

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi there!

Welcome or Welcome back to JDSoLA and The Liberal Canon. Personally, it feels great to be back in college, working on student activities after the extremely long summer vacation. Although this is the 27th edition of TLC, it is my first as editor-in-chief and it feels absolutely amazing to have this opportunity somewhere I have worked for the last two years.

It's been one month since we've been back and it's probably been a roller coaster ride for everyone, especially the first years, adjusting to college life, making new friends, learning, unlearning and much more, but let me tell you — this roller coaster just gets more thrilling over time so get ready and buckle up for the ride. SYs and TYs are back to normal life, now as seniors and super seniors, the same routine just with new subjects; but overall I hope that the first month has been good for everyone.

Coming back to TLC, I have come in with lots of ideas for this academic year and hope to make it all happen with your help, but before that, I present to you the latest edition of The Liberal Canon.

In this month's edition, The Liberal Canon brings to you the following articles: 'Best Friends' by Charukeshi Waikar, 'Romanticized Melancholy: Another Downfall' by Ridhina Arora, 'From Broadway Streets to BKC' by Aarya Sonik, 'Recycled Music' by Maithili Bachani, 'A Guide on How to Look Like You've Got Your Life Together for an 8 am Lecture' by Vera Malavia and 'The Art of being Sensitive' by Vidushi Lal.

Have fun and Happy Reading. Bye Barbie. Bye Ken. Bye Alan. See you next month.

RIYAH AMIN

BESTFRIENDS



Instagram

She sighed and leaned onto the wall. It had been 2 years now since they had last spoken. But she had missed her almost everyday. She had longed to speak to her many a times. How she had missed their conversations and outings. She often wondered what had really gone wrong. They had never fought. Nor had there been any sort of differences. It was just that Ankita had changed her school and they were no longer together. They were hardly getting to see each other. Initially they had felt a little lonely without each other. But gradually they began to get used to it. And with that, conversations between them too began to diminish. They just grew apart over time without realising it. They had grown accustomed to their new surroundings and had made new friends. The distance between them only kept growing and soon they had drifted apart. Sometimes, you do not need a reason to grow apart. Circumstances just make it happen. And then all of sudden, everything feels so awkward that you don't know how to talk to that person.

Now as she thought of those times, Barkha felt guilty. Why hadn't she tried to contact Ankita earlier? She could have atleast tried. She should have made things work rather than giving up. She twisted her hands nervously. It wasn't too late still. She could still give it try. She hurried towards her desk and picked up her phone. She opened Ankita's contact, which she still had. For a second she hesitated. She knew she was being impulsive and she had absolutely no idea how Ankita was going to react. But then brushing off these thoughts, she began typing a message.



I know it has been a really long time since we spoke. I am not sure what exactly to say or how to go ahead though I really wish I had written sooner. Firstly, I am very sorry for how things turned out. I wish I can turn back time. Now that I think of it, it seems so stupid that there was no real reason behind us drifting apart. I have missed you so much. I want my best friend back. Please......"

sent





Instagram



Barkha paced nervously around the room waiting for Ankita's reply. Her phone buzzed. She drew in a breath and crossing her fingers, opened the chat. Ankita had replied to her message. Slightly shaking, she read what was written for her.

"My Dearest B,

I too have missed you a lot. And I'm sorry too. Sometimes we indulge ourselves so much in unnecessary things that we forget to take out time for the precious things in our life You – you have always been that precious thing in my life and I do not want to lose you. I want my best friend back too

Choco Café at 4?"

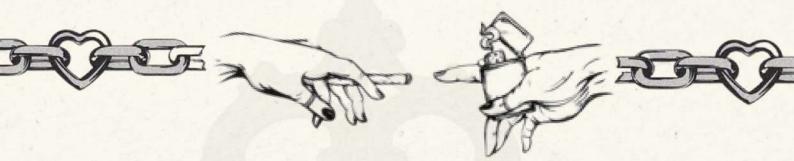
Barkha could feel her lips lifting into a smile. Ankita had invited her to the same place they had often hung out after school for studying or just chitchatting. Barkha replied with a 'done' and dropped onto the chair. She couldn't believe she was finally going to meet her best friend after two years. All she had to do was initiate conversation. Half the problems arise due to miscommunication. All you need to do is converse, speak your heart out instead of refraining from conversing with that person and keeping your feelings suppressed in your heart. She smiled to herself. It hadn't been so difficult after all.

