

MÉLANGE

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OUR LIVES'
A GUIDE TO
"HOW TO
FEST"

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You can reach out to us at
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We shall send you updates
through the Knot Whatsapp
channel for every edition’s
call for submission.

Greetings readers!

The world of media is cherished in many forms. It makes us who we are, tells us what we must talk about, what we must think and at times, how must we react. In any shape or size, media is an essential part of us. We at the mass media department strongly believe in the notion that media unites us. Every midnight conversation leads to spectacular scripts, every sip of tea helps us enhance our designs, every ray of sunshine helps us understand the pictures we click better.

I have personally found myself in a space where I have come to appreciate media that speaks volumes under piles of glossy papers, visually striking designs and features that make up for most of my thinking patterns.

We at Melange aim to make your creativity speak through print media. No idea can make a great story without receiving eyeballs. We hope to provide that platform for you to be able to understand your niche in writing (and also any other piece of content you can think of under the sun!).

The magazine is made and dedicated to the upcoming torchbearers of the industry. We believe in the essence of storytelling, its powers to bind us as human beings and the need to channelise that true voice.

For the first edition, the team has put up a series of articles that speak of themselves and highlight various areas of the industry. Think about how you dedicate most of your time watching endless reels on Instagram when reading ‘*Whats up with our diminishing attention spans?*’ or dive into nostalgia with ‘*humare baad ab mehfil mai afsaane bayaan hoge*’. Give our article about ‘*Discovering South Bombay’s artistic treasures*’ a quick read before you plan your next post-college outing and make sure to get fest ready with our little guide on ‘*how to fest*’.

Team Melange is extremely grateful to ‘Knot: A Media Club’ that has helped turn the idea of running a college magazine into reality. We also thank our readers for whom we write and will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,



Delara Kavina
Editor-in-Chief, Melange

Editor's Note

Meet Our Team

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Catch a glimpse of Jodhpur — The Blue City of India

By Janvi Gaikwad

"Hi, I am Janvi Gaikwad, just an old-school girl trying to capture moments through my eyes first and then through lense and words."

By Yashvi Jain

Beyond Spam



On a global scale, there are more alarming matters to look after than the emails. But, on the flip side, they are the elephant in the room.

If deleting spam mail is a solution, pretty much clear, that e-mails are a problem. To clear the blurred image, sending 65 emails is equivalent to riding a car for 1km. The

E m a i l
C o 2

calculator
says

that an average working person sends approximately 126 emails per day. Considering 224 days as a working day, the conversion of annual e-mail will roughly account for around 184 kg tonnes of carbon emission. A value equalizing your car ride from Mumbai to Vadodara. However, a car is seen as a contributor to pollution, whereas an email is still considered innocent.

But how do emails leave a carbon footprint?

Emails are not an innocent bunch. Each of them contributes a little everyday towards digital pollution. This is because every email generated goes through a chain of servers and web to reach. The server which is the participant needs more electricity than attention. It voraciously devours electricity to power itself and cool down intervally. Such a considerable amount of electricity is needed notwithstanding the length of the email you sent. Whether it is a long paragraph stating your reason for leaving the company or just a one-liner to show gratitude, the carbon emission through electricity produced is mind boggling. Emphasizing that emails have

multi-facet aspects of working, storing them can also cause pollution. Be it spam mail, unread mail, or unnecessary ones, each and every one of them is stored in data centers like Cloud. Cloud asks not for air but electricity to run. The amount of electricity it asks for is enormous, owing to the fact that major cloud storage is powered by fossil fuels.

How could we curb carbon emissions through email?

Real appreciation lies when this question passes your mind. There are ways as simple as ordering food online with impacts as profound as recycling plastics. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

Decluttering: Decluttering has always been considered judicious, whether in your physical space or digital life. So when you decide to clear those unread, unwanted, spam, or newsletter emails, you end up reducing the impression of carbon print. This is simply because the web chain works in a way where the mail roosts on the server which dominates the share of electricity usage. You have found yourself the simplest eco-friendly switch to make when you consciously clear the clutter.

Avoid attachments: Becoming email unfriendly gets difficult. If so, going link-friendly is a wise option. Avoid sending attachments with email as they emit more CO2. If sending an attachment is necessary, convert it into a link which can reduce the emission. Sending a compressed file works well.

Pick up the phone: Life is too short to draft and edit lengthy emails. So spill the beans at the moment through a call so that you can reduce the carbon emissions while also maintaining the sanity of your inbox.

Have more face time: How about swapping email monologues with facetime? Going with this eliminates your chances of being misunderstood and waiting for a reply.

When you sent that cute GIF to your friend or simply texted 'thank you' to your boss, it might have looked kind and generous. But are you aware that the simple gesture has created a carbon emission of around 50g? That's equivalent to using around 5 plastic bags. While emails may seem ephemeral, their collective weight is undeniable. The vast data centers powering our inboxes, the devices we rely on to send and receive messages, and the sheer volume of digital clutter all contribute to a carbon footprint that's hard to ignore.

Yet, this revelation isn't meant to discourage us from using email; rather, it's an invitation to use it more consciously.

In this digital age, it's essential to remember that sustainability extends beyond the physical world. Our actions in cyberspace matter too, and by making eco-conscious choices, we can ensure that the digital footprint we leave behind treads lightly on the plane.

How to Grow Your Wealth in 4 Steps

By Anushka Chavan

In today's world, growing one's wealth can be challenging, especially in this economy, where many people struggle to earn money. Inflation, increasing prices, and sustainability are issues one can face. During such times, having a solid strategy to increase wealth is crucial. After talking to some financial experts and referring to books like Rich Dad, Poor Dad, and Psychology of Money, here are four easy steps:

Keeping track of expense

Almost 80% of people fail to do this. When someone finds themselves in a new financial situation, it becomes important to know where their money is going. This step can be a total game-changer.

Keeping track of expenses will give one a clear vision of what they do with their money. Writing down every rupee of currency spent (without cheating) is important. For this, there are many apps available online like Walnut Money Manager, Money Lover, etc. One can even prefer a physical notebook, a small book that can be carried anywhere. Track expenses for at least 2-3 months or even more. Afterward, calculate the average spending.

Calculating all expenses

Once all the necessary data is collected, individuals may be surprised at how casually they've been managing their finances. Once clarity is gained, they are ready to set financial goals. Here's where people can differ. Everyone can have different goals. For instance, goals might include saving more, investing more, purchasing a camera or a new phone, enrolling in new courses, and so on.

Ensure there are specific goals or plans in place. For example, 'In one year, one is going to save a certain amount for a specific purpose.' Always remember that one can start doing this at any

time, be it mid-year or mid-month. Setting yearly and monthly goals will help maintain focus and commitment. There might be initial failures, but not losing hope is essential.

Investing!

Investment can be a life-changing move. The idea of "growing wealth while sleeping" may sound like a scam, but it's a reality for many. The process of investing doesn't have to be overly complex, nor does it require a large sum of money. Investments can take various forms, such as real estate, mutual funds, stocks and shares, and more. Investment choice depends on one's goals, preferences, and risk tolerance. It will require some study and research, but investment can become an enjoyable activity with consistency and patience. For those unsure where to start, consider taking Warren Buffett's advice: "In my view, for most people, the best thing to do is own an index fund."

