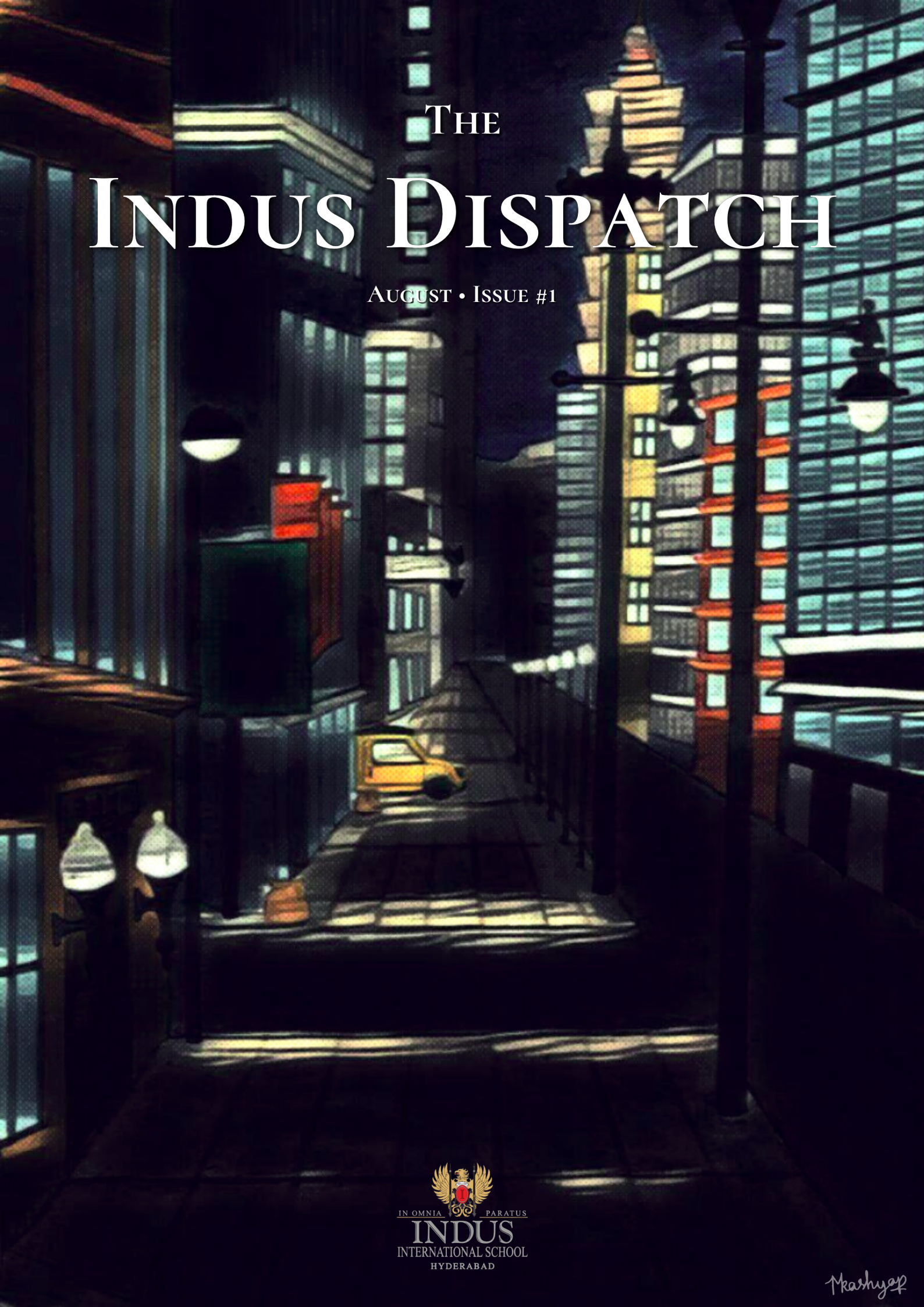

The Indus Dispatch

August • Issue #1

IN OMNIA PARATUS
INDUS
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
HYDERABAD

Cover Art

BY MRIDANI KASHYAP

Regular Correspondents

ADITYA BEHERA - GAMING

AMY RACHAL CLEMENT - FICTION

ANISH VERMA GOTTUMUKALA - FILM

THIS WEEK'S

Student Correspondents

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August 27th, 2020 • Issue #1

The Indus Dispatch

An • Academic • Existential • Update

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The newsletter's gotten a new staff, and with new people, come new ideas. Read the editorial to learn of the changes...

