mostly male-CC is elected by our grade. I respect the opinions of my peers and the effort that everyone puts into these opportunities provided to us. But because this is a repeating trend, I didn't feel that I should run as a graduation speaker. At the back of my mind, I knew I wouldn't be voted in because ultimately a boy would be voted in over a girl. This is a discouraging attitude to have, but it is the reality many others feel."

Three other girls in my grade expressed similar sentiments about the graduation speaker process, and countless others have said the same about positions including the Executive Council. In fact, only seven out of 29 people on the Associated Student Council are girls. We have to ask ourselves a tough question: why do girls feel like they don't have a chance of winning? Is this something to do with the environment in our classrooms or the attitudes of classmates? We need to ensure that AES a community where everyone's voice and opinions feel valued. The administration-in conjunction with the Class Council, PSA representatives, parents,

and teachers-is working to address the inadequate number of girls in leadership role elected by popular vote. In fact, various discussions have been held over the past several years, and attempts to understand the problem have been made. That being said, by giving girls a higher likelihood of winning, the voting process is trying to resolve the present state of inequality without taking steps to understand the issue. The system assumes that without the primary round to balance the number of males and females in the race, the two female candidates would not be able to win enough votes on their own. While that has unfortunately been the case for the past few years at our school, it should not be thought of as inherently true.

I thank the administration for attempting to address the ongoing dilemma. However, I think the situation could have been handled differently. Girls should have been encouraged to run before speeches were conducted. Also, the grade should have been informed about the negative trend of student speakers to try and change the gender gap. Our graduation speakers should be selected using an equitable and democratic system; equally, girls should feel empowered to represent the class. We must build a sustained, unified effort that will test every person in our community to change their mindset and think differently. Only then will girls transcend our current role to literally and metaphorically fill "the gap" at graduation.

In spite of having a statistical advantage, both of the girl candidates lost. The win of the two male graduation speakers should first be celebrated, in acknowledgment of their efforts and dedication. But it should also be used as a lesson. They show us that tokenistic policies are not enough to change our grade from within. Rather, we must build a sustained, unified effort that will test every person in our community to change their mindset and think differently. Only then will girls transcend our current role to literally and metaphorically fill "the gap" at graduation.

Contributions made by Joya Kumar, and calculations verified by HS Math Teacher

**EDITORIAL MRINALINI SISODIA WADHWA** 

## Normalcy, Travesty, or Both?

e are taking your child for a bath, an official said; for thousands of migrant parents last summer, it was the last news they were given of their children's whereabouts. It was also a lie.

Last summer, the government forcibly separated thousands of migrant children traveling to the United States with their families. These children were detained in separate facilities, some placed in foster care. Children who could barely speak coherent sentences had to go through separate court proceedings without guaranteed representation from an immigration lawyer. Some returned to their families days, weeks, or months later; they would cry that their mothers and fathers must not have loved them enough to fight for them. They would be terribly anxious, confused, and permanently shaken. Others remained in the detention facilities, their registration information having been misplaced, or their parents having already been deported and sent back to their home country.







Now, you and I may not agree on the best immigration policy for a nation. We may not agree on the extent to which a developed country should aid asylum seekers, or if amnesty is a universal, fundamental right. We may not agree on who invented this policy, and who is to blame for its consequences. And I say, right now, we do not need to. We simply need to think, for a moment, about the times when, as young children, we would clutch our parents' hands, bags, coats, anything we could reach, in a crowded mall, filled with bright lights and unfamiliar people. We need only remember the sheer terror we felt at the prospect of losing them to realize that this is a horrifying, devastating travesty.

Indeed, the events of the spring and summer of 2018 incited furor. That children were actively separated from their confused, heartbroken parents was too much to stomach; it was not normal, we decided, but rather an aberration that must be eliminated. This policy of "zero tolerance," purportedly meant to deter illegal immigration, was formally ended by a presidential decree signed by President Trump on June 20, 2018. On June 26th, a federal court ordered the administration to reunite children under five with their parents within two weeks, and children above five within the month. The administration protested the order as "too extreme," and proceeded to begin reunification procedures. After that, the children faded from the public eye.

It seemed that America's politics had returned to a state of normalcy. Yes, political debates remained emotionally charged, with 'illegal immigrants' being publically decried by some and defended by others. The furor died down, gradually. Trump's signing of the executive order, and his administration's reluctant promise to obey the court order, had been enough to turn the public eye away from these children and towards the next headlines.

Why was that enough to convince us that the travesty was gone, and that life was back to normal? If we consider the facts retrospectively, it seems that hardly enough was done to guarantee that the children would be reunited with their families. The only guarantee, of sorts, was a vague statement from the Trump administration saying that they

would "take care of" the situation at the border. Perhaps we were convinced because we expect our politicians to reassure us that all is well, that crises are being averted, and chaos is being managed. We may not believe them, but we expect them to make these statements. Nearly every politician does: it is normal to hear charged language and half-hearted reassurances. If it is normalcy, then, we think, the present situation cannot be a travesty-or can it?

I would argue that it was both. In the earlier months of last year, the public paid little attention to the administration's claim that they had reunited 2,167 out of 2,551 children under the age of five-that three hundred infants and toddlers had been separated from their parents for months on end. Upon realizing that the furor had died, the administration cautiously began disclosing more information. Last December, we found out that an eight-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl both had died in custody. Other children are said to have suffered sexual abuse and assault at the hands of government officials. Then, a month ago, a spokesperson revealed that they did not know exactly how many children had been detained between April and June of 2018 or have accurate records, and that thousands of children were still separated from their families. On February 5th, Jonathan White, one of the government officials heading the reunification process, claimed that the government would not work to reunify children who had been placed in foster homes last summer due to administrative complications.

How did the world respond? It responded with a terrifying. enveloping wave of silence, a forced disaffection; it was the kind of uncomfortable silence that ensues when we sense that something is wrong, that we are being lied to, but choose not to consider it. Consciously or subconsciously, we cannot imagine that our sense of 'ordinary' is actually an injustice. We understand injustices and travesties as moments when an immoral, depraved actor does something unfair or cruel without shame or a cover-up. It was for this reason that the family separation policy last summer, where an administration publically and defiantly lied to parents to take their children, was

widely considered an injustice. It is for the same reason that we have managed to overlook what happened since then, as all of it was conveniently hidden behind a shroud of normalcy.

Perhaps our forgetting these children was the greatest travesty of all. Perhaps we should not ask ourselves whether something is normalcy, or a travesty; rather, maybe we need to consider whether we will ever be able to recognize and address something that is both.



SCHOOL SANAYA VARMA

## Being Challenged and Maintaining Achievement

t is inevitable that, at some point, every student will feel as though they aren't being challenged enough, regardless of the amount of work they're getting from their classes. So how can you challenge yourself academically, outside the classroom, without hindering your classroom learning? This article will discuss a few ways students can feel challenged whilst maintaining academic success.

One idea is to do extra work on your own pertaining to the topics you're learning in class. Find new ways deepen your understanding, simply fueled by curiosity, and retain it in the long term. Figure out when your next summative is and begin working towards it right from the beginning so that you aren't left to do all of that cramming the night before. For instance, in a class where you take many notes keep two notebooks-one where you take rushed notes in class and another in which you re-organize them or use a textbook. Therefore, not only do you have nice notes, but you also have to think more deeply about how to synthesize the information. Completing tasks such as this don't require much time, but the requirement of your attention help you in the

long run; you're putting in just enough extra work to feel challenged and accomplished.