Practice and Patience

Let's be honest; growing wealth isn't a get-rich-quick scheme. Overnight success stories are incredibly rare. Building wealth in today's world is undoubtedly challenging, but with discipline, wise investment choices, and patience, one can secure their financial future. Improving financial knowledge and putting it into practice can help a lot. Remember, 'Beginning is half done.'



What's up with our diminishing attention spans?

By Dhruvi Bauva

At 11:57 AM, I open up a blank document to write, thinking and thinking and thinking of how to begin. At 12:01 PM, I get bored and open up Instagram instead to go on a ferocious cope-scroll. At 12:43 PM, I look up at my blank document (again) and utter a loud sigh of "What in the world have I been doing & where did all the time go??" (With Ratna Pathak Shah from JTYJN popping in my head, "phone pe beta, phone pe")

With the rise of the short-form content economy, we have an inverted downfall in our once-amazing, now-astonishing and soon-to-be-terribly-appalling attention spans. It takes us tricks like in-our-face subtitles, bashing graphics and even Subway Surfers walkthrough videos to keep ourselves intact through a 60-second reel, where in the world are we headed? These endless scrolling sessions that big social media corporations profit off of - every goddamn second as we speak - are nothing but quick shortcuts to excessive dopamine, that we all know is not good for us. And even if you justify it by saying you probably only consume "intellectual content" across platforms, in hindsight if you think about it, how much of it do you really remember?

But what makes us stay through all this mumbo-jumbo, especially when we're all aware that it's, well mumbo-jumbo, is our fear of solitude. We're so afraid of just sitting in silence with our thoughts, much rather facing our thoughts, that we'd do anything and everything to run away from it. We're so used to instant gratification that we've lost the ability to sit through when times get tough. When a movie gets monotonous or when it's difficult to finish a chapter or when we're travelling all by ourselves with no one to talk to, we're forced to sit with our thoughts leading us to switch to something online rather than persevering with something difficult in the real world. And if this goes on for far too long, I'm afraid all of our creative juices will be sucked right out of us and we'll turn into nothing but brain dead zombies.

These scrolling sessions don't just play on our fear of solitude but also our fear of missing out and our need to consume practically everything



Keep :

- ✓ Things that makes your mind blow
- ✓ Things that makes your heart kind
- ✓ Things that actually, and I mean actually hold value
- ✓ Things that make you laugh your jaws off
- ✓ Things that you deep down know, you love

Sweep :

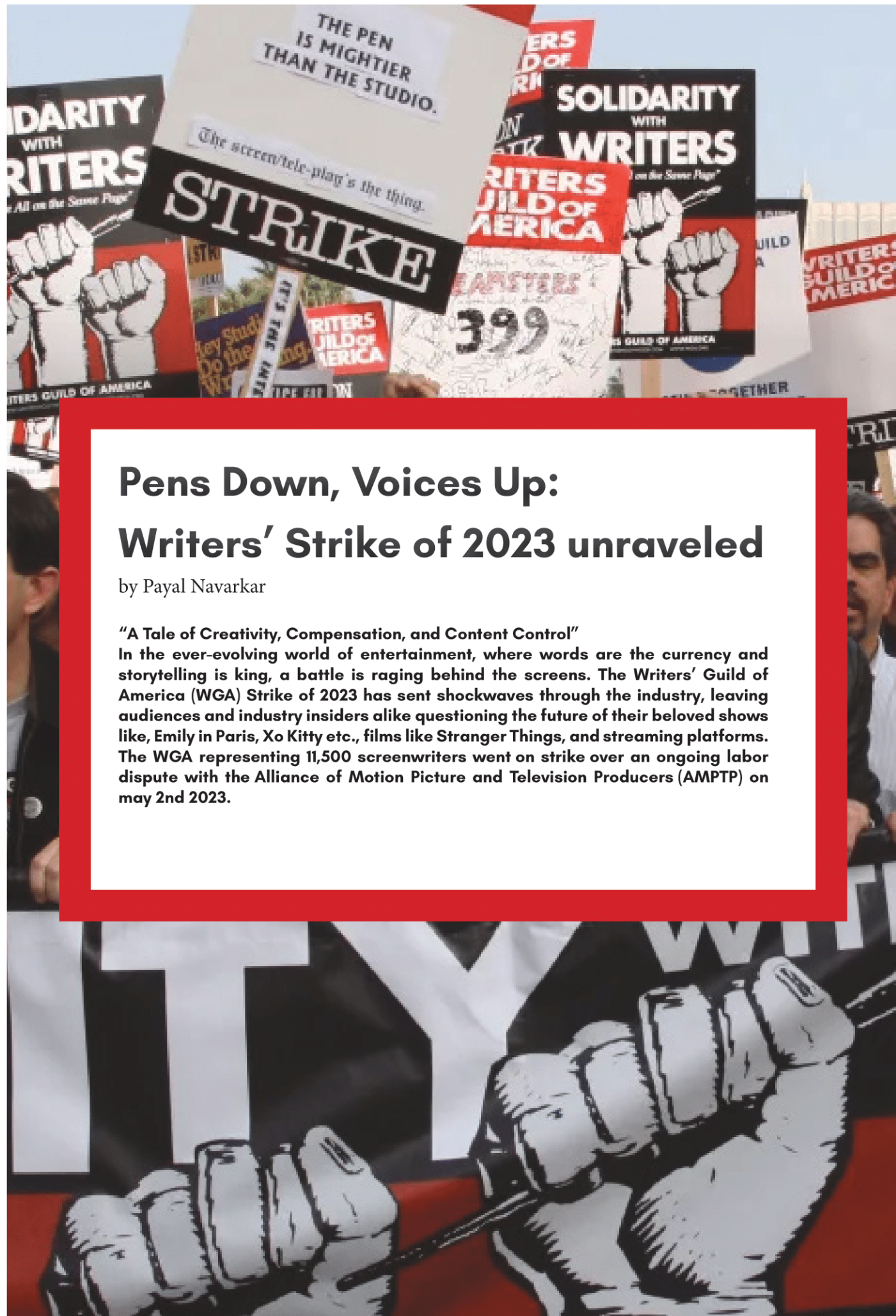
- ✓ Practically everything else!!

available on the internet so that we don't end up feeling "left out". And with the sudden boom of the content creator space that's no different from nasty high school cliques, nobody wants to sit at the lunch table alone. The constant like, share, comment, engage, refresh, reply, and the million other things we do on a loop, every minute or so, leads us to nothing but delusional validation from people we don't even know last names of.

So what does this mean for us? Does it mean we should all just deactivate our accounts and go live under a literal rock? Absolutely not (unless that rock is somewhere in Maldives, then yes). But cutting down & monitoring your usage is a good start no? Understanding what to consume & how much to consume that leads us to a digital detox that we very much need.

Figure how much time you really need to spend. Not want, need. And spend the rest with your family, friends and most importantly, yourself. Sit with your thoughts, write them down, you won't believe what'll actually come out. Give your mind & subconscious the time to be idle so it can churn out the things that make this world beautiful, ideas. Running away from your feelings and finding shelter under infinite scrolls is helping none of us. Read the book that's gathering dust bunnies on your shelves, go on walks with nothing but your mind, practice breathwork with deep focus and if you ever feel like you're curling yourself up in the Reels tab, after having a bad day, snap out of it and curl up in your journal instead. You & your future self will be grateful. All it takes and trust me when I say this, all it takes is a genuine effort to make changes that turn all your scrolls into mindful ones.

