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A POLITICAL
CHESSBOARD



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Freshers' Day Promises a 'Advaya' start 75 Years of Sports Excellence: The Legacy Lives On!

Meghana D

The much anticipated Freshers Day at MCC took place on Aug 19th, with the theme for this year being 'Advaya', meaning unique.

The College Associations meticulously made sure to make use of and explore the theme to the fullest. Events ranging from treasure hunts to Movie Spoofs were organised to welcome the first-year students. While the Psychology Association's event required the Freshers to weave a story using music lyrics, the Journalism Association's event focused on how Freshers could come up with a plot twist for popular films. Even with the constant change in venues and timings, the association carried forward their events successfully.

The college was awash with colours as many of the students adorned traditional sarees and clothes in accordance with the theme. Adding to the plethora of colours, there were many stalls set up in the amphitheatre, ranging from clothing and jewellery to posters and badges. The event's festivity was enhanced by the campus decoration, including paintings and photo booths created by the art and decor team.

There was a continuous bustle around campus, with music and games playing nonstop, ensuring that the freshers were given a proper MCC welcome.



Nafeesa Shiza

The annual athletic meet of Mount Carmel College, was held on Sept 6 at the MCC stadium with the spirit and discipline that sports encapsulate. The opening march past led by Smriti Vishwanathan, student Sports secretary and Shree Shetty, Sports Association Secretary, began at 9 am after the esteemed chief guest Dr. R. Srikanth, Nodal officer, Department of Collegiate Education, Government of Karnataka and the guests of honour arrived at the pavilion. The chief guest came forward to take the salute, inaugurate and address the gathering, adding that "MCC will continue to provide National and International level athletes."

After the oath taking ceremony by the captains, the teams marched off and the events began. The student council also arranged events for teachers, admin and support staff which was definitely a crowd pleaser.



Our Sports people in full form

The physical director, Dr. Marry Dolly along with few other physical education coaches and directors were felicitated for their excellence and life achievements.

Ms. Chandana Ravi, Chief Guest, international throwball player and alumni of MCC, who received the salute of the closing march past, expressed her impressions and distributed

prizes to all sport achievers of the year. While the Joshepians house won the overall championship, Ameira D'souza of 3rd year PyPT won the overall champion and Likitha P won the all rounder performance award. Smriti delivered the vote of thanks as Ms. Chandana Ravi lowered the college flag and declared the 75th annual sports meet closed.

Cul-Week Recap: Dress to Impress!

Shatakshi Mishra

This year's Cul-Week was held over the span of three days, from Sept. 11 to 13. Over the span of these three days, the college was teeming with students dressed up, events planned by various associations and the amphitheatre covered in stalls selling a variety of things, from clothes to pins to tattoos.

The inaugural day of Cul-week, brought Halloween Haven to campus, with spooky decorations covering the college and participants dressed up in costumes. There were over 32 events, allowing students to explore their interests with escape rooms, fright nights and treasure hunts. Mehram, the band, serenaded the crowd with fresh beats, and Day 1 concluded with anticipation for more.

The 12th of September was



Winners of the Journalism Association event

everyone's birthday and students were spotted flaunting their outfits. The campus buzzed with excitement where associations held themed competitions including musical chairs, pop-

ping balloons and racing with a spoon in their mouths. Day 2's climax was a fashion show inspired by lace and soft romanticism, hosted by the fashion team. The day concluded with students dancing to the DJ.

On the festival's last day, the Emoji theme took centre stage. The day kicked off with two powerful events by the Indian and Street Dance Association. Participants threw themselves into emoji-themed events, writing letters to their favourite characters and quizzes.

The day concluded with a valedictory ceremony, graced by our Honorable Principal, where awards were presented, making it a triumphant end to this festival.

'Hugs Not Drugs' - Embracing Empathy Over Substances

Netra R

At noon on Aug. 18th students primarily from the psychology department gathered in GJB Audi 2 for an enlightening talk by five representatives from Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Bangalore, on the topic of 'Empowerment over Addiction: Strategies to Combat Drug Abuse.'