Planning ahead is never a bad idea. So why not work towards something in the future? That may include the next topic in a class or even a new course you may be taking in a year. You can start by creating a physical planner, helping you with already thinking ahead. For the next topic, simply ask your teacher what you will be learning next or look at the course syllabus and get a head start. Look in your planner for days where you aren't overwhelmed with work and begin to take basic notes in your own time-only about 15-30 minutes at a time. Then, when the next topic starts, you already have a strong foundation and are able to skip past the struggle of wrapping your head around it for the first few days.

There is an infinite number of ways to feel challenged. Sometimes the basic classwork is enough, but sometimes it isn't. Challenges vary for each person, but the most important thing to remember is that facing barriers has to be moderated so that you're enhancing your understanding, not worsening it.

#### **SCHOOL VANSHIKA PURI**

## Are you a leader?

es, we've all heard the spiel: "if you want to be a great leader, be confident! All great leaders are outgoing!" Whether you've heard this from your parents, friends, teachers, or society, it's a message that surrounds us. It is also a message that I began to accept quite early on in my not-so-long life because it was broadcasted around me. Leaders are the loud winners; followers are simply members of the audience.

This idea is developed from our childhood. The child that screams or bullies their peers the most is often the child who gets the most attention, while the friend that's trying to console the bawling child or the bystander who stands up to the bully is often overlooked. This later transcends into adolescence, when we're all undergoing physical and psychological transformations.

General characteristics of a leader include confidence, integrity, and empathy. These are just a few qualities that we can see in our student body leadership culture. The high school student leadership is comprised of the Associated Student Council (ASC), the Service Council, which include the club leaders, and then the leaders of various other lunchtime clubs. One observation you might have is that there isn't necessarily a pattern to the leaders that are elected and appointed. In fact, this school does a particularly deliberate job in making leadership accessible to everyone. It is encouraged in our learning habits and the various activities we commit to as well. The philosophy behind this is that each student has "intrinsic value" and that learning how to lead is a lifelong process.

But why do we believe that leadership, typically described as "a process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal," (Forbes) is meant to be entrusted to an extrovert with a booming voice and confident stance? This is the image that the

wider society chooses to accept because it is one we associate with the leaders in our daily lives. Through this notion arises the thought that leadership is an inherent quality and that some people are simply "born to be leaders." But in my view, not only is this outlook incorrect, but it is also demotivating. It creates the impression that there can only be one leader of the pack and if that leader isn't you, then you'll never lead anyone. If the goal is to encourage leadership, then this belief limits the cultivation of leadership opportunities.

We mistakenly believe that it is the responsibility of a sole individual to help us reach a destination, so we entrust that person with our goals. Many of us are attracted to the culturally prevalent image of a leader perhaps because these stereotypical qualities are ones that many of us aspire to have. At some point, however, this image is shattered when leaders develop a keen focus on the public perception of themselves rather than focusing on the accomplishment of their original goals. The ability to empathize with or channel a group's thinking is left behind in favor of words and gestures.

The truth is that being a leader doesn't mean being privy to exclusive information or having to make weighty decisions; instead, it means being able to stand up for the people you represent. If your leadership style is more on the guiet side, don't be discouraged by that. What's most important is to never shy away from showing your power (in a diplomatic manner) and sticking to your beliefs. Remember: before you can empower others, you must empower yourself first. Leadership has nothing to do with one's seniority or title; it is the process through which the collective goals of a group are recognized and achieved. It's time to realize that while we tend to associate a vociferous, engaging, social personality with leadership, the two aren't directly correlated.

#### **SCHOOL KABIR SETHI**

## High School Food Hacks

here are many things a student looks forward to at AES, one of which is the bell that marks the start of lunch. Students from all classrooms rush to grab a much-deserved meal or fight for the rights to heat their food in the microwave. Amidst all the chaos, it is easy for one to get confused with where they should go and enjoy their meal. Fear not! The ROAR has created a handy guide that will help you in your AES culinary adventures.

The Breezeway is the usual 'go to' for most High School students. With a menu that includes a variety of pizzas, pastas, and wraps, it's a great place to grab a quick bite without spending too much. If you have a lunch meeting that you need to run to, the Breezeway is ideal for you to grab a quick dish before you head over to your meeting. Perhaps the best part is the fact that it's cheaper than the other two locations, and Mr. Naval's smiling face is worth standing in line to grab that samosa. If you're looking to spend less or are running against time, the Breezeway is the best place for you to grab your lunch.

ROAR Tip - The Breezeway enjoys putting exorbitant prices on fruit. Save yourself the trouble and bring one from home instead.

The High School Café is not far behind in popularity from the Breezeway. Its menu encompasses continental food from various cuisines, along with the occasional 'Cocoberry.' It's a wonderful place to socialize with friends while enjoying your meal, as the prices are more costly than the Breezeway but more reasonable than Ti-

gers' Den. If you want to enjoy the first part of your lunch and then do something afterward, the High School Café is an ideal place for you to grab lunch.

ROAR Tip - The High School Café boasts one of the longest lines for food at AES. Get to the Café as fast as possible to grab your food while it's still hot.

The Tigers' Den is the poshest of all the three locations. The menu includes breakfast and lunch items; as a result, it's a great place to eat food after morning practices. Tigers' Den is more costly than both the Breezeway and the High School Café, with most menu items above 200 INR. Fewer people tend to go to Tigers' Den because of this, but the taste of the food and the kind workers lead most to indulge in an expensive treat. If your goal is to take your time enjoying your meal in a restaurant setting, the Tigers' Den is perhaps the best place for you to relish your lunch.

ROAR Tip - The Tigers' Den delights in charging money for its 'Take Away' Boxes. Bring your Tupperware from home to circumvent the system.

Ultimately, those who bring home cooked food perhaps have it the best. Their lines are relatively shorter, and their food is truly homely (no pun intended). Knowing most students, however, Mr. Naval's pancakes or Ms. Priyanka's coffees are enough to keep them happy. The ROAR hopes this guide will serve you well in your AES culinary adventures. Happy eating!

#### **SCHOOL SURAIYAA KHAN**

## Top 10 Tips for Minicourse Survival

If one wishes to experience the great outdoors, India is definitely the place to start! AES provides highschoolers with the opportunity to explore this vast, culturally exquisite country that we call home for one exciting week. Whether it's your first year experiencing minicourse, or are just seeking tips to survive the Indian wilderness; here are some top 10 tips that will help you to enjoy (and survive) minicourse.



The majority of rural parts in India mainly serve Indian meals every day of the trip. Although it is delicious, sometimes the meals can feel repetitive. Packing cup noodles and granola bars, for example, is an easy way of having a break from the meals served during minicourse.



#### 3: Bring a hoodie

Whether you're going to a region with a cold climate or not, it's always smart to have a hoodie or light jacket with you. The air-conditioning tends to get quite chilly in cars or buses. Having a hoodie on hand also makes for a good pillow or blanket.

#### 2: Bring good shoes

This is probably the most important thing to bring on minicourse. You will be on your feet all day, so bringing comfortable shoes is important to avoid the uncomfortable feeling of tired feet throughout the trip.





#### 1: Pack early

Inevitably, we always plan to do this, but it rarely ever happens. However, packing your bag at least a week before you leave for minicourse will give you ample time to make sure you have everything you need. This will also allow for the opportunity to buy extra supplies (mainly snacks) if you need them.