At 4 sharp, she reached the café. She felt nervous. She took in a deep breath and went inside. Her eyes were searching for Ankita in the crowd when she felt a hand on her shoulder. She turned around and found herself face to face with her best friend. She burst into a smile as Ankita wrapped her arms around her.

A surge of emotions rose within her and she was sure that Ankita was experiencing the same. As she looked around the café, she could see visions of a younger Barkha and Ankita spending time with each other, oblivious of what the future had in store for them. Everything in this world is temporary, but friends – they are for life....

-Charukeshi Waikar





Romanticized Melancholy; another downfall

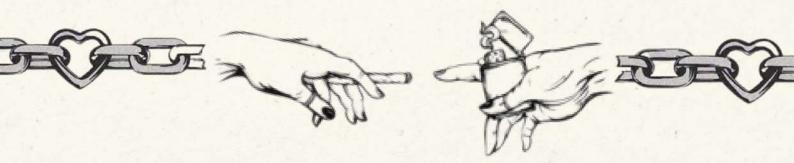
Smudged mascara, tears shot eyes, cigarette smoke, a dark dingy room and Lana del Ray

Wake up! The 2010s have called, they want their sad girl back!

Being on Tumblr (a reblogging website) in the mid-2010s was definitely a detrimental experience. With its bare minimum moderation policies and abundance of angsty teenagers, the platform gave rise to concerning behaviors that frankly should've been regulated long ago.

It began with lonely young people finding solace in one another and the issues that they shared. They became so attached to being understood by each other and not by the world that this platform became their reality. Posts of cigarettes being shared among friends with the caption 'We're dying anyway', and 'Funny how schools never taught us to love ourselves' usually made the rounds under the category of sad posting; which only became rampant as more people joined the platform. There was a feeling of comfort where people could confess to their worst insecurities through the said posts and would still not be abandoned by people on the website.

More and more people-mainly teen girls-joined the platform and poured out their hearts. Being a girl already came with its inherent societal problems so when they finally found people who would listen to them and validate their feelings as they grew up, they felt a sense of belonging, as if they had found their tribe. But being heard gave them just enough attention to keep posting their sad feelings. The more people engaged with these posts, the more they were churned out. To be troubled and hurt in a pretty way was one of the gateways to this community. So teen girls who weren't even sad, eventually started looking for little moments of sadness in their life, something they could turn tragically beautiful on the platform to be seen as relatable, almost as a way to fit in this new community. Sadness became the new trend everyone wanted to join. Young girls started isolating themselves from the real world and turned to this website where they valued attention from other teenagers like them. They formed their own bubble of suffering and dwelled in it because it was easier than addressing the root of their problems.



The unfortunate thing with that is, as is with anything- when young impressionable people are exposed to something repeatedly, it becomes attractive and starts to have an undertone of romanticization. On the website, girls started to like having this air of gloom around them. It was almost as though there was now superiority in melancholy, so much so that it dangerously gave rise to the purposeful desire of being sad.

Yeah, it is as twisted as it sounds.

It seemed to be internalized and it was for them to stand out from others and be interesting, almost as if they needed a tragic and sad history to their name. So needless to say, you can imagine how some of this pain ended up being self-induced and performative. Normal levels of jitters before a presentation were labeled as chronic anxiety, a few sad days, and mood swings to hormonal teenagers became depression because the attention it received from people was addictive. They told their tales and got their sympathy. Girls even started believing their own false narratives and it got to a point where they actually didn't want to be happy for the risk of falling out of the community.

It ended up normalizing a version of mental illness that was not realistic and true, it suggested that you can be sad but you should look hot while doing it. Now, although all of the above is true, it is actually important to point out that the girls who felt the need to act this way may not have clinical disorders but they did have some different issues that needed to be addressed. These ideologies Tumblr circulated were definitely disturbing and the generation of girls who grew up on this website are to date unlearning its ideas.

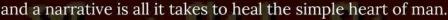
But while Tumblr is dead, the trend of being sad sadly is not. It has migrated onto different platforms and is being served through more sophisticated algorithms that can more accurately target the newer age of impressionable girls. I'm not sure whether the 'sad girl' is a forever phenomenon in existence, but it is damaging to anyone who comes across it.

-Ridhina Arora

FROM BROADWAY STREETS TO BKC

With the comeback of "old bollywood" in recent releases such as Rocky aur Rani ki Prem Kahani and Satyaprem Ki Katha, the Indian audience is finally breathing again. Because all the viewers ever wanted was the format of dance, song, romance and adventure to bring along. But what if a cinema isn't your only way to an entrancingly heartwarming musical?

