

THE LIBERAL CANON

EDITION 1

30TH JULY 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Who's screen is it anyway?

Editors Note

In conversation with
Dr. George Jose

An Extremely Short
List of Secret
Collegiate Societies

Let's Talk About Sex

Need to Understand
Suicide

Need of the Hour

Not Yours Truly

JD16 Loves

Passion Projects

Meet the Team

WHOSE SCREEN IS IT ANYWAY?

THE NEED FOR DIVERSE STORIES

BY NEEHARIKA NENE

As a brown girl, my adolescence was spent trying to juggle the two versions of women that I saw most - the American teenager at the centre of every story, and the over sexualised accessory in Bollywood films. The catch? I didn't see myself in either of these versions. And as I would figure out much later, neither did most brown girls my age. So who were these mysterious women from billboards and movie screens? Who did they really represent, and whose gaze were they made for?

....continued later



EDITORS NOTE

SANAH SHAH

Unless it's mad, passionate, extraordinary love, it's a waste of your time. There are too many mediocre things in life; love shouldn't be one of them.

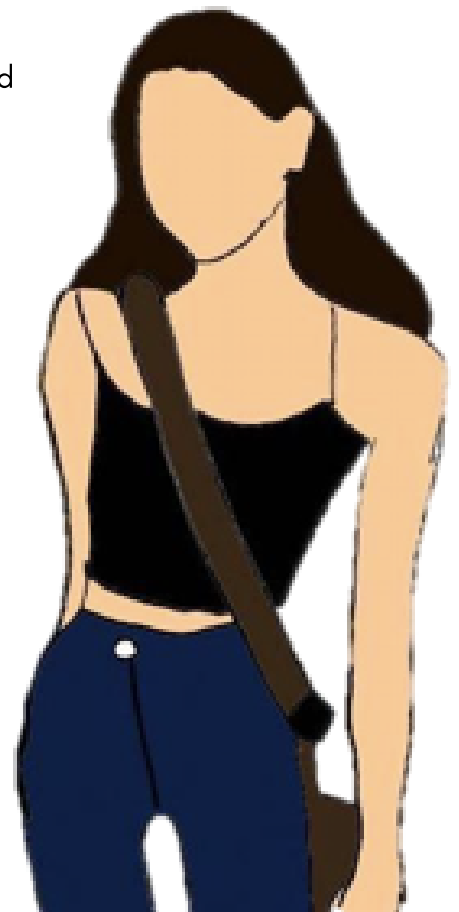
Unlike everything else, I had an earnest desire to start this newsletter. It's taken me a while to realize this dream and give it spine, pages and form. But it is my privilege to say - we did it!

This year, unfortunately, we've been put to a test as a community. While battling Covid-19, importance of valuing each other's opinions and space is one that has been highlighted. I would like to draw a parallel to the newsletter, we can't fix everything, but we don't have to face it alone. We have each other to coherently work together and put this beautiful piece of JDSOLA out where we respect a writer's space with social distancing, editors sanitize the pieces, design wears a protective mask around the newsletter and finally, we wash our hands of the virus of judgement.

I want to connect back to the quote that I began with. This newsletter is supposed to be mad, passionate and extraordinary. We're all characters with eccentric details and rousing thoughts which will be brought to physical justification in the form of 'The Liberal Canon'. We hope to make this more than just us and spread our voices to everyone who wants to hear. The newsletter begins with us and hopefully, becomes an emblem of JDSOLA and what it stands for - being liberal, enriched with academia, their many talented students and our deemed faculty. We're more than what we do in college, this is a place for us to explore our interests in any form that we want - whether it is to write about sports, draw, collaborate with other clubs, work on PR and other endless opportunities!

Lastly, Elsie de Wolfe had said, "I'm going to make everything around me beautiful - that will be my life."
"Let's use 'The Liberal Canon' to create an environment of beauty of around us and everyone who reads it.

Thank you to everyone who's supported and helped me bring this newsletter to you today.
I'm grateful to everyone.



IN CONVERSATION WITH OUR DEAN GEORGE JOSE

1. How was life in quarantine for you?

It has been a time for reflection – a time to think about a variety of things. I have found myself revisiting the past and thinking about ways of responding to the present situation. I have realized that people seem to mull over decisions. Personally, quarantine has turned into a time to rediscover one's home and read new books. I have been keeping myself busy by cleaning bookshelves and finding books I had forgotten about. This is a difficult time as you are stuck in a place that you did not intend to. While this new scenario does require flexibility, it is not without its excitement.

2. What advice do you have for all of us to cope with online school?

I believe that 'coping' is the wrong word to use. It is exciting to explore something new a new domain. Coping is a sentiment one might feel four months down the line when the drudgery and exhaustion creeps in. For now, there is so much to be excited about!

