Cover Art

BY MRIDANI KASHYAP

Regular Correspondents

ADITYA BEHERA – GAMING

AMY RACHAL CLEMENT – FICTION

ANISH VERMA GOTTUMUKALA – FILM

THIS MONTH'S

Student Correspondents

THE INDUS DISPATCH

An • Academic • Existential • Update

INDUS START-UP SCHOOL LAUNCH

Getting students all ready for the future.

The Indus Start-up School was launched on the 12th of September, via a Cisco WebEx Conference. It is the first of its kind in the world where students pursue a twinning/dual programme that is in sync with the Indus philosophy of preparing children for all challenges, particularly for a future that we do not know. The school focuses mainly on life entrepreneurship which will enable its students to become outliers, exponential leaders and lifelong learners who welcome rapid change and see opportunities in challenges that come their way in this VUCA environment while further strengthening the innovation culture at Indus.

The conference was attended by many people, which included Indus Trust Board Members Mr. H.B. Jairaj, Professor Shivram Malavalli, Dr Kumar Malavalli and Mr Sushil Mantri. Also in attendance was Chief Innovation Officer for The State of Telangana, Mr Ravi Narayan. Not to mention the Principals of all three school, IISB Principal Ms Sarojini Rao, IISP Principal Mr. Sandeep Chhabra, and our very own IISH Principal Ms Nuwaira Pasha, along with the respective Vice-Principals, Teachers, Parent Mentors and students, with the total number of participants in the WebEx Conference hovering around 650-700 participants. The event started with a short introduction by the Emcee, Aman Sharma. This was then followed by the opening address by CEO Lt General Arjun Ray, who spoke about why only 42 students were selected per school for the full programme with parent mentors. He explained that 42 is a very important number in a lot of cultures, and especially mentioned Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams, a highly popular book series, in which the number 42 is the answer to "the ultimate question

of life, the universe, and everything." A very fitting answer indeed. He also explained the choice to also extend the Start-up School to everyone else who applied, so that they too can develop their entrepreneurial skills. He also mentioned a few new technologies, like GPT-3, a language model capable of human-like text, even coding in multiple languages. He concluded by thanking the parent-mentors, without whose help, Start-up School, could not have even been imagined.

This was then followed up by the launch of the website, which you can visit by scanning the QR code below, by Mr H.B. Jairaj. Mr Kumar Malavalli talked about his entrepreneurial experiences and his vision for the Start-up School. Mr Ravi Narayan, Chief Innovation Officer for The State of Telangana, who talked about the importance of start-ups and the role they play in society and the economy. Indus Eagle 4.0, the robot teacher, was also launched at this event. There were also speeches from 3 of the parent mentors, specifically, Ms Ambiga Subramaniam, Mr Sanjay Kulkarni and Dr Uday Saxena. Lastly, Ms Preeti Prabhu, the Chief Philosophy Officer at the Indus Trust, summed up the whole conference by outline what is expected of a Start-up School Student.

The Start-up School is going to be a very interesting experience and I can't wait to see what lays in store for me and the rest of my fellow Start-up schoolmates.

- Naimish Kandula

Startup School Website

Editorial Column

Still going strong.

Greetings.

It would seem that it's been a month already - strange how time flies. September has been a rather eventful month, with everything from grand openings, to debate competitions, which is something o a benefit to us, because, as the old adage goes: "mo' content". Speaking of content, we have seen slightly improved numbers of student submissions, but only so very slightly, so, once again, we are asking for your submissions. We can't pay our correspondents (although we guarantee you, we would), so unfortunately you'll have to make do with the clout you get from being published in such an esteemed journal as the Indus Dispatch.

Regardless, we have expanded our scope somewhat; you'll see a new section or two when you go through the newsletter. What can we say? We're innovators at heart. Finally, we like to think we take feedback seriously, so feel free to fling anything you've got at us here: https://forms.gle/SPdmajWPq2j3QAu18.

– The Editorial Board

THE HEAL PROJECT

An Initiative by the Sreeja Sindhuja Foundation - Muppaneni Sœurs & co.

Started by Sreeja and Sindhuja Muppaneni, Sreeja Sindhuja foundation cares about children's education and healthcare. After realizing that their greatest strength lay in the actions of their initiatives, they decided to launch The HEAL Project. Now, they work towards a healthy and sustainable future for humans and the environment.

Here at The HEAL Project, we see the value in everyone. We would like to be a catalyst for positive change. We are driven by the ideas which we initially founded our Non-Profit organisation upon compassion, respect, creativity, and perseverance. Learn more about our mission, our vision, and how we go about making the changes we want to see.

We have a team of five wonderful and enthusiastic learners who have joined the NGO and taken up responsibilities to take this NGO to new heights. They are:

SINDHUJA MUPPANENI
Co-founder (VII)

SREEJA MUPPANENI
Co-founder (VI)

REVANTH REDDY
Program and activities coordinator (VI)

AIRA POLAMREDDI
Administration and finance manager (VI)

SRI TEJASVI CHOLLANGI
Communications and marketing manager (VI)

MISSION

The HEAL Project works towards returning nature to its original state and allowing the underprivileged to experience and achieve greater heights through programs and activities that replenish the ethics of our society as a whole.