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How good are they, you say? They're quite literally the best we've ever had. Read the feature article to find out more...

PAGE 2

3

Gamer? Film aficionado? We've got you covered. Don't know if you want an iPhone or Android? Go to page 3 to decide...

PAGE 4

IBDP Results are Finally Here

And they're absolutely amazing.

Well, the revised results have arrived at last, and despite the trying circumstances, the students have absolutely nothing to complain about. We all heard about grading fiasco that occurred the first time around, but thanks to a grand effort on the part of our IBDP teachers, the scores are finally worthy of the effort that the students put into achieving them. One can only imagine the feeling of despair at having something like a global pandemic decide to interrupt the most crucial part of the DP, and we must say, they bore it with great fortitude.

To say that the results are good would be an understatement. They're quite literally the best Indus Hyderabad has ever seen. 45% have scored above 35, the class average is 35.5 (the best since inception), and a full 95% of students graduated with the IB Diploma. Oh, and yes; one tries to save the best for last - an incredible 11 students scored 40 and above. The list of names is as follows:

- Anika Gupta - 44
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Editorial Column

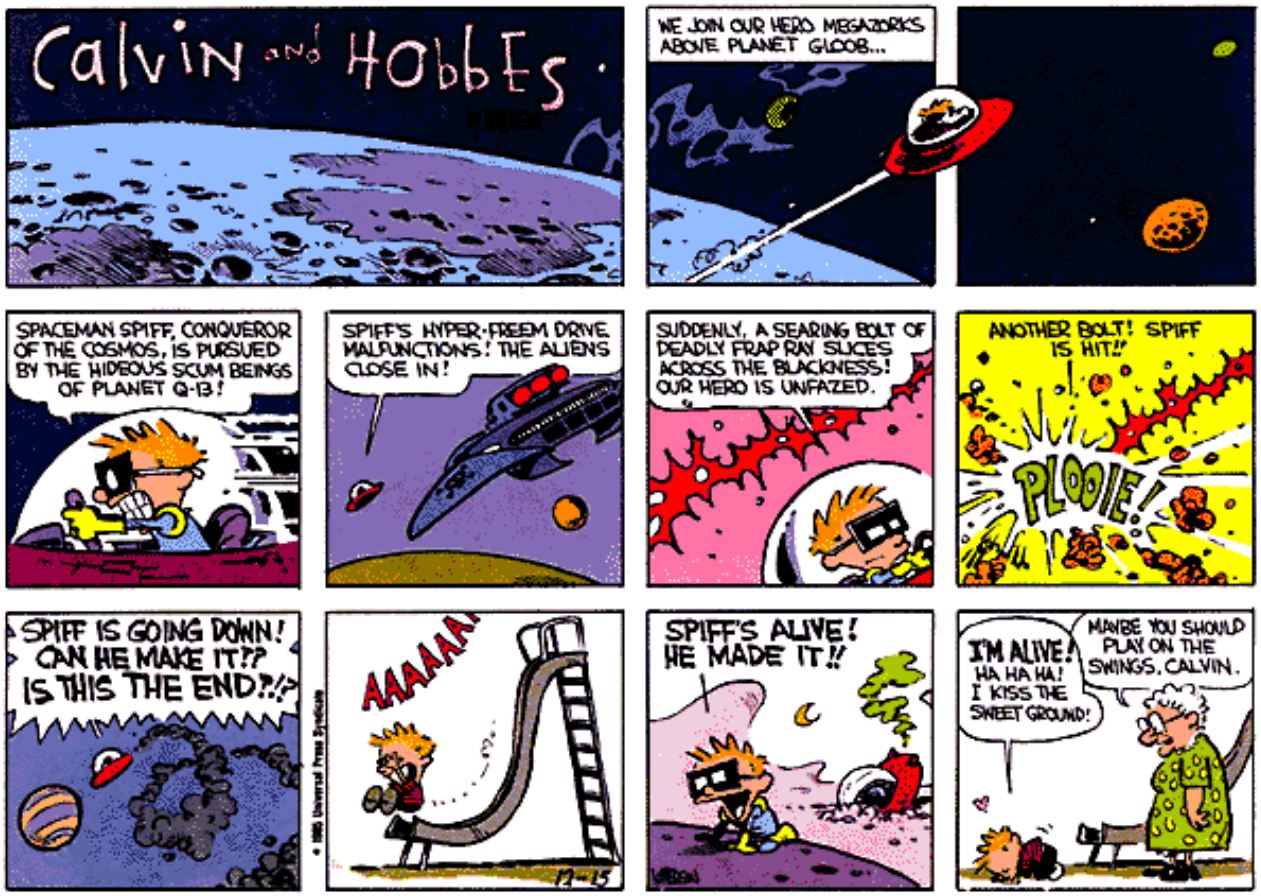
New year, new board, new... sletter.