#### **6: Entertainment**

Being stuck out in the wilderness without wifi or satellite connection in the 21st century can be hard. This is the harsh reality of minicourse! To combat the possible boredom, bring cards, magazines or other forms of entertainment to pass the time (especially by the bonfire).

## 5: Bring extra money

It's handy to have some extra cash on you throughout minicourse. Between 1000-2000 rupees is enough to stock up on snacks or to simply have on hand in case of an emergency.

## 7: Create a playlist

Bringing music on minicourse to jam out with your friends will create so many amazing memories. Getting a playlist ready beforehand will instantly create a mood you want. Just don't forget headphones and the portable speaker!

## 8: Portable charger

It is absolutely imperative to bring a portable charger while on minicourse. If you're one to use your phone as a camera or early morning alarm, bringing a portable charger will save your life during the long, traffic-ridden bus journeys where charging stations may not be available.





## 9: Bring sanitizer / wet wipes

Bringing sanitizer or wet wipes (maybe even both) is necessary. With the lack of running water in some parts of India, having these essentials on hand is good to keep the germs away.

#### 10: Have fun

Yes this is probably the cheesiest tip, but how could we end this list without it? Minicourse is a great opportunity to appreciate the beautiful country we live in. Not only that, new friends and memories will be made! Make sure you completely block school from your mind and remember to enjoy the fun that minicourse has to offer!







**CURRENT EVENTS CATHERINE KISH** 

# ILE YELOW ESI2 Protests in France

he barricades are burning. Smoke is billowing.

Tens of thousands of people flood the streets, clamoring for justice.

People are dying, hundreds are injured.

There are screams and chants ringing.

Ministers are resigning.

People are calling for the president to step down.

This is Paris. This is now.



The 'Yellow Vest' movement (Mouvement des gilet jaunes) began in late 2018. What started as an online petition against a new tax on diesel fuel erupted in November to become an ongoing weekly protest across France. We are now in week 14. Since the first protest, four people have died and hundreds have been injured.

#### What is the 'Yellow Vest' movement? Why are the people protesting?

Tensions began when President Emmanuel Macron announced increased taxes on diesel fuel to fund France's green-energy initiatives. Many working and middle-class citizens in France travel by car to work in cities – this diesel tax would have had detrimental impacts on their standard of living.

Named for the fluorescent yellow safety vests that drivers are required to keep in their cars, the 'Yellow Vest' movement consists mainly of working and middle-class citizens. Some protesters are calling for an end to the green tax, some are calling for a rise in the minimum wage, and some radicals are even calling for the dissolution of the current National Assembly and the resignation of Macron.

This movement spread like wildfire and engulfed France. Since November, there have been protests in Paris, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Toulouse, Montpellier, and other cities. At its peak, there were over 2,000 protests across France with over 300,000 people protesting.

The 'Yellow Vest' protests have often become violent riots. Anarchist vandals, known as casseurs, have turned to vandalism, looting, and violence during the protests. Those against these violent acts have also taken to the streets in peaceful marches, and they are known as the 'Red Scarves' and 'Blue Vests.'

#### The digital revolution.

Social media has been driving the 'Yellow Vest' movement. The use of social media to exchange ideas and coordinate protests in the 'Yellow Vest' movement reflects the new age of digital revo-

lutions. Some attribute the start of the movement to a car mechanic, Ghislain Coutard, from southern France. In October, Coutard posted a video on social media calling for a protest on November 17th. The video garnered 5.5 million views, and almost 300,000 people across France turned out for the first major protest. Many other viral videos at the early stages of the 'Yellow Vest' movement helped fuel the momentum of the protests. There are also several 'Yellow Vest' Facebook groups, and the largest one has over 1.8 million members.

#### President Macron's response and the movement's impact on the future.

The 'Yellow Vest' movement has been a major challenge to President Macron, who has been dubbed "President of the rich."

Since the 'Yellow Vest' protests began in November, the French government has tried numerous tactics in the hope of smothering this wildfire of a movement. The proposed diesel fuel tax that triggered the movement was scrapped, and in December, the government promised to raise the minimum wage by 100 euros per month. Although the 'Yellow Vest' protests have been continuing each week, the number of protesters has decreased down to around 50,000 protesters across France.

The French government seems to be surviving the wildfire that is the 'Yellow Vest' movement, but wildfires are unpredictable. With the next French Presidential election and National Assembly elections in 2022, it still remains to be seen what lasting political impact the 'Yellow Vest' protests will have. Nobody can predict when this one will blaze up or where it will spread next.

#### **CURRENT EVENTS SANGHUN BYUN**

## Chechnya Anti-LGBT+ Purges

■he LGBT+ community faces high unemployment rates, violence, unequal healthcare, and criminal injustice. Many of us are aware of the violence and discrimination that members of the LGBT+ community experience on a day-to-day basis. However, we are often blinded by the government about the inhuman treated this community receive from the authorities, despite recent progress made by nations around the world to support LGBT+ people. This includes the legalization of gay marriage. Evidence of arbitrary incarceration, execution, and torture have been reported worldwide, threatening anyone that is non-heterosexual. The Russian LGBT Network has unveiled 40 cases of imprisonment in Chechnya- an autonomous republic in southern Russia- since December 2018. Prisoners were described as having faced torture and other forms of ill-treatment due to their sexual orientation. Two of these detainees have already lost their lives; one died from knife wounds. A government spokesperson has dismissed these allegations as "complete lies" Similarly, the authoritarian leader of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, has denied these claims. In a BBC interview, he called the allegations "an invention by foreign agents" to destabilize the citys politics or creation by an activist in pursuit for money. According to him, there is no LGBT+ population in Chechnya.

Dozens of prisoners have come forward to share their gruesome experiences. In prisons, basic human rights such as access to clean water were denied; instead, detainees were given dirty water, usually used to wash the floor, to drink. Former prisoners recall being pressured into giving names of others associated with the LGBT+ community.

"They have a special black box and they attach wires to your hands or ears. The pain is awful. It's terrible torture," Ruslan (not his real name), a victim of this crackdown said. "They split my eye, my lip, broke my ribs, they electrocuted me," stated another victim said in an interview with ABC News.

Organizations such as The Organization for Security and Cooperations in Europe (OSCE) has expressed support for individuals like Ruslan by declaring that this is a "very serious human rights violations."

"We know of around 40 people who have been detained, but it may be more. It's also unclear at this point how many have since been freed. We know that some people are handed over to their families to 'deal with'," announced Igor Kochetkov, the head of the Russian LGBT+ Network. This Network has been assisting with the evacuation of more than 140 people since the first evidence of similar persecution in 2017. Other human rights organizations such as Amnesty International remains active on this matter. However, far more assistance including support from civilians around the world is necessary to put an end to this issue. Only then, would we ensure justice and equality for those born different.



#### **CURRENT EVENTS ADVIK GOEL**

## The US Government 2018-19 Shutdown

rom the 22nd of December to the 25th of January, the US underwent its longest government shutdown in history. During this 35 day period, FBI agents, federal corrections officers, FDA food inspectors, NASA employees, TSA staff, Border Patrol staff, census staff, National Park Service staff, members of the Coast Guard and Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controllers either worked without pay or were furloughed. Americans who once lived paycheck to paycheck had their salaries withheld, forcing some to rely on charity services to provide for their families.

The cause of the shutdown is the partisan divide over funding for President Donald Trump s desired border wall. On December 11, President Trump said during an exchange in the Oval Office with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. that, "If we don't get what we want ... we will shut down the government."