VISION

The vision of The HEAL Project is to shape a world where human and natural diversity thrive in harmony.

ORPHANAGE DRIVES

We collected items and objects from the communities we live in and distributed them in the orphanage. Through this drive, we aimed to develop empathy and a sense of value an item holds. We made sure that the items were in good condition and were useable. We distributed New books and stationery items, packaged food items like Rice, Pulses, Cereals, and various essential commodities to the orphanage children, also promoting the ideology of the 3 R's through this activity.

FOOD DRIVES

In the current times, the daily wage workers were the ones who were most affected. With no availability for food and water, we planned to do food drives. We cooked fresh, homemade food and distributed packaged food to the underprivileged or starving in the nearby sum area. We plan to include three sections in each package which have all the essential nutrients. Face masks were also distributed in the slum areas. This activity was done during the outspread of the pandemic.

UNDERPRIVILEGED AID

We execute various activities for skill development for the underprivileged in our society. For example, visiting an animal shelter, teaching cooking basics, teaching film basics, acting through skits etc.

FUTURE PLANS

Many more activities are been planned by our NGO for the coming months. We would also like to host the contest as a form of fundraisers and start with making ration kits for the underprivileged and the once in need.

Because of the outspread of the pandemic, we are been restricted to make our movement outside and do activities physically. We wanted to take an initiative through which we can reach the maximum amount of audience without doing physical activity.

Through this motive, we started a YouTube channel. The purpose of this YouTube channel is to make short videos on issues and topics which are to be given the most important and are been ignored or taken for ease in our societies.

We decided to have a theme for every month and post a video once a week on the subtopic of the main theme. For the month of September, we have chosen the theme of discrimination. As the first two weeks have passed, we posted two videos on our channel.

The first video focuses on the discrimination faced by COVID patients and survivors. We focused on how we as humans must focus on the emotional and mental health aspects of a COVID survivor, not only about their physical and biological state. We pressured on the aspect of mental health as it is one of the most raising topics and with only good mental health status, our societies can grow and prosper in happiness.

The second video focuses on the discrimination faced by men in India. In this video, we explored the laws in the Indian Penal code which discriminate against men. Also explore how society is living under the impression that men cannot be victims of rape, sexual assault, honor killing, or even mental harassment.

We will be uploading more videos on many interesting topics with new information on our YouTube channel. Please do subscribe to our YouTube channel to spread awareness on these sensitive topics which are a taboo to be talked about in our society.

We would need volunteers for future activities as we would want to increase the reach of our NGO. Please do follow us on our social media page to get more updates on our activities and our success (@the.heal.project - Instagram & The HEAL Project - Youtube).

- On behalf of the HEAL team, by Sri Tejasvi

Bolstering Young Minds to Escalate to a Larger Whole

Helping everyone be the absolute best they can be.

The quote to the right galvanized me to organize a sensitization project to spread awareness to children from the Low-Income Community as a part of an internship under the IndusInd Bank.

It is widely known that a perilous virus known as Covid-19 is arousing agitation throughout the world, and its effects are anything but fortunate. From rags to riches, from rulers to subjects and from veterans to novices this virus looks upon everyone alike and we should stay shielded from its noxious sting.

Sadly, there are many people with negligible, to no education living in slums and agrarian zones of the state who are unaware of this pandemic and its very

adverse consequences. This is the primary reason why the dwellers of villages and ghettos are very negligent in taking essential precautions.

"The greatest joys in life are found not only in what we do and feel, but also in our quiet hopes and labours for others."

Bryant McGill

This was the problem that this project endeavored to address, but the target audience needed to be specific and willing to ponder upon the information given to them. Thus, it led to the audience being children aged from 7-15 years, so that they follow and disseminate knowledge to others in their neighbourhood.

The exploration has hopefully spread awareness to around 200 children who were very enthusiastic and eager to wallow in the project. A great percentage of children had no knowledge of the crisis that the world is facing and so needed to discern the emanation of the situation.In the newest state of India, there are leagues of lush forests and serene streams to the north, adjoining the state of Maharashtra. Amidst these stretches of green lie villages that are only larger by a few times from the spots they form on maps. These rural counties belong to a verdant district called Mancherial.

Outstretching to this rural society, the undertaking addressed three neighboring remote villages – Buddharam, Sankaram and Kannepalli. These hamlets stand in the heart of hilly forests and are quite what one would call the backwoods.These areas were chosen to ensure that the information is passed on to around 200 of the oblivious children who could not have sophisticated access to the knowledge.

I could present a short series of images that illustrated various methods how this virus could spread from one another. I articulated facts about the virus and its effects for about 30 minutes, giving them a brief idea of how to stay safe. After which, I gifted sanitizers and I donated masks to everyone present. I concluded with the message that when we are following the needful precautions, we would become the protectors of the nation as there are no victims of our carelessness. I created a propelling notion where the children of these provinces would change to become more alert. It is a battle fought against an invisible enemy, but we should get in gear, as this time, it should not be just our eyes that face the foe but our strength and wit.