Each speaker openly identified themselves as former addicts and shared their intimate struggles. They recognized addiction as a life-long battle but credited regular meetings for maintaining their sanity and recovery. The primary speaker, Vinod, began by delving into the complex nature of addiction as an illness. Ramesh followed, sharing his tough upbringing and how peer pressure led him into addiction during high school. He emphasized how Narcotics Anonymous (NA) had been pivotal in his recovery, giving him a sense of belonging and purpose, finally making him feel at home. Preethika, a more recent member of the fellowship, expressed deep sorrow over the lost years of her twenties and the erosion of her identity due to her battle with drugs.

The final speaker was Dhinakaran, a young athlete from Josephite, who candidly admitted the challenges he faced in remaining honest with himself during his relentless pursuit of the elusive high.

The speakers shared their own journeys and highlighted how the program offered them freedom, a supportive community, and space for sobriety. They urged students to get involved and spread the message, while also providing helpline information for support.

Bangalore Area Helpline: +91 988 059 0059

Website: www.na.org

Ire Questa '23

The Travel and Tourism Department of MCC conducted their intercollegiate fest "Ire Questa" to celebrate World Tourism Day on Sept 19, 2023. The fest mainly centered around the theme of 'Tourism and Green Investments'. The main focus of the Ire Questa was the panel discussion on sustainable travel. This fest had five events in total, including quizzes and cultural.

Dhwani Dharamshi

Film Screening

The Communication Club and the Film Club, in collaboration with the Departments of English and Communication Studies, successfully screened "From the Shadows", a short film, previously screened at Cannes Film Festival. This was followed by an enthralling QnA session with the filmmaker, Miriam Chandy Menacherry in the DJB auditorium.

Mahi Aneja



Jugalbandi '23

Jugalbandi, the annual dance festival organized by the Department of Communication Studies, MCC, will span over a period of six evenings. Held in two parts, the festival features various classical, folk and contemporary dance forms from across India. Part 1 was held from Sept 15 to 17, while Part 2 of Jugalbandi will be held from Sept 29 to Oct 1.

Samixa Bajaj

Memorial

The memorial service for our former principal, Dr. Sr. Genevieve (1942 - 2023) was held at the DJB auditorium at 11:30 am on 4 September 2023. The ceremony was inaugurated by the CSA followed by a speech by The principal, George Lekha, as she outlined Sister's journey in MCC. The gathering fervently prayed for her soul to rest in peace.

Netra R



Students or Pawns in a Political Chessboard? The NEP Controversy in Karnataka Unveiled

In a whirlwind of policy changes, the National Education Policy (NEP) was initiated and subsequently withdrawn in Karnataka, leaving students in a state of uncertainty. The rollercoaster ride of the NEP in Karnataka has raised important questions about the motivations behind its implementation and withdrawal, as well as its implications for students, particularly those in their final year. The withdrawal of the NEP in August brought in at the inception of the new government's budget in the state has sparked contentious debates about whether these actions were driven by genuine concern for students or were merely part of a political agenda. Proponents of the NEP argue that its implementation aimed to revamp the system, aligning education with the needs of the 21st century. It sought to enhance the quality of education, emphasizing critical thinking and multidisciplinary education in order to benefit students in the long run.

Alternatively, critics, including the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, contended that the NEP was implemented haphazardly. They argued that the BJP government's decision to roll out the NEP was driven more by political considerations than the interests of students. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah further alleged that BJP had sacrificed students' interests for an experimental policy that wasn't implemented uniformly across all states.

As the NEP was withdrawn, questions about the State Education Policy (SEP) have emerged. What will it entail and how will it differ from the NEP? Unfortunately, the current state of clarity on the SEP is akin to a foggy morning, with many details yet to be unveiled. Educators are unsure of the educational landscape they will face in the coming years. Perhaps the most affected group are the final-year students who had the 4th year option snatched from them. These students are now pushed up by a year, compelled to hurriedly make and follow up on applications for jobs and further studies. The pressure is immense and the trepidation, palpable. This sudden modification in their academic journey leaves them grappling with uncertainty.

It's crucial to recognize that both the Congress and BJP have their merits and demerits in this situation. The BJP's intent to modernize education may have been well-intentioned, but the rushed implementation without adequate groundwork has resulted in chaos and opposition. On the other hand, the Congress government's withdrawal of the NEP has left many questioning its commitment to education reform and whether political motives influenced the decision. The central concern that emerges from this NEP saga is whether it is fair for a political agenda to put students in such a situation of uncertainty. Education should ideally be a realm of stability and growth. We must ponder: should students bear the brunt of policy experiments and power plays?