3. What is one quality that is lacking in the youth today, and you would like to see more of?

While qualities are hard to generalize, I hope to see a strong sense of commitment develop in the youth of today. I would like them to learn how to commit to a thing, an idea or a person and to see that commitment through.

4. If you could go back in time, what advice would you give your 20-year-old self?

There is absolutely no advice anybody in their right mind can give to 20-year olds. In their definition, they are made to reject the advice they get. 20 is an age when you're curious and hungry for new experiences and new possibilities. You have the ability to explore the new and it is wonderful to do that to the best of your ability!

5. 3 most important values that you live life by

- a. We all should become less 'prickly' about things, become a lot more welcoming of conflict, debate, opposing points of views, live and act in ways that are completely contrary to how we live our current lives. What is disturbing is that the spectrum of diversity is reducing. We're less flexible, stubborn and fundamentalists in our orientation.*
- b. It is important to try and be more analytical. There are lots of opinions going around. We're quick to say "I think" or "I feel" without going deep into the problem.*
- c. Patience – "Us" as a collective, we're becoming much more impatient.*

6. What facilitated your change from theatre to academia?

2 things simultaneously pushed me towards academics –

First, I was getting increasingly frustrated by lack of intellectual rigor. It was more about feelings and emotions; the analytical and intellectual part was locked up. I believed it should have engaged the mind and made us think more critically.

Second, at the same time, I was being drawn towards academics. It's not theatre to blame, I have been witnessed intellectual and analytical theatre. It was significantly the time that I was in theatre where I felt there was a wanting for intellectual stimuli.

7. What do you look forward to doing on a day off? How do you take a 'break'?

That is becoming a huge challenge. I cannot remember when I last took a break. Lockdown has made it difficult to separate work from leisure. Moreover, the world that we will live in

"No one should be left alone to their own devices to solve their own issues."

makes the separation difficult. However, it is important to do so. I love seeing arthouse films, but I do not like seeing them on my computer. However, it is important to do so. I love seeing arthouse films, but I do not like seeing them on my computer.

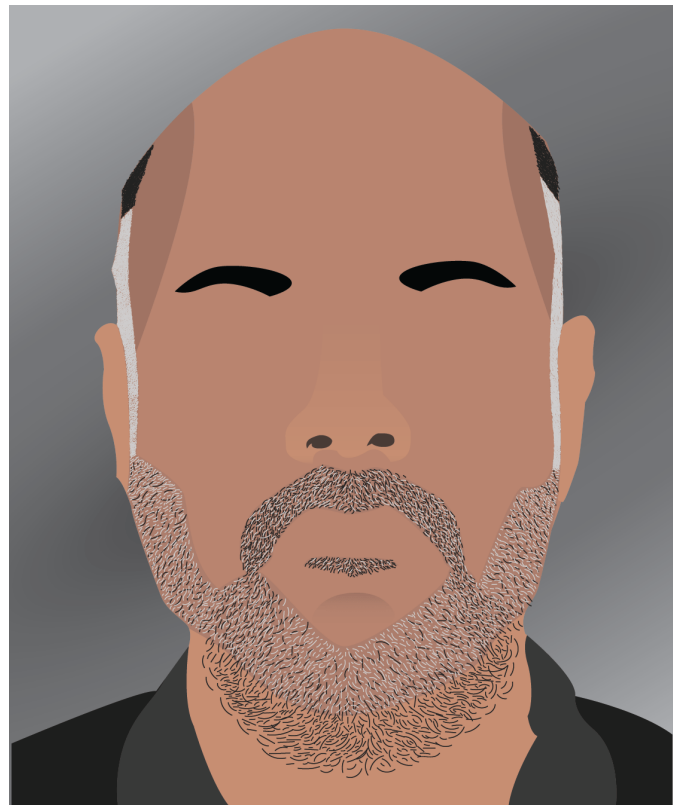
8. What has been your favorite experience while being the dean of JDSOLA?

It is a challenging job. It is difficult to think of student interest, faculty well-being and how everything works from a management point of view. These three aspects are often not in consonance with one another and this misalignment as results in conflict. While it is a daunting responsibility, I find it quite enjoyable.

9. How important is mental health to you with respect to your students and how the college is conducted?

I am struck by how mental health has emerged as an important and significant topic for several people today. While I was growing up, people were skeptical of the term 'mental health'. "The Myth of Mental Illness" is a book by Thomas Szasz that introduced the idea that mental illness is a mere construct that emerged at some point in human history. This is why one must not look within people but rather focus on the prevailing social, economic and political context to understand it. I was influenced by thinkers who began to find correlations such as "a link between capitalism and schizophrenia", which is also the title of a book. Nowadays individuals believe that mental illness is a problem that is only yours which no one else can understand.