– Prabhath Puli

THE GLENDALE ALL-INDIA DEBATE

A unique event, a modern platform, a fortunate outcome.

Aarush Kumbhakern
Opening Speaker

Aakash Sudini
Rebuttal Speaker

Tvisha Shukla
Main Speaker

On the 17th, 18th, and 19th of September, the Glendale Virtual Debate competition was conducted - an all-India event and the first of its kind. 52 schools took part, one of which so happened to be Indus Hyderabad.

One must be honest, there were good performances, there were bad performances, there were indifferent ones and there were over-the top ones, but in the end, it came down to the judges to choose the ones they most fancied. There were, so to speak, two ways to win - a team could win the debate, or as it's often called - the motion, or they could pass through to the next round by virtue of their points, which were awarded on the basis of speakers, relevance, and that sort of

thing. The latter had nothing to do with winning the motion itself.

Indus itself both won and lost the first round, in that it lost the motion, but advanced to the second round, as one of sixteen schools who did so.

Motions were often rather one-sided, when actual logic was considered, being statements that absolutely no one would have any reason to oppose. But in these cases was the true skill of debate exhibited, that of playing the devil's advocate, and convincing people of something you know yourself to be false. If nothing else, the debate at least created some more compelling liars. Perhaps, one day, they might pursue their interest professionally.

come to the fourth, which upped the pace rather frantically. The top three teams would debate each other in turn, over the course of three debates, and this implied preparing for two debates in the span of an hour. To some, coming up with a compelling argument for a case, and then memorizing a three minute long speech regarding the same, seems a trivial matter. Others might prefer to swim the channel before attempting such a thing. In the end, it comes down to personal preference.

Regardless, none of the top three failed to deliver, which is perhaps why they were in the top three, come to think of it. Besides Indus, was Bishop Cotton Public School and Glendale CBSE, and at the end of the round, Glendale CBSE fell behind, leaving Indus and Bishop Cotton Public School to have at each other for the trophy.

The final round was rather more generous with time for preparation, and after a wait of just above an hour, the debate commenced. Everything that has a start, has an end, and the debate was no exception, with a total runtime of about fifteen minutes.

Now, I shan't bore you with any descriptions of how the audience sat with bated breath awaiting the results or anything like that. I'm not a poet, and for all I know, there might have been at least one spectator bored out of his mind, but nevertheless, the results did come out, and Indus happened to have emerged victorious.

There was a small announcement, involving the cash prize, which came as something of a surprise, and a veteran debater of Indus's own – Tvisha Shukla won the award for "best upcoming speaker", which as the chairman, Dr Abhimanyu Acharya (business consultant, educator, prolific writer & popular speaker, both in India and abroad) pointed out, was rather comical, seeing as she'd been debating for something nearing fifty-something years.

All in all, a great thing, was the competition. A spiffing opportunity, and with some great people there to watch, including a Mrs. Akkineni, of some fame, and Mrs. Babukhan, among others. While perhaps minuscule in comparison to things like the Battle of Waterloo, it was a big thing to all who took part in it, and was undoubtedly of benefit to the viewers.

– Aarush Kumbhakern
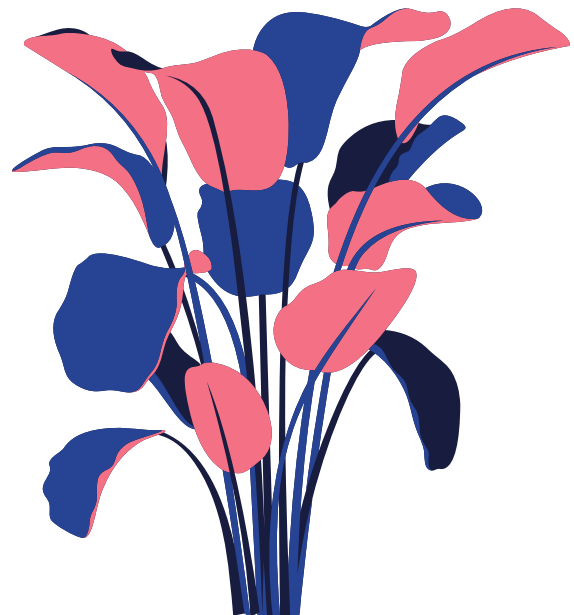
ORIGAMI
The Japanese art of paper folding comes to Indus

On 11th Sep, the house masters of all the four houses conducted an origami session for the month of September. Through this session we aimed to cover creativity as a part of CAS reflection. The teachers shared a link where you can find various figure and the directions of how to make them. In that one hour of time the students made many different figures and we got to see their hidden talent. Through this activity, the students were hopefully able to find a new interest and a useful art to pass their time with and refresh their brain cells. It also enables students to develop imagination and a sense of colour. There are many benefits of origami. Here is a reflection by Amy Rachel Clement:

"The origami workshop was taken online during our CAS session after school. We were given a website containing directions to create simple origami pieces. I really enjoyed this workshop because it challenged me to follow tutorials online to create origami shapes that I had never created before. I learnt new origami techniques such as the fish base and the crane base which were the bases/ first few steps of most origami shapes on the website. I hold a huge amount of appreciation towards this art. I appreciate how it teaches us that a piece of paper can be anything when folded and shaped. I find it fascinating that a flat piece of paper can be turned into such intricate shapes, it shows me that we can make anything into what we want it to be, and that we shouldn't underestimate anything as simple as a flat piece of paper. Origami is a tool that is used in many fields, and contributes to scientific endeavours, especially when something needs to be done on extreme scales. What makes it even more interesting to me is how something that is considered a child's hobby can be used to send telescopes into space and devices into our bloodstream. I had lots of fun being introduced to origami on teams where my classmates were making different shapes as well, it gave me a sense of community doing the activity with others. Overall, I think origami is great because of how fun, useful and accessible it is. I am grateful that we were introduced to the art in class, I really enjoyed the workshop and I would encourage everyone to explore and experiment with origami!"

We hope there are more session taken on developing the creative side of the students and helping them with other many benefits.

– Sri Tejasvi, Reflection by Amy Rachal Clement

Photographs By Amy Rachal Clement
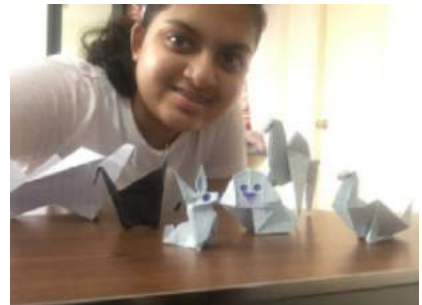
Community Bicycling

Rollin' in da hood, for CAS.

When planning this activity, I intended to improve my organization and management skills through making a timetable for bicycling around my community during regular week days. I also wanted to improve my physical self through exercise during the COVID-19 pandemic since quarantine caused me to fall back on physical activity. I believed that through this activity, I could focus on developing an area for growth by keeping myself healthy through exertion. I have also researched about the potential benefits it would have for academic performance (such as allowing one to be more attentive in class). Another area I felt that I needed to improve on was my time management skills. By creating a rigid timetable (biking for 20 minutes or more during the 2 breaks given), I could recharge between classes; hence, increasing my attention span. I also focused on learning how to initiate and plan a CAS experience through a feasible schedule that I could follow.

I felt very excited about participating in this experience since I haven't done any physical activity for 5 months in quarantine. I also thought that this would simulate normalcy through establishing a daily routine.

After participating in this activity/experience, I have successfully met the goals I intended to achieve. While taking part in this activity, I began to notice how my mood had elevated and how I was being able to be more attentive in class. I also noticed how I became less tired and fatigued after many classes; hence, making me more productive. Through setting a timetable, I also realized how time management would be beneficial for completing assignments in a certain desirable time (giving me more time for test preparation and for revision). However, there were also situations where I would not bike

due to rain on consecutive days (maximum up to 3) since water would cause my cycle chain to rust (increasing chances of wearing out). Regardless, I have tried to bike for 7 out of 10 days (from September 16th, the time the activity was initiated).

I also met the learner objectives of "initiating and planning" and "areas of growth" since I then realized the importance of exercise on a regular basis. Now that I am aware of this, I felt the need to improve on my health in other ways such as in my diet as well as through exercise.

I believed that it was important to understand strengths and weaknesses since this helped me to identify areas that would possibly hinder others, and to work upon them. I also felt more aware of my needs when organizing the activity myself rather than participating in an established activity since this allowed me to critically think about my weaknesses and how I could improve.
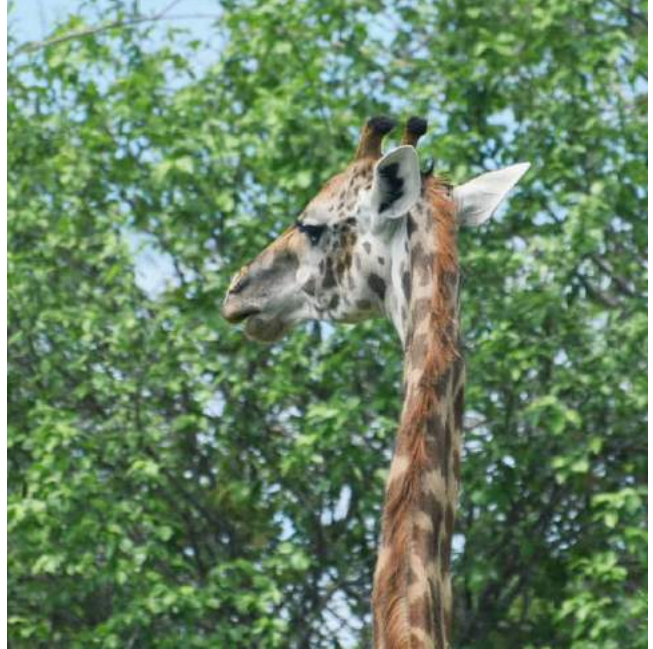
Overall, I felt that the activity was mostly successful.