Sounds of Sondheim, beats of the blues, 1000 piece orchestras and triple threats that seethe elegance, talent and flamboyance. There really is nothing like the glamorous shine of Broadway Avenue. The industry that can be dated back to the 1750s is as iconic to the streets of New York as it is to entertainment history. Broadway has been the bridge between the 'Opera Fanatic' elites and the stage-loving theatre aficionados. Defined by its majestic series of musical compositions, stories within flowing lyrics, extravagant dances and brilliantly talented crew; Broadway is a portal to what the gods might even call heaven. But is it just for the seeds of the Big Apple? India has experienced its fair share of musicals - classics of Bollywood, Tamashas, Nukkad Natak, Theyyam and of course the annual recreation of the epic of Ramayana. Each ancient civilisation opens its doors to entertainment with the amalgamation of music and storytelling, and so did we. The Natya Shastra, or the ancient Sanskrit text on dramaturgy, shows our existence in the field of theatrics and dramaturgy since the beginning of time. This only proves to show that music, dance





In the recent past, India presented its own Broadway-esque productions, such as the stage rendition of the Bollywood staple Mughal-E-Azam, and the Indian crew presented Disney classic Beauty and the Beast. Not limited to urban productions only, rural India births an equally populous number of nataks each year. But is that all Indian thespians can access? Thanks to the newest stage in town, Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, that's not all! NMACC is a multi-disciplinary cultural space with a Grand Theatre and three stories of art, fashion and photography exhibits. Although we've had musical bearing theatres before like NCPA and The Royal Opera House, they have been limited to a majority of Indian productions and a foreign productions annually at the most.

The NMACC, on the other hand, is diligently introducing indo-thespians to the world's greatest Broadway productions. It kicked off its premiere event with an Indian original The Great Indian Musical; Civilisation to Nation, curated by the best of Bollywood dance and music; and directed by the musical prodigy who also gave us Mughal-E-Azam, Feroz Abbas Khan. Within 4 months, NMACC has already staged 5 productions with 3 of them being the Indian audience's first interaction with something from Times Square like The Sound of Music, West Side Story & Paw Patrol Live.

So if Bollywood isn't satiating your needs and hearing old show tunes isn't cutting the deal, you're in luck because India's new found enthusiasm for Broadway just became real! It's here! And it's waiting for you! Let the live instruments play the strings of your heart, and let the ornate yet delicate moves of the dancers soothe your soul.

These stories have had a long journey, from Broadway streets, right into desi hearts and a car ride away at BKC!



RECYCLED MUSIC

ROCKY AUR RANI KI PREM KAHANI: A MUSCIAL ANALYSIS

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ROCKY AUR RANI KI PREM KAHANI IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE 'KARAN JOHAR CINEMATIC UNIVERSE' AND MOREOVER IT COMPLETELY MIRRORS CLASSIC BOLLYWOOD AND ITS ETERNAL THEME: A LOVE STORY AGAINST ALL ODDS. IT STARS RANI (ALIA BHATT), THE EPITOME OF SOPHISITICATION AND INTELLECT OF THE CHATTERJEE HOUSEHOLD. SHE ENDS UP FALLING IN LOVE WITH ROCKY (RANVEER SINGH), THE PRIZED POSSESION OF THE GREGARIOUS AND EXTRAVAGANT 'RANDHAWA PARADISE'.

THE RETRO INFLUENCE ON THE MUSIC IS NOT SUBTLE, WHETHER ITS THE LITERAL REMAKE JUHMKA GIRA RE' OR THE NOSTALGIC SYMPHONY IN EVERY SINGLE BEAT OF TUM KYA MILE'. THE REMINISCE ISN'T LIMITED TO MUSIC VIDEOS, IT HAS CONTINUED TO BE A PART OF THE NARRATIVE AS WELL. A RENEDITION OF 'MERE SAPNO KI RANI' IS EXECUTED DURING THE INTROFUCTION OF RANI, WHEREAS 'MAST BAHARON KA MAIN AASHIQ' WAS COMPLETELY REVAMPED WITH HIP HOP BEATS DURING THE COUPLE'S MEET CUTE.

THE MOVIE REVOLVES AROUND THE TWO-LOVE INTERESTS UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER'S WORLD TO CEMENT THEIR RELATIONSHIP, THE THEME REFLECTS TRADITIONAL VALUES LACED WITH A MODERN OUTLOOK, SOMETHING THAT HAS SEAMLESSLY TRANSLATED INTO THEIR MUSIC AS WELL.