Reports of Trump's rigidity on the issue of the border wall were present throughout the shutdown. On December 20, Trump was quoted saying "I've made my position very clear: Any

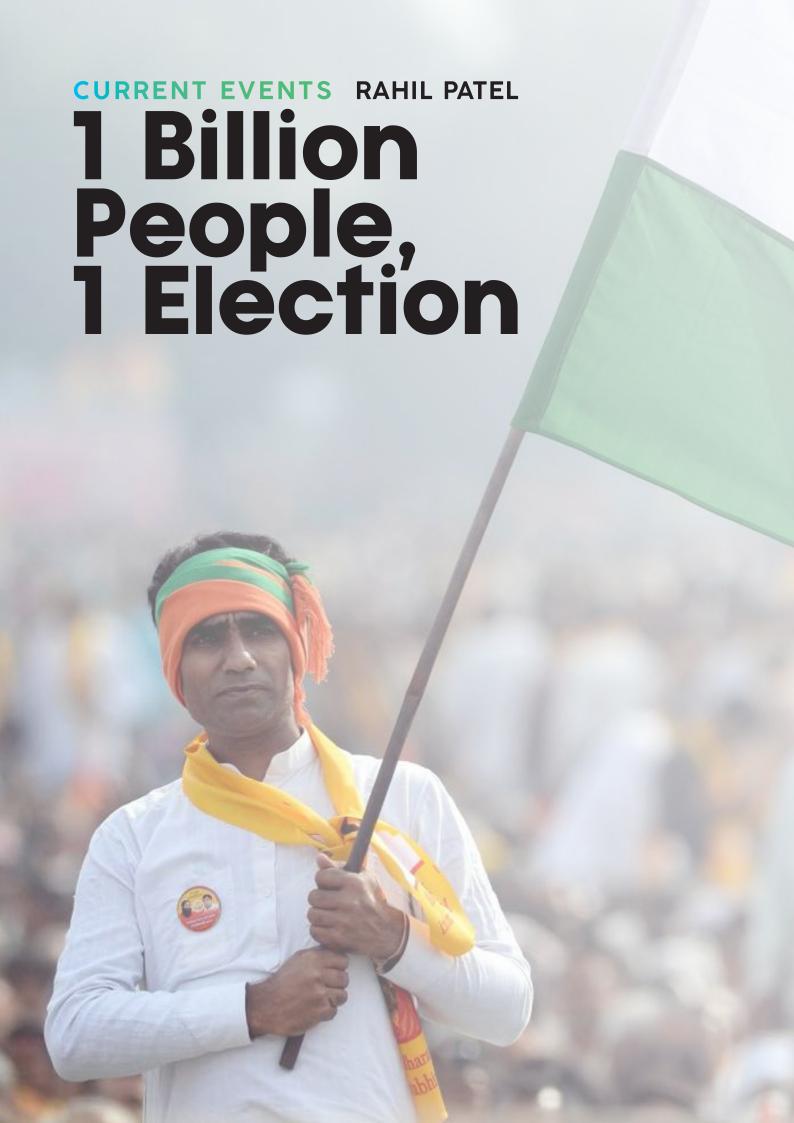
measure that funds the government must include border security." This rigidity went far enough for the President to consider calling a national emergency. As he said on January 4, "We can call a national emergency because of the security of our country, absolutely." Democrats were unhappy with Trump's statements and responses. In their televised response, Pelosi and Schumer said Trump is using fear to try and achieve his wall at the expense of people who rely on government services. "President Trump must stop holding the American people hostage, must stop manufacturing a crisis, and must reopen the government," Pelosi said. Schumer added: "We don't govern by temper tantrum," explaining "no president should pound the table and demand he gets his way or else the government shuts down, hurting millions of Americans who are treated as leverage."

Throughout the shutdown, the president and the two Democratic Congressional Leaders attempted to appeal to the American people with addresses to the public. Donald Trump's Oval Office speech presented the view that a border wall is necessary for the security of the country. He sought to pressure Democrats to allow the 5.7 billion USD needed for construction of the wall. Trump also tried to ramp up support among Republicans who are getting nervous about government

workers and others who are feeling the pain of the shutdown. In their televised response, Pelosi and Schumer said Trump is using fear to try and achieve his wall at the expense of people who rely on government services. "President Trump must stop holding the American people hostage, must stop manufacturing a crisis, and must reopen the government," Pelosi said. Schumer added: "We don't govern by temper tantrum," explaining "no president should pound the table and demand he gets his way or else the government shuts down, hurting millions of Americans who are treated as leverage."

The tension between Pelosi, Schumer, and Trump continued to escalate after their public addresses. Pelosi advised Trump to delay his State of the Union due to lack of funded security personnel. Soon after, Pelosi's government scheduled trip to Belgium, Egypt, and Afghanistan was postponed.

Eventually, a deal was made to temporarily postpone the shutdown for three weeks so more detailed negotiations could happen. The deadline for a revised deal is less than 48 hours after me writing this, on February 15. Time will tell if this dramatic shutdown was a one-time occurence or a prelude of things to come for the US



ith 1,363,000,000 people comes a country laced with diverse cultures, varying beliefs, and widespread debate; whether or not India will be able to harness this expansive base is to be partially determined by the upcoming general election in coming months. India's 17th general election is set to be held from April to May this year. Those who are being elected primarily include all 543 members of The House of the People (also known as the lower house, or Lok Sabha). The two main parties that fight for control of the Lok Sabha are the Indian National Congress (referred to as Congress) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). As of now, results on who will win are not clear.

The main focus of the General Elections is the election of all Lok Sabha representatives. The Lok Sabha, as previously mentioned, is comprised of 543 seats and are elected every 5 years. Voting is based on the popular opinion of the public, while the quantity of seats per state is proportional to population. The Lok Sabha has the power to impeach government officials through motions of no confidence, a decision that would be binding if a majority voted for it. Aside from this, they also manage the distribution of money bills and approve or disapprove of the annual national budget. The Lok Sabha also equals the power of the Upper House (or Rajya Sabha) in terms of impeachment of the president (not prime minister), declarations of war, passing constitutional amendments, and more. All in all, the Lok Sabha is an essential sect of the government, and as a result, the outcome of these elections is vital to a large portion of India's future.

Currently, the Lok Sabha is comprised of 282 BJP members and 44 Congress members. In the 2014 general elections, the BJP won by the biggest landslide in Indian history, essentially taking complete control over the government. Five years later, however, certain people do not seem entirely pleased with how the BJP operated. In 2014, the BJP and candidate Narendra

Modi (current prime minister) campaigned on the basis of job creation and economic development. They aimed to target the improvement of farmers and other lower/middle class lives; however, some hold that the BJP did not give enough attention to agrarian society. An example of this belief was a protest from March 6th to 12th, 2018 in the state of Maharashtra. Over 300,000 farmers marched to the capital calling for loan waivers, subsidized electricity and fuel, and pension for farmers over the age of 60. Moreover, Modi's demonetization scheme in early 2018 turned many against him including the middle and rich classes, whom at which the scheme was aimed, as well as the impoverished. Although meant to removing black money from the economy, the need to return all 500 and 2000 rupee notes caused widespread mismanagement, leading many unable to access money for weeks. This chaos lead to less investment in businesses and decreasing trusts in banks, and as such approximately 1 trillion rupees (\$15.38 Billion) were lost. Many other problems have contributed to the newfound distrust found in Modi, but it is also important to acknowledge that he did achieve a variety of achievements such as his Make in India plan, widespread cleaning/organization of cities (Swachh Bharat), electrification of nearly all Indian villages, and more. Many would say Modi's achievements balance out his failures, so it isn't surprising that some like the Economic Times of India predict there's a 50 - 50 chance of Modi and the BJP winning the general elections.