CM Siddaramaiah's assertion that they need more time to prepare for a new policy and will use the old system until the new one is ready appears sensible on the surface. However, this justification must be weighed against the fact that students have already been subjected to abrupt shifts in their paths. A counterpoint might argue that adequate preparation should have been a prerequisite before initiating such a policy change.

The debate over the motivations behind these actions continues. As we grapple with the aftermath, the central question remains: Is it fair for students to be pawns in the political chessboard? The fog surrounding education in Karnataka must lift and the well-being of students should remain at the forefront of any present or future educational reforms.

Is Suicide Prevention Day the wake up call Kota needed?

Avni S Shetty

World Suicide Prevention Day, observed annually on September 10, is a somber occasion this year as Kota mourns the loss of 20 young lives to suicide in the last eight months.

Annually, over two lakh students flock to Rajasthan's coaching hub for the JEE and NEET exams. Kota grapples with a high student suicide rate, often ignored until two students tragically ended their lives on Aug 27, 2023. In response, the Kota administration mandated the installation of spring-loaded fans and "anti-suicide nets" in hostels- a move that faced criticism.

Many believe that the focus should shift towards prioritiz-

ing mental health and creating a supportive environment for students, rather than relying solely on safety equipment as a preventive measure. The current emphasis on short-term solutions, like safety measures for moments of crisis, falls short of addressing the root problem of suicide prevention. Real change necessitates systemic reform and expert guidance.

Authorities have temporarily suspended routine assessments in coaching institutes for competitive exam preparation for the next two months. However, it's clear that this alone won't bring about significant systemic changes within such a short timeframe. While adopting suicide prevention equipment

is beneficial, it should not be the sole reliance. Although it's challenging to enact long-term systemic change in a matter of weeks, the process should commence promptly to facilitate gradual transformation.

India faces a grim reality with suicide ranking fourth among the leading causes of death in young people. Establishing a national suicide prevention policy is crucial to prioritize mental health. To prevent extreme actions driven by academic pressure, both the education system and societal expectations must undergo reform. Students should be encouraged to embrace failure and personal growth without fear of undue consequences.

A warrant on your expression; what's next?

Netra Raghunandan, Dhvani Dharamshi

Freedom of Expression is one of the absolute principles by which any democracy swears. So why is it that institutions which run on these very principles, find loopholes to work around it day by day? What serves as the simplest form of representation for young adults?

Clothing. Those who deny it as a form of expression may just find themselves at the receiving end of backlash by GenZ, or in straightforward terms, just normal college students. A noticeable change witnessed has been the uniformed guards who check the clothing of every student entering the premises. If you are a first year, this may not come as a surprise to you but to others, this is an action we are not accustomed to. There are suddenly more eyes on you every day, and we dare say, it is the uncomfortable kind.

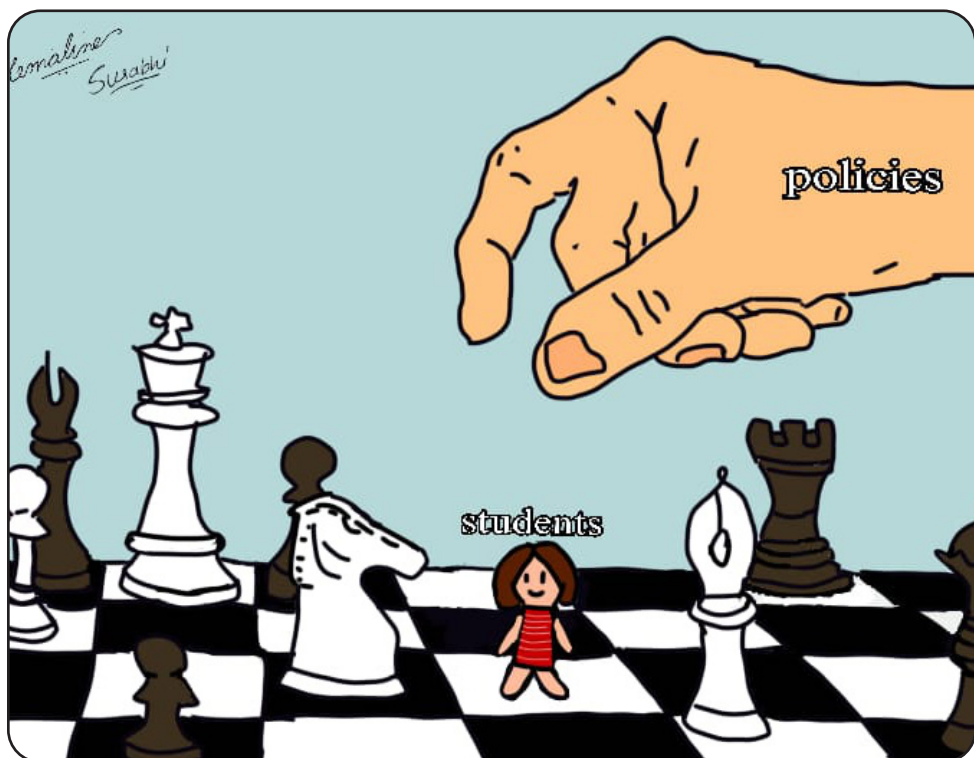
A major concern leaving the students preoccupied is the removal of the abaya right at the college gates. There have been questions arising whether it is absolutely necessary on the college's part to do so. The authorities state that this implementation has always been around, but it is only this year that they began outsourcing to tighten its place. Could this be a part of the new drive that the college is doing for a status change? Whether it is or not, this issue has mixed reactions.