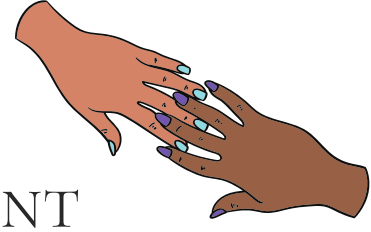
Greetings.

It's one of those things subject to the psychology of the individual, but most of you must have noticed that it's a new newsletter. What you probably don't know, is that there's a new editorial board behind the thing, but well, there it is. Now, for those of you who've encountered our latest email to the general public during your weekly excursion through your inbox, you probably already know what I'll be going on about (If not, go read it). See, our idea is straightforward enough. What the Indus Dispatch (ah, yes - it's called that now) aims to be is a sort of vox populi. What that means is we want you - the people, to broadcast yourself. We're giving you an opportunity; the opportunity to publish what you want, when you want. Got a great idea for a CAS activity? Saw a great movie and you know that's it's absolutely essential everyone else sees it? Found new evidence that Malus domestica is indeed fatal for those in the medical profession? Write to us. You'll see your words here, all nice-looking and everything. We guarantee you.

Refer to the end of the newsletter for the point of contact for submissions and queries, Editorial Board member emails, and how to submit anonymously.

- The Editorial Board





The NGO - A Noble Establishment

Caring has the gift of making the ordinary special.

GEORGE R. BACH

In the 21st century, it becomes important for the individuals to care for themselves and others at the same time. If one segment of the system is facilitated with all the essential needs, and others do not, there will be no balance in the system. Maintaining the balance is crucial for the life systems to continue with everyone getting what they require.

But there are few, who have nothing, or they are living on a daily wage basis. In recent times, the pandemic has affected every single individual, especially the underprivileged population in the country. The lockdown has helped our country to slow the spread of the virus but has affected the lives of many whose source of income is on a daily basis. Having no essential goods, and daily needs, it becomes difficult to cope up with their lives.

There has to be someone to fill in the gaps this pandemic has created in every sector, including food, education, essential needs etc. This is where the NGO's and community servers come in. These organizations play a major role in helping the people in need with daily necessities and developing life skills.

Engaging in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service or volunteerism enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Volunteerism teaches people of all ages and backgrounds about compassion and understanding, enabling their thinking with empathy towards others.

It does not need to be a big start, It can be a small effort from your side, to see a change in your community, because all the small actions taken are the key to a bigger problem. We should 'think globally, and act locally'. If every person is capable of looking at others with empathy, the world will become a better and a happier place to stay.