There is no doubt the upcoming elections will be close. The constant change in perspectives and ideas of India's population will no doubt lead this election to be an exciting one, but until the time comes closer not much can be predicted.



#### **CURRENT EVENTS KRISHNA SAIGAL**

## From Pulwama to Balakot

ince the partition of British India took place in 1947, the relationship between India and Pakistan has been a contentious one. The nations have engaged in many conflicts primarily due to their dispute over the territory of Kashmir. Pakistan has lost four major wars to India's military superiority. It has since adopted a strategy of "bleeding India by a thousand cuts." fomenting a low-intensity militancy, where India claims it supports and trains terrorist outfits to routinely carry out high profile attacks.

On February 14th, 2019, a group of vehicles carrying security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway were attacked by an IED (improvised explosive device) packed vehicle in the Pulwama district in Kashmir. 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel died. The Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed

(JeM) claimed responsibility for the attack, and Adil Ahmad Dar, a radicalized Kashmiri youth, was identified as the attacker.

The aftermath of the attack was immense as it sparked outrage in India, with widespread calls for a military response as well as trade and diplomatic sanctions. India revoked Pakistan's most favored nation status and placed a 200% customs duty on all Pakistani goods imported to India. India is also planning to back out of the Indus Water Treaty, threatening to cut off water flowing downstream into Pakistan.

On the global stage, The United Nations Security Council strongly condemned the Pulwama attack, and their statement was unanimously approved by its permanent and non-permanent members. Currently, a motion is also being



put in place to move Masood Azhar, the founder and leader of JeM, to the UN-designated terrorist list under Resolution 1267.

Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan denied Pakistan's involvement in the attack which he believed was "conceived, planned and executed indigenously." He further offered to investigate the attack if India were to provide it with "actionable intelligence", an offer which India outright rejected.

President Donald Trump of the United States indicated that the US and other nations are working to diffuse the situation, as terrorism is increasingly being recognized as a global concern.

Tensions between Pakistan and India continue to be on the rise, with the current Modi led government taking a more aggressive and hardline approach than its preceding governments. After the 2016 attack in Uri, an army camp in Kashmir, the Indian army crossed into Pakistani territory to neutralize various terrorist camps in a series

of coordinated "surgical strikes." Twelve days after the Pulwama attack, India escalated the issue with the Indian Air Force conducting an air strike over the terror camps run by JeM in Balakot, Pakistan. This was the first time that the Indian Air Force had crossed over into Pakistan since the 1971 war. However, India has maintained that its attacks are solely focused on terrorist camps and not military or civilian targets. At a press briefing, Foreign Secretary of India Vijay Gokhale said that it was a "non-military preemptive action" taken to target JeM and avoid civilian casualties.

The future of Indo-Pakistan relations is unclear. After the Balakot attack, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan issued a statement saying that "India has committed uncalled for aggression to which Pakistan shall respond at the time and place of its choosing." It remains to be seen whether both sides will pull back through diplomacy, or whether the two countries will face-off in a fifth high stakes war.

FEATURE ARTICLE

# International Women's Day Empowered Women - Powering the Future

#### CATHERINE KISH

### IWD: What Is International Women's Day?

quality. This is what International Women's Day is all about.

For hundreds and even thousands of years, women have been fighting for gender equality, including property rights, voting rights, and in recent years, equal pay.

The fight for voting rights is at the heart of the struggle for equality. Voting rights give women their voice in politics – the key to change in society. Mahatma Gandhi said to "be the change you want to see in the world." It's hard to "be the change" if you can't vote.

In the United States, it took over 40 years of sustained struggle by suffragettes before women were granted the right to vote in 1920. In India, both women and men were granted equal voting rights when India became independent in 1947, dropping the unequal age and property qualifications that had previously been in place.

We celebrate International Women's Day to remember how far we've come and how far we still have to go in this fight for equality.

In 1909 in New York, the first Women's Day was organized by the Socialist Party of America, who demanded voting rights, shorter hours, and equal pay for women. At a conference in Copenhagen in 1910, women from over 17 countries unanimously proclaimed the launch of International Women's Day (IWD) to help advance the struggle for women's rights. In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly urged member states to celebrate IWD each year as a "call to action for accelerating gender parity."

The sparks that led to the blazing flame of International Women's Day continue to shine as a beacon, inspiring women as they fight for equal rights.

Powerful and strong women defying gender stereotypes have risen to the forefront of the polit-

ical scene around the world, including Margaret Thatcher, former British Prime Minister; Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India; and Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel.

Hillary Clinton almost broke the glass ceiling in the United States in 2016 but fell short. For the 2020 presidential election, there are now already five female candidates vying for the nomination of the Democratic party who may, if elected, shatter America's glass ceiling.

We continue to celebrate International Women's Day as we fight for women's rights and gender equality around the world.

## IWD: How Far We Still Have to Go

hile many milestones have been achieved for women, we still have a long way to go. Sexism and gender bias still occur on a daily basis in the workplace, home, and school. In countries such as India, dowry death - "the murder or suicide of a married woman caused by a dispute over her dowry" (Oxford Dictionaries) - is still an ongoing tradition. Furthermore, in places including Somalia, female genital mutilation - "the practice, traditional in some cultures, of partially or totally removing the external genitalia of girls and young women for non-medical reasons" (Oxford Dictionaries) - continues, even though it is illegal in many countries. Moreover, many advertisements continue to perpetuate a toxic definition of beauty and power by portraying women as weak sexual objects. The minds of our youth are being manipulated every day to believe in a false and stereotypical image of what a woman should look like and how she should behave. Not only that, but the debate over women's reproductive rights is still an ongoing issue.

It is not just how we act that is fundamentally wrong. It is also how we think. For decades, both men and women have twisted the meaning of the word feminism. Feminism should not be confused as a movement to make women superior. It is simply to advocate for equality of both sexes. We need to begin by allowing both genders to have the same opportunities and not

view them as inferior or superior to one other solely based on their gender. We shouldn't be giving women a chance because they are fragile; we should be giving them a chance because they deserve it. Hard work, intellect, and capability should be recognised – not on the basis of gender, but on the basis of merit.

Through granting legal rights, autonomy, security, jobs, etc., we can ensure that women in today's world can be empowered, liberated, and successful. From ending domestic abuse in the home to empowering fellow females at school, change can occur. However, this may not be enough. Until we change our society's thoughts and attitudes on this issue, complete equality of genders will still remain a distant goal.

To celebrate women and inspire others to do the same. AES will be holding an early International Women's Day event on March 5th, 2019 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hall of Peace. Four guest speakers will be invited to share their experiences as female leaders. The guests will include Ramona El Hamzaoui, Deputy Mission Director of USAID in India; Reena Puri, co-founder and Managing Director of VIVO Healthcare; Neelu Khantry, fighter pilot and leader of the Women in Aviation group; and Simran Shaikh, Senior Program Officer (Sexuality Gender and Rights) at Alliance India.

## IWD: From Our Teachers:

#### Cristina Alcoz

"In the future, there will be no femal<mark>e leade</mark>rs. There will be just leaders." - Shery<mark>l Sa</mark>ndberg "Believe in yourself. Deal with challenges with patience, determination, your best effort and a smile. You can achieve the 'IMPOSSIBLE.' It is spelt as 'I'M POSSIBLE.'"