REMAKES OF OLD SONGS ARE ALMOST NEVER WELL RECEIVED; IT NEVER LIVES UP TO THE ORIGINAL BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FILM MAKES IT WORK. THE FACT THAT THE MOVIE IS NOT TRYING TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL SONGS AND RATHER CELEBRATE IT, THIS TECHNIQUE DISPLACES THE FOCUS FROM THE MAKER TO RECEIVER CYCLE AND EVENTUALLY BECOMES A COLLECTIVE APPRECIATION OF MUSICAL MASTERPIECES. THE ONLY QUESTION THAT KEPT ON RECURRING WAS 'HOW IS MUSIC FROM THE 60S NOT ONLY VIRAL AMONG THE AUDIENCE OF TODAY BUT ALSO NARRATIVELY SIGNIFICANT IN A COMING-OF-AGE LOVE STORY?'



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RETRO MUSIC IS CONSIDERED TO BE LYRICALLY FLAWLESS, AND THE NOSTALGIC PRODUCTION ONLY ELEVATES THE CREDIBILITY OF THE USAGE ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS A SONG LIKE 'ABHI NA JAO CHHOD KAR', EITHER PLAYED TO REVIVE A LOVE STORY BETWEEN KANWAL (DHARMENDRA DEOL) AND JAMINI (SHABANA AZMI) OR TO SORT A DISPUTE BETWEEN ROCKY AND RANI. THE GENERATIONAL RELEVANCE OF THIS SONG IN THE MOVIE TRULY FRAMES THE INTENSITY OF A LOVE STORY, NO MATTER THE AGE.

THERE IS ANOTHER SONG SEQUENCE IN THE MOVIE CALLED THE 'SAREGAMA MEDLEY', IT COMPRISES ALL SONGS THAT KANWAL AND JAMINI FELL IN LOVE AROUND AND INEVITABLY BECOMES A PART OF ROCKY AND RANI'S BLOSSOMING LOVE STORY. THIS IN TURN CONFIRMS THE INEVITABILITY OF MUSIC BEING RECYCLED WITH EVERY GENERATION, BUT STILL IS ESSENTIAL AND WELL SUITED TO OUTLINE SUCH A PREVALENT HUMAN EMOTION LIKE LOVE.

IN SOME WAY OR THE OTHER, ALL MUSIC IS RECYCLED; THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH ONE CAN CREATE OUT OF THIN AIR WITHOUT ANY PREVIOUS REFERENCES FROM DIFFERENT MUSICAL ERAS. IT'S INEVITABLE BUT NOT IRRELEVANT, IT WILL ALWAYS STRIKE AN EMOTIONAL CHORD WITH PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT GENERATIONS IF PRESENTED ACCURATELY AND AUTHENTICALLY.

IN CONCLUSION, MUSIC BEING RECYCLED DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T NEW. ALL OF THE RETRO SONGS IN THIS MOVIE HAVE BEEN SUNG BY DIFFERENT SINGERS THAN THE ORIGINAL AND THE PRODUCTION HAS BEEN CHANGED TO PERTAIN TO THE TASTE OF MUSIC TODAY. THE LYRICS REMAIN FOR SOME OF THEM BUT THEY STILL GIVE US SOMETHING NEW TO BE ENAMOURED WITH . THE INEVITABILITY OF REPEATING HISTORY ISN'T A DEMOTION TO CREATIVITY, RATHER AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELEVATE WITH A NEW ERA OF ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES, TO PRESENT A CLASSIC OF ITS TIME WITH TODAY'S CONTEMPORARY AND MAKE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.



-Maithili Bachani





A guide on how to Look like you've got your life together for an 8 am Lecture

With the overwhelming schedule here at NMIMS and the constant dilemma between salvaging sanity or getting a good GPA, one hardly has the time to achieve a holistically assembled life when they're clearly

So, here's a guide to depict to your peers how you are living a well-rounded college life

even though you cried to Taylor Swift songs until 3 a.m. just last night!

struggling to make ends meet.

Step 1: Dress like a hot mess

Comfort is key! Yes you want to look awake, but not too awake that it raises suspicions. Your comfiest sweatpants and a messy bun (to disguise your bed-head) will help you ace the post-gym illusion when in reality, you're a personified cosy cocoon. Any outfit in the colour black does the trick. While black is the perfect representation of the 8 AM brainchasm you suffer from every morning, always deceive the world by giving off Wednesday Addams, 'holier-than-thou' vibes.