- Sri Tejasvi

The Rotary Foundation

My parents have been associated with the Rotary foundation for over 30 years now, and I've attended meetings and events since before I could walk, as a Rotary Annet. Since the Covid-19 lockdown began, both my parents' clubs, 'The Rotary Club of Cyberabad' and 'The Rotary Club of Hyderabad North', have taken up numerous initiatives to help the ones in need. In the month of April, I helped my community prepare meals for migrant labourers around the Gandipet area and helped distribute these meals every weekend.

In August, I raised ₹40000 with the contributions from my family and friends to buy 1000 Easterly sanitizers and got 1000 masks printed with the Rotary symbol, to distribute to workers, helpers and security guards in and around my community.

I'm extremely grateful for having the awareness and exposure from a very young age, to be empathetic towards others' lives and needs. I really hope every other Indus Eagle is doing their small part for the society!

- Gitika Velichala

In the month of May, I coordinated the procurement of staple groceries and sanitary products for nearby villagers, to help them live sustainably for the course of the month.

Being physically present at these sites, to plan, procure and distribute these kits gave me a first-hand insight about the lives of these individuals and how the pandemic has impacted them. The sense of satisfaction that I received after helping them, is something one will only understand when they interact and see the conditions of these people.

Bringing Smiles

A festive initiative

"If you see someone without a smile, give one of yours". With this thought in my mind, I took the initiative to spend my gathered money to bring smiles on the faces of the migrant kids who live near my community. The purpose of this initiative was to provide some happiness to these children, as they may be going through hardships during these tough times. Hence, on the occasion of the "Ganesh Chaturthi" festival, I decided to buy and distribute some sweets, juice packets, and snacks for almost 20 kids. Through this initiative, I got a feeling of self-worth and personal satisfaction knowing that I offered something to those in need.

I felt good that I gave back to the society I live in. I look forward to many more such opportunities like this in the future and make some difference in the lives of these children. The gift of giving and seeing a smile on the needy faces is a wonderful feeling and I will be happy to do this again soon.

- Shubh Raj

iOS vs. Android

The final battle.

So recently, due to an unexpected mishap, I ended up shattering the screen of my iPhone SE (1st gen) and the service centre at Aptronix simply said that it cannot be replaced and neither can it be exchanged for another phone, I'd barely get a discount of 1000 Rupees. I was eagerly waiting for the public beta of iOS 14 to release and test it out on my phone, then this wiped out all of my excitement in one shot.

iOS 14

The new features announced by Apple during WWDC 20 finally made iOS complex. Apple's iOS is known for its minimalistic and simple UI and UX, however. With no menu to find all apps, accessing the control centre with a swipe along with notifications was the selling point of iOS. Now, we have an 'app library' to find all apps in a swipe, widgets on the home screen, better search, our beloved Memojis and other exciting features that makes iOS feel more like Apple's own Android. Oh and now you can also unlock your car with just a tap on the door with your iPhone :)

My Transition to Android

Soon after my unexpected loss, I couldn't afford to purchase a new model / the latest iPhone.

Something that Apple is infamous for is its pricing, I hear many people say 'Apple is overrated', only because they judge it by the price. What they do not understand is that Apple has built its kingdom from bottom-up. It does not depend on sources from companies such as Qualcomm for their SoCs. Apple builds with its own resources, hence charging a premium for their products. The only company they depend on is Intel for their SoC in their MacBook line of products, that too will not be the case after Apple's transition to its own SoC in the MacBook product line within 2 years.

So with a budget of 25,000 Rupees set by my father, I had to choose ANY phone within that limit. Of course, no new models of the iPhone are sold for that affordable price. Therefore, I was forced to choose an Android.

I didn't want to settle for a phone that will only give me problems. My previous Android phone, the Motorola G4 Plus had several battery issues and the touch would glitch (random scrolling and tapping on the screen when left idle) when put to charge. I didn't want to experience something like that all over again, so I had to choose carefully. All the Samsungs at that price have satisfactory features when compared to other brands.

Introducing:

The Redmi K20 Pro

While doing my research, I stumbled upon one of the smartphones with great specifications and impressive additional features such as fast charging, and no it is not a One Plus. It is the Redmi K20 Pro. As cheap as 24,000 Rupees in Amazon, you get a fully packed feature phone belonging to the Xiaomi family.