– Abhishikth Savarapu
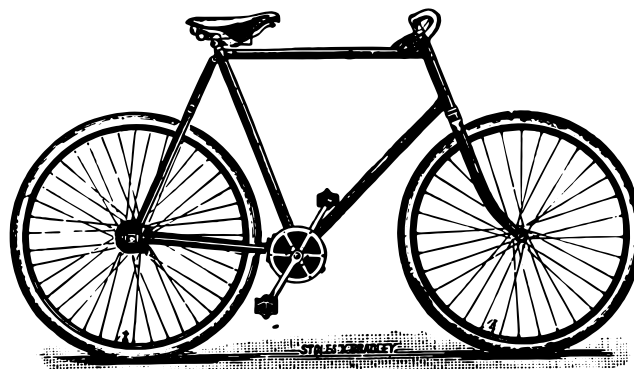
Safari Sights

By Mridani Kashyap

COLLOQUIAL
CONTRAST By Saianjan Akela

Pink

*The High
Mast of
Solitude*

BlacKkKlansman

The amazing true story of Ron Stallworth.

The astonishing true story of one of the riskiest undercover investigations in American history. An early 70s case in which black police detective Ron Stallworth (John David Washington) applied for and was ultimately granted membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

Presented as a kind of real-life Story, Ron Stallworth serves as a role model for audiences starved for black heroes on-screen: an activist who infiltrated not just the Klan but also the corrupt, racist system that was the Colorado Springs Police Department at the time, using his position to bring the organization out of the Dark Ages. Incidentally, "the Organization" is also what the Colorado Springs KKK branch calls itself, although this group of semiliterate rednecks seem anything but organized: At times, their amateur hate club comes across so inept that the movie turns comedic.

Ron's story is nearly too strange to be believed, which is precisely what makes it so compelling.

BlacKkKlansman celebrates black pride as a necessary weapon against the Klan. Not long after the transformative meeting, Stallworth returns to the office and picks up the phone, calling the number listed on a KKK ad in the local paper. Adopting a friendly, avuncular "white voice," he tells the person on the other end of the line how much he hates black people, Jews, Catholics, and every other target of the Klan's animus, dropping in slurs any chance he gets. The ploy is brutal in its simplicity, and it works. Stallworth's shamelessness over the phone is all he needs to join the club—but to actually appear in person, he needs Zimmerman to become "Ron Stallworth," a card-carrying KKK member.

Much of the film's action follows Zimmerman as he tries to blend in with the Klan, whose members include the disarmingly friendly Walter; the nasty and aggressive Felix; and the hulking and thickheaded Ivanhoe. Many of their antics border on the comical, and their efforts to sniff out potential treachery are amateurish (suspecting that Zimmerman is Jewish, Ivanhoe asks to look at his penis). But the group is also buying weapons, making bombs, and associating with people in the Mafia and at norad. Any time their idiocy might make them seem nonthreatening, the movie leans in to remind viewers that even the most idiotic people can be dangerous.

– Anish Verma Gottumukkala

RETRO RECAP

Phantasy Star Online 2

Image Courtesy: Sega

One of the most anticipated RPG games of the decade, Phantasy Star Online 2 (or PSO2 for short) took 8 years to leave its home in Japan and become available to play worldwide. This free to play game by Sega may be 8 years old but it makes up for that time with it's amazing combat system and detailed class systems. Apart from its intricate class system, the game offers a highly detailed character customization. You can always look unique and no two players will ever look the same. The game may seem intimidating because it just has so many things going on at once, but it isn't something to be scared of as the game has clear explanations for each of the functions it offers.

The game's graphics aren't definitely AAA title type either, the game has been out for 8 years after all. The only thing that keeps the game appealing to the eye is the animé art style that it uses. The animé visual style matches the sound effects in the game, that is, it doesn't feel out of place or like an old game. The 8 year old animé style graphics means that the game will be able to run on most low end systems of today at a stable framerate.

The game's main selling point is it's combat system. You can perform combos and do very high damage to mobs and bosses. There are many classes to choose from- Hunter, Bouncer, Ranger among many others. That's not all, after playing the game for a while, you have the ability to choose from subclasses. Didn't like the class you chose at the beginning of the game? Don't worry, the game allows you to switch your classes whenever you like through the various NPCs that are available in the main hub. The hub is where you will find yourself spending a lot of time as it is the place where you get your quests, sell your items and manage your inventory.

PSO2 is definitely a game worth playing even in 2020 as it has so much to offer, and the game is free to play. If you really like animé style games, or are a fan of intricate RPGs, PSO2 may interest you. It sure is a game that needs you to spend a good time on it to get better, but the experience while doing so is fun.