Step 3: Noddy-ing away

Your neck must be extremely stiff from watching netflix all night in your bed. Now is the perfect time to exercise that neck. Nod as much as you can during a lecture. The more you nod, the keener you seem. Even though you're just warming up your neck for tonight's netflix session, let the professor presume that you're extremely interested in Bourdieu's Cultural Theory. Hence, nodding is the key!

Step 2: Chaibucks to the rescue

Always enter with a large cup of coffee. While coffee is your magical potion to successfully endure all human interactions for the day, that's a secret only you and I should be aware of. Let the rest of the world live in the illusion that you're all ready to seize the day.



Step 4: Seating smart

Always choose a seat somewhere in the middle. Do not sit on the last row in the class where you will definitely eventually doze off and lose your class participation points, but do not sit in the extreme front either where you'll have to actually participate to earn the aforementioned class participation points. The mean between the extremes is your key to survive yet slay!

Step 5: Tangled knots of the notes

Always keep that pen moving and that page filling. It can be your actual notes, a game of hangman with your friends, your FLAMES calculation with your crush or even your random doodles; the only point is to keep writing something in that notebook of yours to show your sincere attention to your peers as well as your professor.

Pro Tip: Never ever sit beside someone who actually diligently makes notes. You do not want to get a complex AND get interrupted while you're happily completing your previous night's journal. It's a lot for a Tuesday morning.

And there you have it - the art of looking like you've had a good 8-hours of sleep even though you barely slept and also like you have it all seemingly put-together for an 8 a.m. class.

Remember, it's all about the act, and so as long as you can keep it up until the next coffee break, you'll be fine.

Now, go ahead and face those early mornings with the wit and charm of someone who does not snooze their alarm six times!

Because, as long as you're faking it well, you're acing it belle!



WHY IS LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE UNDERRATED IN INDIA?

I've always pondered why people view liberal arts with a very narrow mindset in India. A liberal arts degree is a useful one and I feel every student should pursue it to build a well rounded personality. It provides a foundational understanding across many distinct subject fields. Students pursuing liberal arts are prepared for a wide range of professions compared to students pursuing other conservative degrees which don't offer overall growth to their mindsets. They become conservative in terms of exploring new subjects.

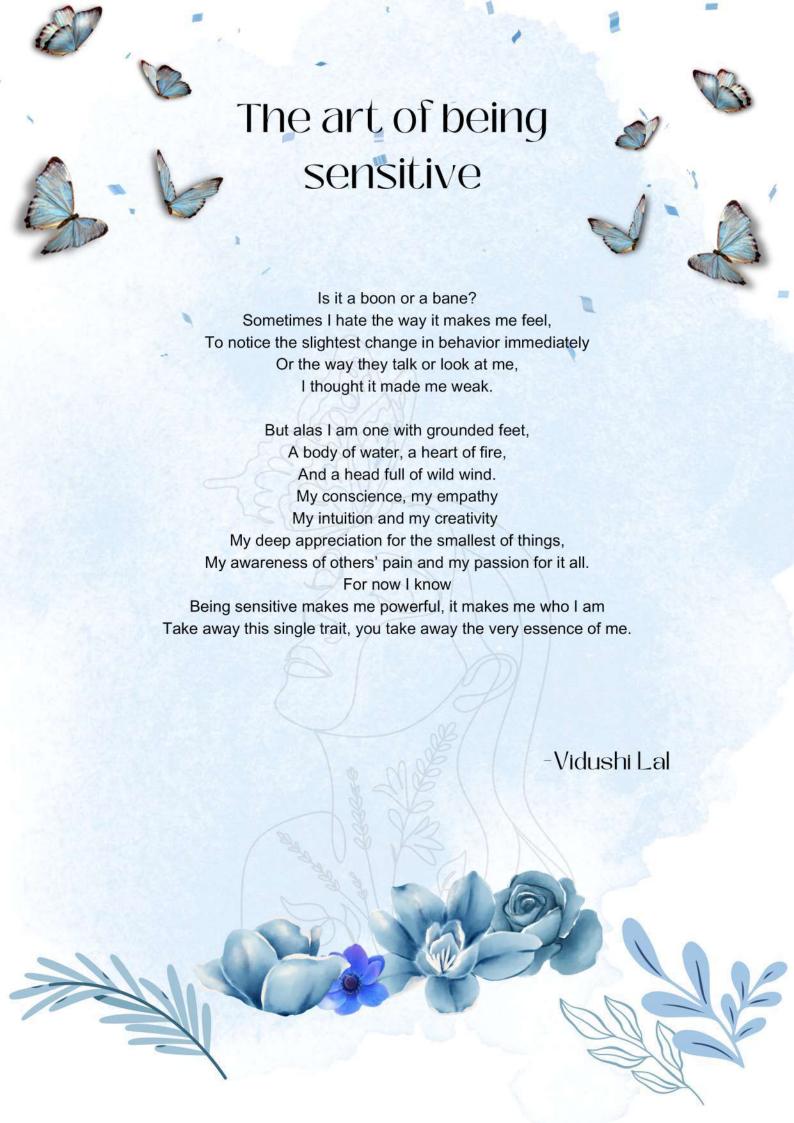
In India, a liberal arts degree is underrated as compared to other degrees. Outside India, people who pursue a liberal arts degree are given so much more importance as compared to India. Here, people emphasize more on traditional careers which are based on STEM fields such as science, technology and mathematics as people prioritize job security rather than focusing on self- development which makes life very monotonous and boring. In addition, another reason for the same is that there is a lack of awareness about this course. Many people are unaware of this course which contributes to the general unawareness.