Redmi K20 Pro. Image Courtesy: Mi

Impressive features such as a pop-up camera, in-built fingerprint sensor, a whopping 4000 mAh battery, with a 48 MP Rear Camera with Ultra-wide and Telephoto cameras. This beast is the perfect smartphone for someone who is extremely tech savvy and wants to stay up to date with the latest release of Android versions. The fluid AMOLED display seems like the content in my screen simply flows like a stream of water.

Comparison

The truth is, Android and iOS are two operating systems that have come a long way. The competition was always there. Each known for their own pros and cons. If iOS has seemingly easy to use UI and UX, Android has extreme customization that lets users fiddle and tinker with every minute setting in the device.

In comparison and contrast to an iPhone, because of Android's flexibility, brands such as Samsung, Xiaomi, Huawei, Oppo, Vivo, Google, Motorola, LG etc. are able to focus more on their hardware than on the software, since Android comes readily made to them, which explains how Samsung and Motorola were one of the first to make a foldable smartphone like the Galaxy Fold, Galaxy Z Flip and the new Motorola Razr that released last year.

Yet, Apple continues to focus on software. By increasing the quality of its cameras, Apple has entered the game with AR. With iOS 12, Apple launched a default app called 'Measure' that makes use of AR technology to measure a physical object in real time to give you results immediately. Fast forward to 2020, this tech giant is now planning to release its own pair of AR glasses, calling it the Apple Glass.

Conclusion

So here we have it, brands that use Android for their devices are more focused on their hardware and specifications, whereas Apple with iOS is focused entirely on building new software and doing its best to create an enticing product using its hardware. Just like pancakes and Maple syrup, it just gets a lot better with the Maple syrup :)

- Shreyas Mocherla

PLANET ARCADIA

Fall Guys: Ultimate Knockout released on 4th of August this year and has become one of the most popular games of the month, it stands as the game with the fourth greatest number of active players on Steam and also has around 160,000 viewers on Twitch.

In a crowded and self-serious genre, an utterly tangential, silly sort of survival-slash-battle-royale game is welcome. Image courtesy: Devolver

It is a free-for-all game that throws 60 players into one server and gives them chaotic objectives to complete to see who will survive until the end. It is a new take on the battle royale genre and instead of being a more hardcore game, its more goofy with its mechanics. With its variety of tasks, Fall Guys doesn't seem like a game that you can get bored of easily. You can easily have fun playing the game as a solo, but having friends to play with always makes the experience much more

Fall Guys doesn't seem like a game that you can get bored of easily.Image courtesy: Devolver

lively and enjoyable. The graphics are cartoonish and shouldn't be compared with the likes of AAA games as Fall Guys is a light-hearted and more of a silly game. The game can be played on both mouse and keyboard or a controller, but it seems as though most of the playerbase prefers to use a controller. Match times are small and so you won't find yourself spending too much time in a single match, something that is usually the case in battle royale or "last one standing" games.

As of release, the game servers are having a tough time keeping up with the large number of players. This issue has been acknowledged by the developer, Mediatonic and the issue should be resolved soon.

Overall, Fall Guys is a game that is definitely worth playing and you will find yourself spending quite some time trying to win matches alone or with your friends. It is true that the game could get repetitive in the future and it is up to the developer to listen to the opinions of the community and make sure that the game doesn't run dry of new content.

- Aditya Behera

Django Unchained

A Quentin Tarantino Film.

Loosely inspired by a 1966 spaghetti Western, Tarantino's latest follows a bounty hunter and a freed slave as they go up against evil plantation owners in the antebellum American South.

Dr. King Schultz (Christoph Waltz), initially disguised as a dentist, bloodily frees Django (Jamie Foxx) from servitude in order to gain his assistance in tracking down a wanted man. Once that's taken care of, the pair team up to rescue Django's wife Broomhilda from the clutches of the villainous Francophile plantation owner Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Tarantino took an enormous risk. Not only politically, but cinematically. Django Unchained may repel the squeamish with its operatic violence and frequent N-bombs. The film will freak out racists who hate Tarantino's take on the subject.