While, contemporarily the problem is said to be within the individual, in another era it would not have been defined as such. I'm curious to know why it has become such a huge storm. It is a scientific issue that requires cultural change and commitment. No one should not be left to their own devices to solve their own issues. We should create an environment of trust, transparency and honesty where no one feels alone or misunderstood.



Illustrated by Brihatej

Favorites

Cuisine - Thai

Book - 'Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance' by Robert M. Pirsig

Movie - Memories of Underdevelopment

Author - Isaac Asimov

Tv series - Doesn't exist, I don't have Netflix or Amazon Prime accounts unfortunately

Play - Waiting for Beckett

Rapid Fire

If you were to write your autobiography what would be its title?

Old Pickings

If you could meet anyone dead or alive, who would it be?

Karl Marx

If you were stuck in an elevator with Karl Marx, Adam Smith and Sigmund Freud, what would you say?

Stay in the elevator and not get out.

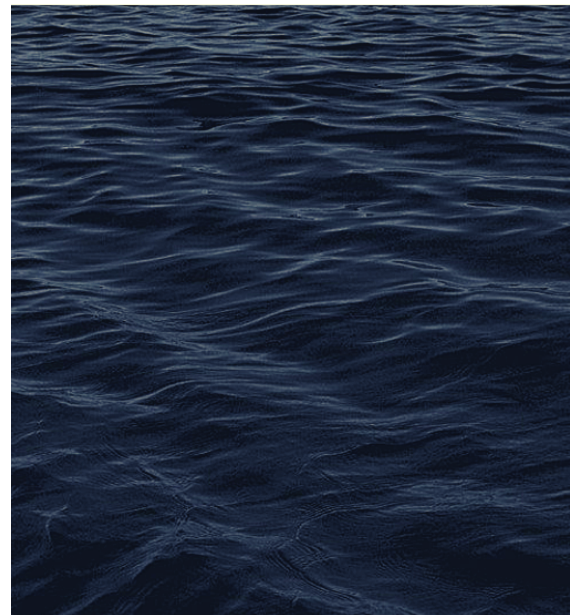
BY REET SAHANI, KARMA PRADHAN &
SANAH SHAH

Who's Screen is it anyways? (continued)

...If you've looked at a popular film or TV character and almost always seen your skin colour, sexuality, and religion - congratulations on the privilege. Until recently, people of colour Remained shockingly underrepresented in mainstream cinema and TV. The rare brown or black character was neck deep in stereotypes and served no purpose to the plot. But the slow process of change has begun. Films like Black Panther and Moonlight were groundbreaking in their attempt to put black and LGBTQ people in central roles and tell their stories. Orange Is The New Black gave the centre stage to some of the most powerful, diverse characters and quickly became popular for its sensitive and educated portrayal of the same.

And yet, the necessity of equal representation remains a heated debate. For children who grow up never seeing themselves on TV and in films, marginalisation starts young. It begins at home and in schools - the two environments that are ideally supposed to be safe spaces. From a place of privilege, this feeling can be very difficult to understand. The lack of diverse faces in popular culture not only affects the self esteem and insecurities of people from the marginalised groups, but it also ostracises them in the eyes of those who are privileged. This othering enables prejudice and encourages a distorted view of non-white and LGBTQ people. While racism and homophobia manifest themselves in much more serious and violent ways, they can easily begin with negative stereotyping in the media.

But let's look at examples closer to home - the heterosexual male protagonist who cares little for consent, his fair skinned love interest who finds the stalking and harassment cute, or the plus sized sidekick whose only purpose



MIDNIGHT BEACHES

Anand Thundyil

On a silent night, I stare at the
stars shining bright.
Under the moonlit night, I
stand, On an unending
sea of sand. The cool winds
gently caress my
cheeks, As they unwind for a
lovely breeze. The
sound of waves is serene, They
come and go
unseen. A tall tower stands on
the rocky peak,
Emitting rays of hope for ships'
whose sight is
bleak, The stars glitter in the
pitch black sky, Like
silver dust scattered by the
Creator on high. A
huge white lamp stands
shimmering anew,
Adorning the seas and the sand
with her silver
hue. It is a time when many
sleep. Yet a few
remain awake to enjoy the

is to be the butt of all jokes. And yes – they're all cis gender, upper caste, and rich. Bollywood has had its own representation problem for decades, and the root of the issue is lost in the midst of rebranding fairness creams and actors darkening their skin in a superficial attempt at inclusivity.

Unfortunately, the Hindi films that have made strong statements like *Margarita With A Straw*, *Axone*, and *Bulbbul* are inaccessible to a large part of our population, for various reasons. It's the chicken and egg problem – what comes first, the progressive film, or the progressive audience that encourages the film? Still, it is important to make films and TV shows that present a different picture of India's marginalised and stereotyped communities. Incorporate sidelined groups into mainstream productions. Give them an audience to tell their stories to, and break the cycle of unequal and insensitive representation.