Sometimes people are afraid of pursuing this course due to societal pressure or peer pressure which is also a reason for this degree being underrated. An article published by Times of India quoted Steve Jobs saying: "It's in Apple's DNS that technology alone is not enough- it's technology married with liberal arts, married with humanities, that yield us the results that make our heart sing." In a recent article published by The Indian Express, retired IAS officer and former chairperson of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Rita Teaotia, talks about liberal arts at the 15th foundation day of IIT Gandhinagar. She stated that, "to make our graduates equipped with skills needed for jobs, the National Education Policy recommends the integration of liberal arts, as it prepares one not only for the first job but for the entire career. Liberal arts education is more important and useful for one's employment than ever before."

-PRERNA MEHTA



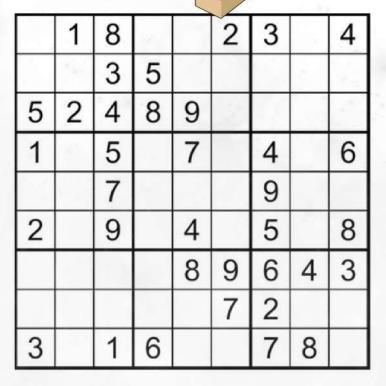






Almonds Cookies Fruit Licorice Pickles Pretzels Apples Crackers Grapes Nachos Pizza Rolls Pringles

Candy Doritos Gummy Bears Orange Popcorn Soda Pop Cheetos French Fries Ice Cream Peanuts Potato Chips Watermelon





JD16 LOVES

Movie English Vinglish

Book
The Mountain Is
You, by Brianna
Wiest

TV show
The Summer 1
turned pretty

Take out Louis Burger

Mental well being organization

Active Minds

Workouts Footwork intensive sessions/workshops

Instapage of the month @weratedogs

Online course App development course for beginners (udemy)

Art
The Sleeping Gypsy
The Oragnic
Interface - Geoff
McFetridge
by Henri Rousseau,
1897

Games hopscotch Destination Banff National Park - Canada

Online shops Limeroad.com

Board games Sequence

Sneakers of the month AdidasAir Jordan I High x Union LA

Podcast The Rewatchables

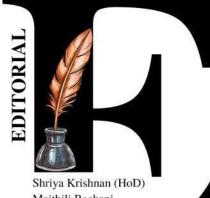
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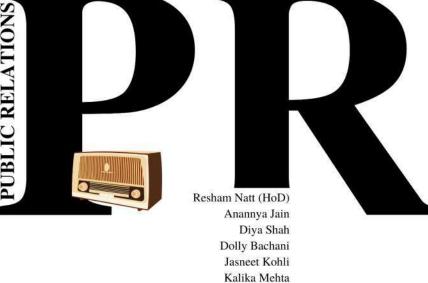
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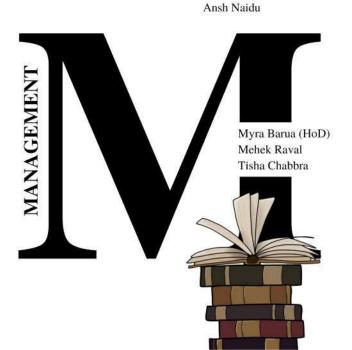
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