If you read this all the way till here, congrats half of your job's over and you've done better than most! All that's left now is to go & give your thoughts some company, they're waiting.



Pens Down, Voices Up: Writers' Strike of 2023 unraveled

by Payal Navarkar

"A Tale of Creativity, Compensation, and Content Control"

In the ever-evolving world of entertainment, where words are the currency and storytelling is king, a battle is raging behind the screens. The Writers' Guild of America (WGA) Strike of 2023 has sent shockwaves through the industry, leaving audiences and industry insiders alike questioning the future of their beloved shows like, *Emily in Paris*, *Xo Kitty* etc., films like *Stranger Things*, and streaming platforms. The WGA representing 11,500 screenwriters went on strike over an ongoing labor dispute with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) on may 2nd 2023.

The Spark: Why Did the Writers' Strike Happen?

The Writers' Strike of 2023 didn't materialize overnight; it was the culmination of years of simmering discontent within the creative ranks.

Compensation Disparities: One of the central issues was the disparity between writers' earnings and the soaring revenues generated by streaming platforms and studios. As digital platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+ continued to expand their reach, writers argued that they deserved a more equitable share of the profits.

Others were the lack of residuals and royalties for content streamed online. Writers argued that their work continued to generate revenue for production companies long after its initial release, yet their compensation failed to reflect this digital age reality.

AI taking over: Writers also wanted artificial intelligence, such as ChatGPT, to be used only as a tool that can help with research or facilitate script ideas and not as a tool to replace them. The strike became about saying No to AI eating up their lives as a writer.

Content Ownership: Writers sought more control over their intellectual property, pushing for greater ownership rights and a say in how their stories were adapted or extended by the producers. Calls for increased representation on and off-screen gained momentum, with writers demanding greater opportunities for under-represented voices in the industry.

Impact on the Entertainment Landscape

The Writers' Strike didn't just disrupt the lives of writers but had a profound impact on the entire entertainment ecosystem. The strike, which has largely shuttered work on American movies, TV dramas and sitcoms, and late-night talk shows, was followed by another walkout by actors on July 14, crippling Hollywood production.

Many TV shows and films were forced to halt production or delay release schedules due to the absence of fresh scripts, leaving audiences eagerly awaiting new content.

Studios and networks turned to unscripted content, reality shows, and archived material to fill the programming gaps, highlighting the versatility of these formats. The strike put a spotlight on the streaming giants' dominance and their role in reshaping the industry. The absence of fresh scripted content led some viewers to question the value of their subscriptions.

The strike galvanized not only writers but also other industry professionals who shared similar concerns their treatment, paving the way for broader labor discussions.

How does the strike affect the Indian entertainment market?

The reason the Hollywood pendown has created ripples here in India is because the corporations that the WGA is agitating against are the same ones whose subsidiaries Indian screenwriters are working for, such as Amazon, Hotstar, and Netflix. "If the outcome of the strike is favorable, its implications could empower our writers to stand up for their rights," says Anjum Rajabali, veteran screenwriter and member of SWA's executive committee. While SWA's

General Secretary Zama Habib, known for writing TV shows like *Nimki Mukhiya* and *Sasural Genda Phool*, supported the strike stating that the WGA is making legitimate requests on behalf of the writers' fraternity and they stand in solidarity with them. The ormax-tulsea survey reveals that nearly 2 out of 3 writers believe that there is no consistent standard on how writers have to be credited for their work. Every Guild has appealed to their members not to take up any show so that they can support the WGA and writers' fraternity.

But do you think this action to support the greater cause ate up the livelihood of many writers out there who depend on their ink and stories for life?

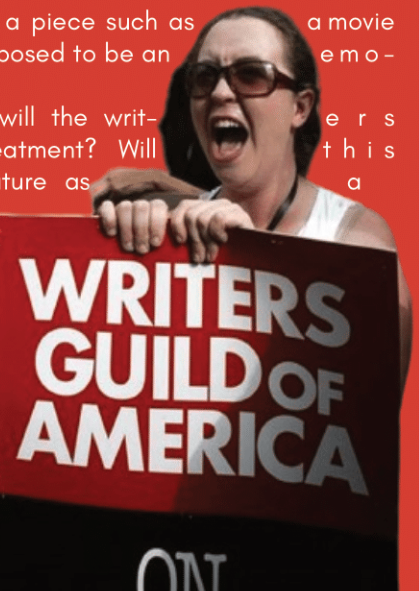
Are the strikes over yet?

The historic, 146-day writers' strike finally appears to be over. The Writers Guild of America sounds triumphant. However, getting writers back to work would give studios a head start on writing movies and scripted series, so that production can resume quickly when actors return.

The WGA must first reach a tentative agreement with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which handles labor negotiations on behalf of eight major studios and streaming services. With the writers' strike blowing up in the United States, which has brought works on several Hollywood projects to a standstill, it remains to be seen how negotiations in the Indian industry will pan out.

The Writers' Strike of 2023 will surely go down in history as a pivotal moment in the entertainment industry. It revealed the power of collective action and reminded the world that the creative forces behind our favorite stories deserve fair compensation, protection, and creative autonomy. As the ink stops flowing onto the pages of scripts and the screens of our devices, it's clear that the strike is not just about wages but about shaping the future of storytelling itself. The strike against monetary disparities became something of a proxy battle of Humans vs AI. It scares me when an AI without emotions is hired to generate a piece such as a movie script where it is supposed to be an emotional rollercoaster.

Even after all this will the writers get any better treatment? Will this strike secure my future as a budding writer? Any more recognition for others except the popular ones in the industry? Will it justify sacrifices of other newly entered pens in the picture? Will it affect the culture and dynamics of the Indian writing industry in any way?



The Hidden Realities of



By Aleena Chopdar

In an interconnected world, where the fate of nations is often intertwined, the G20 emerges as a crucial platform for international cooperation and decision-making. The G20 summit is a significant event on the international stage, bringing together leaders from the world's largest economies to discuss and collaborate on pressing global issues. The Group of Twenty (G20) consists of 19 individual countries and the European Union, representing more than 80% of the global GDP. The summit serves as a forum for these leaders to tackle challenges that transcend borders, such as economic stability, climate change, and public health crises.

New Delhi G20 Summit 2023:

This year India hosted the G20 Summit which is getting applauded by the leaders from all over the world. This wasn't India's original plan; it was supposed to host the G20 summit in 2021. However, things changed. Back in 2018, India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, asked Italy to host the 2021 summit and let India host it in 2022. Italy agreed because of their strong friendship. But then, another change took place. Indonesia's Foreign Minister, Retno Marsudin, asked India to swap their turn because Indonesia was going to lead the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023. So, India agreed to host the G20 summit in 2023. The presidency officially started in December 2022 and will continue until November 2023. India's Prime Minister Modi received the presidency gavel from Indonesia's President Joko Widodo.

The agenda decided in the G20 summit is to focus on six important things: Green Development, Inclusive Growth,

Reaching Global Goals, New Technologies, Improving International Institutions, and Empowering Women.