AN EXTREMELY SHORT LIST OF SECRET COLLEGIATE SOCIETIES

BY ASMITA KUMBHAR

Secret societies have been part of academic history for centuries, with the most notable institutions around the world having secret societies, members of which often go on to be influential and enjoy prestige among alumni. Here, I list just three secret collegiate societies, which are arguably the most famous of them all.

1. Skull and Bones, Yale:

Yale University has quite a number of secret societies, of which I chose the most (in)famous one, Skull and Bones. It was founded in 1832, and accepted only male members until 1992. Also known as the Order 332 or the Brotherhood of Death, this is (ironically) one of the most famous secret collegiate societies in the world. Here are some fun facts about it:

Its membership boasts of names that would go on to be powerful and influential members of society, including three U.S. Presidents – William H. Taft, George H.W. Bush and his son George W. Bush. William Taft's father, Alfonso Taft, actually founded Skull and Bones with William Huntington Russell.

Their emblem was, true to the name, a skull and two crossbones underneath it, often depicted with the number 332, supposedly meant to denote the year of the death of Greek orator Demosthenes. A real version of this symbol is seen in an old photograph of the members, including George Bush Sr., which is rumored to be the skull and the two femurs of a prominent Native American leader named Geronimo, claimed to be stolen from his grave by Bonesmen. However, this has not been proved.

Their clubhouse, named "The Tomb", is an imposing building on campus which was constructed in 1856. The goings-on at their meetings at the Tomb have been subject to speculation for over a century, but remain a closely guarded secret to this day.

2. Bullingdon Club, Oxford University:

The Bullingdon Club is an exclusive all-male drinking/dining club associated with Oxford University. Originally started as a sports club for cricket and horse-racing, it gradually became a group dedicated to rowdy dinner parties, ostentatious displays of wealth, vandalism of public property and overall bad behavior. It was reportedly founded more than 200 years ago in 1780, consisting of about 30 men from rich backgrounds.

Initiation rites reportedly include burning a £50 note in front of a beggar and trashing a restaurant, for which the club has been heavily criticized. The members have to wear a uniform to their "meetings", which is made exclusively by tailors Ede and Ravenscroft, includes tailcoats and a velvet collar in a deep blue, monogrammed buttons and a bowtie, and reportedly costs £3,500, another nod to the wealth of those chosen to join the Club.

Members have often gone on to become powerful and influential men, much like members of Skull and Bones, including two very recent Prime Ministers of the UK: David Cameron and Boris Johnson, seen on the steps of their "clubhouse" in a photograph that has now become infamous.

Both have expressed regret at being members of and participating in the activities of the Club, with Cameron even saying that it makes him "cringe" now. The 2014 movie "The Riot Club" was a satirical take on the many activities of the Bullingdon Club.

3. Seven Society, University of Virginia:

The Seven Society, arguably the most secretive of the ones on this list, was founded in 1905. The establishment was "announced" by the emergence of the society's symbol, a seven surrounded by the Greek symbols for Alpha and Omega and in infinity sign, in the university yearbook.

The legend goes that eight people decided to meet for a game of cards, but only seven showed up and thus a secret society was formed. Their main goal happens to be upholding the traditions of the University and to give generous donations to ensure that. These donations are always in amounts that include

cret secret societies"so secret secret
so secret secret societies" "not so secret secret societies"not s
so secret secret societies" "not so secret secret societies"

the number 7, like \$7,77,777, and are always revealed in new and fascinating ways. One time, during a commencement speech in the 1940s, a small explosion went off near the side of the stage and when the smoke cleared, there was a donation of \$177,777 for interest-free loans for the use of those in need of financial aid. Another time, during a football game on campus, a skydiver descended into the stadium with a gift of \$14,777 and a banner of the society at halftime.

The only way to get in contact with the Sevens is to leave a note on the statue of University founder and former U.S. President, Thomas Jefferson. Also seen on painted on the ground of the Rotunda where this statue stands are, that's right, the symbol of the Sevens.

Members are only revealed to have been a part of the Sevens after their death, with a mourner raising a black banner emblazoned with the symbol at the funeral and a wreath of black magnolias laid on their grave. The chapel bells (a gift from the Seven Society) also toll in seven sets of seven, at seven seconds apart upon a member's death.

So there you have it! A brief introduction to the fascinating history of a long long tradition of secret societies, ranging from the philanthropic to the sometimes criminal. Regardless of how you feel about secret societies, no one can deny that the mystery, secrecy and intrigue is almost magnetic. Maybe even NMIMS has a secret society, maybe there are even multiple. Haha, jk

Unless...?

Perhaps we will never know.