While implementing dress codes on college students can itself be viewed as a form of oppression, it is understandable that institutions need to employ some necessities in terms of dressing to ensure professionalism. There also stands the issue of certain students who overstep these boundaries, refusing to

respect the rules in place. This creates a negative impression on the student body as a whole, which does not fare well in the eyes of a modern but established educational organization.

However, the way it is done here is slightly on a biased note. People who are on the healthier side are more strictly policed for wearing the same outfit a lean person is wearing which is very detrimental to people's confidence and body image. It is also important to bring up the fact that dress codes reinforce the age-old idea of the different standards set for girls.

For an institution promoting inclusivity, the cross-examining of what students wear raises the question of whether there is a balance between a safe and inclusive environment while also respecting a space to assert individuality out there.



First years are yet to receive their IDs despite being in the college for months now

Students Speak

There was mismanagement of event timings and relaying of news during Cul week that caused problems for the students

Please conduct KHEL, it's been 3 years

Stop sending messages to our parents when we miss classes. We are in college!!



REMEMBERING SISTER GENEVIEVE: A TRIBUTE TO A MENTOR AND GUIDE

Aamina Azhar

“Though I’m 78, I always consider myself to be a sweet sixteen going on seventeen,” she said, looking at me fondly from across her table a few years ago. A kind figure draped in her simple saree, Sister Genevieve sat at the head of the table. She had the spirit of a teenager, the wisdom of age, and the knowledge of the world.

I recall my first encounter with Sister G as vividly as the sadness I felt on the day of her passing. I entered her office as a 16-year-old, a stubborn teenager torn between the art world and a commerce course I thought I wanted. Today, I sit writing this article, the editor of a college newspaper, a journalism major, and a literature fanatic. I walked into Sister’s office that day with the idea of taking commerce but then sister asked me what I do. I had written a book? She wanted a copy. I run a business? She wanted a card. I was the head girl of my school? She wanted to know how leadership shaped me. Convinced as she was by the end of that conversation,

Sister offered me a seat in an arts course. Stubborn as I was, I thought I knew what I wanted. Sister told me to take a minute to think about it. I stepped out, then I stepped back in ready to refuse the seat. It was then that Sister took my hand and became a mentor for me for my next few years at Mount Carmel. I walked out of the room, registered for the arts course, and am happier than ever.

Sister’s memory was impeccable. She remembered my mother from almost 20 years earlier as her principal. If she didn’t forget my mother, it was a long shot that she would keep her eye off me. Throughout my first year at Mount Carmel pre-university, Sister would find me in a corridor, bunking class, or walking in the drive, and ask, “Are you happy in your course, child? Are you still writing? Keep at it. Stay true to your art.” I would muster all my courage and mumble to Sister about what I’ve been doing.

Sister G knew every person on the support staff by name



and her generosity overflowed, especially towards those who rarely received it. Besides her renowned philanthropy, it was her attention to detail that made all the difference.

On one of my earlier encounters with Sister, I recall breaking into a chain of complaints “But sister, there is so much talent in my own class. How can I not get lost in a class of 100? You keep asking me about my writing but I don’t know what it accounts for for me to continue writing.”