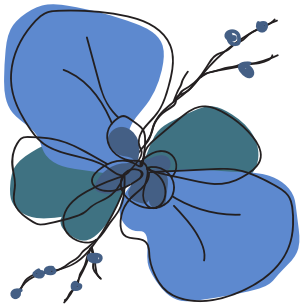
Instead, we get Tarantino's gleeful mash-up of spaghetti western, blaxploitation cinema, bounty-hunting buddy movie, sardonic comedy and unabashed romantic melodrama. This is brilliant filmmaking. No matter how grave the situation, it's counterbalanced by bits of absurdist humour. Who but Quentin Tarantino, for instance, would stage a Ku Klux Klan-style vigilante raid during which the gunslingers argue about their hooded apparel?

The three male leads of the movie do a fantastic job - Foxx as the smouldering icon of revenge against the institution of slavery, DiCaprio as its practically mustache-twirling embodiment, and especially Waltz, whose every appearance inspires gratitude towards Tarantino for bringing this unheralded German TV actor into his cinematic universe.

But the man who really stole the show was none other than Samuel L. Jackson who played as Stephen. Stephen at first appears like your run-of-the-mill Uncle Tom stereotype, laughably subservient to Candie. But his role as a figure of fun does not last past his first scene. He soon goes from uncomfortably amusing to downright terrifying, while the true levity is reserved for the dumb, clueless owners. His performance was truly worth an Oscar.
Django Unchained has this certain over the top style. This movie notices that and uses it as its advantage.

The narrative of this movie may just look like a simple revenge story, but the way its told will truly amaze you.

- Anish Verma Gottumukala



The Way

A short story.

It began with a poster. A sleek, textured piece of couché paper that slid itself under her apartment door on a Friday afternoon.

Let's call her Venma. For days she'd been feeling this prickling feeling deep in her gut, a growing sense that something was definitely, but inexplicably, changing. She didn't know whether she needed to have an opinion about this feeling, whatever it was, but it was intimidating her confidence. Views she'd spent years polishing, a sturdy foundation of security that was now being threatened with unwarranted change. Now this poster.

"TODAY is the DAY you change your life!"

Bright gold lettering. First, it was the salt that was just overwhelmingly bland, no matter how much she added, just until the point that it became too much to consume. Next, it was the diary. She'd sat in front of the dusty thing for hours watching her hand refuse to move. It was the silence. The deafening silence that was too loud to think through so she switched on the television only to hear even louder people. Then, that poster, which she'd now placed on the dining table.

After three days of hesitation, she found herself gaping at a manifestation of the image on the poster. She stared at the front of the shiny black building surrounded by even shinier black cars. She stuffed her hand into the pocket of her slightly rumpled coat and pulled out the poster, holding it up for comparison. She marched across the street, legs moving with long, determined strides. "THE WAY BUILDING". The words glowed blindingly above an entrance.

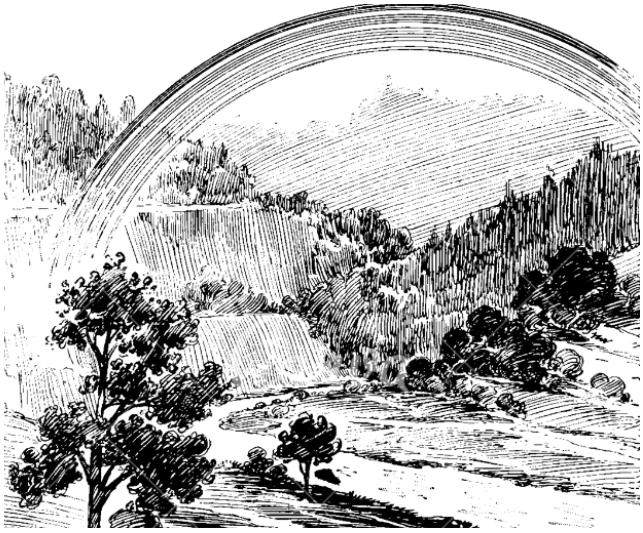
She entered the hallway and headed to the lobby. An introduction and some paperwork later, she was sitting alone in a stark white room, holding a box that supposedly held the answers to all the questions she could possibly have. She was startled when the box spoke.