To,
The real heroes of the country,
As the adversaries fired, for his
weapons he fumbled.
But all in vain as to the ground
he crumpled.
He screamed in agony, face
scrunched in pain.
But as his nation triumphed, all
he felt was gain.
The comrades had given their
all, leaving nothing to fate.
After all it was the country's
safety that was at stake.
At the funeral, his family
reminisced.
Their eyes filled with unshed
tears, gazing at the cist.
On the fighter's tombstone, it
was engraved,
Bold letters that read, 'never
seen a soul this brave.'
Soon darkness fell, indicating
night.
As the dead soldier's son
whispered, "For the country, for
my father, I will fight."

Pratika Dahi

LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

BY KREENA MEHTA

I remember, I was in 10th standard and it was the last week of school. There were only around 15 students in the class that day. This one boy found a sanitary napkin/pad in his friend's bag and he started yelling some bizarre comments on periods and hygiene products. She was embarrassed, he thought that this was funny, but in truth it was just immature of him.

Such incidents happen almost every day with some or the other girl. We were all 14 or 15 at the time at which age basic knowledge of menstruation is must for guys as well. Sex education is not just about sexual intercourse or sexual relationships; it is much more than that. Sex education as a programme also includes questions pertaining to puberty and reproduction. People will point out that "what are you talking about, there was a chapter in our textbooks about that". Talking about a crucial topic under one small chapter or reading about it from an educational curriculum should not be considered 'sex education'. Schools and colleges in other countries include sex education in their curriculum and understand that it plays a vital role in growth and development of a child. This is a very rare possibility in a country like India where talking openly about sex and sex education is considered the biggest taboo.

Things are slowly changing, of course, but to what degree? We are living in an urban city and thus we can notice the change, but India is a vast country with about 70% of its population living in rural areas. A large number of youth in both cities and rural regions are still not aware about the changes an individual of the opposite sex goes through during puberty. The main reason behind this is lack of communication.

I had gone to watch a movie with my family where this young girl, who must have been around 10 years old, saw a poster of the movie "Pad-man". Out of curiosity she asked her mom what he was holding. Instead of answering the question, her mom shushed her and told her not to ask such questions as she was still too young.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO *Sex Education* FOR KIDS



1

TAKE THEIR LEAD;
WAIT UNTIL THEY
WANT TO TALK

2

USE THE CORRECT NAMES
FOR BODY PARTS TO
AVOID CONFUSION

3

DON'T BURDEN THEM
WITH TOO MUCH
INFO

4

BE AWARE OF YOUR
OWN OPINIONS

5

TALK ABOUT ETHICS
AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

6

REMIND THEM: THEIR
BODY, THEIR CHOICE

7

DISCUSS & EXPLAIN
CONTRACEPTION
OPTIONS

I was not very surprised by such a reaction but it still pinched me somewhere. Parents are said to be a child's first teachers and if they only dodge these questions, then where will a child get the correct answers? We think that ignoring them will make them stop asking such questions, but the truth is their curiosity will increase day by day and they will start searching for answers in other places, which may or may not give them the right answers. Furthermore, with growing technology and easy access to the internet, one can be exposed to violent or pornographic content. This can easily mislead a person who has no idea what they are getting into. In order to prevent this, parents should stop ignoring and start educating their children on these topics.

Another aspect of sex education is identifying sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity. Personally, I don't remember getting to know about these topics from my parents. These concepts are well explained to an 8 or 10-year-old in many other countries. There are many people who are not aware of their sexuality or their sexual orientation, many people who have spent their whole lives "adjusting" to their sexuality or gender identities, which are actually assigned to them by others. The LGBTQIA+ movement has highlighted this issue and has brought it into the daylight, but how long did it take us to take a simple step? Sex education is the key to making people more aware and open about these topics. It will also help us to accept people as they are and embrace this positive change.

Sex education also helps individuals to navigate through their own sexual health and their relations with their partner/s. It will help teenagers and young adults turn into mature, responsible and gender sensitive adults. Normalising open conversation about sex and various contraceptives will lead us towards practicing safe sex and better family planning. According to a 2013 report published by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), around 7.3 million mothers in India are below

the age of 18 and I think that there is one main reason behind this: a lack of education and proper guidance, which can lead to violent acts of sexual assault and rape. This is very common in today's day and age, where the crime rates for harassment and sexual assaults have increased for both women and men. This lack of education can also lead to a lack of awareness about protection and various forms of contraceptives.

Another report in the same year stated that, the average age of losing virginity in India is 16 years, which is parallel with other parts of the world. So my main concern is, if this is true, then why are we not talking about the necessary steps one needs to take for their own protection at the age of 16? Lack of proper sex education and awareness not only increases the chances of unplanned pregnancy but also puts an individual at a higher risk of contracting STDs and STIs.

So what can we do?