Had I grown too comfortable expressing these concerns on a campus where 2,800 girls had twice as many worries? Perhaps. Did Sister ever make me feel like my concern was not valid? Never. She promised it was enough if I could stay true to myself, be the most well-read in the room, and settle on a kinder heart. By the start of year two, I’d learnt to use my newly found voice fairly for myself. The next order of business for Sister was to make sure I used this voice for others who could use a hand.

Not fast enough, I found myself at the apex of the student council. Me? President of a student union? Oh, what an impact you had on me, Sister. I often wondered if my voice would fade without someone who believed in me so strongly. But you know what they say about trees, yes? If the roots are strong, there is no wind that it cannot waver. Sister was our roots. You might wonder why the administrator of such a large institution took such a keen interest in the life

of a single girl entering her college. Well, it wasn’t just me. Everyone Sister spoke to felt just as loved and seen by her as the previous person. Imagine what that does for a group of insecure teenagers venturing into the adult world.

I graduated pre-university and made it to degree. I learnt that when I’m given love, I must learn to give back twofold, and so I began to settle into the whirlwind that degree is. But even if you’re calm in the storm, when you hit the eye, it is only human to waver. It was no coincidence that when I did, I would run into Sister Genevieve and her familiar “What are you doing new nowadays child? Are you still writing? Keep at it. Stay true to your art. Stay true to yourself.”

She was truly a godsend. I say that in a way that she was such a constant in our lives that it never hit us that she could ever leave us. But so she did. Rest in power, Sister G. This is not a goodbye, this is a thank you for sharing your life with us.

The Secret Life of Students: AI edition

Dhwani Dharamshi

If Chatgpt hasn’t taken over your world yet, you are doing it wrong. Actually, scratch that. If AI has not taken over your college life yet, well, you are kind of living under a rock. We all agree AI has been a game-changer, used so frequently that it is always open in our browsers. But if you are a first-timer who has not explored the field of educational technology yet, we’ll equip you with just the right ones!

Starting off with Factgpt (chatgpt’s cousin) by Longshot AI, you no longer have to break your head over finding citations for your research papers because it will do all that for you. Next up, we got Notion AI. I personally recommend using this because my notes have nev-

er looked better and my brain no longer shuts down right after opening my books.

A life-saver indeed, (and to the person who suggested it to me, you deserve a vending machine treat).

Semester finals aren’t really complete without the professors asking for presentations. So here’s Tome AI, where you can make PPTs that can guarantee you one mark more than what you got last semester.

Well, these do not end here. There are multiple apps and websites (paid or free) out there that will ease your burden. But remember, only use these in times when you are sure you won’t be caught by your teachers. Otherwise, use your skills as a last resort.



Diverse Delights: Food Corner Serves Up More Than Just Food

Saranyaa Ramesh



Bangalore : In the heart of Vasanth Nagar lies Food Corner, an establishment started by Prajwal Shetty and Mohammed Rifai with the goal of satisfying and catering to the needs of Mount Carmel College students with appetizing Indian food.

India, home to 29 states, each with their own distinct language, culture, and food, is best known for its diversity and richness that spans across borders. The richness and variety are seen in the scrumptious food that is served at Food Corner.

This beloved eatery is primarily recognized for its North Indian cuisine, offering a variety of options to cater to diverse tastes, from the buttery delight of chole kulche to the freshly served vada pav, with authenticity upheld by North Indian chefs.

The owners of this establishment are mindful of their customers and have kept the price of the dishes generally affordable to cater to the needs of the students. What started as a food establishment now has oth-

er ventures - Golden Laundry, a laundry service that is low priced and has one-day delivery services, Planet Print Cafe, a print store that has all print essentials to cater to the needs of students, Beauty Home PG situated close to the college that has multiple sharing options and Cool corner which serves all types of refreshments including juices, sandwiches and ice creams.

Don’t miss out on experiencing soulful Indian food at Food Corner and their other ventures.

Ghar wahi, role nayi; Alumni Teachers Reflect On Their MCC Journey!

Avni Shetty, Kushinara Dharmasen

We often view our teachers solely in their role but rarely consider that they too have come from the place we are currently in. Tracing our thoughts, literally, we asked alumni teachers about their experience transitioning from students to educators on the same campus. They had many nostalgic moments to share. Here is what they said!