India's leadership is all about making the world a better place for everyone. The G20 leaders also agreed to pursue tripling renewable energy capacity globally by 2030 and accepted the need to phase-down unabated coal power, but stopped short of setting major climate goals.

The 55-member African Union became a permanent G20 member, just like the European Union. Before, only South Africa was in the G20. This change gave more say to the Global South, countering the G7's strong influence.

Continuous Failures of G20:

The G20, a group of major countries, has faced increasing criticism in recent years. Critics argue that it lacks legitimacy and struggles to address global problems effectively. This has become more evident in the wake of the pandemic, which deepened existing problems and created new ones.

One major issue is trade. The G20 leaders have been trying to reform the World Trade Organization (WTO) to ensure fair trade. However, the WTO's dispute settlement system has been paralyzed since late 2019, causing delays. The U.S. blocked the appointment of new judges, accusing the WTO of overreach. While the Biden administration hasn't resolved this, the G20 hasn't pushed for a solution either.

The G20 also aimed to ensure equitable access to medical supplies during the pandemic, but there's a huge gap



in vaccine distribution between rich and poor countries. India and others called for removing trade barriers, like vaccine differences, but some G20 members, like the EU and Germany, oppose this.

On the economic front, the G20 allocated \$650 billion through the IMF, but critics say it's not enough. The distribution favours rich countries. Additionally, debt relief efforts have faced hurdles, as private creditors refused to participate.

Climate change is another sticking point. Some G20 countries want strict climate goals, while others defend fossil fuels. There's also disagreement on phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels.

With these divisions and global challenges, it's crucial for the G20 to find common ground, especially representing the Global South. The responsibility now falls on upcoming G20 presidencies to address these issues and beyond.

Has India succeeded as a HOST in hiding country's failures behind the green curtains during G20?

In a recent report by Brut India, a troubling narrative emerges from behind the vibrant facade of the G20 Summit. Concealed behind the green drapes adorned with posters of the G20 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, lies a place where residents feel they have been kept hidden from the world. Their grievances range from feeling dehumanized to struggling with stifling conditions, and some even hold the government responsible for obscuring the slums and street shops that serve as stark symbols of governance shortcomings.

From the Coolie Camp in South Delhi to the street shops of South Bombay, both areas share proximity to luxurious properties. Just ten days before the G20 Summit, wooden scaffolding emerged,

encasing the slums and street shops, and veiling the under layers of green sheets.

Within the confines of Coolie Camp's slums, residents hidden behind these green curtains wore expressions of disappointment. They believed the government was attempting to shield the stark reality of the nation's capital from foreign eyes. Some residents even voiced concerns that the government hesitated to reveal the depth of poverty to international guests. Deeper within the slum, residents detailed the daily challenges they faced in exiting their living areas. They questioned why the government chose to conceal these issues rather than addressing them directly.

A significant portion of the slum's inhabitants were daily wage laborers who encountered substantial difficulties in commuting due to the green barriers. Drainage problems exacerbated their plight as the slum became enclosed on all sides. Families found themselves obliged to stockpile groceries for a week, unable to venture out during the summit. This wasn't their first experience of such concealment; residents recalled a similar incident 15-16 years ago during a national event. Nevertheless, some saw it as their civic duty to present their city as clean and appealing, as Coolie Camp lay in the path of foreign G20 guests.

Mumbai echoed a parallel story, with green sheets concealing several street shops and severely affecting the livelihoods of street vendors. A juice shop owner reported a staggering 70% drop in income compared to the period before the summit.

While the G20 Summit may appear triumphant to some, it has unveiled an array of challenges for others. Critics argue that the government's decision to obscure these areas raises questions about transparency and accountability in addressing urban poverty and development. This narrative serves as a poignant reminder that one event can have diverse and profound effects on different segments of society.

The Inception of Knot.

At 6.46pm on the 15th of August earlier this year, the TY batch of the Mass Media Department cherished the most valuable notification that could ever pop on their screens. Department faculties announced the inception of the Knot committee. Clubs were allotted to designated heads and a wave of cheer painted every college Whatsapp group that day.

The committee soon came up with an action plan. From introductions among other batches to forming a proper workforce, Knot has come a long way. Just three months in, and the committee has received massive recognition within and beyond the boundaries of the college campus.



Fresher's Party

The fresher's party organized by a bunch of SYs under the umbrella of the committee came foremost in the events organized by Knot. Zayan Sanga, Keyaa Padwani, Anam Shaikh and Aaryaman Parmar lead the way into a beautiful evening on the 5th of September earlier this year. The newcomers danced their hearts out, making for a special welcome as they step into the most exciting years of their lives.

The Open Mic Event by Spotlight

On September 11th, the KNOT club held its pioneer in-house open mic event called Spotlight, marking the start of the academic year 2023-'24. The event, led by the department's coordinator, Prof. Surya Gune, aimed to break down barriers between seniors and juniors and foster love and compassion. The event began with the theme song for SPOTLIGHT, performed by Raj Darji and Yashraj Jha. The event was filled with poems, musical jams, stand-up comedy and mono-acts, with rappers taking control and comedians delivering hilarious punches.

"There is something about being surrounded by creative, artistic folks that makes me insanely happy and I cannot describe that in words probably because my vocabulary is limited."

- Waqi ur Rehman
(Head of Department - Spotlight)



A week-long newsroom was run by the TY Journalism batch from the 8th of September to the 14th of September earlier this year as a part of academics alongside Knot. Various committee members of Knot were a part of the newsweek. The newsroom functioned to cater interest and knowledge in different fields like reporting, newswriting, editing and designing.

Newsweek

'Haider'
Screening
Event by

70 mm

The first film screening of 70mm showcased "Haider" on 13th of September earlier this year. The highly awaited event was met with insightful discussions regarding the movie's symbolic meanings, acting, cinematography, casting, directing and achievements. The audience interaction takes the cake in regarding the amount of detail and thought gone into the movie's hidden meanings, grabbing the audience's attention and emotions.

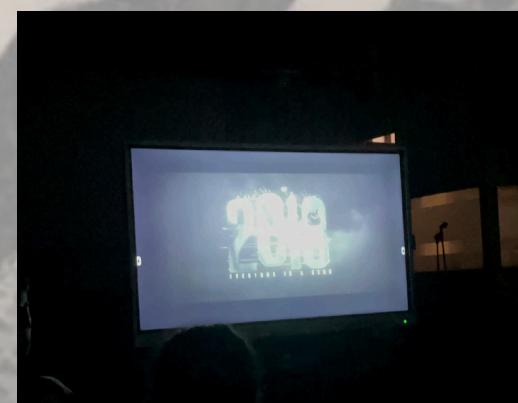
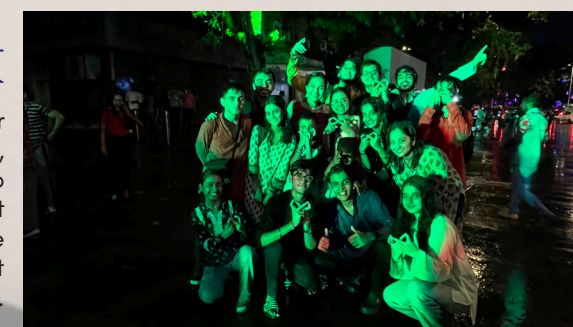
"I'm glad to have the opportunity to run a film club where everyone of us can get together, have fun and talk about films. Movies/TV series is a topic that's brought up in every conversation but to have a club specifically for the film fanatics and lovers is another level of excitement."