– Aditya Behera

Image Courtesy: Sega

FOUNTAINS
AND WISHES

The beginning.

This story begins in an era long after the arts had faded from common talk and the word magic was spoken almost rarer than the occurrence of a blue moon. Great bridges crossed over glass skyscrapers, steel billboards flashed light across fifteen lane highways. Cars flew in ordered lanes even higher, well above the great connecting bridges, and crowded jungles of concrete and steel grew secluded from the roads. Long grey paths branched through buildings, under subway lines, and through shopping alleys. A certain path, the one we are most concerned with, ran far away from the city, away to where the asphalt ended, and the dirt began.

In a small valley hidden behind a mountain, small brick huts peeked through dense foliage. Picket fences and radios, cars without wings with 90s pop music bubbling through the windows. Houses with fireplaces and bicycles and motorbikes and drying lines. Covered by towering trees and engulfed in greenery, a cozy village remained, a reminder of primitive civilization still following methods of living no longer seen in cities.

In a small library, deep into the village, lived our protagonist, a young woman constantly poring over a browned piece of parchment. Born in that same village, with generations of elders having managed that same library, she stood determined to decipher the work of her predecessors. The work that currently lay on her table in the form of a map. A few minutes prior she'd let out a whoop, followed by a rather long bout of laughter. She'd run a hand through her disheveled hair, grinning at her map. Three years had proved enough to come as close to deciphering the ancient text as she possibly could be. A circular shape in the middle of the parchment surrounded by pillars of sorts. Then below the figure, instructions, clues, symbols. Finally, a single key, attached to the polished wooden handle. She now had an idea of where the scroll led, according to her map, an old Church even deeper into the village forest than where she was located.

She allowed herself another moment of sheer happiness before jumping into action, rolling up the papyrus and tossing it into her bag along with her flashlight, batteries, phone, food and a pile of other knicknacks she deemed crucial for a mission such as the one she would be taking on. It took no more than ten minutes for her to be out the door and onto the path she knew led to the Church, pushing aside cobwebs from low hanging branches in her way. Another ten, and she found herself in front of a graveyard, chipped metal fences and rows of gravestones, long abandoned, overgrown into the forest. Past those, illuminated by the last few rays of the sun as it set, ruins of what she presumed used to be the Church. **To be continued...**

– Amy Rachal Clement
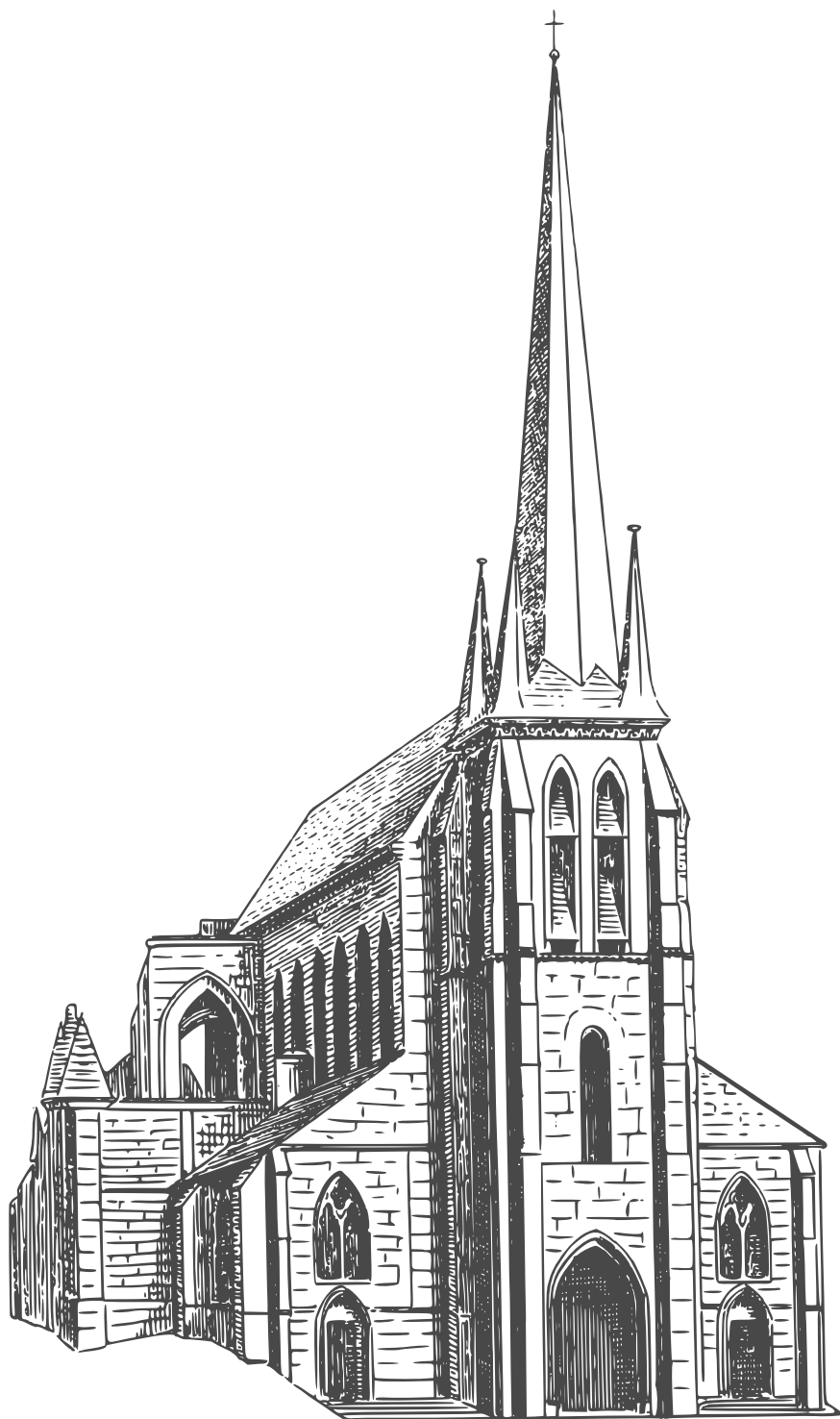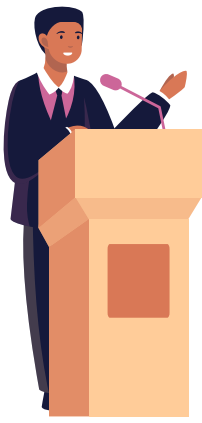
THE TROUBLE WITH DEMOCRACY