Q: What advantages do you believe being an alumnus offered you in comparison to those who weren't?
"I have a deeper familiarity with the environment and its inner workings, which made my transition into a teaching role smoother and allowed me to navigate the system effortlessly, giving me an edge over my colleagues." - SHERYL MA'AM

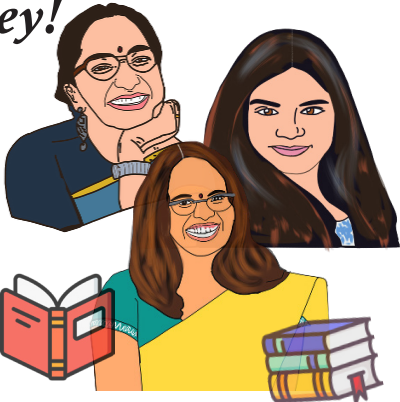
"I had ample opportunities to learn from mistakes during my initial days. The unconditional support and forgiveness, especially during my year of men-

torship, have been invaluable for my growth." - AKSHAYA MA'AM

Q: What are your thoughts about the transition from a student who used to participate in performances for Teachers' Day to your current role?
"In essence, it's like seeing a reflection of my own past as a student and gaining a deeper understanding of what teachers must have felt when I was on the other side." - SHILPA MA'AM

"As a teacher, I particularly appreciate the academic side of things, but as a former student, I fondly remember being actively involved in various activities and having a great deal of fun." - AKSHAYA MA'AM

Q: Can you share more about your personal journey transitioning from being a student at this campus to becoming a teacher here?
"I vividly recall those initial moments when students would address me as 'ma'am' and



I'd think to myself, 'Are they talking to me?'" Being a teacher here has unveiled a whole new dimension of involvement that I hadn't anticipated." - SHERYL MA'AM

"Mount Carmel College has been like a second home, a place where I spent a significant portion of my life. Even as I continued as a teacher for almost 14 years, at each juncture, there was a subtle shift—a unique aspect that kept drawing me back." - AKSHAYA MA'AM

Listening to them revealed the unique experience of transitioning for any teacher. Here's your reminder to treasure your teachers: Kyunki teacher bhi kabhi student thi!

History, huh? They Definitely Made Some.