- Sahil Asarpota (Head of Department - 70mm)



Chaturthi with Knot

The Knot committee celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi at the pandal near Churchgate Station. Churchgate cha Raja made his grand entrance, accompanied by Dhol taasha drums. Rain showers gave way to engaging in antakshri and rap battles with the children who were a part of the procession. It was an evening of laughter, joy and the reminiscence of being a kid yet again. The committee shared their signature love knot pose along with the children.



On the 3rd of October, Knot hosted a screening of the Oscar-nominated movie 2018: Everyone is a Hero. The movie is up for the Best International Feature Film category. The 70mm film club organised the screening. It was followed by discussions about the themes, the direction, the editing, the sound design, and many other aspects of filmmaking. The cast and crew of the movie, including actor Justin Boban, production company Kavya Film Company, and crew member Akhil Sasidharan, have expressed their appreciation for the screening. Additionally, the film-screening event was covered by websites like Indian Film History and Bollywood ki Baatein.

70 mm

'2018'
Screening
Event by

Knot Ratri

Knot-Ratri was a one of a kind rooftop garba experience. A magical event filled with non-stop music, grooves, gifts and unlimited food. Knot ratri was Knot yet another exciting event which flourished on 25th October at the Sky Turf in BKC. Knites got a chance to flaunt their garba steps with the upbeat music. It was celebration that could not be complete without a blend of tasty chaats. The twist came along when garba was merged with Bollywood songs which took the energy of the crown to a whole new level. The unbeatable enthusiasm of the committee made this event a success story.



The Time of Our Lives

A guide to “How to Fest”

By Neeraj Shedge

School days are over. All the backlog of boards is gone and college life has officially begun. After all these years of learning ($a^2 + b^2$), here we are finally learning something valuable.

Part of this happens outside the class most interestingly, yep you're thinking right, I'm talking about college festivals. The craze for fests is quite unbelievable. Even students who hardly prepare for tests, start preparing for fests weeks & months in advance. As soon as someone enters college, studies take a backseat & fun rides along. After spending all their life in a place where an event is just an elocution competition starring the principal, most students have very little idea about the madness that takes place behind organizing a festival. If you're just as clueless about where to begin, fear not, we're here to give a College Fest 101.

Well, the most important thing for a college fest is, of course, a college. So, congratulations on being part of one and all the best if you aren't yet. College fests are filled with fun & joy but behind those smiles are hours of effort and hard work. There's a little bit of everything for everyone, right from organization to participation, we all find our places.

Let's get to the nitty-gritty

There are so many and I mean, SO MANY departments working tirelessly to make a festival work. Best part? You can always trial & error every department to see which one fits you the best.

If you're great at organizing or negotiation, try Admin, Marketing, Externals or Hospitality.

If you're great at visualizing go for Design, Decor, Coverage, and Social Media.

If you're someone who loves being backstage, Technicals, Logistics, and Security is for you.

If you're into competing then all the Events departments are meant for you.

You get the point. There is so much to explore, so much cross-learning that you'll never be bored.

Organizing events is a big thing which comes with a lot of responsibility. There is no place for mistakes as thousands will be watching upon. The main days of the events can turn into nightmares if things go wrong. The organizers spend nights in the venue itself to work. These nights are turned into jamming sessions as well. The most important department is the Department of last-minute hassles. It doesn't matter if we spend years preparing for a festival because there will always be last-minute complications and problems. How you deal with it shows if you are eligible to be part of this department. A very cool and calm mind is a necessity.

Buuuut where does one start?

Joining a committee is your first step! You'll hear several arguments of "Join this committee, join that committee" from practically everyone but wherever you go, whatever you join, trust me when I say this, you're gonna have fun so don't think too much, just begin.

After you're done with the form-filling process, you'll have to give interviews. (Psst.. best tip to kill at committee interviews? Just. Be. Yourself. Confidence, a zeal to learn and commitment, that's all you need)

Ever been to a festival as an outsider and overheard conversations only to be left confused? Don't worry, this term guide might help you out :

A contingent : A college participating is called a contingent.

CL (Contingent Leader) & ACLs (Assistant Contingent Leader): The forerunners of a contingent.

PRNCs : Pre Registered Non Contingents or those who don't represent the college but themselves.

OTSEs : On The Spot Entries or those who show up for the event on the day, without registering.

Flagship Events : Events with the most amount of points attached to them.

CC: Contingent Codes that are given to colleges so no one knows which college is who, building the dramatical suspense to another level.

A trophy is a symbol of honour and a college decorated with trophies is a symbol of even more honour. Everyone wants to participate in events with their college names on their sleeves. Representing something close to your heart like your alma mater is a privilege and no one wants to waste it. Winning the trophy for your college becomes the need of the hour and the hunger in the eyes can be clearly seen. The fests have trophies in every category with one overall trophy. The winner is decided on a points-based system and the points are awarded for participation, qualification and victory. Each event has different points and winning each event is the goal. Be careful as the points can be deducted for cheating, malpractice, misbehaviour, etc.

All these abbreviations and jargon might scare you but you will get used to it as and when time passes. The important role is to win, win and win. On the day of the event, the flags of all colleges are flying high and the competition has begun. The score table changes dynamically and anxiety levels hit the roof. Reaching the venue early and leaving late with the travel should be appreciated. Constant nervousness, sudden rise of pride for college, fear of messing up but responsibility for the college's reputation runs in every vein. All efforts feel worth it when the most adrenaline rushing words are spoken, "and the winners are.....".

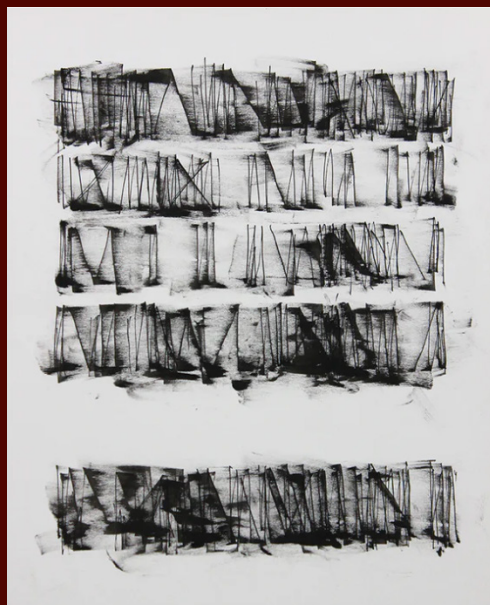
Sometimes disappointment and scope to improve and learn, sometimes an eve to celebrate, this line changes lives. The joy of winning is something else. All of your contingent flags fly high, your mates scream and chant. Everyone knows who's the boss and you finally feel relieved. The outburst of emotions, satisfaction and hugs which pat your back, all shed light on why college fests are the best part of college life.

The audience is the heart of the show. Grab your passes as soon as they are out to enjoy the best part of college life that others crave.