"What is it you want to see?" Its voice felt centuries old, rough whispers of sound, softly echoing across the room. She made a face. Wasn't the box meant to tell her that?

"I guess we'll see." She said. She lifted the lid scrupulously, like the protagonist of a horror-film, as though the slower movements would soften whatever was bound to happen.

Almost instantly, she was sucked into a sea of cold air, everywhere a silent clouded noise, like she was underwater. Floating, spinning. "Hello?" She called. A sharp click and a blinding white light flooded her illusion as if her voice had severed the illusion.

With another blink, the landscape was again different. Eyes watching a playground. Feet moving across wet grass and unconsciously, but not unwillingly, she felt herself being carried along. The cold air was now a winter breeze, and the warm light came from



the sun. She found the weather reassuring, as though nature, like herself, was confused, but still content.

Her feet sank into cool sand and she began to smile at the feeling. She was led to sit on the swings. Her legs, much smaller than she remembered, pushed themselves off the sand and she soared backwards, and then forward, and once again but faster this time. Excitement poked at her limbs, and she laughed at the abruptness of it all, tilting her face to the sky and laying back so that her hair brushed the sand as the swing lifted her higher, and higher, and higher until she was above everything. She was floating again, but this time she observed the girl whose form she had been inside. A child, a beautiful young child, with the largest smile on their face, giggling at the air. She felt a droplet of water land on her nose and looked up just as clouds appeared in the sky. The strong scent of rain filled the air and another feeling swelled inside her, swallowing her entirely and blossoming on her face in the form of joy. She whipped her head around, not knowing who or what she was looking for but knowing that she needed to share the feeling with someone or something. Her arms stretched out to her sides, she spun, her face to the sky, catching droplets of water on her tongue, feet leaving the ground once in a while with little hops.

The rain intensified, the wind grew frigid, but all at once, she was dry and warm, still spinning but now by a small fire. She paused, watching the rain become a thunderstorm through a petite window. She pressed her cheek to the glass and inhaled, the aroma of freshly baked bread wafting into her senses. Peace, serenity, the crackling of the fire, along with the occasional slaps of the thunder, the whistling of the wind, the pounding of the rain on the window, broke any silence that threatened the room. The sounds grew, louder and louder, until they transformed into the sound of clapping. All of a sudden, the room was filled with strangers, old and young, yelling, laughing and chattering in incomprehensible tongues. She was consumed, once again, with staggering awe as she was dragged into a circle of people, sparkling eyes, smiling at their neighbours, voices belting out unintelligible words, songs in awful tune but sung with mystifying confidence. After hours of dancing, people began to leave the room, just vanishing from where they stood, their eyes gazing at her with compassion. As though they felt what she felt. In a flash, her landscape was changing once more and she was alone, on top of a mountain, the edge of a rise, surrounded by thinning fog. Each second her surroundings became clearer and she was humbled by the sheer scale of the experience. For the first time in a decade, she felt wonderfully alive.

Then she was in her house, a bowl of saltless soup and her diary on a table in front of her. She settled in her chair, inhaled in gratitude, picked up her pen, and began to write.

- Amy Rachal Clement

A Senior update

TOK presentations - a thing of the past.

On 24th and 25th of August, Grade 12 delivered their final TOK presentations which carry 33% weightage of the final TOK grade. Unlike previous years in which students travel to a retreat and carry out their presentations in front of the entire grade, this year the presentations were conducted online. Despite the change, we could all deliver powerful presentations with the guidance of all the TOK teachers who have helped us prepare and enhance our understanding of AOKs, WOKs, knowledge framework, etc. in the past year. Even though most of us didn't see the point of a subject like TOK, we have come to understand some of the intricacies that have made the subject so special and enjoyable.

- Avanish Meedimale

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