Let us start with the basics and educate ourselves and try to address the growing curiosities in young minds. We cannot blame our education system completely. We need to first address this at our own homes. That being said, we should definitely bring about changes in the way sex education is treated in our schools and colleges and come up with more comprehensive plans and programmes.

The second thing we can do is to use the internet for good educational sites, like Agents of Ishq and Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues (TARSHI) which talk about sex education and also answer various questions relating to the same. Another thing which I personally recommend is a short web series on YouTube called Sex chat with Pappu and Papa. You should also check out the mini-series by Vitamin Stree, called CenSex. These are a few initiatives taken by people and definitely point towards a positive change. Please do check out these resources.

Let's quit being shy and talk about sex.

NEED TO UNDERSTAND SUICIDE

BY KASHVI JUNEJA

Disclaimer: This article discusses suicide and issues related to suicide.

Do people really want to die when they attempt suicide or do they want to live and need help? Try to think about this question whenever the word "suicide" comes up. In the 2nd week of June, we lost a capable and extremely talented man, Sushant Singh Rajput. Most of us did not know him personally, yet his death felt personal. The aftermath has brought to attention the need to discuss issues surrounding suicide.

1. Asking the wrong questions. "How can he choose to end his life? He had everything" and many similar questions are being used by the media and public. Mental Health is a serious aspect of one's life, which our society has often failed to give importance to. One is expected to be "brave" and "strong" when it comes to facing difficult times in life. Sometimes people may be screaming for help but no one hears them. We need to ask ourselves what can make a person take his/her own life and then look out for those signs in people in our life. Some signs may include repetitively joking about or saying that they want to kill themselves or signs of self harm. If we cannot help them, we can try to provide them with the resources to fight whatever they are facing.

2. Terminology. Somehow many people and even the media are still using the terminology of "committed" and not "died by suicide" or just simply "died". People deserve respect regardless of how their mental health is. This terminology stems from the criminalization of suicide which has been very damaging as it has led to a lot of stigma in society. Suicide was seen as a criminal act until The Mental Health Act of 2017 decriminalized it. It was finally decided to focus on the problems and the needs of those who attempt suicide instead of blaming or punishing them for it. And even for those who do go ahead with it, it's an attempt to avoid bringing shame on the family that stays behind. We all should try to deal with this stigma properly and refrain from using such terminology.

3. Blame game. Whenever there is loss of life, we tend to find someone who can hold accountability for it. But when it is a suicide, that needs to change. We need to bring ourselves to respect the choices of someone who is dead now and wish them to finally have the peace that they may have not experienced while being alive. Nepotism is an important debate to have but reducing him to his career is demeaning. This unfortunate incident highlights the importance of understanding depression as a mental illness that can be fatal rather than ignoring it and shifting attention to Bollywood. We do not know the reasons behind his death and those are only known to him. We need to make peace with that. The other "blame game" that is going around is

related to people who are dying by suicide after Sushant's death. Many people might think that Sushant has inspired people to die but he has died and he is a human too, just because he was a star does not mean that every action he takes is along with the realization that it may influence people but here, people might have been "triggered" not "influenced".

Around the time news of his death came, I had been watching "13 Reasons why" which has been an important resource for me to understand suicide and mental health. I learnt that when it is a suicide, you can try and blame others for someone's death but it's the society as a whole that needs to change their attitude towards mental health, be more kind but also be accountable for their actions and every little choice that we make. Let's be more careful and try to be as kind as we can not only to others but ourselves as well. I am glad that people are talking about mental health but let's talk about suicide too. How we approach it and speak about this topic is how we're taking actions towards making our society a better place to live. These conversations need to first happen with people around us. We are privileged to have a voice and access to platforms and education. We can bring a change if we work towards it.

Want to Know How to Help a Friend?

STUDENT GUIDE TO MENTAL HEALTH

KNOW THE 10 COMMON WARNING SIGNS

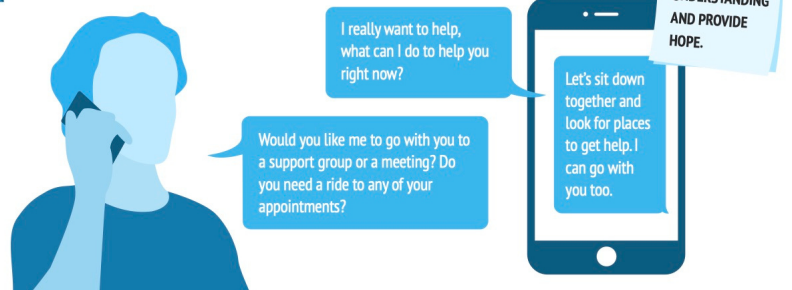
- 1 Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks
- 2 Seriously trying to harm or kill oneself or making plans to do so
- 3 Severe out-of-control, risk-taking behaviors
- 4 Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason
- 5 Not eating, throwing up or using laxatives to lose weight; significant weight loss or weight gain
- 6 Seeing, hearing or believing things that are not real
- 7 Repeatedly using drugs or alcohol
- 8 Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality or sleeping habits
- 9 Extreme difficulty in concentrating or staying still
- 10 Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities



START THE CONVERSATION



OFFER SUPPORT



BE A FRIEND



Your friend may feel alone; check in regularly and include your friend in your plans



Learn more about mental health conditions



Avoid saying things like "you'll get over it," "toughen up" or "you're fine"



Tell your friend that having a mental health condition does not change the way you feel about them



Tell your friend it gets better; help and support are out there

GET ADVICE

You may want to reach out to someone to talk to about how you're feeling or to get advice on how to help your friend. Consider talking to a:

FAMILY MEMBER



TRUSTED FRIEND



SCHOOL COUNSELOR OR ADVISOR



TEACHER OR COACH



FAITH LEADER



NEED OF THE HOUR

BY EISHA SHEWAKRAMANI

"The bad news is, that nothing lasts forever.. But the good news is also that nothing lasts forever." The unpredictable nature of life has already become more worrisome during this pandemic. Frustration, mental exhaustion and fear are emotions that we've familiarised ourselves with and every passing day feels monotonous. We are bereft of good news and considering the need of the hour is positivity, here are a few pieces of feel-good information that will hopefully make you smile.

In Massachusetts, Clayton Ward, a school bus driver, was inspired by students to go back to college and earn his degree after years of dropping out. Motivation by kids that he drove to and from school every day made him enroll himself at MassBay Community College in addition to his full time job, which was undeniably exhausting. He graduated this year and bagged quite a few awards, including having the highest GPA in the programme, which stood at 4.0. This is a reminder that it's never too late!

Speaking of never too late, Sydney has taken a step against climate change, with the city now running on 100% renewable energy including street lights, sports fields, buildings etc. This milestone will not only reduce carbon emissions by 20,000 tonnes per year, but will also create job opportunities for the locals which is GREAT!

Oh and did someone say hope? Because the New Orleans Zoo is currently celebrating the fact that one of their critically endangered Gorillas, 13 year-old Tunami, is now expecting her first baby! "Tumani's pregnancy is a huge deal and we want to share that news with the public. It seems to be going well," said Dr. Robert McLean, the chief veterinarian.

On the other end of the map, Japan has its own brag-worthy updates. Starbucks has opened its first sign language run branch in the capital city of Tokyo. This promotes inclusivity of the deaf community and 19 employees working at this store are impaired, giving them the opportunity to have a stable career while also allowing them to break through social barriers. The store has really interesting methods of making this work, including different ways to allow other customers to learn and order in sign language.

Another basic humanitarian gesture turned out to be an example for enterprises worldwide, when Target raised its minimum wage to \$15 per hour just as promised to be done by the end of 2020. There's also a one time bonus of \$200 that employees will receive during this tough phase to recognise their hard work during the pandemic.

Inching closer to home, the capital of Telangana has taken an initiative towards two globally important causes- women's safety and women's employability. A start up in Hyderabad that aims at providing safe travelling experiences to women was born a little before the pandemic.

The cabs would have only women drivers and would be available only to women passengers, thus addressing a very important issue in the country. However, due to the virus, its services were on hold earlier which are now back with the same enthusiasm!

On this note, I'd like to remind you that eventually, there is light at the end of this tunnel. So, hang in there, take one day at a time, be kind, smile more, and remember that this too shall pass.