Trouble in paradise - have we become complacent?

Democracy is the kindle of the roaring fire which has been the industrial revolution and more modern times. It has given people fairness, rights and representation. It has given the leeway for our nations to charge into the infinite tomorrow and has brought prosperity all across the board, economically and politically. There are certain issues with democracy though.

The most crucial to fix is political divisions through a two-party system. When there are two dominant political parties, there is a division which shatters the nation and allows politicians to take advantage of the situation to relieve themselves of certain essential duties and promises. It moves from becoming a race for the betterment of the nation to a race of the winning ideology, and this is detrimental.

A very good solution to this is having a constitutional monarchy; a constitutional monarchy is a political system where a monarchy and a democratic government coexist. There are different kinds of constitutional or democratic monarchies, such as ones where the royal is just an honorary position, and commands no political power, while in others the throne commands a considerable amount.

Monarchies bring unity, they rid the country of the divisions which are made from a two or three-party system as now the loyalty of the people has shifted from their ideology or their political party to the royal, which does not only allow objectivity and rational thinking to overpower loyalty in voting, strengthening democracy but also brings a sense of national duty and a will to honour the name of your nation.

Monarchies bring trust in the government, which creates stability as long as the monarchy maintains a certain threshold of political power. Monarchs can stay about politics and bring about change, either from direct power that they have been given or by campaigning and reaching out to the people,

A monarchy tends to be more moral and sensible in their actions as their job is for life, not a term. They cannot and will not get away with corruption, and they don't need to. They are already lavishly rich, funded for eternity by their own population and private investments.

Monarchies can bring a greater amount of work done for society, for example in Great Britain, the monarchy runs several charities and funds which do things from helping orphans to giving aid to struggling farmers. The British royal family has about 3000 different charities listing them as patrons or presidents.

Monarchies can bring a greater amount of work done for society, for example in Great Britain, the monarchy runs several charities and funds which do things from helping orphans to giving aid to struggling farmers. The British royal family has about 3000 different charities listing them as patrons or presidents.

Monarchies are also generally well-received and approved of, such as the queen of Britain, who currently has an almost consistent approval rating of 74 percent while the current American president, Donald Trump has the highest approval rating of 49 percent and the previous president, Barrack Obama, has the highest approval rating of 60 percent. It's very similar for other monarchies, with 77 percent for Denmark and 70 percent for Sweden.

Monarchies are trustworthy, generally popular and strengthen the nation and democracies. It is clear to see why they would be necessary for the proper flourishing of certain nations. In the top 10 prosperous countries, there are 5 monarchies. Monarchies do really well when mixed with democracies, especially in modern times.

- Anonymous

Samsung Note 20 Review

Everything that's great about it, and everything that isn't.

After using an Oppo R9s Plus for the past 2-ish years, it was finally time to upgrade. I originally wanted to upgrade to the Oppo Find X2 Pro 5G. But when I saw that my carrier was the first in Singapore to offer the pre-orders for the Samsung Note 20 Series of phones, my heart was set on it.

I have to disclose my bias here. I love the Note Series and what it represents. A productivity-focused phone with the best specs and a feature-set unlike anything else. I was supposed to get the Note 7, back before it started blowing up and declared a health hazard, and I loved how far ahead of the competition it was, in both specs and price tag, but it started blowing up and declared a health hazard. So, when the new Note 20 series was available for pre-order, I decided to take a dive.