#### Jami Bolton

"In life, girls don't need coaches calling the shots and telling them how to run the playsthey just need cheerleaders who encourage them along the way and celebrate their successes with them."

#### Mira Boyadzhieva

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall

#### Sunshine Campbell

"For those of us who stand outside this society's definition of acceptable women; those of us who have been forged in the crucibles of difference – those of us who are poor, who are lesbians, who are Black, who are older – know that survival is not an academic skill. It is learning how to take our differences and make them strengths. For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house." – Audre Lorde

#### **Becky Currey**

"As a mother of both a boy and a girl, I try to teach them that they can both be anything that they want to be. I encourage both to be athletes, artists, intelligent thinkers and kind people. If everyone in the world raised their girls to have just as many opportunities as boys, this world would be a better place."

#### Monika Dewan

#### Frieda Dietrich

"My Mom Was Right - 'Go Play Outside.'"

#### Vera Garg

"Dream Big! Then go ahead and fulfill your dream."

#### Adrienne Hill Garcia

"Female empowerment, to me, is the very definition of feminism. It's all the ways in which women can support and be supported to develop, exercise and share their power or their abilities. When we learn how power has been belittled, overlooked, or maligned in history, and how to strip away those barriers for women, (and there are many who have done this to whom I am eternally grateful) we learn how to do this for every other historically marginalized group. Female empowerment is how to flip the old axiom around: oppress one – oppress all to empower one – empower all. That's something worth working on!"

#### Chris Fazenbaker

"Don't be the girl who fell. Be the girl who got back up." - Jenette Stanley

#### Mary Catherine Frazier

"No one is your friend who demands your silence or denies your right to grow." - Alice Walker

#### Teresa Hjellming

"If you are looking for role models and sheroes, look around you: Phenomenal women are everywhere, doing magnificent things."

#### Anjana Jain

"The most dangerous phrase is 'we have always done it this way." – Grace Hopper

#### Sepi Johnson

"'Feminism' isn't about making women strong, they are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." – G.D. Anderson

#### Revati Khattar

"May she live."

#### Purnima Kine

"You are enough!"

#### Jane Maczuzak

"Remember Ginger Rogers did everything the great Fred Astaire did backward and in high heels." – Ann Richards

#### Laura Manker

"There is no more powerful way to initiate significant change than to convene a conversation." - Margaret Wheatley

#### Carolyn Nelson

"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life." - Dr. Mae Jemison, engineer, physician, and NASA astronaut

#### Sara Patterson

"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will." -Charlotte Brontë (Jane Eyre)

#### Laura Rollison

"The great gift of human beings is that we have the power of empathy." - Meryl Streep

#### Sadia Syed

"My mother's journey as a single parent has taught me this - dream big and follow your heart. The journey may not be a smooth one; you will encounter ups and downs, you may have to walk alone in the dark, you may have to be silent or break the silence, you will get to know people... Don't give up! Over the years you will know how strong you are, how firm you stand, and how far you can go! Your journey will be a humbling experience."

#### Sarah Walker

"You can always do more than you think you can; don't let other people tell you differently."

#### **Amy Williams**

"Feminist politics aims to end domination to free us to be who we are – to live lives where we love justice, where we can live in peace. Feminism is for everybody." – Bell Hooks

#### LIFESTYLE LARA KINE

## Simple Things You Can Do To Save The Earth

e've all seen those depressing messages reminding us of how close to home climate change and pollution really are. However, there are a number of small things that you can do to save our environment and the ROAR's here to help!

Reduce your plastic use; it's been linked to releasing Greenhouse gasses (including methane) that contribute to climate change. Some ways to do so include:

- Try to use your old plastic or cloth bags instead of new plastic bags when you go out for groceries.
- Try using your own plates/cutlery/water bottles/reusable straws at school or at large food based events like Fall Fiesta or the International Food Fair.
- If you frequently get your food delivered, try to return the plastic supplies to your respective grocer or restaurant, because they're actually reused. If you can't return the packaging, try to reuse them as kitchen scrap boxes, places to store fruit and vegetables in your refrigerator or even as containers for other products.

#### Excluding plastics, there are other ways to reduce waste:

- Reduce your food waste. We all have those foods that disappear to the back of the refrigerator until they can't be eaten. If this is a frequent occurrence for you, try making a committed weekly menu to stick to and composting the excess food can really help. However, composting still releases Greenhouse gasses so reducing the volume of food that you throw away can help.
- Start a pet project of growing your own vegetables using parts of vegetables you've already purchased like onion roots and celery stalks. Also, a few meatless meals a week can really make an impact.

Hopefully these tips can help you reduce your environmental impact!

#### LIFESTYLE MIHIR DHAWAN

## Top Three Spring Break Destinations

Stuck on where to travel for Spring Break this year? Well, don't worry because I've got you covered. Here are three places you and your family should definitely visit during Spring Break.

### 1: Japan

Japan is a wonderful place to travel to during Spring Break, the best part being the cherry blossoms. This is the time of year when they start blossoming and boy are they a sight to behold! The vibrant colorful flowers can be found anywhere. Other interesting things in Japan are the temples, the street markets and, of course, the food. Sushi, teriyaki salmon, seaweed – you name it. There is always Disneyland and Universal Studios if you are not in the mood for indulging in the culture. If you are considering to go to Japan, here are the top three cities to go to: Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka.

#### 2: Morocco

Let's turn our heads from Japan to Morocco which is located in Northern Africa. Ever heard of Atlas' story? The titan who got punished into holding the sky and eventually became a mountain range? Well, you can see this mountain range, the Atlas Mountains, in Marrakesh, Morocco. There are also many beautiful beaches to visit, so if you are in the mood for that kind of holiday, Morocco is a good place for you. If you want to see some traditional architecture, then Morocco is a Candyland; there are thousands of mosques scattered across the country. Here are three recommended cities you should visit: Marrakesh, Casablanca and Chefchaouen.

#### 3: Greece

Speaking of Atlas, let's direct our attention to the home of the guy who said "SPARTA!" Greece is a country void of pollution, has very crisp temperatures and a cool climate. If you are a history buff, you will love Greece because of its famous, ancient architecture. Whenever you are feeling hungry, delightful foods such as olives, feta and tomatoes will be part of almost any meal you have. And, of course, there are the famous beaches, so you can book a nice resort and just relax before coming back to school. Want to visit Greece? Here are the top three cities worth paying a visit to: Athens, Crete and Sparta.





t's that time of year again. Spring has been in bloom for a bit now, and with that comes the dearly beloved festival of colors, Holi. It's almost like a ritual here at AES: the colors, the flowers, the laughter... Holi is a key celebration every year, for almost everyone at school, and regardless of who you are, it's hard to stay away.

Though celebrated by those of all religions, Holi is a Hindu festival spread over two evenings. It begins the day before the full festivities and is referred to as Holika Dahan. The celebrations include an effigy of Holika - the sister of the demon king Hiranyakashipu - that is placed in the center of a large bonfire to symbolize the triumph of good over evil. As Holika is said to have attempted to kill Prahlad, a devout follower of Lord Narayana. Prahlad, the intended target, was seated upon Holika's lap in the middle of a pyre while she was wearing fire-resistant material and was to be burned alive. However, he recited an invocation to Narayana, leaving him unscathed and Holika dead. This is represented through the bonfire. Holi symbolizes the defeat

of evil by good, and we see this clearly through Holika Dahan. However, it's more than that – it celebrates spring. More specifically, a celebration of the harvest, which is where the most popular aspect of the festival comes from.