Method Art Space

Starting with Method, an independently run artistic space located in Kala Ghoda. Positioned in a corner of the vibrant district, Method invites visitors to explore a unique artistic experience, where creativity knows no bounds. They display various pieces that push the boundaries of what is considered fine art. Currently, 'Beneath The Surface', a group show, is being showcased from the 8th of October to the 1st of November.

Address- 86, Nagindas Master Rd, Kala Ghoda, Fort, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001



Art Musings

Art Musings is a small, quiet and private space that one can visit at the crosslane of Cuffe Parade - Colaba. Founded in 1999, this amusing gallery boasts a commendable collection of masters. Their current collection, 'Quarto', features works by Baiju Parthan, Prabhakar Kolte, Samir Mondal and Smriti Dixit. The doesn't have fixed dates but will still be on display for most of October.

Address- 1 Admiralty Building, Colaba Cross Lane, Mumbai - 400 005



Project 88 is another gallery that has been converted from a warehouse (for a metal printing press) into a contemporary artistic space. This large space currently displays Shreyas Karle's solo exhibition, 'Exit Only, No Exit / No Entry, Entry Only'. The artist strategically arranges childlike artwork to create an atmosphere resembling a puzzle with a missing piece. The show has been on display since September 14th and will continue until October 28th.

Address- WR7G+QGR, Ground Floor, B.M.P. Building, Narayan A Sawant Rd, Azad Nagar, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400005

Project 88



Chemould Chemould CoLab



Up next is Chemould Chemould CoLab, an extension of Chemould Prescott Road, which focuses on newer, emerging artists. In celebration of 60 years of Chemould, an exhibition titled 'Continuum' is being displayed. This exhibition has been on display since the 16th of September and will stay up till the 18th of November. It features 10 Indian artists who have studied the works affiliated with Chemould and the themes that have arisen from them.

Address- 2nd floor, Flat no 8, Sugra Manzil, BEST Marg, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001



Chatterjee and Lal

Chatterjee and Lal, founded by Mortimer Chatterjee and Tara Lal in 2003, is a gallery that has largely focused on mid-career and emerging artists, with a few selections that have historical significance, such as the works of Rustom Siodia, who is considered a stylistic successor of Raja Ravi Varma. Presently an essay film 'Rummaging for pasts', is being displayed at Chatterjee and Lal. The show will be on from the 3rd of October till the 28th of October.

Address-Floor 1, Kamal Mansion, 01/18, Arthur Bunder Rd, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400005

Discovering South Bombay's Artistic Treasures

By Samriddhi Singh Mahar

South Bombay, a cultural hub since the 19th century, has embraced a cosmopolitan aesthetic and experimental art, establishing a strong presence among the Mumbai populace, and showcasing its diverse artistic landscape. Whether it is the crowds that showed up in droves for the Mumbai Urban Art Festival or the staggering speed with which the weekend tickets sold out for 'Run As Slow As You Can', one can see how the public has become increasingly fascinated by art.

With this in mind, there are a few unexplored parts of South Bombay that newer art enthusiasts may only notice if they are careful.

Sakshi Gallery



Right next to Galley Maskara is the industrial-chic front of Sakshi Gallery. It is a well-renowned gallery that has housed various artists since its establishment in 1986. The current show, 'Take on Fake' by Siddharta Kararwal flaunts vibrant, absurdist, large-scale works. The show has been on display since October 12th and will go on till November 3rd.

Address-3rd Pasta Ln, Railway Colony, Apollo Bandar, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400005



Gallery Maskara

Further South, towards the busy Colaba market, one will find the striking mural of Gallery Maskara. The warehouse-turned-gallery is ideal for showcasing large-scale works, often featuring bold and erotic shows by T. Venkanna. The gallery is known for its explicit visual content so it is advised to check beforehand if the exhibition contains triggering content. As of now, 'Echoes of Time' by Narendra Yadav has been on display since October 12th and will go on till November 9th.

Address- No. 6, 7, 3rd Pasta Ln, Railway Colony, Apollo Bandar, Colaba, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400005

‘‘Hamare Baad ab Mehfil Mein Afsaane Bayaan Hoge

By Raj Darji

Many centuries have passed, and so many humans have lived their lives and left so many stories for us to discover. Thinking about the people and the time gone by, have you ever wondered and wishfully conspired to be a part of some other era? If yes, then all I can say is welcome to the gang! With each passing day, I am getting more and more drawn towards the older world. I believe you might agree that it had an undeniable charm and simplistic living, which was so attractive. From the very beginning, I have been spending an unreasonably unhealthy amount of time day-dreaming (and night) about being part of some other decade or century and even imaginary fictional worlds.

As a kid, I remember being mesmerised by Bollywood mainstream movies, where there were no ‘actors’ or ‘actresses’. They used to be called ‘heroes’ and ‘heroines’. Being awestruck, I have seen them with my wide and shining eyes living their life so freely and passionately. There was action, comedy, emotions, love, drama, music, dance, and simply everything one could think of. In my mind, I have played those heroes and been part of their innumerable stories. From fighting hundreds of goons to falling in love, I have had a fair share of journeys rooting for both Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan in my early years of cinema viewing.

Obviously, as I grew up, I realized the difference between movies and reality, but my fascination towards stories in general remained the same. Now, I am more inclined towards filmmakers and what kind of films they were and are making in their period. At times, when I watch a certain old movie, I truly wish I could be a part of that era and experience the magic unfolding for the first time in front of the world.

If I ever get a chance to travel back in time, I would love to witness the period of cinema when Guru Dutt Sahab was making films and especially watch ‘‘Pyaasa’’ in theatres at the time of its release. It is one of the most important films of my life, and I just cannot get over this one moment from the movie when Vijay, a struggling poet played by Guru Dutt, enters the auditorium and starts singing the song, ‘‘Yeh Duniya Agar Mil bhi Jaye To Kya Hai’’. The lyrics written by Sahir Ludhianvi Sahab exceptionally convey the turmoil Vijay has gone through that compels him to proclaim, and I was convinced when he said:

‘जला दो इसे फूक डालो ये दुनिया
मेरे सामने से हटा लो ये दुनिया
तुम्हारी है तुम ही संभालो ये दुनिया
ये दुनिया अगर मलि भी जाए तो क्या है’



A few days back, I had a very interesting conversation with a group of people who happened to be film enthusiasts. When I expressed my love for Guru Dutt and his films, many of them resonated with it and talked about their favourite filmmakers. I remember one person who shared his desire to meet Dev Anand Sahab because he was a massive admirer of his filmography and believed it was the greatest era of Indian Cinema. Equally, there was another person who expressed his love for the period when Yash Chopra was making films like ‘‘Kabhi Kabhie’’, ‘‘Silsila’’, ‘‘Chandni’’, ‘‘Dil Toh Pagal Hai’’ and ‘‘Veer-Zaara’’ and how he misses those romantic musicals in Bollywood today.

One of the most endearing qualities of Bollywood movies has been their music. I am an old soul, and the music made by composers and singers like R. D. Burman, S. D. Burman, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Mohammed Rafi, Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Kishore Kumar and the list goes on. Their music is always there with me in every situation, and they have made several moments of my life bearable and memorable. Without their melodies, I don’t know how I would go about different circumstances, and it makes me happy when I meet people who share the same love for old songs.