not yours, truly

BY UPASANA SHETTY

dear homo sapiens sapiens,

With all due respect to your intellect and kudos to the mind-boggling progress made in science and technology by your kind. I'm writing this letter not to mock your intelligence but to gently tap you and draw your attention to a rather bleak future that you are inviting with alarming and terminal velocity, not only for me, but also for yourself. Happy Awakening!!! I am not getting all philosophical because I have religious or spiritual leanings, but because I am, soon-to-be, (courtesy to your kind), a monster polar bear. A polar bear without a home. When you take my world away from me... my home away from me, I'm going to come and live with you. All your civilization and all your science will be on the outside, along with all your trade and aid. You think you can stay undefeated, and I just a stupid Polar Bear? Go up into space with your fancy rockets and look back at this diamond cut planet, polar capped, white whirled. It is ONE planet. It comes as a whole or not at all. And it is not about just my kind, but all of us who need a home, who had a home. But your kind was so greedy, you wanted it all; all the homes, leaving nothing you can't sell or rent. You all liked, shared and blurted out "awwws" at the video of my dear friend Polar B. He was starving, hardly up on his four feet, dying as he looked for food on iceless land. But did you go home and read up more on how the polar ice caps are melting 6 times faster than it did 20 years ago - that means we are losing our homes, our life to your greed, 6 times faster. Did you try and change your ways, educate yourself and those around you, so that there could be some hope for the future? And no, we are not just furious about losing our homes to greed, even though that's reason enough. Did you know there is a price tag on a Polar Bear's life? Just £ 36,000. For that amount, hunters come into our homes and play a hunting game with the winning price of a dead polar bear. With the 2020 Pandemic we all had hope, the skies cleared, and the birds chirped. Our hope was still melting, the damage done by your kind cannot be reversed in a few months - but we had hope. We sat back and hoped this was the karmic cycle playing out for you'll. Year after year, you locked us in cages, stole our homes and made us feel helpless, all for money. Now you are locked in your homes, hardly able to earn any money. Actually, that's a good angle to use to reason with your kind. If you think money is more important than coexisting with nature - try counting your money while holding your breath. If you think you can take over this world and sit on the throne - you are wrong. This planet we reside in existed around 4 billion years before any human life did. And it will exist after you. I wonder how many millions of years it will be before a wiser species than you inhabit the earth. Wiser and greedier. I'm hoping they make you homo sapien sapiens an endangered species, like you'll do to many. Maybe only then you will realize why we polar bears are so angry, why the tigers are forced to enter other homes - because you stole ours. But until then, I would rather climb into the airless cold of outer space where I too can witness what happens next.

*not yours to rule,
ursus maritimus*



Abhishek Kumar



Dakshita Naik



Hishita Kachhara



Dakshita Naik

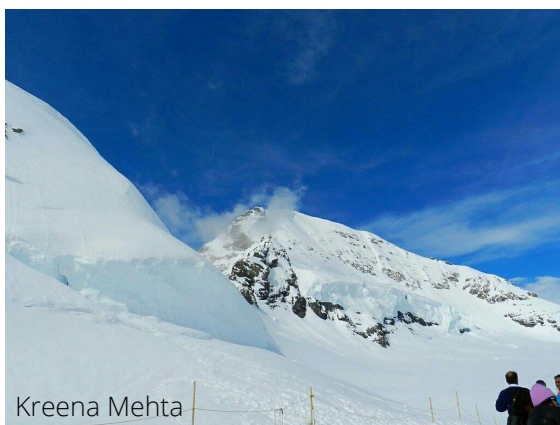


Dakshita Naik

PROJECTS PASSION PROJECTS
PROJECTS PASSION PROJECTS
PASSION PROJECTS PASSION PROJECTS
PROJECTS PASSION PROJECTS
PROJECTS PASSION PROJECTS



Hishita Kachhara



Kreena Mehta



Abhishek Kumar



JD16 LOVES



STUDENT ESSENTIALS
Crash Course
@Youtube

Podcast
The Joe Rogan
Experience



Artist
Rene Magritte



R
E
S
T
A
U
R
A
N
T
L
e
15

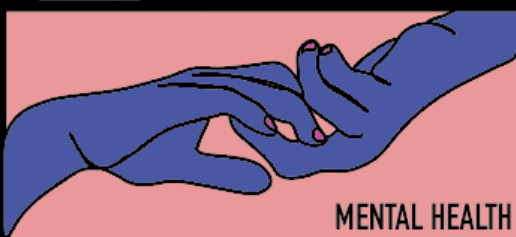


ONLINE COURSES
Aligning
Business,
Brand and
Behaviour
Coursera

DIY
Skin-care Mask
honey,
turmeric
and
yogurt



TV SHOW
The Midnight Gospel
Dark
Caliphate



MENTAL HEALTH
Safe Space @JDSOLA
I've never been (un)happier - Shaheen Bhatt



MUSIC

Future Nostalgia
Dua Lipa (Album)

Notes on a Conditional Form
The 1975 (Album)

Peanut Butter
Easy Life (Song)

App
HABIT



WORKOUT
Blogilates
@Youtube



ONLINE SHOPS
PropShop24



MOVIES
The Internship
Chichore
The Help



GAMES
Covidopoly



BOOKS
All Adults Here
by Emma Straub
The Vanishing Half
by Brit Bennett
A Fine Balance
by Rohinton Mistry

MEET THE TEAM

Editor

Sanah Shah

Design

Kanupriya Mody

Editorial Team

Amatulla Mukadam

Deah Bhogte

Asmita Kumbhar

Jhanvi Adatia

Ramaa Renavikar

Siddharth Joshi

Simran Mehra

Vedant Krishna

Samara Kairanna

Reet Sahani

Design Team

Dakshita Naik

Hishita Kachhara

Aparajita Mukherjee

Special Thanks to

Dr. Uthara Suvrathan

Dr. Megha Agarwal

Dr. Chaitanya Joshi

*for their invaluable input and for
helping bring this newsletter to life*