When one thinks of Holi, it's hard not to think about the color-stained people dousing one another with water. Indeed, it's a key part of the festival- with good reason! It's ageless, it brings people together, and it's nice to have an excuse to shoot water at people. Traditionally, pigments called gulab (made from powdered flower petals) and abeer (made from minute mica crystals that give the powder a sparkly tone) are used, though lately, one can see more vibrant pigments coming onto the market. Holi also comes with the enjoyment of myriad sweets and treats, from gujia, a deep-fried semolina dumpling, to dahi vada and many other types of chaat. It's a celebration that's so close to the hearts of so many people, and regardless of one's background, it's hard to avoid the festivities!

# LIFESTYLE BEATRICE MARKWELL

# Cake Corner

# **CUPCAKES:**

hether you like to bake or not, cupcakes are definitely fun to eat. You can make them in a multitude of ways, but here are a couple of ideas to get you started.

If you have more time and are feeling inspired, there are plenty of cupcake recipes around the internet, depending on what sort of cupcake you want to make and how much time you want to spend. Here are some mouthwatering ideas to try:

**Lemon raspberry** – you can try decorating it in a 'pink lemonade' style with a drinking straw.

**Chocolate** - always a winner, and you can modify it to the taste of your favourite chocolate bar with some nuts or caramel.

**Red velvet** - classic and classy, especially topped with cream cheese icing.

**Marbling colours** – use a simple vanilla cupcake batter and some food colouring to create this eye-catching effect.

Be creative - there are infinite possibilities, and these are just some ideas to get you started. Go forth and create deliciousness!



# **CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE:**

f you don't have time to make a full batch of cupcakes, or just can't be bothered, mug cakes are an excellent alternative. Below is a quick recipe to get you started.

#### Instructions:

- 1. In a medium bowl, whisk together dry ingredients.
- 2. Whisk in the milk and vegetable oil until all the ingredients are combined and the batter has no clumps.
- 3. Pour batter into a microwave-safe mug. You want enough head space for the cake to rise without pouring over.
- 4. Add hazelnut chocolate spread in the middle of the batter or you can substitute with mini chocolate chips. Just drop it in the middle, no need to push it down and sink it in the batter. It does that on its own when it cooks!:)
- 5. Place a paper towel into the microwave and set the mug on top (this is to catch any batter if your mug cake overflows).
- 6. Microwave the mug cake for 70 seconds on high
- 7. Carefully remove from the microwave and enjoy!

### Ingredients:

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
2 tablespoon granulated sugar (you can add
1 tbsp. more if you like it a bit sweeter)
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup + 1 tbsp. milk
2 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 tablespoon hazelnut chocolate spread or
mini chocolate chips



# LIFESTYLE YEWON BYUN, AARAV GAMBHIR,

# Living in Gurgaon

urgaon or Delhi? Is it really better living in one place opposed to the other? This thoughtful debate has always been circling around both communities. From using the excuse of
"traffic" for those living in Gurgaon to the convenience of not having to spend too long in
the car for those residing within Delhi, there are many different perks and struggles that should be
acknowledged (yes, from BOTH sides of the highway!). Here are some of these perks and struggles
as accounted by both Delhi and Gurgaon residents.

# **Gurgaon:**

Having lived in Gurgaon for 8 years now, I will admit that convenient access to public facilities and multicultural centers are one of the pros of being a resident in Gurgaon. Copious amounts of movie theaters, shopping malls, performing arts venues (like the Kingdom of Dreams), can easily be found. In addition to having so many overwhelming choices for entertainment, Gurgaon is a food heaven, as we have the best convenience stores and integrated restaurants, ranging from global fusion to authentic cuisine especially in the famous Cyber Hub. Also, since many of our Gurgaon students live in apartments rather than houses, amenities, such as swimming pools, gyms, open fields, and tennis courts, are at our convenience. Another benefit of living in Gurgaon is being able to utilize the spare time in the car to catch up on sleep and even working on the remaining school assignments that we weren't able to finish the night before. Yes,

spending way too much time in our car can be annoying, but we always can use traffic as an excuse for being late to school

While Gurgaon residents do get to catch up on sleep during the long commute, we have to get up almost an hour (or even more) earlier than Delhi residents. Traffic is another significant problem associated with traveling from Gurgaon to Delhi. Also, all school and many other fun events occur in Delhi, after all, there isn't always much going on amidst a sea of tall buildings. This doubles the amount of time we have to spend in the car during the weekends. All in all, sometimes, it feels like we live too far away from the fun and excitement that Delhi has to offer.

## AND SURAIYAA KHAN

# vs. Living In Delhi

# Delhi:

For the purpose of this article, I will be focusing on living next to or nearby school, in the area known as Malcha Marg. Malcha Marg is host to multiple embassies, so the area is generally quite safe. Security guards regularly stop by to conduct checks, while police cars are situated at each block. Each section of Malcha Marg is covered with trees and parks presenting an additional benefit of living in Delhi. While some complexes do include lush trees, Gurgaon is generally more refurbished and developed. Delhiites can also sleep in on weekdays. Living in Malcha Marg, I can sleep in until 8 am and still stroll (quite literally) into school on time. Being close to school helps with going in early or staying late after school for MESAC, as transportation isn't as limiting as it is for people living in Gurgaon. Furthermore, it's easy to have friends

over after school for work or fun.

Living in Malcha Marg is very convenient for a variety of reasons, but when walking to school, watch out for those monkeys! Monkeys are everywhere in Malcha Marg, and they often create a ruckus with the many street dogs as well. Most importantly. I have no excuses for being late as I live so close to the school.

ealing with the topics of traffic, infrastructure, and socializing zones, living in Gurgaon and Delhi share pros and cons. However, as we established in the beginning, this will forever be an ongoing debate that has no end in sight.

# **EDITORIAL RIA MITRA**

# Hard to Swallow Pills: Veganism Edition

ven as someone who doesn't eat meat, it's difficult to point out the flaws in veganism without coming off as an animal-hating monster, but the truth remains that over time it has morphed into something it was never intended for. In fact, the man who founded veganism in 1944 stated that his goal was to "alter man's expectation of surviving for much longer on this planet." What began as a movement to protect our environment and better our health is starting to become nothing more than a tiresome parade of hashtags and aesthetics perpetuated by a generally condescending crowd of 'influencers'. Don't get me wrong; on the whole, veganism is perfectly fine and has shown to be effective in many ways. The point is that vegans place themselves atop a golden pedestal and often view themselves superior to those who disagree with them while ignoring the reasons the disagreements occur.

Take quinoa and avocado, two vegan superfoods of choice. As they are consumed more and more to compensate for the nutrition one loses after going vegan, demand for them skyrockets. Mat-

ter of fact, in 2014-2017, the popularity of veganism increased by over 600%, the same years that both avocado and quinoa imports in the US increased by over 200%. Although logically higher demand for crops should mean higher income for farmers, in reality, most Kenyan avocado farmers live in deeper poverty now than ever before, due to factors such as their farmland being reduced because of subdivisions that occur when corporations want to cash in on the coveted crop, and exporters taking advantage of farmers' lack of education and negotiating skills to reduce their income. According to the Agriculture and Food Authority, the mass export of avocados out of Kenya has diminished the country's own supply, and a bag of the fruit now costs more than the daily minimum wage. The crop being farmed has become inaccessible to those putting in the labour to farm them. These communities are now being deprived of the fruit despite it having been a staple ingredient in the everyday life of Kenyans since its introduction to the country.