Mahi Aneja

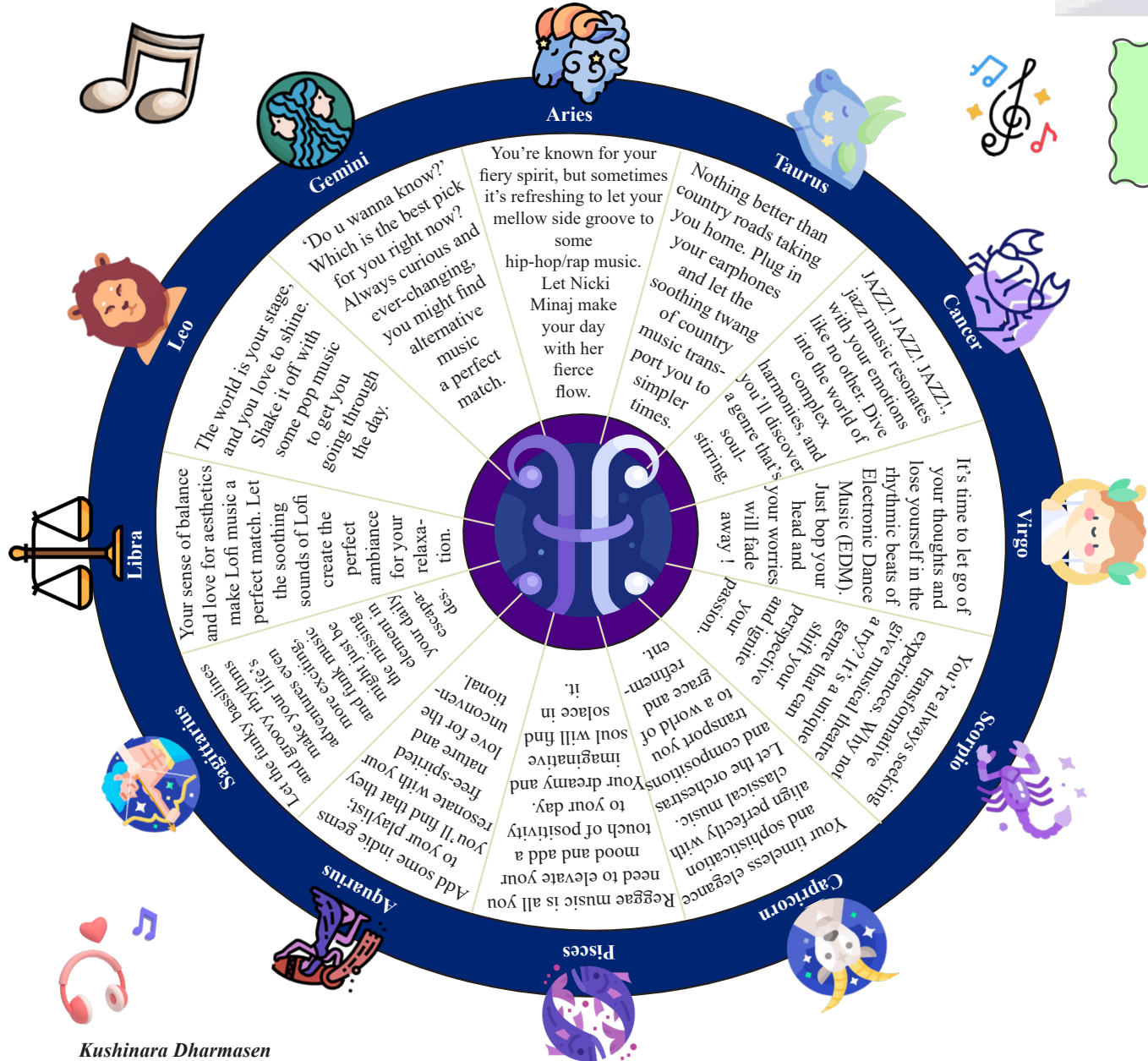
Red White and Royal Blue, based on the famous bestseller by Casey McQuiston of the same name, hit Indian screens on August 11 and immediately endeared itself to us.
It follows the love story of Alex Claremont-Diaz, the son of a US presidential candidate, played by Taylor Zakhar Perez and Prince Henry, the spare prince of the UK as Nicholas Galtizine. The movie, clearly a romcom, is a step away from the usual queer romances. Director Matthew López rather concentrates on the blooming love between Alex and Henry, instead of the political aspects.
With the help of cinematographer Stephen Goldblatt, López brought us the transformation of a cheeky couple from bitter enemies to passionate lovers. Their playful chemistry has us sold immediately. In that vein, it allows Alex and Henry to be open about their relationship, including a portrayal of their steadily growing intimacy. Alex

and Henry struggle with what it implies for their families but are aware of who they are as people and what they want for their lives as a public couple.
The casting showcases itself as a melting pot of ethnicities, races, and cultures interacting naturally. Every character is utterly believable on their own.
However, it is still a fairy tale, and there are plot devices that are simply too convenient. The tenderness between Perez and Galtizine, on the other hand, encourages the very willing suspension of disbelief, which is what happily ever after is all about.



★★★★★
Release in India: August 11, 2023
Director: Matthew Lopez
Cast: Taylor Zakhar Perez (Alex), Nicholas Galtizine (Henry)
Streaming on: Amazon Prime
Rating: R (Language|Some Sexual Content|Partial Nudity)

Which Music Genre Your Sign Is Telling You To Listen To?



TRIPLE C
Chai, Complaints, Counsel

How to save money as a college student?
Striking a balance between saving and spending can be challenging, maybe harder than waking up for an 8 a.m. lecture. Here are some tips to follow if you find yourself broke every month's end. Start by creating a budget - if it hurts to put aside money, know you are doing it right. Then start sharing expenses - exchange those books, transport-pool together, and use the same Netflix account. A major tip is to cut down on impulse buying (even if your friend says yes). Finally, invest in a piggy bank. Not literally, but keep money aside as part of an emergency fund.

How do you navigate social life as an introvert?
College as an introvert can be a rollercoaster ride but it's not impossible. First, set realistic expectations and make meaningful connections with like-minded people. Start small - you don't have to change your personality completely, instead engage in gatherings and make use of your listening skills. If you want to practice socialising beforehand, join online communities and make them a trial run. Make sure you have alone time to recharge. You can say no to people, so throw that FOMO out of the window and prioritize yourself. As a last resort, just find an extrovert friend and you'll be all set whether you like it or not.



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