Thankfully, I have met a number of such people in my school and college with whom I have spent an amazing time jamming on classics, including the likes of Udit Narayan, Alka Yagnik, Roop Kumar Rathod, Kumar Sanu, Sonu Nigam, KK, and many more. Along with the musicality, the major reason

why we appreciated those songs was because of their lyrics. Songwriters such as Kaifi Azmi, Sahir Ludhianvi, Majrooh Sultanpuri, Gulzar and Javed Akhtar have penned down some really soulful lyrics and communicated each emotion with much depth and grace that it forever stayed with us.

This contradiction in humans is quite interesting to me. In some way, we are always trying to be someone, get somewhere or have something, which is far from who we are, where we are and what we have. I don’t know if it is good or bad and whether it signifies a larger unrest within us that stops us from simply living and being ourselves. Well, I guess it just makes all of us more human, which makes me more hopeful that there will probably be a generation who might look behind at us and would like to be in our shoes. It reminds me of this beautiful ghazal by Majrooh Sultanpuri Sahab:

‘‘हमारे बाद अब महफ़िलि में अफ़साने बयां होंगे
बहारें हम को दूँगे, न जाने हम कहाँ होंगे

इसी अंदाज़ से झूमेगा मौसम, गाएगी दुनिया
मोहब्बत फरि हसी होगी, नज़ारे फरि जवाँ होंगे

ना हम होंगे, ना तुम होंगे, ना दलि होगा मगर फरि भी
हज़ारो मज़लि होंगी, हज़ारो कारवाँ होंगे’’



“Is this just a party for one?”

By Dhruvi Bauva

A thought I have so frequently these days that sinks me down into the sea of comparison is “Everyone else is doing so much better in life and look at me, I’m stuck at home, in my blanket, watching Drag Race for the 8th time”. I blame social media for this (just like I blame it for everything else), on gradually becoming a marker of success as opposed to a way of just sharing things, as it previously was.

Where one swipe comes with a rush of self-doubt, panic and “will people forget me if I don’t dip my toes into making content”. I was never this person who rolled her eyes, groaning at someone else doing something good but lately my self-reliant, unbothered self has just gone for a toss.

Am I a bad person for wanting great things for my loved ones but just a slight greater for myself? Don’t get me wrong, it’s not envy playing the strings here, it’s purely the fear of being left out, of having put so much effort but ending up with empty palms (or is it just a thing I say to myself to feel better).

I mentioned this to a friend once, and they hyper-relating to it said, “But I feel the same way when I look at your journey”.

So really, what in the world is going on here? As I dive deep into this, I’m reminded that inherently we’re all facing the same demons, with the same feelings, b a s h i n g ourselves for not doing any better because

in the end we’re all just, humans. We’ve all successfully put up facades of how smart we are, how pretty we are, how quirky we are, let alone fake about how humane we are when in actuality we’re nothing but – and no word sums it up better – *khokla*.

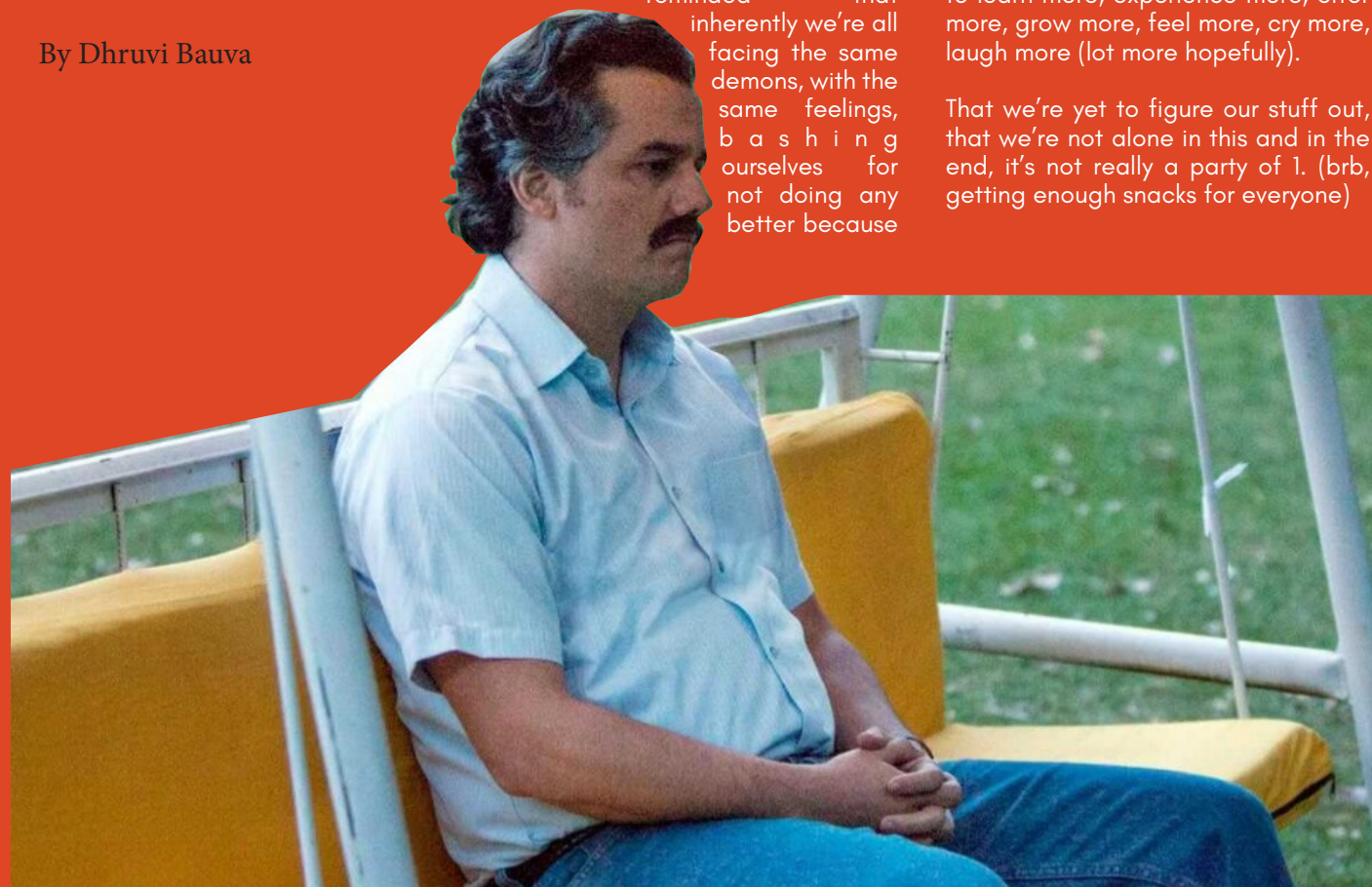
So when this “act” starts to die down, we compare ourselves to the million other people around us – *kyunki insecurity toh khoon mein hai humare*. And it leaves us with awful thoughts, rigorous self-doubt & empty palms (shit.)