In South and Central America, the lucrative busi-

ness of quinoa farming has caused much environmental damage. As corporations realise the money to be made from the grain, they mercilessly clear away thousands of acres of farmland and forests to facilitate their own

rely on their farms for their livelihood are suddenly without land, with no compensation or qualifications to provide them with another job. Forests are ripped

money-making schemes. Locals who

out of the ground, and the animals who inhabited once them are left for dead. Yes. the very animals that vegans strive to help. I understand that nobody turns vegan with the intention of causing these issues, but it's important to keep in

mind.

Aside from this, the attitude held by many vegans that they're somehow better than everyone else (take, for instance, the infamous Freelee Bell) is completely baseless. Of course, not every single vegan maintains this opinion, but enough do for them to have garnered this reputation. Consuming a imal products should not be enough to someone as inherently had if they're a someone as inherently had if they are a someone and a someone are a someone and a someone an

garnered this reputation. Consuming animal products should not be enough to classify someone as inherently bad if they're not doing it with the active intention of harming a species. All it means is that they're conforming to the convenience and prevalence of meat. The vast majority don't take joy in knowing they're eating an animal; they're simply living the lifestyle that's easy to live. Furthermore, veganism is an

increasingly expensive lifestyle to maintain and is simply inaccessible to many financially.

I will admit that while some vegans are possibly misled about the effects of their diet, it is extremely commendable of them to have the intent of cutting cruelty out of their lives, and the many benefits of their lifestyle are undeniable. At a moral standpoint, the argument for

from their

consuming another living being is wrong, and eating some animals but not others place different values on the lives of different animals. If it were as simple that, I would question why veganism rates aren't much higher. Unfortunately, there are a million considerations to keep in

mind. Perhaps the conver-

sation shouldn't be wheth-

er a certain diet is right or

veganism is compelling:

perspective,

wrong; it should be about the habits we develop as individuals to protect our planet. Who's to say that someone who eats meat but never uses plastic bags cares any less about

the environment than someone who is fully vegan? Every little bit helps, and the issues afflicting our world go far beyond those that are solvable by a diet change.

# YOU ASK, WE ANSWER

# Advice Column

# If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

Money actually grows in rivers, which is why we call them (river) banks. Rivers also have subsidiaries called a river branch, which is where we get the name for a bank branch.

Everyone is given a very nice spaceship. It is comfortable with no weapons equipped and unlimited fuel, and it has a hyperdrive for light-speed travel. What would you do with your spaceship?

Rewrite the IB Physics curriculum.

### Edward or Jacob?

Jedward.

# I am leaving. How do I get used to a new place easily?

Leaving a place you consider home is always difficult, and this transient experience is common at AES. Try to spend as much time with your friends and visit your favorite places in and around the area so as to minimize regrets when you leave. Be sure to thank your teachers as well as other in-

dividuals who have helped you grow over the time you're here. Finally, be sure to thank your trustworthy Advice Column writer for giving you some much needed entertainment for the time you've been here. All jokes aside, we at The ROAR are sad to see you go, and we wish you all the best as you head off on a new adventure!

# How does the bus door close when the bus driver exits?

It doesn't. That's why the bus is filled with mosquitoes the next morning.

## Why are the arts important?

Square up right here right now.

# Why is Coca Cola far superior to Pepsi?

Clearly someone does not have refined taste buds.

## Why do we exist? Just to suffer?

To see Naval's smiling face when he hands us our food.

# THE ROAR EDITION? Writers List

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## Photography/Art

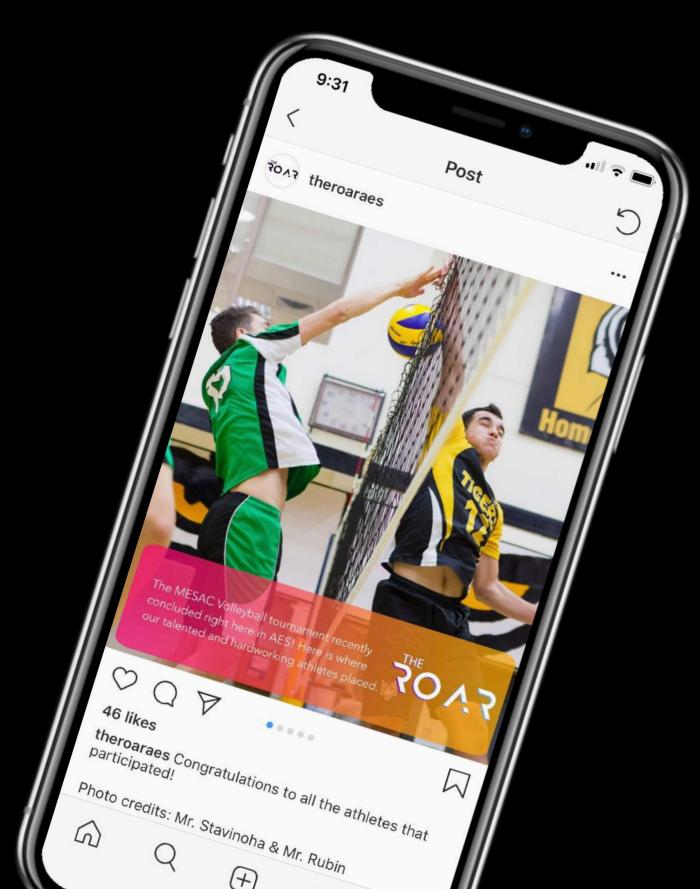
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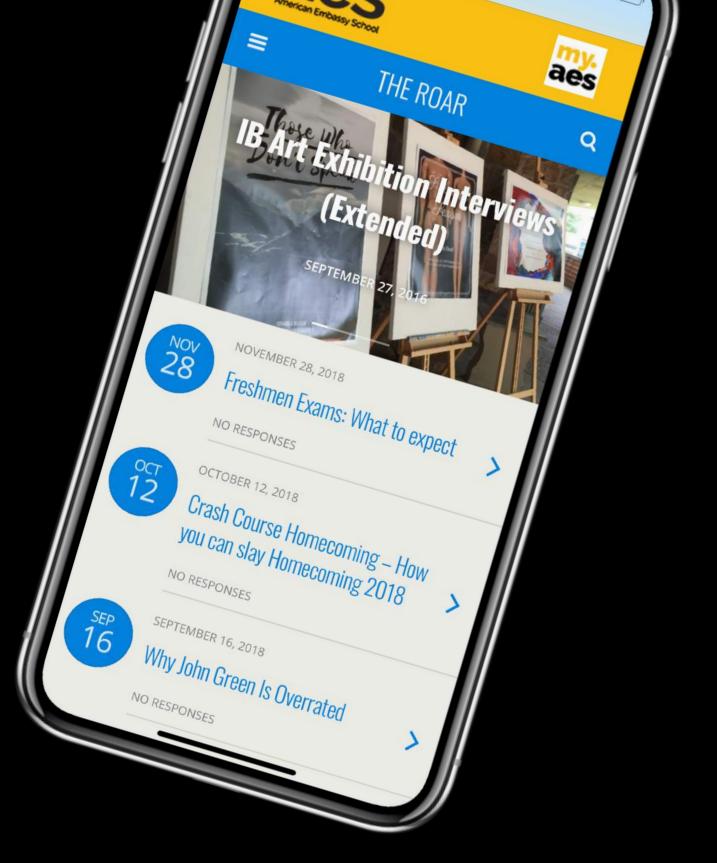
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