Then, on the 17th of August, I went to the store at 8 am to pick up the phone. There was already 2 people in Samsung T-shirts waiting to recieve people who had pre-ordered the phone. I was then handed my phone and given instructions on how to order the Galaxy Buds online. I walked home with a never-ending smile. I walked home with a phone so new that some companies didn't even have cases ready to purchase. This whole section was just a big flex, so I'll move on to the actual review here.

I have used this phone as my daily driver for the past month. I put a Spigen Case the day I got it and a cheap screen protector the other day because the pre-applied screen protector was peeling off. Yes, the cheap screen protector did break the usability of the under screen fingerprint reader, but face unlock saves the day.

I love this phone. I love the S-Pen. I love the fact that the camera is amazing. I love the link to Windows feature that allows me to use my phone on my Windows laptop, by sharing the screen to it. I love that the same feature lets me make calls from my laptop too. I love DeX because I can use my laptop as a second screen for my phone. I could go on and on about the features that I love because there are far too many. Its a great phone on its own merits. However, I suspect that its only because I have not used a flagship smartphone from Samsung since the Galaxy S4.

I say this because this phone costs a $1000 USD. That is a flagship price, so it should have flagship features. However, it doesn't have a high resolution or high refresh rate. It has a plastic back, not a glass one. It only has Corning Gorilla Glass 5, while its bigger brother

gets the new Corning Gorilla Glass 7. The Model I have is the Exynos Variant, not the one with Snapdragon, so it has slightly worse performance and worse battery life. I just don't get the same feeling I got when I got the S4 a month or so after release close to 7 years ago. For a $1000 USD/ $1300 SGD, I just don't feel like I am on the bleeding edge of technology. I feel like I am 2 generations behind every other phone that has a high refresh rate and a higher resolution screen, with a Corning Gorilla Glass 7 screen and back, and a Snapdragon 865 powering it.

Oddly enough, however, I don't feel like I need it. Sure, whatever I mentioned before is cool, but they're nice-to-haves. I don't feel like I use my phone enough to warrant the features. I don't game on my phone, because PC gaming is infinitely superior in all areas but portability, and I rarely game if and when I rarely travel. I don't watch things on my phone, because I prefer to watch things on my much larger monitor or TV. I put a case and screen protector, so doesn't matter if I have a glass or plastic back, and its not like I'm LinusTechTips to be dropping things every other second, so I shouldn't break my screen anytime soon.

All in all, its an okay phone. If you need the Samsung integrations and DeX and all the other Samsung goodies, get the Note 20 Ultra or the S20 series. If you're on a budget, the Note 10/Note 9 will scratch the S-Pen itch if you really need one. Otherwise, steer clear of this generation.

The S20 FE launched in Europe, with colors and the Snapdragon processor, so maybe Samsung learnt their lesson and will start selling only the Snapdragon variants with the next generation on. Only time will tell. Until then, I will be content with my phone, and so should you.

– Naimish Kandula

Image courtesy: Chris Velazco/Engadget

BILLBOARD

The Editorial
Board Announces:

Know anything about anything? Of course you do. Think it's interesting enough for people to know about? Even better. For our new "information section", to be put into practice from the October edition, we invite you to send us any snippets of useful information you may have gathered over the course of your careers. from a handy way to make pasta sauce, to surviving an eel attack - we welcome everything. As always, reach out to us at: aarush.kumbhakern@indusschoolhyd.com

Join us for the
"Run for a Better Future!"

A fundraising project by the Balamitra Foundation, promoted and organized by student volunteers.

All proceeds go towards improving **menstrual hygiene, sports equipment and the school and toilet facilities** for students in the Billavasla School here in Telangana. Minimum donation for participation is Rs. 500 per person.

There are spots open for the performing arts as well for all of you who'd **like to perform in the opening ceremony.** Take this wonderful opportunity to contribute to our community, maybe begin or add to your fitness journey

with the 6-day challenge! The invitation is extended to everyone and your family, teachers and students both.

Note from a student volunteer:

Hey, the @balamitrafoundation is back with its second edition of "The run for a better future" which will now be a virtual run. We will be organising a virtual opening ceremony and we would like to know if you are interested in performing! You will be given a certificate and this doesn't need to be a live performance, you just need to send a recording to us. If interested, please revert back. Thank you!

Megha Donthineni,
Student Council, Balamitra Foundation

Communication:

Consider going and visiting us at @runforabetterfuture on Instagram, or contacting us via email at: amyrachal.clement@indusschoolhyd.com for more information.

Registration forms and more detail coming soon through email!

Contact us at
aarush.kumbhakern@indusschoolhyd.com
to advertise yourself

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chollangi.tejasvi@indusschoolhyd.com

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aarush.kumbhakern@indusschoolhyd.com

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write for us

Email for submissions & queries:

aarush.kumbhakern@indusschoolhyd.com

Anonymous submissions procedure:

1. Upload the submission, preferably as one file including all assets (images etc.) on: https://gofile.io/uploadFiles
2. Submit the uploaded file's link in this google form: https://forms.gle/xJPPsTxVEMEsiXqp8