The greener side of this? That we’re not alone (yay, I guess). Nobody has their life together. Most humans are insecure. Most humans question themselves. Most humans have days where they feel like they can’t do anything right. And this somehow makes me feel better (for this I’m a bad person, I’ll agree). Life gets so much better when you realize that everyone is equally as orchestrated as you and there’s probably somebody out there who is stuck at home, in their blanket, watching Drag Race for the 11th time.

There’s a sense of relief when isolation goes out of the picture, even if that means we’re just wasting time as a collective group (hey, at least we’re drowning together !!)

And for now, I’m okay with it. I’m okay with knowing that we’re yet to discover a lot more in the world. That we’re yet to learn more, experience more, error more, grow more, feel more, cry more, laugh more (lot more hopefully).

That we’re yet to figure our stuff out, that we’re not alone in this and in the end, it’s not really a party of 1. (brb, getting enough snacks for everyone)



SIR JOHN

-By Saloni Sinha

The only thing I could hear was the rustling of the leaves and hooting of midnight birds. There was darkness all across the woods. The peacefulness spoke of something intriguing. Being the most curious child, I decided to grab all of my courage and head towards the old castle that lay deep within the folds of the jungle.

I always wanted to discover new things and tell Rose about them. She was always impressed by the things I did, I mean at least that’s what attracted her towards me. My curiosity! Everyday I would take her to new places behind my college and near the countryside where we would sit for hours in silence while watching the sun go down. I stood there for ten to fifteen minutes imagining if we could conquer that castle and live there happily ever after, but it was hard for me to digest that nobody really lived there. “Such a splendid old castle!” I thought to myself. I did not even think twice before moving towards it.

I could see a mongoose crawling nearby in the grassland that hinted the possibility of snakes around me. Nonetheless, I rushed towards the castle.

“Enter at your own risk!” said the sign board.

“Huh, what? Tell this to your kids, I am a young strong man coming of age, and I do twenty push ups everyday by the river near the oak tree. Idiots don’t have the courage to find out things and don’t let others do it too.” I said out loud to the sign board. The decaying castle was painted in the moonlight, the creepers covered every edge of the walls. “I will mend it once I earn it,” I assured myself. “Let me see what amendments are required.”

I walked into the castle to look inside. The doors were open and I could smell the rain falling on hot sand, petrichor as they say. The floor was laced with dust and appeared rusty.

“I need to earn a lot in order to fix this!” I said, while mentally preparing myself. Exploring further, the dream to make the castle mine seemed to run further away. “Everything that shines is not gold.” I assured myself. The castle looked magnificent but certainly has a reason to be abandoned.

I continued to tour the castle. I could hear the wind whistling through the cracks of the window pane. I could see paintings of the king and his family on the wall, almost eaten by moss. “How unpredictable life is! Once a king with a lavish castle and now his paintings are a treat to the moss. Imagine the number of hours he might have sat with a straight face, having to think he is the mightiest of the lot. But alas, destiny played its card.” I exclaimed.

I could smell the rotting papers and burnt wood, nothing less than a horror movie. The only thing now left was the arrival of a ghost.

“I will tell this to Rose and we will laugh it off. One day, I will bring her here and we’ll mock the king ha-ha! How about I bring her next noon? She ought to see this place before it decays any further. And then Rose will say with concern, “No John don’t go there. We are not expected to enter this”. I will love her more for being concerned about me, as I pacify her worry.

All through my time in the castle, I was imagining Rose with me as if training myself for the time when I might have to walk her through.

An hour and a half passes by. Not a soul in sight. I knew it was now time to leave as I saw a big clock strike one.

“The clock works! That’s awesome!” I thought to myself.

“And then?” asked the adventurous teenagers with a certain glee in their eyes as they sat on my knees by the wrecked sofa in the same hall. I looked down upon them with a smirk.

“And somebody hit me on my head with an axe, and I died instantly.” I said.

“Did you return to Rose?” asked one of the gentlemen, “What happened after that sir?” asked the boy who immediately stood up, “Who hit you like that? Did you see the man?” prompted another, “Wait what? You died then how come...” I turned my stiff neck and popped my eyes towards the most intelligent teenage girl out of the five of them.

KIND STRANGERS

By Samriddhi Mehta

A YEAR LATER

I have heard many of my friends and classmates complain about the rush hours of trains and the crowds of buses. It's not that I don't know what they are talking about- I have been scolded by the lady in the second-class ladies' coach when my elbow touched her upper arm despite me not having the space to move a finger. I have been pushed into seats or tried not to fall on people when the bus got too crowded.

Despite living 30 minutes from college, I had spent more time waiting on bus stands than in the vehicle, waiting for that specific bus number that went my way. My classmates, living an hour or more away, reached college before me, where I saw the bus that arrived every 20 minutes leave right in front of my eyes as I was ten steps from the stop.

Oh, and adapting to bus routes on opposite sides of roads and learning which bus went where was another task for a girl who had barely travelled in buses before moving to Mumbai. However, when I look back, these incidents are not what I remember.

There are a few instances from my time adjusting in this beautiful city that are deeply etched into my memory.

The girl from the bus who told me about the seat reservation in buses for ladies and older citizens and helped me get a seat when I hesitated to tell someone else the same thing.

The eye-smiling old uncle who wordlessly helped me board the correct bus only to get lost in the crowd after making sure I got down at the right stop. The same person offered me the first empty seat he saw on the crowded bus and offered it to me.

The grandpa in my building who kept me company for two hours when I got locked out of my PG in the first week of living there.

Finally, I understood what my cousin meant when he said the people were the highlight of this city. Not everyone might be helpful, but I learnt to appreciate each one who unknowingly helped me adapt to my new home. Because sometimes, even kindness takes effort.

Now, I try to be what these people were for me - kind strangers.

"Are you sure I'll be able to make it?" she, a girl who never lived alone, asked.

"Don't worry. It's not as scary as it seems."

The smell of spices thrown in a dish somewhere on the street travelled to her nose. "Is the food good?"

"Nope," Her neck almost jerked with the speed as she looked up at him. "What?"

He shrugged, "It will be very different from what you are used to." The warm air, a mix of hot food and delicious smells, turned slightly colder. She recalled looking up her college campus on Google. "What about college campuses?"

"Too small." One of her hands raised to fiddle with a bracelet on the other hand. The temperature dropped another degree as the girl felt the slow uncurling of the

seeds in her mind. She tried to hold on to the fragile stability of her decision, "The rent of living?"

"Expensive in South Bombay." The third strike made her halt in the middle of the road. Her nervousness caught on to the almost relieved frustrations from the stressful days of choosing a college. She looked at him, who was still walking ahead, only slower, knowing she had stopped walking.

"Why did you let me come here then?" The girl, exhausted from trying to do right by her future self, asked loudly, feeling betrayed. He turned to look at her and waved to her to come forward. She grew irritated with his lack of reaction.

"Tell me! The food won't match my taste, the campus will be restrictive, and my parents will have to bear my living costs. What is supposed to be the good thing for me to be here."

"The people." She did not understand his reply that day.



Portraits by Prisha Nawlakhe

This self portrait shoot about loneliness is a topic known to all of us but less talked about. Feeling lonely is something everyone in our generation experiences and affects our mental health deeply. Loneliness is not about feeling alone in a new city, new atmosphere, but experiencing the same with your friends and family. The following shoot i did conveys the same emotions.

